

Table of Contents

PLENARY SESSIONS

Session No.		Page
19	Wednesday & Thursday, September 20 & 21, 1995	
20	Monday, September 25, 1995	
21	Tuesday, September 26, 1995	
22	Wednesday & Thursday, September 27 & 28, 1995	
23	Monday, October 2, 1995	
24	Tuesday, October 3, 1995	
25	Wednesday & Thursday, October 4 & 5, 1995	
26	Monday, October 23, 1995	
27	Tuesday, October 24, 1995	
28	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Monday October 25, 26, 27, 28 & November 6, 1995	
29	Tuesday, November 7, 1995	
30	Wednesday & Thursday, November 8 & 9, 1995	
31	Monday, November 13, 1995	
32	Tuesday, November 14, 1995	
33	Wednesday & Thursday, November 15 & 16, 1995	
34	Monday, November 20, 1995	
35	Tuesday, November 21, 1995	
36	Wednesday & Thursday, November 22 & 23, 1995	
37	Monday, November 27, 1995	
38	Tuesday, November 28, 1995	
39	Wednesday, November 29, 1995	
40	Monday & Tuesday, December 4 & 5 (am), 1995	
41	Tuesday & Wednesday, December 5 (pm) & 6 (am), 1995	

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:29 p.m., the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, called the session to order.

The President. The 25th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines is hereby called to order.

We shall rise and be led in prayer by Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Coseteng.

Omahal na Birhen ng Santo Rosario, sa iyong kaluwalhatian, ipadama sa amin ang iyong malugod na pagtingin lalo na po ngayong buwan ng Oktubre kung saan namin idinaraos ang iyong pista bilang papuri sa iyong kabanalan.

Bendisyunan mo ang Kapulungang ito nang hindi mamayani sa aming mga puso ang kayabangan at makasariling interes at buong tapat kaming makapagsilbi sa sambayanang Pilipino sa ngalan ng iyong anak na si Hesus.

Tulungan mo kami upang lubusan naming mabigyan ng kalunasan ang mga napakasidhing problema na ngayo'y kinakaharap ng aming bayan.

Kahabagan mo, mahal na Birhen, kaming mga anak mo lalo na ang mga nasalanta ng bagyo, ang mga mamamayan ng Pampanga na ngayo'y lugmok na sa walang humpay na hagupit ng lahar.

Pawiin mo ang gutom ng marami sa amin na dulot ng kakulangan ng bigas. Pagmasdan mo ang mga napakahabang pila sa mga bigasang bayan. O mahabaging Birhen, kailan pa kaya kami magkakaroon ng sapat na bigas?

Sa darating na pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at ang kasunod na pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin, pagpalain mo ng iyong banal na kalinga ang mga ordinaryong manggagawa, haligi ng bansa, na siyang papasan ng karagdagang pasakit na ito.

Patubayan mo, aming Ina, sina Sarah Balabagan, Rosalia Maglalang, John Aquino, at lahat pang mga kapatid na migranteng manggagawa na ngayo'y nasa bingit ng kamatayan sa ibang

bansa. Napakasaklap ng kanilang sinapit dahil lamang sa pagnanais na magkaroon ng mas mabuting kabuhayan.

Patubayan mo rin ang lahat ng Pilipinong migranteng manggagawa na ngayon ay kalat na sa higit sa 137 bansa.

Sa iyong mapaghimalang biyaya, dumating po sana ang panahon na hindi na nila kailangan pang lumisan sa bayang sinilangan upang kumita nang sapat at mabuhay nang marangal.

Buhay ang aming pag-asa at tiwala na sa iyong dakilang pagmamamahala, ay hindi mo kami pababayaan. At lahat ng pagsubok ay aming kakayanin sapagkat ikaw ay aming kapiling.

Dinggin mo ang aming pagsusumamo, mahal na Birhen Maria; ngayon at magpakailan man.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will now call the roll.

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavies	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera	Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal	Present*
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	**
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present*
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago	Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	**
Senator Freddie N. Webb	Present
The President	Present

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

the Chamber, we are ready to vote on this bill on Second Reading tonight.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. That is correct, Madam President. All I stated, in reply to the query of the distinguished Gentleman from Iloilo is that, in my estimate, before we approve this bill on Third Reading, the House will already have acted on Third Reading on a similar bill. That is all I have stated. All the other replies to the interpellations about appropriation remain. In fact, this was already explained very well by the Gentleman from Cagayan, Senator Enrile, on whether a bill is an appropriation bill or whether a bill which has an appropriation provision is merely incidental to a bill.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1157 ON
SECOND READING, AS AMENDED

Senator Romulo. I believe, Madam President, it is in order now that we approve Senate Bill No. 1157, as amended, on Second Reading.

The President Pro Tempore. We shall now vote on the bill, as amended, on Second Reading. As many as are in favor of the bill, as amended, will please say *Aye*. [*Several Senators: Aye*] Those against will please say *Nay*. [*Silence*]

Senate Bill No. 1157, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

MOTION OF SENATOR ALVAREZ
(Senator Webb as Cosponsor of S. No. 1157)

Senator Alvarez. Madam President, may I move that we add the name of Senator Webb as one of the cosponsors of the bill.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, Senator Webb's name is added as one of the cosponsors of the bill.

