



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE

Record of the Senate

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

VOL. I

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

NO. 91

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES On Senate Bill No. 11 & 113 and House No. 4046	2864
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 992	
BILL ON FIRST READING (Senate Bill No. 258)	2864
RESOLUTION NO. 81	2864
COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON RA Nos. 6643, 6644 & 6645	2864
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS ON HOUSE NO. 992 (Tariff & Customs Code)	
BILL ON SECOND READING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2585 Compensation of members of INP; Sponsor – Senator Maceda	2866
Interpellations: Senators Estrada, Osmeña, Guingona & Pimentel Period of Amendments	
APPROVAL ON SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2585 Explanations of Votes: Senator Aquino, Enrile, Guingona, Lina, Maceda, Mercado, Rasul & Saguisag	2880
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 992	
CONSIDERATION OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81 (Review of Import Liberation Program	2884
OTHER MATTERS: Com. Report No. 101 on House Bill No. 2601 – Value Added Tax	
Com. Report No. 78 on Senate Resolution No. 26 Re: Philippine Refugee Processing	
Senate Resolution No. 10. Re: Character of Fil. people	

the Members of the Senate who have been broad-minded enough to accommodate the representations of your humble servant.

In this Committee Report, Mr. President, we have made a significant breakthrough in the sense that our House counterpart has accepted the principle that a House Bill on the tariff can be amended by the Senate with the inclusion of new items under the overall power of this legislative Body to amend or concur with amendments to a Tariff Bill which constitutionally must originate from the House.

Our House counterparts have agreed to the inclusion of these items and, as a matter of give-and-take, we have also accepted the inclusion of certain items which were not originally set in the Administration Bill, but which were added by the House of Representatives.

So, all in all, Mr. President, this is a felicitous happening in the sense that reasonable men have come to an agreement which, we believe, can stand individual scrutiny as representing and upholding our government's policy of import liberalization.

When the session reopens sometime in January next year, it is the intention of your Committee that we shall review the Import Liberalization Program of the Administration in order that we can harmonize the different provisions of the Tariff Code and we can also inquire as to whether the so-called Import Liberalization Program of the Administration serves the best interest of the Filipino people rather than some sectors or some alien groups only.

It is the unanimous opinion of your Committee that this is a matter which is of primary national interest and should be given top priority by the Committee in the coming year.

With this Report, Mr. President, I would like to ask for a suspension of the session for

a while because the Committee Report is being photocopied for distribution to every individual Member of the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, if the photocopying will take a few minutes, I would like to move that we suspend consideration first of the Conference Committee Report.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING (House Bill No. 2585 – Compensation of INP)

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 92, on House Bill No. 2585, entitled:

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE COMPENSATION STRUCTURE OF UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

I move that Senator Maceda be recognized to sponsor the Bill.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, before I start my sponsorship, may we put for the record and acknowledge the presence of General Lim, General San Diego, General Roxas, and all these handsome Members of the Integrated National Police from the Metro Manila area. [*Applause*]

I would also like to put on the record, Mr. President, for the information of the other Senators, that we did not invite them personally to come here. They came in of their own volition – according to them, just to wish us a Happy New Year.

The President. The Chair would like to presume that that was the case.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
SENATOR MACEDA

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, Committee Report No. 92 of the Committee on National Defense and Security was reported out on December 10, 1987. We mention that fact in view of the report in the papers that our zealous Members of the "Biggest Chamber" have charged that we are sitting on this bill or words to that effect, but the truth of the matter was that this bill was submitted together with the AFP Salary Base Pay Law of 1987 in a certification by the President that covered both that bill and this bill. For one reason or another, the Military Pay Bill was approved by the House ahead and so we also approved it here ahead. We received this much later and it was given the same expeditious action by the Committee on National Defense. Only that since it was received late by this Chamber, it was reported out only on December 10.

The same thing happened to the Electoral Reform Bill, the Tariff Bill, and other bills that were deferred in consideration of the admittedly more immediate priority of the General Appropriations Act or the budget, which after all, for the information of our guests, also includes the appropriation for the National Police Commission and everything that they are enjoying. Without that budget, then everybody would have been prejudiced, including the National Police Commission. That is the reason why, when the budget is presented on the floor, it is just like anything presented with police escorts or with an ambulance following it. Everybody has to step aside because that budget is the most important measure that has to pass.

But it seems that the prayers of the policemen have been answered, because, thanks to the conflicting interpretations of the Constitution today, independent of whatever we said yesterday, we are in session today. Well, part of the reason why we are here today, Mr. President,

and sponsoring this is that I have been informed by the officers of the House who joined us in the Conference Committee on the Tariff Bill that as far as the House is concerned, since the *Rules* of the Batasan are by their present *Rules*, suppletory to the present *Rules* of the House, they pointed out that under the *Rules* of the Batasan the Speaker of the Batasan has been given the power to convene a session of the House anytime even after going into recess.

So I mentioned that to the Majority Floor Leader and to the Senate President to remind them that there is a need also, in view of the precedent that we have decided to set yesterday, to amend only the *Rules of the Senate* to provide for that eventuality.

Mr. President, having said that, we have reported out this particular bill because not only has it been certified by the President of the Philippines twice but also it has been the subject of constant request and representation by General Ramos, the Chief of Staff, by Lt. Gen. Renato de Villa, the Deputy Chief of Staff, concurrently Director General of the Integrated National Police, and, of course, by almost all the Members of this Chamber, including the Members of the Minority.

