

PONENCIA DEL SEN. MABÁNAG

Senator MABÁNAG. Mr. President, this bill is intended to correct an omission, which is being interpreted as a discrimination against the District Engineers in the service of the Government, committed thru the enactment and implementation of Republic Act No. 1836. The omission consists in the exclusion—inadvertent it would seem—of the District Engineer from the benefits that may be derived from said Act by the provincial officials. Moreover, the omission impliedly gives the impression that the District Engineer is not an official of the province.

The District Engineer is a provincial official of high rank not only because he is in charge of all public works in the province, but also because his talents and executive acumen contribute in substantial measure to the public works development of the province, and consequently, to the economic and social progress of the country. His duties range from platting the blueprints and devising the logistics for the construction of public improvements and maintaining those that have already been installed, down to a wise and economical expenditure of the public funds assigned therefor.

The duties of a Provincial Engineer are at present discharged by the Highway District Engineer, in the case of roads and bridges and by the same official in his capacity as District Engineer, in the case of other public works. In this bill, these two positions will be consolidated into the position of Provincial Engineer.

*(En este momento el Presidente Protémpore,
Sen. López, asume la presidencia por
designación de la Mesa)*

There is no fear that the inclusion of the Provincial Engineer among the officials affected by Republic Act No. 1836 will burden the province with heavier administrative expenses because his salary will be shouldered by the Administrative Portion of the Highways Special Fund, under the provisions of Republic Act No. 1192. Neither will the consolidation of the two positions cause any confusion in the administration of public works in the province because both positions are being discharged by the same person.

Under Republic Act No. 1836 amending Section 2067-B of the Revised Administrative Code, the salaries of the provincial fiscal, provincial auditor, provincial health officer, provincial assessor, assistant provincial treasurer, assistant provincial

auditor, assistant provincial health officer and assistant provincial assessor have been increased after the reclassification of the provinces. But the provincial engineers were not included. So, in order to do justice to these engineers, we must also include them. That is why we are now proposing to amend said Section 2067-B of the Revised Administrative Code as amended by Republic Act No. 1836. If there are no questions, I ask that the bill be approved on second reading.

APROBACIÓN EN SEGUNDA LECTURA DEL
S. NO. 83

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. We shall now vote on the bill on second reading. As many as are in favor of the bill will please say *aye*. (*Several Senators: Aye.*) As many as are against will please say *nay*. (*Silence.*) Senate Bill No. 83 is approved on second reading.

COMITÉ DE CONFERENCIA

Senator PRIMICIAS. Mr. President, in connection with House Bill No. 17, entitled "AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, SO AS TO INCLUDE MARIHUANA AND SIMILAR DRUGS AMONG THE PROHIBITED DRUGS", which was passed by the Lower House on April 10, 1958, the Senate also passed its own bill on the same subject matter known as Senate Bill No. 146, but there are some discrepancies on the provisions of the two bills. In order to harmonize the two versions, I ask that the Senate reject the Lower House version and that we appoint a conference committee to confer with a similar committee of the other House to harmonize the said provisions, and that said conference committee be composed of Senators Tolentino, Peláez and Padilla.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. Approved.

SEGUNDA LECTURA Y CONSIDERACIÓN DEL
S. NO. 201

Senator PRIMICIAS. Mr. President, I ask that we now consider Senate Bill No. 201.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 201 is now in order. The Secretary will please read the bill.

THE SECRETARY:

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF A PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN KUALA LUMPUR, FEDERATION OF MALAYA.

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