Senator Romulo. Thank you, Madam President. Before we consider the next bill, may I ask that the additional Reference of Business be read.

The President Pro Tempore. The Secretary may do so.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 16 submitted by the

Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws on Senate Bill No. 1067, introduced by Senator Romulo, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED (RA 8045)
ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYN-
CHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELEC-
TIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS,
AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THERE-
FOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval without amendment in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 1087 with Senators Romulo, Angara, Fernan and Maceda as authors thereof.

Sponsors: Senators Romulo, Angara, Fernan and Maceda

The President Pro Tempore. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we transfer this bill, Senate Bill No. 1087, under Committee Report No. 16, from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to the motion? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Madam President, before we take up Senate Bill No. 519 under Committee Report No. 12 in the Calendar for Special Orders—this is the bill on Continuing Registration to be sponsored by the chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Senator Maceda—may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 6:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:33 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo. May I ask that the distinguished Lady

Senator from Pampanga, Pangasinan and Negros Occidental, Senator Macapagal, be recognized.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal. Madam President, we have now received 16 committee reports. I would like to find out the dates when the hearings that were needed in order to come out with these 16 reports were conducted.

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, there is a tabulation of the hearings when these committee reports were held. May I ask the Secretary to prepare and distribute them accordingly to the desk of each of the members of the Senate.

In fact, there have been hearings on the bills that we will now consider for additional sponsorship and sponsorship. The listing will be furnished as soon as possible. It should be furnished before we suspend or adjourn the session this evening.

The President Pro Tempore. Thank you. The secretary is duly instructed to carry out the instructions.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Madam President, just to add something to it. Most of the 16 committee reports were reported out by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws. The reports of the committee or committee journals on all committees by each and every committee of the Senate I think were distributed meetings undertaken one or two days after. These committee journals were placed in Manila envelopes being placed on our desks. They are very well prepared and detailed at that time. Those committee journals also indicate the dates and what happened in those committee meetings.

The President Pro Tempore. Thank you.

Senator Romulo. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 979—Forfeiture of Elections in National Offices (Continuation)

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we

resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 979 as reported out under Committee Report No. 14.

The President Pro Tempore. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 979 is now in order.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, this bill was initially sponsored yesterday by the chairman of the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Electoral Reforms.

May I now ask, Madam President, that we recognize for his sponsorship speech the author and cosponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Bicol, Camarines Sur and Bohol, Senator Roco.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Roco is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ROCO

Senator Roco. Madam President, we are pleased to join the sponsorship of this consolidated version of the bills filed by this Representation and Senator Gonzales.

There are two points of principle, Madam President, that are important in this bill. The first point of principle is that no one should be made to benefit or should be allowed to benefit from his wrongdoing.

Therefore, when the bill suggests that in cases when violence, terrorism, fraud or other analogous circumstances happen or occur in an election, those who instigated, caused, maneuvered, whether by acts or omission, these fraud and acts of terrorism shall not be made to benefit from such acts.

The second point of principle, Madam President, is that the proposal to forfeit special elections applies only to nationwide elections so that this will only be as regards the presidential the vice presidential or senatorial candidates.

Why is this so, Madam President?

Because in the case of the president or the vice president, there is a tribunal specially designated by the Constitution to worry about those elections. And in the case of the senator the same thing applies.

The only reason we cannot apply it to the national office of congressmen is that it is restricted and the area, even the smallest barangay, may be material.

The bill then suggests that under certain circumstances, instead of special elections being called for nationwide-elected officials, the areas will forfeit the right to have special elections.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:37 a.m., the session was resumed with the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, presiding.

The President. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I believe we have an additional Reference of Business. May I ask the Secretary to read it.

The President. The Secretary will please read the additional Reference of Business.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Senate Bill No. 1222, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE RIGHT OF DAUGHTERS AGAINST INCES- TUOUS RAPE BY PENALIZING MOTHERS WHO REFRAIN FROM PROCEEDING AGAINST THE FATHER-RAPISTS OR TOLERATE ITS COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Herrera.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Women and Family Relations.

The Acting Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1223, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING TO TWENTY PERCENT THE SHARE OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN IN THE BARANGAY FUNDS, GRANTING MONETARY PRIVILEGES TO OTHER SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS, AND PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT TO A VACANCY IN THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 329, 434 AND 435 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY- ONE HUNDRED SIXTY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maceda.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Local Government.

RESOLUTIONS

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ADVISABILITY, PRACTICABILITY AND LEGALITY OF GRANTING CONDONATION OR MORATORIUM OR BOTH ON LOANS OF WHATEVER NATURE GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM OR DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THOSE WHOSE HOUSES OR WHOSE CROPS HAVE BEEN BURIED OR DAMAGED OR BOTH BY LAHAR OR BY TYPHOON "MAMENG" IN ORDER TO GRANT FINANCIAL RELIEF TO THOSE VICTIMS AND WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL OR NEW LEGISLATIVE MEASURES OR BOTH AND FOR OTHER LEGISLATIVE PURPOSES AND FOR SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION

Introduced by Senator Maceda.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Finance; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 168, entitled

RESOLUTION PROTESTING THE DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED ON SARAH BALABAGAN, A FILIPINO NATIONAL, AS AMOUNTING TO A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND CALLING ON OTHER STATE LEGISLATURES TO PUBLICLY CONDEMN THE ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST SARAH BALABAGAN AND

hearing of application notice.