Mr. President, the past events have shown that the Integrated National Police is an indispensable partner, together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in the maintenance of national stability and in counterring the communist insurgency in our country.

Not too long ago, the papers carried the heroic story of the police forces of a small town of Manapla in Negros Occidental, which resisted after the NPA's came in and burned the city hall. That small police force of seven or eight policemen resisted and drove the insurgents away from the town. The same happened in a small town in Sorsogon.

So as far as the policemen, specifically in the

rural areas, are concerned, they have been at the forefront of the insurgency. And lately, it has come and arrived in the City of Manila, Metro Manila rather, evidenced by the 40 or so killings by Sparrow Units of policemen all over Metro Manila — from Quezon City to Muntinlupa, to Valenzuela, to Pasig and, of course, in the City of Manila itself.

Any deterioration, Mr. President, of morale on the part of the members of the Integrated National Police would make it much more difficult for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for the government itself, as a whole to carry on effectively against the armed threats to our society. Even in the city of Cebu which is represented in this Chamber by Senator Osmeña and Senator Herrera, there have been several, if not many, cases of Sparrow rub-outs of policemen last year. Therefore, the record shows that in proportion to its personal strength, the Integrated National Police has suffered as much as the Armed Forces of the Philippines in terms of casualties, exposure to hazardous conditions, and long period of maximum alert and tension-filled situations during the past 22 months since the People Power Revolution of February.

Mr. President, with that background, and so as not to take the time of the Senate too long, I will just go into the amendments. Well, the major amendment is, of course, a provision similar to what we have in the AFP, INP base pay of 1987, and that is, we are adding as Section 7 on this amendment on Civil Employees the following:

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1988, ALL REGULAR AND PERMANENT CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM BASE PAY OF ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) A MONTH, SUBJECT TO THE RATIONALIZED COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION FUND OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED, PURSUANT TO THE STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF THE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1, 1988.

The second major amendment, Mr. President, is on page 4, line 17, where we deleted the words "up to but not exceeding 56 percent." The whole paragraph will, therefore, read:

MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES CAPABLE OF INCREASING THE CURRENT GROSS PAY OF THE PATROLMAN 1ST CLASS AND PATROLMEN AND FIREMEN SHALL BE ENCOURAGED.

Meaning to say, that there is no limitation on whatever amount a city or municipality can run if it feels that it has the financial capability to do so — like Makati, the City of Manila, Quezon City, or Cebu.

Mr. President, other than that, the others are formal amendments and the last amendment that is of any consequence is the fact that since we increased in the military pay bill the salaries for Generals, we have, therefore, also suggested that for Brigadier Generals their salary be increased from P7,000 to P8,000; and for Major Generals — which is only one item, I understand — from P7,500 to P9,000.

And I think it is more acute and deserving in the case of the Generals of the Integrated National Police because I believe, Mr. President, they do not receive the different allowances that the Generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines receive.

Mr. President, in the bill as presented by the Committee, may I point out Section 5, which provides for the restoration of longevity pay, something being enjoyed for a long time by the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Section 5, grants longevity pay to uniformed members of the Integrated National Police in addition to their monthly base pay, longevity pay equivalent to 10 percent of their monthly base pay prescribed for each

five years of satisfactory, faithful and efficient service heretofore or hereafter rendered as an officer.

Mr. President, that is, however, delimited by a limit that the total amount of longevity pay shall not exceed 50 percentum of the uniformed member's monthly base pay as prescribed by law. It is also delimited by a proviso that services as a cadet in the Philippine National Police Academy shall be limited to a maximum of two years, and it is further delimited by a proviso that nothing in Section 5 shall be construed as authorizing the payment of any back longevity pay for any period of services heretofore rendered.

Mr. President, the amount that is necessary to pay the increases that are covered by this bill has been certified as available by the Bureau of Treasury, and the certification is in the records of the Committee and of the Senate signed by Rosalina S. Cajucom, Officer-in-Charge of the Bureau of Treasury, where the certification of availability of funds states:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, I hereby certify that funds will be made available to finance the amount proposed to be appropriated under House Bill No. 2585 out of the surplus revenues and other incomes including proceeds of borrowings accruing to the National Treasury.

In closing, Mr. President, while I ask for the approval of these measures without any reservations, let me also say that in view of what is already in the *Record of the Senate*, we hope that with the approval of the bill which will reflect very substantial increases in the compensation structure of our policemen, the distinguished Senator from San Juan will no longer have to stand up in this Session Hall in the future calling the attention of the Integrated National Police, especially in the Metro Manila area, to the rampant incidents of gambling that is going on in this area. We would like to see to

it that there will be, after this bill is passed, a clean up campaign in the area of gambling, in the area of narcotics, and in the area of prostitution. We hope to see that we will no longer see a policeman stationed at the South Superhighway flagging down cargo trucks at late hours of the night or early in the morning for very questionable reasons. And I will not, in the spirit of the season, lengthen that list. I just hope that the approval of this bill will certainly improve — as it has been represented to us — high morale and improved service and will result in Senator Estrada and other Senators in the future delivering a speech here, congratulating the police force for a job well done.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Estrada. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Estrada is recognized.