Sections 13, 14, 15 and 16 are related to the application process, the challenge, the approval or disapproval of application, and the publication of the action of the Board.

Sections 17, 18 and 19 are with regard to the filing system.

Section 20 again restates the requirement to issue a voter's registration card which, if it will now be computerized, will probably be a more attractive, more usable and more permanent voter's registration ID. Probably, as far as this portion of the population is concerned, it would substantially take the place of a national ID system which has been proposed and which is objectionable to a lot of people.

Sections 21 and 22 speak of change of address cases.

Section 23 is the deactivation of registration for the usual causes, disqualification of voting for two times, and if one lost his Filipino citizenship. Again, these are all restatements and recodification of the law.

Then we have the sections on the petition for inclusion or exclusion of voters which is basically the same as in the present system.

We have the corresponding housekeeping provisions on the reconstitution of lost or destroyed records and the examination of registration records. Then the computerization of the permanent list of voters which we have, in effect, approved in principle with the present law on the computerization of elections in the ARMM.

Section 37 is the usual authority given to Comelec to promulgate regulations.

There is really no funding requirement in this bill, and I do not think it is necessary. The present appropriations of the Comelec, I believe would be sufficient to take care of a two-day a month registration process.

Of course, as soon as this bill is approved, we could probably adjust the proposed budget of the Comelec for 1996 up to December 15, to make a nominal increase to take care of this particular system of a continuing registration of voters of two days a month.

We will defer to the principal Author any additional information that he may want to present to the Senate. For the moment, that is a capsulized sponsorship speech of a bill which appears to have acquired a general consensus in favor of it. We

certainly would be open to the matter of expanding the number of days, should the members of the Senate consider a longer period each month for registration. But definitely, we do not see any necessity for having a daily registration of voters.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President. The Chair declares a one-minute suspension of the session, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:01 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:02, the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 519

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, after consultation with the Sponsor of the bill, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 519.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, consideration of Senate Bill No. 519 is hereby suspended.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1067 - Amending Sec. 27 of RA 8045 (Synchronized National and Local Elections)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1067 as reported out under Committee Report No. 16.

The President. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1067 is now in order.

With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Senate Bill No. 1067, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED (RA 8045), ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The following is the full text of Senate Bill No. 1067:

EXPLANATORY NOTE

RA 8045 strengthens and institutionalizes the critical role of citizens' arms in ensuring free and honest elections.

On the basis of its track record as an effective citizens arm in past elections, Namfrel deserves to be commended for doing well a difficult and thankless job.

This bill proposes to delete a provision in RA 8045 to allow Namfrel as a citizens arm again to be accredited to conduct unofficial count in future elections.

The passage of this bill is urged.

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Senator

SENATE BILL NO. 1067

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED (RA 8045), ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 27 of Republic Act No. 7166 as amended by RA 8045 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 27. *Number of Copies of Election Returns and their Distribution.* - The board of election inspectors shall prepare in handwriting the election returns in their respective polling places, in the number of copies herein provided and in the form to be prescribed and provided by the Commission.

"The copies of the election returns shall be distributed as follows:

"a) In the election of President, Vice President, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives:

"1) The first copy shall be delivered to the city or municipal board of canvassers;

"2) The second copy, to the Congress, directed to the President of the Senate;

"3) The third copy, to the Commission;

"4) The fourth copy, to the dominant majority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"5) The fifth copy, to the dominant minority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"6) The sixth copy, in a citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count; *Provided, however,* That the accreditation of the citizens' arm shall be subject to the provisions of Section 52 (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 [*Provided, further,* That such citizens' arm previously authorized by the Commission before the effectivity of this Act shall not be qualified for accreditation]; and

"7) The seventh copy shall be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots; and

"b) In the election of local officials;

"1) The first copy shall be delivered to the city or municipal board of canvassers;

"2) The second copy, to the Commission;

"3) The third copy, to the provincial board of canvassers;

"4) The fourth copy, to the dominant majority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"5) The fifth copy, to the dominant minority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"6) The sixth copy, to a citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count: *Provided, however*, That the accreditation of the citizens' arm shall be subject to the provisions of Section 52 (k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 [*Provided, further*, That such citizens' arm previously authorized by the Commission before the effectivity of this Act shall not be qualified for accreditation]; and

"7) The seventh copy shall be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots."

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, this bill has been recommended for approval by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws. May I ask the Chair to recognize the chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Senator Maceda.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, this is the fifth electoral measure reported out by the committee. This is the so-called Namfrel Bill which is principally authored by Senators Angara, Fernan and Romulo. It is a privilege and honor for the committee to request that the Minority Leader sponsor this measure on the Floor.

The President. The Minority Leader, Senator Angara, is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President. I am grateful to the Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws for designating me to sponsor this simple and yet important bill.

Mr. President, in behalf of the principal Authors, Senators Romulo, Fernan and Maceda, we have the honor to propose that Republic Act No. 7166, as amended by R.A. 8045, be amended through a simple deletion of one provision. The provision in question is on page 2 of Senate Bill No. 1067, which reads:

...Provided, further that such citizens who are previously authorized by the Commission before the effectivity of this Act shall not be qualified for accreditation.

A similar proviso appears on page 3, lines 6 to 9 of the same measure. Our proposal is to have this deleted so that the sixth copy continues to provide any citizens' arm—not necessarily Namfrel, but any citizens' arm—that will be accredited by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count.

In our experience during the past several elections, Mr. President, we have seen the tremendous value of citizens' groups and organizations doing unofficial count to assist the Comelec. It would be a pity if we disenfranchise them, so to speak, or discontinue the practice of providing them a copy of the election returns on which the unofficial count is based.

This proposed deletion or amendment will just restore the status quo. It is not something novel or new. It is a rule we followed in the past several elections that has redounded to the benefit of our people and our electoral system.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, with the consent of our Colleagues, I move that we close the period of interpellations.

The President. The Chair wishes to ask an information from the distinguished Sponsor.

This is not covered by the proposed amendment, but may we be furnished with information as to how the Commission on Elections determined the dominant majority party or minority party that would be entitled to copies of the election returns? That has always been the source of controversy in the past elections. It merely says, "in accordance with law", but apparently, there is really no law that governs or sets down the standards to be followed by the Commission on Elections in determining which is the dominant majority party, more so, the dominant minority party.

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President. This is the original provision.

The President. I know that. That is why I said that this is not covered by the amendment but merely an information.

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. As far as the last election is concerned, were there determinations made by the Commission on Elections as to

which is the dominant majority or the dominant minority party?

Senator Angara. As far as I know, in the last 1995 elections there was no such determination, Mr. President. But it had a certification of accredited political parties.

The President. As I have said, the purpose of the question is nothing but for information. We end our query on that.

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. I move, Mr. President, to close the period of interpellations.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the period of interpellations is hereby closed.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, there are no committee or individual amendments. I move to close the period of committee and individual amendments.

The President. Is there any objection to the motion? [Silence] There being none, the period for both committee and individual amendments is hereby declared closed.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1067 ON SECOND READING

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we vote and approve Senate Bill No. 1067 on Second Reading.

The President. We shall now vote on the bill on Second Reading. As many as are in favor of the bill, please say *Aye*. [Several Senators: *Aye*] As many as are against, please say *Nay*. [Silence]

The President. Senate Bill No. 1067 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR MACEDA (Senator Roco as Coauthor of S. No. 1067)

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, may I just manifest that Senator Roco is a coauthor of this measure.

The President. Let the manifestation be on record.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 979—Forfeiture of Elections in National Offices (Continuation)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we resume

consideration of Senate Bill No. 979. This is the Forfeiture of Elections in National Offices Bill. We are still in the period of winding up with the interpellation.

The President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 979 is now in order.

Senator Romulo. May I ask that the Sponsor of the bill, Senator Roco, be recognized.

The President. Senator Roco is hereby recognized.

Senator Roco. Thank you, Mr. President. We were in the period of interpellations.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, may I ask that the distinguished Gentleman from Iloilo, Senator Drilon, be recognized to interpellate.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Roco. May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 11:11 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:12 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Thank you, Mr. President. I signed the committee report without qualification which means that I am, in fact, in support of this bill and I reiterate that support.

Indeed, the will of the entire Filipino electorate, the entire political system, and the candidates for the national office are, in effect, held captive by a few thousand votes in areas where, for whatever reason, the elections are not held. We have seen this happen in the past several elections and I believe it is about time that we adopted measures to stop this practice.

Mr. President, I would like to be enlightened on a few provisions, and it is on that premise that I am requesting the Gentleman from Bicol to yield for a few questions.

The President. The Gentleman from Bicol may do so, if he desires.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:07 p.m., the Honorable Neptali A. Gonzales, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. The 26th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines is hereby called to order.

Let us please rise for the prayer to be led by Senator Franklin M. Drilon, and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem to be led by the St. Mary's College of Quezon City Grade School Faculty Choir, after which another song is to be rendered by them.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Drilon.

Almighty God, we praise and give You glory. You alone deserve our worship.

Anoint each one of us before we proceed to do our tasks this afternoon. Bestow on us the wisdom to enable us to know and infuse Your will in our work. Protect us from the snares of the evil ones who feast on our division and lament our unity, only through which we can carry Your mandate.

We lift up to You the national leadership and our colleagues in this government. Enlighten and guide all of us in our undertakings.

Finally, Lord, we humble down before You and beg You to heal our land. Shield it with Your cloak, hide it in Your womb and cover it with the mantle of Your love as well as Your precious blood from this day on.