Senator Estrada. Ginoong Pangulo, ako po ay tumatayo upang magbigay ng ilang pananalita bilang pagsang-ayon sa Sponsor ng House Bill No. 2585. Hindi po ako mag-i-interpellate sa ating Kgg. na Senador Ernesto Maceda. Kung papayagan ng Kgg. na Senador, ibig ko lamang magbigay ng karagdagang pananalita bilang suporta sa House Bill No. 2585.

Ginoong Pangulo, una po sa lahat, bayaan ninyong ipaabot ko sa lahat ang aking pagbati ng mapayapa at Masaganang Bagong Taon sa ating mamamayan. Bagama't hindi ako miyembro ng Committee on National Defense, sa akin pong karanasan bilang dating punong-bayan ng San Juan sa loob ng labing-anim na taon, higit ko pong nadarama ang kalagayan ng ating mga pulis o ating mga alagad ng batas.

Kanina pong umaga, isang balo ang nagpunta sa aking tahanan. Ang akala ko po ay isa ito sa mga nakalimutan kong inaanak. Ngunit ang aking bisita pala ay isang balo, asawa ng isang nasirang Mariano Dadivas na limang araw nang nakaburol sa fire station. Siya ay isang bumbero na may labinglimang taong nagsilbi sa Fire De-

partment ng San Juan. Ang pagkamatay po ni Fireman Mariano Dadivas ay nagbigay ng katanungan sa aking isipan: Ito ba ang dapat sapitin ng ating mga alagad ng batas pagkatapos na sila ay manilbihan sa ating bayan? Kailangan ba na ang kanilang mga naulila ay manghingi ng limos upang sila ay maipalibing?

Nakalulungkot pong isipin na samantalang marami sa ating mga kababayan ang humihigop ng masarap na tsokolate sa Paskong ito, isa namang balo ang nagpapalimos upang maipalibing ang kaniyang asawa na limang araw nang nakaburo.

And kalagayan ng pamilya ni Fireman Dadivas ay sumasalamin sa kalagayan ng ating mga sarhento, kabo at patrolmen na siyang higit na nakararami sa kabuuan ng Integrated National Police. Hindi po kaila sa atin na itong higit na nakararaming maliliit na pulis ay hindi sapat ang mga tinatanggap na sahod, pati na ang benepisyo.

Sa bayan po ng San Juan, kung saan ang inyong lingkod ay nanungkulan bilang alkalde, ay dumaraing ang mga pulis. Bukod sa pagkaalis ng Police/Firemen Trust Fund, kung saan nanggaling ang kanilang benepisyong tulad ng free burial, medical assistance at iba pa, ang kanilang inaasam na pagtaas ng sahod ay hindi pa naisasakap. Samantalang kung itong ating mga sundalo ay nabigyan na ng kaukulang salary increases, bagama't ito ay hindi pa sapat, ang ating mga pulis ay walang natatanggap na katumbas na increases. Ngayon po, sa dumaraing na mga pulis, at sa aking pananaw, ang karaingan ay dulot ng problema katulad ng standardization of salaries, dahil ang panunungkulan ng mga sundalo at ng mga pulis ay iisa. Iisa ang panunungkulan sa bayan.

Ang pulis ay showcase ng isang magandang pamamahala. Ang peace and order situation ay nakakamit nang dahil sa pulis. Sila po ang una sa mga nakalantad sa bayan; sila rin po ang mga naunang biktima ng karahasan. Marahil ay sa-

sang-ayon kayo sa akin na higit na nakararami ang nasasawi sa panig ng pulis kung ihahambing po lamang natin sa bilang ng mga nasasawing sundalo. Dito sa statistics na nakuha ko kangina, mula Pebrero hanggang Oktubre, 52 pulis ang namatay — killed in action; 92 ang injured. Matagal na po ang karaingan ng mga pulis. Ang kanilang sahod na isang libong piso ay hindi angkop at hindi makakatustos sa pangangailangan kahit ng kanilang mga sarili. Kulang pa po para sa kanilang sarili ang kanilang sahod. Papaano po naman ang kanilang pamilya at ang kanilang mga anak? Bukod po sa maliit ang sahod, ang mga pulis ay napakabigat ang trabaho. Sila ay nagtatrabaho na kung minsan ay ilang araw na walang tulugan. Ngunit ang kanilang paghihirap ay binabayaran lamang ng over-tawad, wala po silang overtime pay. Ang nakakaawa pong kalagayan ng ating mga alagad ng batas ay maiiwasan kung mayroon lamang tayong tamang pamamaraan para sa kanilang kagalingan. Sa 16 na taong panunungkulan bilang alkalde ng San Juan, ako po ay bumuo ng isang Police and Firemen Trust Fund. Ang pondo po nito ay magbibigay ng mga kaukulang halaga sa ating mga alagad ng batas, kagaya po ng mga sumusunod: ₱20,000 para sa pagpapalibing; ₱10,000 para sa hospitalization fee; at ₱2,000 para sa training allowance. Bukod po dito ay mayroon din silang sahod at 13th month pay at isang sakong bigas taun-taon. Bagama't starvation pay pa lamang ang kanilang tinatanggap ay nagawa namin sa San Juan, sa aming munting paraan, na maitaas ang kanilang standard of living. Ngunit hindi ko po alam na noong ako ay naalis bilang punongbayan ay kasama na ring pong naalis ang lahat ng benepisyong ito. At ako ay natutuwa na si Pangulong Cory Aquino mismo ang nakikiusap sa Kapulungang ito na suportahan ang House Bill No. 2585, entitled:

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE COMPENSATION STRUCTURE OF UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL

POLICE IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

The burden of their job is just too much and their take-home pay is also much too unrewarding. It is about time that our poor policemen should be given their due. I urge the President and my esteemed Colleagues in the Senate to approve this Bill for the immediate upliftment of our police force. Let us greet them a more prosperous New Year. Ito po ang ating ibigay na aginaldo sa ating mga pulis ngayong Bagong Taon.

Marami pong salamat. [Applause]

The President. Senator Osmeña, then Senator Guingona.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, just a few remarks to go on the *Record of the Senate*: I am wholly sympathetic with the intention of this bill. It is even known that when I was elected to the City Council of Cebu many years ago the Committee that I chaired was the Committee on Police. I was Chairman of the Committee on Police of the City Council for six years.

When I returned to the city government as OIC after the EDSA Revolution in March — I was appointed by our Colleague, Senator Pimentel and I found, to my distress, that the police force of the city of Cebu had degenerated to unacceptable levels. I sought to give the police officers assigned to the city of Cebu additional compensation from the coffers of the city government but I was told by the City Auditor that it was not allowed by law. The only thing we could give them was the clothing allowance and other forms of assistance and additional equipment. I found out in my 13 months as OIC Mayor of Cebu how difficult it was to run a city when a mayor does not have control of the police. So I would like to say that I am very happy about this bill. For one thing, I wholly support the increase in pay for underpaid, overworked members of our police force. I also am

very happy that cities like Manila, Cebu, maybe Iloilo, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, which have an excess of revenues, can now pay additional compensation and due allowances to police officers assigned to those cities. I would like, however, to make it of record that I will be unrelenting and I will persist. And I think those of us who are here — Senators Estrada and Pimentel who were once local government officials, who were mayors — will support this move. We would like to see the dismantling or the disintegration of the INP and the return to local governments of the control over the police. And that is, of course, another matter which will have to be dealt with in another legislative initiative. But, I think, by allowing cities to pay the policemen extra funds, indirectly we have now given local officials additional control over the local police.

Thank you, Mr. President. [Applause]

The President. Senator Guingona.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, will the distinguished Gentleman from Ilocos, Manila and Laguna yield to some questions?

Senator Maceda. Willingly, Mr. President, to the Gentleman from Iloilo and Agusan.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, the amendment on page 6, before line 1, grants to civilian employees a minimum base pay of ₱1,000 a month, but it makes the effectivity, January 1, 1988, whereas this bill is effective December 1, 1987.

May we know why there is such a disparity and why the civilian employees' base pay was not made also effective December 1, 1987?

Senator Maceda. The explanation lies in the fact, Mr. President, that this is a provision that is added by the Senate and for which, presumably, the corresponding amount which is undetermined at this time would not be included in the certification that was given by the Bureau of Treasury. But by making

it effective January 1, 1988 and subject to the rationalization of the Department of Budget and Management; then, whatever is the decision of the DBM, that will be taken care of on that level, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. But would not the same funding sources be made applicable, namely, from the Compensation and Organizational Adjustment Fund, the contingent fund, and other savings under Executive Order No. 87?

Senator Maceda. Well, presumably, Mr. President, when the Treasury certified the funding sources, they already took the actual amounts involved. In our Committee hearing, it was something like ₱51 million a month, and that specific amount or ₱612 million a year was the estimate. Certainly, the estimate did not include any additional appropriation for increase in civilian employees' pay.

Senator Guingona. The Gentleman will perhaps agree with me that the civilian employees who form part of the organization deserve as much as the men in uniform.

Senator Maceda. Certainly, that is why we in the Senate included that in the military pay bill, and we are now again including it in this bill.

Senator Guingona. And if there is any way of making it retroactive to December 1, why not do it?

Senator Maceda. Yes, as long as funds will be made available, we have no objection, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. In the adjustment on page 3, line 9, the pay for the major general is increased to ₱9,000.

Senator Maceda. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. And the pay for the brigadier general is increased to ₱8,000, whereas the pay for the colonel down the line remained

the same. Does not the distinguished Sponsor believe that the colonels down the line deserve proportionate increases also?

Senator Maceda. The only reason why the salaries for the brigadier general and major general in this bill have been increased is we also increased them in the military pay bill. The amount for colonels down to patrolmen here are exactly the same as those for the military officers and enlisted men. The idea really is to put them exactly at par so that one group or the other will not feel that they are second class, as they say, or inferior to the other. So colonels in the military are also receiving ₱6,000 a month now under the new law.

Senator Guingona. Does this prevent municipalities and cities capable of increasing or granting allowances to give allowances to the police forces in their respective cities and municipalities?

Senator Maceda. As stated, Mr. President, on page 4, Section 4(d), municipalities and cities are allowed to increase the current gross pay of patrolman first class and patrolman fireman.

Senator Guingona. May we know, Mr. President, why it was limited to patrolman first class and patrolman fireman?

Senator Maceda. Well, because, if the Gentleman will notice, the difference in salary between a corporal and a patrolman is very substantial. Between a corporal and a patrolman is an ₱800 difference and it is our hope that some cities and municipalities will make the adjustments at this level.

Senator Guingona. Therefore, it does not prevent the city or municipality which can pay to grant additional allowances to others than the first class patrolman?

Senator Maceda. Well, if the Gentleman from Iloilo and Agusan would like to present

an amendment in that regard to clarify the situation, we have no objection.