All these we ask in the mighty name of Your Son.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 4:14 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary.

- Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng Present*
Senator Miriam D. Santiago Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile **
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople **
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present*
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani **
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad **
Senator Freddie N. Webb **
The President Present

The President. With 16 Senators being present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session and consider the same approved.

*Arrived after the roll call
**On official mission

bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 18

Senator Alvarez	Senator Magsaysay
Senator Angara	Senator Mercado
Senator Coseteng	Senator Osmeña
Senator Drilon	Senator Revilla
Senator Fernan	Senator Roco
Senator Flavier	Senator Romulo
Senator Honasan	Senator Santiago
Senator Macapagal	Senator Sotto
Senator Maceda	The President

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF VOTING

The President. With 18 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 36 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
S. No. 1067—Namfrel-Citizen Arm

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1067. Printed copies of the bill were distributed to all the members of the Senate on October 10, 1995.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1067 is now in order. The Secretary will please read the title of the bill only, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Senate Bill No. 1067, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FORELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the

bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 18

Senator Alvarez	Senator Magsaysay
Senator Angara	Senator Mercado
Senator Coseteng	Senator Osmeña
Senator Drilon	Senator Revilla
Senator Fernan	Senator Roco
Senator Flavier	Senator Romulo
Senator Honasan	Senator Santiago
Senator Macapagal	Senator Sotto
Senator Maceda	The President

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF VOTING

The President. With 18 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1067 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 519—Adopting a System of Continuing Registration of Voters
(Continuation)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 519, as reported out under Committee Report No. 12.

The President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 519 is now in order.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Before we do so, may I ask for a suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1995

ROLL CALL

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:23 p.m., the Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. Leticia R. Shahani, called the session to order.

The President Pro Tempore. The 30th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer today by Sen. Gloria M. Macapagal.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Macapagal.

Father in Heaven, we beg Your mercy and Your grace amidst the trials that our people are undergoing.

We implore Your guidance as we set our minds and hearts to our work as public servants in the time of purification.

All things, even calamities, work for the good of those who keep their covenant with You. Give us the wisdom to discern our obligations to You and to our fellowmen under that covenant. Give us the grace to keep that covenant both in our personal lives and in representation of our people.

Dear Father, remember our disadvantageded brothers and sisters in the many parts of this archipelago who are suffering from the devastation of typhoons, lahar flows, kidnappings, bank robberies, like the Prudential Bank robbery that is in progress even as we speak, domestic violence victims like that against Nimfa Pagatpat.

Have mercy especially, O Lord, on the innocent civilians who are often caught in the crossfire of violence in the streets, in the home, and in the mountains.

Let Your grace sustain us to overcome all these. Help us see Your light and wisdom in all our travails and tribulations. Instill in us mutual trust and teach us to set aside rancor and discord so that we can work together for the economic recovery of this country and for Your greater glory.

All these we pray to You, dear Father. Amen.

The President Pro Tempore. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary.

- Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria Macapagal Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. **
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present*
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam D. Santiago Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present
The President Present

The President Pro Tempore. With 20 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections to the unanimous approval of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 209? [*Silence*] There being none, Resolution No. 209 is hereby unanimously adopted.

Senator Maceda. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Maceda is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR MACEDA
(Senator Webb as Coauthor of S. No. 519)

Senator Maceda. Madam President, may I just manifest, for the record, that for Senate Bill No. 519, the Continuing Registration bill, Senator Webb is a coauthor of the measure.

The President Pro Tempore. The manifestation is noted.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, Senate Bill No. 1067 was approved on Third Reading by both Houses of Congress. We have requested the House to accede to the Senate version, but I have been informed that the House has decided that there should be a Bicameral Conference Committee.

The President Pro Tempore. May we know the title of that bill.

Senator Romulo. The title of the bill is "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS OR FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES'."

I move that Senator Maceda be elected the chairman of this Bicameral Conference Committee with Senators Romulo, Roco, and Angara as members.

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections to the membership of Senators Maceda, Roco, Angara, and Romulo to the Bicameral Conference Committee?

Senator Angara. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. I am grateful to the Majority Leader for including me in the conference committee, but may I recommend in my place Senator Fernan.

The President Pro Tempore. Thank you. Are there any objections to the nominations of Senators Maceda, Roco, Fernan, and Romulo to the Bicameral Conference Committee?

Senator Maceda. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. I am also grateful to the Majority Leader for designating me chairman. But in view of my having relinquished the position of Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, may I suggest that Senator Santiago be made the chairman of the Bicameral Conference Committee.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON S. NO. 1067/H. NO. 2648
(Senators Santiago, Roco, Fernan and Romulo
as Members of the Senate Panel on S. No. 1067)

Senator Romulo. Madam President, may I then move in lieu of the original motion that the following be named to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the part of the Senate: Senators Santiago, Roco, Fernan, and Romulo.

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we suspend the session until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 7:08 p.m.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:18 p.m., the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, called the session to order.

The President. The 34th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the prayer to be led by Sen. Blas F. Ople. After which, we shall be led in the singing of the "Philippine National Anthem" and another song, entitled *Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika* by the Elizabeth Seton Choir.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Ople.