In principle, the Committee encourages, as stated here, municipalities and cities in paying up additional compensation, allowances and whatever additional benefits that they are capable of.

Senator Guingona. Yes, we would like to very much, Mr. President, if the distinguished Sponsor will accept.

Senator Maceda. Yes, we can expand the ranks covered from patrolman first class and patrolman fireman to include other ranks that the Gentleman may propose.

Senator Guingona. And this increase in pay and rationalization in pay is intended to boost the morale of the men in uniform, is it not?

Senator Maceda. That is the intention, Mr. President. Just like what Senator Osmeña said. I was Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the City Council of Manila, and that was the same argument that was used before me in 1960 when I heard the proposed increase of policemen of the City of Manila at that time from P-200 a month to P250 a month.

Senator Guingona. During the time of the late Mayor Lacson, the police in Manila was known as "Manila's Finest." With an encouragement such as this, can we hope to achieve the day, to see the day again, when the Metropolitan Police Forces in Metro Manila will be regarded by the citizens as Metro Manila's Finest?

Senator Maceda. I am very sure, Mr. President, especially if the policemen will keep themselves to having only one wife and one family. [Laughter]

Senator Guingona. In keeping with the tradition and written tradition of the Manila's Finest, we wish them also not only the Manila's Finest but also a new police force and wish them a Happy New Year.

Thank you, Mr. President. [Applause]

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Will the Sponsor kindly yield to a few questions, Mr. President?

Senator Maceda. Willingly to the former Mayor of Cagayan de Oro and one of the presidential contenders for 1992, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. Thank you very much for the kind remarks, but I suppose if the President of the Senate will aim for it, we will have to give way. [Laughter]

Senator Maceda. Then I will nominate the Gentleman as the vice-presidential running mate of President Salonga.

Senator Pimentel. At any rate, Mr. President, 1992 is so far away while this bill is right before us, and I suppose that we will have to tackle this matter quite seriously.

I understand from the Gentleman that the base pay of the sergeants, the corporals and the patrolmen first class, as well as the patrolmen, is equivalent to the base pay of the corresponding rank in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Is that correct, Mr. President?

Senator Maceda. That is correct. And in the hearings we have, I think they have almost all the allowances and other benefits that are given, with the exception of longevity pay, the one that is not being given, but that is provided for in this bill.

Senator Pimentel. The reason I asked that, Mr. President, is the fact that the Gentlemen who have been through the offices like local government offices of mayor or councilor would know that the requirements of the law to qualify a person to be a patrolman or a patrol-

man first class or a corporal or a sergeant are higher than those demanded of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. [Applause]

There seems to be a basis, therefore, Mr. President, to remedy the discrepancy in the sense perhaps increasing the base pay of the patrolmen and so on upwards, up to the rank of lieutenant, in order to do justice to our policemen who have to qualify under more rigorous conditions to be drafted into the police force, more strenuously than his counterpart in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And I want to emphasize this, Mr. President, because it has been my experience as Mayor of the City of Cagayan de Oro and I know this is also true insofar as the members of the police forces all over the country are concerned, specially in the non-highly urbanized areas, that the patrolmen, the sergeants, the corporals of the police forces who are highly qualified, more highly educated and perhaps more highly trained are not at all respected by their counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I think it is time, when we are operating under the principle of civilian supremacy, that the civilian forces of this government, namely the police forces should be treated better than the Armed Forces of the Philippines. [Applause]

The President. The public is requested to observe silence.

Senator Maceda. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Senator from Cagayan de Oro, and probably it would be appropriate to take note of that in the consideration by this Body eventually. I am sure it will come within the next six months — the implementation of that constitutional provision which separates the Constabulary and the INP from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. But at the moment, it seems that the principle is that as long as they are with and under the Armed Forces of the Philippines because of the appointment of the Chief of the PC *ex-officio* as Director-General of

the INP, at least their salaries should be brought up at par. But certainly, in principle, I accept that the ordinary policeman requires, I think, about 72 units in college, while the ordinary soldier can be just a high school graduate in order to enlist in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Senator Pimentel. So, Mr. President, is this bill still subject to amendments? We are not yet through with the period of amendments or are we, Mr. President?

Senator Maceda. Yes, we are not yet through. We are in the period of sponsorship. I just wanted to point out that if we did increase the pay of the policemen at this time, it might again cause agitation on the part of the military to increase them again to the levels that we will increase the pay of the policemen because the perception at this time is that they should be treated equally, and that is the stand of the President, the Chief of Staff, and the Director General of the INP. But as I said, agreeing as I do with the sentiment of the Gentleman, that matter will certainly be more appropriately taken up and supported in connection with the bill making independent the National Police Commission, or creating a Department of the Interior, or creating a Department of Public Safety. As the Gentleman knows, there are these three different proposals which implement the Constitution, separating the police from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Senator Pimentel. May I just point out, Mr. President, that this bill is entirely different from the bill granting a general increase to the members of the Armed Forces and, therefore, there is a basis to treat this differently. As a matter of fact, that is the reason why, I suppose, this bill was a little delayed in order to give us time to find out where we can get the money to fund the increases that are being contemplated here, in addition to the fact, Mr. President, that there is a valid basis for a dis-

inction in the salary rates of the policemen and the salary rates of the members of the Armed Forces. And I will raise this point at the proper time therefore, Mr. President.

Thank you very much.