Diyos Amang makapangyarihan,

Saharap ng mga salot at mga lagim na umiiral sa aming bayan

Ay bigyan Mo po kami ng lakas ng loob at kaliwanagan ng isip upang sugpuin at malaktawan ang mga hamong ito;

Kabilang na ang tibay ng pananampalataya

Upang makita sa mga sakunang ito ang 'di matarok na kalooban ng Diyos na isa ring paalaala

Kung paano mapagsisihan ang aming mga kasalanan at kakulangan sa paglilingkod;

At harinawang sa ilalim ng Iyong mapagpalang patnubay

Ay matuklasan namin ang tamang landas na maghahatid sa aming bayan sa kaligtasan at buhay na walang hanggan.

Maraming salamat po.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng Present*
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavies Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal Absent
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present*
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam D. Santiago Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Absent
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present*
Senator Freddie N. Webb Absent
The President Present

The President. With 17 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There

*Arrived after the roll call

being none, the motion is approved.

The Secretary will now proceed with the reading of the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

November 9, 1995

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that in view of the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2648, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"

which was passed by the House of Representatives on September 26, 1995 and Senate Bill No. 1067, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"

passed by the Senate on October 23, 1995, the House of Representatives requests a conference on these two bills and on November 9, 1995 designated Hon. Emigdio S. Tanjuatco Sr., Hon. Alfredo Amor E. Abueg Jr., Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, Hon. Sergio A.F. Apostol and Hon. Antonio M. Abaya, as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CAMILO L. SABIO
Secretary General

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALEZ
President of the Senate
Manila

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1272, entitled

AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE ABSORPTION AND UTILIZATION OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senators Romulo, Mercado and Tatad.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1273, entitled

AN ACT TO INTEGRATE A COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1274, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING SENATE CONCURRENCE TO EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS

Introduced by Senator Santiago.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Foreign Relations.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1275, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 4, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING THE POWER OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CORN AND OTHER GRAINS AND THEIR SUBSTITUTES, EXCEPT RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:54 p.m., the session was resumed with the Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. Leticia R. Shahani, presiding.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, we have Additional Reference of Business. May we ask the Secretary to read it.

The President Pro Tempore. The Secretary will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

THIRD ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1321, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF YOUTH ART AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on Youth and Sports Development; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1322, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY ONE SIXTY (R.A. 7160) OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Roco.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on Local Government; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1323, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 97 AND 99, TITLE FOUR, CHAPTER TWO, OF ACT NO. 3815, AS

AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Roco.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Justice and Human Rights.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1324, entitled

AN ACT TO PENALIZE CERTAIN VIOLATIONS THAT ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF THE VESSEL AND ITS CARGO AND PASSENGERS

Introduced by Senator Gonzales.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committee on Public Services.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1325, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THIRTEENTH MONTH PENSION TO MILITARY VETERANS OR THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSE AND OTHER DEPENDENTS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

Introduced by Senator Honasan.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1326, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES, AGENCIES, AND SUBDIVISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1327, entitled

AN ACT TO SPUR THE PLANTING OF A BILLION TREES, ESTABLISHING MINI FOREST PARKS IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROTECTING THE REMAINING NATURAL FORESTS AND FOREST PLANTATIONS, AND CREATING A FUND THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON S. NO. 1067/H. NO. 2648

Senator Romulo. Madam President, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2648 and Senate Bill No. 1067 entitled "An Act Amending Section 27 of Republic Act No. 7166 as Amended by Republic Act No. 8045, Entitled 'An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections and For Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor and for Other Purposes'" has been filed with the Office of the Secretary. Majority of the House panel have signed the Conference Committee Report. For the Senate panel, the report was signed by all its members.

Madam President, may I ask that the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws and the Committee on Electoral Reforms, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, be recognized to render her report.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Santiago is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR SANTIAGO

Senator Santiago. Madam President, this is a Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2648 and Senate Bill No. 1067, both of which deal with the role of a so-called citizens' arm in the electoral process.

The existing law provides that the National Movement for Free Elections or NAMFREL shall not be qualified for accreditation as a citizens' arm. The instant bill removes the disqualification of NAMFREL by deleting one proviso in the existing law.

Senator Romulo, together with Senators Angara, Fernan,

Maceda and Roco introduced the Senate bill. Senator Romulo, in his explanatory note said: "On the basis of its track record as an effective citizens' arm in past elections, NAMFREL deserves to be commended for doing well a difficult and thankless job."

The present bill as approved by the conference committee provides that in the distribution of copies of the election returns, the sixth copy shall be given "to a citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count, *provided*, however, that the accreditation of the citizens' arm shall be subject to the provisions of Section 52(h) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881."

The provision, as approved by the Senate, is identical to the provision as approved by the conference committee which is before us this evening. The committee therefore recommends approval.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON H. NO. 2648/S. NO. 1067

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I ask for the approval of the Conference Committee Report.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to the approval of the Conference Committee Report presented by Senator Santiago? [*Silence*] There being none, the report is hereby approved.

The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report:

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1648, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045 ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166" ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

and Senate Bill No. 1067, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR

**ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING
APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES,"**

having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do hereby recommend to their respective Houses that House Bill No. 2648, in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 1067, be approved in accordance with the attached copy of the bill as reconciled and approved by the conferees.

Approved.

**CONFEREES ON THE PART
OF THE SENATE**

(Sgd.) HON. MIRIAM D. SANTIAGO

(Sgd.) HON. ALBERTO G. ROMULO

(Sgd.) HON. RAUL S. ROCO

(Sgd.) HON. MARCELO B. FERNAN

**CONFEREES ON THE PART
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(Sgd.) HON. EMIGDIO S. TANJUATCO

(Sgd.) HON. ALFREDO AMOR E. ABUEG

(Sgd.) HON. SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL

(Sgd.) HON. ANTONIO M. ABAYA

(Sgd.) HON. EDCEL C. LAGMAN

REPUBLIC ACT NO. _____

**AN ACT GRANTING ALL CITIZENS' ARMS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE ACCREDITED
BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-ONE-HUNDRED
AND SIXTY-SIX, AS AMENDED.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of
Representatives in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 27 of Republic Act No. 7166, as amended by Republic Act No. 8045 is hereby

further amended to read as follows:

SEC. 27. Number of Copies of Election Returns and their Distribution.—The board of election inspectors shall prepare in handwriting the election returns in their respective polling places, in the number of copies herein provided and in the form to be prescribed and provided by the Commission.

"The copies of the election returns shall be distributed as follows:

"a) In the election of President, Vice President, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives:

"1) The first copy shall be delivered to the city or municipal board of canvassers;

"2) The second copy, to the Congress, directed to the President of the Senate;

"3) The third copy, to the Commission;

"4) The fourth copy, to the dominant majority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"5) The fifth copy, to the dominant minority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;

"6) The sixth copy, to a citizens' arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count: *Provided, however,* That the accreditation of the citizens' arm shall be subject to the provision of Section 52(k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881; and

"7) The seventh copy shall be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots; and

"b) In the election of local officials:

"1) The first copy shall be delivered to the city or municipal board of canvassers;

"2) The second copy, to the Commission;

"3) The third copy, to the provincial board of canvassers;

- "4) The fourth copy, to the dominant majority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;
- "5) The fifth copy, to the dominant minority party as determined by the Commission in accordance with law;
- "6) The sixth copy, to a citizen's arm authorized by the Commission to conduct an unofficial count: *Provided, however,* That the accreditation of the citizens' arm shall be subject to the provisions of Section 52(k) of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881; and
- "7) The seventh copy shall be deposited inside the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.—All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. Effectivity.—This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1314 - Changing the Date of Elections
for Elective Officials at ARMM

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1314 as reported out under Committee Report No. 44.

The President Pro Tempore. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1314 is now in order.

With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1314, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS FOR THE ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 7647 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DATE OF REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR REGIONAL GOVERNOR, REGIONAL VICE GOVERNOR AND MEM-

BERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

The following is the full text of Senate Bill No. 1314:

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At a recent meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), the Commission on Elections through its chairman stated that it would be better prepared for the computerized election in the ARMM Region if instead of holding said election on or about March of 1996 that the electoral exercise be deferred at least six (6) months hence.

Since the computerization of future elections of which the ARMM electoral exercise is the beginning, is of vital and critical importance to clean, honest and orderly election, this bill seeks to defer said ARMM election to a latter date instead of on March 1996.

Thus the passage of this amending legislation is earnestly urged.

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Senator

On motion of Senator Romulo, Senators Ernesto M. Maceda, Miriam D. Santiago, Orlando S. Mercado and Vicente C. Sotto III were made coauthors.

SENATE BILL NO. 1314

Introduced by Senators Romulo, Maceda,
Santiago, Mercado and Sotto III

AN ACT CHANGING THE DATE OF ELECTIONS FOR THE ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 7647 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DATE OF REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR REGIONAL GOVERNOR, REGIONAL VICE-GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:56 p.m., the session was resumed with the Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales presiding.

The President. The session is resumed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON H. NO. 5585/S. NO. 1314 (On Changing the Date of Elections for Officials of the ARMM)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5585 and Senate Bill No. 1314, which is "An Act Changing the Date of Elections for the Elective Officials of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, Amending for the Purpose R. A. 7647," has been filed with the Office of the Secretary. The majority of the conferees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate have signed the report recommending the approval of the Conference Committee Report.

To render a fuller account, may I ask that the Chairman of the Senate panel, Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III, be recognized.

The President. Senator Sotto is recognized.

Senator Sotto. Thank you.

Mr. President, distinguished Colleagues: It is my privilege to present today before this Chamber for its approval the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1314 and House Bill No. 5585 pertaining to the change of the date of elections for the elective officials of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, amending for the purpose Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7647.