Senator Maceda. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any other interpellation? [*Silence*]

The Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Mercado. If there are no other interpellations, Mr. President, I move that we close the period of interpellations, and proceed to the period of amendments.

The President. Is there any speech against the bill? [*Silence*] If there is none, let us go to the period of amendments.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

GUINGONA AMENDMENT

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, on page 4, line 16: "current gross pay of CADETS, SERGEANTS, CORPORALS, Patrolman First Class and Patrolman."

Senator Maceda. We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Guingona. And the amendment on page 6, before line 1.

Senator Enrile. Anterior amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Enrile is recognized.

ENRILE AMENDMENT

Senator Enrile. Page 5, Section 6, line 12, I move, Mr. President, to delete the word "Chairman" and the comma after the word "the," so that it will read: THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION.

Senator Maceda. I accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENT

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, on page 3, lines 15 and 16, on the rates of the pay scale, we notice that the difference between the police lieutenant and the cadet is ₱1,000 because the police lieutenant receives ₱3,500 and the cadet receives ₱2,500.

My proposal, Mr. President, is to amend lines 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 so that the cadet would receive ₱3,000, the sergeant would receive ₱2,500, the corporal would get ₱2,000 instead of ₱1,800, and the patrolman first-class ₱1,500 instead of ₱1,300.

Senator Maceda. One thousand to ₱1,000? What is the last one?

Senator Pimentel. One thousand to ₱1,300.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, we would like to explain in the presence of the representatives here that, while we are accepting this amendment at this time, this would be subject to a Conference Committee with the House — because sometimes once people feel that they have been already promised so much, and if in the Conference Committee this is not adopted — I hope that the policemen will understand that that is part of the nature of our processes. So

with that caveat or explanation, we accept the amendment, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. We shall suspend the session for a few minutes, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I believe we are still in the period of amendments.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I have accepted the amendment of the Gentleman from Cagayan. With the explanation — I would like to repeat because sometimes when this comes out in the papers that the Senate has approved it on such and such an amount — that the final amount is still subject to a Conference Committee meeting with the House of Representatives.

The President. All right.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, just one correction.

The President. Senator Pimentel.

Senator Pimentel. The amendment was introduced by the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro not Cagayan del Fiero, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. Senator Osmeña.

OSMEÑA AMENDMENT

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, just an amendment. Prior to the amendment, I would like to ask the Chairman a question. It says here on page 4, line 10 actually, paragraph c: "When any member is demoted for cause, he shall receive the base pay rate corresponding to the

base pay rate prescribed for his new grade . . ." In other words, the grade to which he was demoted to "otherwise," — and this is what I do not understand — "he shall continue to receive the base pay rate prior to the effectivity of this Act."

Why should there be an "otherwise," Mr. President?

The President. Shall we first dispose of the amendment on page 3?

Senator Osmeña. I thought it was disposed of.

The President. No, that has not been disposed of.

Senator Osmeña. I am sorry, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection to the amendment proposed by Senator Pimentel and which has been accepted by the Sponsor?

Senator Rasul. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Rasul is recognized.

Senator Rasul. Thank you, Mr. President.

This is not an objection. I just would want to point out the discrepancies in the monthly base pay. Whereas, there seems to be a difference of ₱500 between ranks: Major-General, ₱7,500 and then, Brigadier-General, ₱7,000. Between Brigadier-General and Colonel, there is a difference of ₱1,000; and between Major and Captain, there is a difference of ₱1,000. So if we want the base pay to be equitable, I think I would like that to be raised during the meeting of the Conference Committee so there will be equitable increases of salaries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, we will take note of that.

The President. All right.

Senator Maceda. May I also point out at this time, Mr. President, that we are talking of in-

creasing salaries not only for Metro Manila policemen. Even the two policemen in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, my mother's hometown, will receive this amount. And certainly, if the policemen in Tawi-Tawi or Sulu will receive ₱1,000 or ₱1,300, we can imagine the representation and agitation of the policemen of the bigger municipalities and cities, saying why should they be receiving the same amount of money that a policeman in a small peaceful town is receiving. So, again, let us hope that we can do these things gradually without dislocating the finances of the different cities and municipalities, Mr. President.

The President. If there are no other remarks, let us go back to the Pimentel amendment which has been accepted.

Is there any objection? [Silence] The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, we will accept an amendment proposed by Senator Osmeña removing from line 12, from the word "otherwise" up to the end of that sentence on line 14, and on line 12, therefore, a period after the word "grade."

The President. All right. Is there any objection to the Osmeña amendment? [Silence] Hearing none, approved.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, another amendment on page 5, line 20. Actually the sentence involved starts in line 19, and it says: "Provincial, City and Municipal executives may grant such other allowances to INP uniformed members or INP units to enhance their efficiency . . ." et cetera.

My amendment, Mr. President, would be to delete the word "executive," and substitute it with the word GOVERNMENT and after the word GOVERNMENT, add the words WITHOUT NEED OF ANY APPROVAL FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION. So this line will read: "Provincial, City and Municipal GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT NEED OF

ANY APPROVAL FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION may grant such other allowances . . ." et cetera.

Senator Maceda. I have no objection to changing the word "executives" to GOVERNMENTS," but in line with what I just said, Mr. President, if we do not have the National Police Commission monitoring these increases, we might have a situation where suddenly the City of Tagbilaran — simply because the city executive wants to give all his extra money to the police force of Tagbilaran to the prejudice of schools, health centers, markets, and the like — would have a higher salary pay than the police-ment of Cebu City. So does the Gentleman not think it might be good to keep some authority with the National Police Commission, at least to see to it that there is no gross disparity from one city to another?

Senator Osmeña. Well, this amendment involves two things essentially. It is the change of the word "executives" to GOVERNMENT, because the executive can not grant increase on his own.

Senator Maceda. Right, I accept that amendment.

Senator Osmeña. Then the amendment regarding the approval of the National Police Commission, I really see no serious objection to having disparities, because in effect if you have disparities, you will have policemen from Cebu being sought after by Tagbilaran by paying them more. In effect — just like in a private company — if I want to get better men, I will pirate your employees by paying them higher salaries. So the richer cities, of course, will end up having better police officers because, for example, if the City of Cebu pays an allowance to General Lim of ₱15,000, he will move to Cebu.

Senator Maceda. I would like to ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President. Before we go to suspension, shall we dispose of the other amendment that has already been accepted?

Senator Maceda. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Instead of "executives," the word GOVERNMENTS on line 20.

Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

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

It was 5:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, after consulting with the members of the INP who are here and with the Sponsor, we were able to determine that certain cities and municipalities are actually paying allowances now and that these allowances are being paid without need for approval by the National Police Commission. So rather than spell out this matter in the Bill one way or the other, we will just leave it out and not provide for it.

The President. So the amendment is withdrawn?

Senator Osmeña. Yes, insofar as the amendment which has to do with the requirements for approval, but the requirement to change the word "Executives" to GOVERNMENT has been accepted already.

The President. That is already approved.

Senator Osmeña. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Estrada. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Estrada is recognized

ESTRADA AMENDMENT

Senator Estrada. Mr. President, on line 21, page 5; "Provincial, city and municipal governments may grant such other allowances to uniformed members of the INP."

Now, I would like to ask the Sponsor to delete the word "uniformed," because why will we stop a civilian executive from granting allowances to civilian employees in the INP?

Senator Maceda. We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. In other words, delete the word "uniformed" on line 21.

Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, approved.

Senator Estrada. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

GUINGONA AMENDMENT

Senator Guingona. On page 6, Mr. President, before line 1, after the new Section 7, "Civilian Employees effective DECEMBER 1st, 1987," instead of "January 1st, 1988."

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, question of order. We have not actually approved the Committee Amendment yet. So if we can now insert that as a Committee Amendment on page 6 before line 1 in new Section 7 to include the amendment proposed by the Senator.

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1988, ALL REGULAR AND PERMANENT CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM BASE PAY OF ₱1,000.00 A MONTH SUBJECT TO THE RATIONALIZED COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, AS MAYBE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET

AND MANAGEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1988.

That is a new Section 7, Mr. President.

The President. That is a Committee amendment?

Senator Maceda. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]

Instead of the words "which should be completed", WHICH SHALL BE COMPLETED.

Senator Maceda. The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President, just for the record, I think the distinguished Sponsor said December 1, 1988.

Senator Maceda. 1987.

Senator Saguisag. Well, just to set it straight.

The President. All right.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President.

The President. Yes, Senator Enrile.

Senator Enrile. Do I take it, Mr. President, that Section 7 appearing on page 6 is now Section 8.

Senator Maceda. We have not yet approved the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Senator Maceda. Now, can we approve the new section, Mr. President?

The President. Is there any objection to the new Section 7? [Silence] Hearing none, the new section is approved.

Senator Maceda. Now, on page 1, Mr. President, Section 7 shall now read as Section 8.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, approved.

ENRILE AMENDMENT

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, on page 6, line 2 of this new section 8 – Funding Sources. "This compensation adjustment amounting to P51.821 million shall be funded from the Compensation and Organizational Adjustment Fund, x x x".

I would like to propose an amendment, Mr. President, by deleting on line 2 the words, "amounting to P51.821 million," because no one can possibly determine with definiteness the exact amount needed to fund this adjustment; and to write it in this fashion in this law would probably pose a difficulty later on. So that I suggest that this section would read:

THIS COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT SHALL BE FUNDED FROM THE COMPENSATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL ADJUSTMENT FUND, ETC.

Senator Maceda. I accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] The Chair hears none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, on line 11 on the same page, Section 8 will now read as Section 9.

The President. I want to find out, is there an English word which is spelled R-E-C-I-S-I-O-N?

Senator Maceda. It should be double "s." Repealing clause.

The President. Repealing clause. I just wanted to find out. So let us make it "repealing" instead of. . . .

Senator Maceda. Section 9, Repealing Clause, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. On line 15, Mr. President, Section 9 is now Section 10.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. And if we can go back to page 3, Mr. President, line 9, "Major General," delete "P7,500.00" and in lieu thereof insert, "P9,000.00."

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. On line 10, Mr. President, "Brigadier General," delete the figure "7,000.00" and in lieu thereof, insert the figure P8,000.00."

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, on page 4, line 17, delete the words, "up to but not exceeding fifty-six percent."

The President. Have we not approved that already?

Senator Maceda. Not yet, Mr. President. It was just in the discussion.

The President. All right, just in case we have not yet approved it.

Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Maceda. There are no other Committee amendments, Mr. President, the effectivity is retained as December 1st, 1987.

The President. How will it read then? How

will that read? This act will take effect . . .

Senator Maceda. That is the original version, Mr. President, on December 1, 1987.