At the outset, the two panels identified the following issues that had to be resolved and reconciled: First, the date of the postponement of the scheduled elections in 1996; fixing the date of the subsequent ARMM elections, particularly the elections beginning in 1999; the contentious issue on the scenario after the expiration of the terms of office of the officials on March 31, 1996; and the restrictions on the powers of the officials acting on a holdover capacity during the interim period.

Mr. President, after a lengthy and candid discussion of these issues, the two panels were able to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of the two bills and were able to come up with a reconciled version, the major points of which are as follows:

First, as to the date of postponement of the elections, the Senate and House panels agreed to adopt the Senate version holding the ARMM elections on the second Monday of September, specifically September 9, 1996.

On the second issue, however, the two panels adopted the House version returning the date of all subsequent elections beginning 1999 to the month of March in order to harmonize it with Republic Act No. 6734, the Organic Act of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao which mandates that the terms of office of ARMM elected officials begin at noon on the 31st day of March next following their election.

On the third issue, the Conferees agreed to adopt the Senate version where the incumbent officials shall continue to hold office after March 31, 1996 in a holdover capacity until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. However, an amendment was accepted by adding the clause: **UNLESS THEY FILE THEIR CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR ANY ELECTIVE POSITION THEREIN, IN WHICH CASE, THEY SHALL *IPSO FACTO* BE CONSIDERED RESIGNED FROM THEIR OFFICE.**

This last amendment was put forth and accepted by the members of both panels upon the urgings of the three Muslim congressmen who explained that allowing incumbents to hold office well into the campaign period may cause tension because of the perceived unfair advantage of the incumbents in the community, considering the substantial length of the holdover period involved, which is six months.

Lastly, both panels agreed to allow the officials acting during the interim period to disburse public funds upon the urgings again of the three Muslim congressmen who feared that the development of the area may be affected since the period covered by the restriction is of considerable length.

Finally, before we end this Bicameral Conference Committee Report, Mr. President, this Representation would like to assure this Body that the Senate panel tried its best to perform the difficult task of reconciling these two very different bills, keeping in mind the concerns raised by our Colleagues in the Chamber, but at the same time keeping an open mind and listening to the concerns of the people in the ARMM as voiced by their representatives, Congressmen Datumanong, Malindog and Jaffa who are members of the House panel.

In view of the foregoing reasons, we urge our Colleagues to approve this Bicameral Conference Committee Report for the people of Mindanao.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on December 18, 1995 designated Congressman Margarito B. Teves vice Congressman Jose T. Villarosa as member of the Conference Committee on the part of the House on House Bill No. 5201, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS AMENDED.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CAMILO L. SABIO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

December 19, 1995

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
M a n i l a

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives approved on December 18, 1995 the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Joint Resolution No. 2, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AND RECOMMEND POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SECTOR, PARTICULARLY OF THE SMALL FARMERS, AND APPROPRIATING

FUNDS THEREFOR

and Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CAMILO L. SABIO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

December 19, 1995

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
M a n i l a

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives approved on December 18, 1995 the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2648, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

and Senate Bill No. 1067, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8045, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CAMILO L. SABIO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

BILL ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1334, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HOME INDUSTRIES
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR
WOMEN AND ITS NETWORK

Introduced by Senator Roco.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Women and
Family Relations; and Trade and Commerce; and Finance.

RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 258,
entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE
COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS,
PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF THE LOCAL
FOOD INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY THE
ABSENCE OR LACK OF FOOD STANDARDS,
AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO
ENSURE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR FOOD
PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD MARKET

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Trade and
Industry; and Health and Demography.

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 259,
entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE
ATTENDANT HEALTH HAZARDS BEING
POSED BY THE ENJOYMENT AND USE OF
DANCING FIRECRACKERS, COMMONLY
KNOWN AS *WATUSI* AND OTHER
PYROTECHNIC DEVICES CONTAINING
HIGHLY POISONOUS CHEMICALS LIKE

YELLOW PHOSPHORUS, POTASSIUM
CHLORATE AND POTASSIUM NITRATE
WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROHIBITING
OR STRICTLY REGULATING THE SALE,
MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION AND USE
THEREOF TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY ON
THE MATTER AND OTHER PYROTECHNIC
DEVICES AND TO RECOMMEND REMEDIAL
MEASURES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Mercado.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Health and
Demography.

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 260,
entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE; AND
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND
SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED
SALE OF THE SITE AND CAMPUSES OF THE
PHILIPPINE STATE COLLEGE OF
AERONAUTICS (PhilSCA), DUE TO THE
SCHEDULED DISPOSITION OF THE
COLLEGE'S SITES AND ITS PROPERTY BY
THE BASES CONVERSION AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BCDA), IN
ORDER TO GIVE WAY TO AIR TERMINAL III
PROJECT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF
ENSURING THE FUTURE LOCATION OF
THE STATE COLLEGE AS WELL AS THE
FULFILLMENT OF ITS GOALS AND MISSION
AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION,
SPECIALIZED IN THE FIELD OF
AERONAUTICS, AND RECOMMENDING
REMEDIAL OR NEW LEGISLATIVE
MEASURES OR BOTH, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education,
Arts and Culture; and National Defense and Security.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, there is an Additional