The President. Should we not make it clear? We are providing for retroactive effect? Something like THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1987.

Senator Maceda. I accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Any individual amendment?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag.

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President, I am just wondering that in the light of the amendment suggested by Senator Estrada, if in the title we should still retain "uniformed" or should it go out?

The President. I suppose we should have to delete that now. What is the pleasure of the Sponsor?

Senator Maceda. Yes, Mr. President. And also to add after "member" the words: AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, if there are no other amendments, I move that we close the Period of Amendments.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF HOUSEBILL 2585 (Compensation of INP)

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that

we vote on Second Reading, House Bill No. 2585.

The President. Any objection to the approval of this Bill on Second Reading? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

**BILL ON THIRD READING
House Bill No. 2585
(INP Compensation Structure)**

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, the President of the Republic of the Philippines has certified to the urgency of the enactment of House Bill No. 2585, pursuant to Section 26, paragraph 2, Article VI, of the Constitution. I, therefore, move that we vote on Third Reading on the said House Bill, entitled:

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE COMPENSATION STRUCTURE OF MEMBERS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

The President. We shall have a Roll Call vote on House Bill No. 2585. The Secretary will please call the roll.

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

YES - 17

Senator Alvarez
Senator Aquino
Senator Enrile
Senator Estrada
Senator Guingora
Senator Herrera
Senator Lina
Senator Maceda
Senator Mercado

Senator Osmeña
Senator Paterno
Senator Pimentel
Senator Rasul
Senator Salonga
Senator Tamano
Senator Tañada
Senator Ziga

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - one
Senator Saguisag

**EXPLANATION OF VOTE
OF SENATOR AQUINO**

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, I just want to make it clear to our policemen that while we are giving the Patrolmen 1st Class, Corporals and Sergeants base pays that are below what is considered a decent minimum living wage, I think they should know that since we can not rush this immediately, we shall endeavor to continue raising their salary scales every year until such time when everybody should at least perceive a decent minimum wage.

I vote Yes, Mr. President.

**EXPLANATION OF VOTE
OF SENATOR ENRILE**

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, I will vote in favor of this measure, not because I consider it an emergency which requires the certification of the President but because I think the Constitution is very clear that a certification could only be done under two conditions: and that is when there is a calamity or an emergency to be met. But I vote Yes because I believe that they deserve it.

Thank you.

**EXPLANATION OF VOTE
OF SENATOR GUINGONA**

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, in enacting this Bill, I hope that the public and the members of the INP, themselves, realize that the Legislators are very concerned about their welfare. Second, that they themselves realize that the problems of pay permeated all the public officials and public servants. But they have a double duty to show themselves as examples because they are the repositories of law and order. They have the double responsibility to the nation, therefore, if we do things for their benefit—and this is only the beginning — we hope that their

responsibilities will awaken them to double their efforts for the benefit of the nation.

I, therefore, vote *Yes*, Mr. President.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR LINA

Senator Lina. I, therefore, vote *Yes*, Mr. President, on this measure. First, our policemen are members of the Integrated National Police and even if we approve this measure increasing the salaries of our policemen, they would still be underpaid; Second, Mr. President, our Integrated National Police is undermanned. The ideal ratio between a policeman and the population that a policeman has to protect, Mr. President, is one is to 500 per population. Unfortunately, statistics will show that the present ratio, Mr. President, is one is to 1,000. Third, our policemen deserve this increase in pay especially those in the Metropolitan area.

Mr. President, as Governor of Metro Manila in 1986, I am witness to the fact, and I experienced this, that in defense of our freedom and of our democracy right after the February revolution, it was the policemen who helped us safeguard the democracy and freedom that we won as a result of the February revolution in 1986; and therefore, in a way, this increase is a fitting tribute to the heroism exhibited by the members of our police force, especially during the five coup attempts that visited our country.

I vote *Yes*, Mr. President, on this measure.

The Secretary. Senator Maceda.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MACEDA

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I would just like to add what I have already said that our fast action on this bill this afternoon indicates that the democratic process where we

have an Executive, a Legislature and a Judiciary is working. And I would like to remind our dear members of the Integrated National Police that under a dictatorship, under an authoritarian form of government, since there are no checks on the expenditure of public funds, what happened in the last 14 years was both the military and the INP were neglected. Their salaries were not increased because the money that would have otherwise gone to the salaries of these men and women of the armed forces and the military and other segments of government went to other purposes and, as a matter of fact, went outside the country. And that, if ever there are funds this year that have been made available to pay for the increases of the military, and now, of the police, it is because the restoration of a democratic system of checks and balances has assured that money collected or earned by the government is properly spent and conserved for worthy purposes such as this.

With that, Mr. President, I hope that they will continue to help us strengthen our democratic processes so that we will have peace and order and stability which will assure business progress; which will assure investments to come in, more revenue for the government, more collections; and which will assure that we will have, in the future again, more funds to allocate for a further increase in their salaries and allowances.

With that, I vote *Yes*, Mr. President.

The Secretary. Senator Mercado.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I am voting *Yes* in favor of the measure. In fact, we would like to express our support for this particular measure as manifested yesterday. The moment we received the certification, we moved the bill to the Calendar for Special Orders, but

I would like to say something about the other employees of government who may think that the Senate is thinking only of the armed forces and the Integrated National Police.

We have to increase the salaries of the members of the military and the Integrated National Police as a move not only to reward those men in uniform who are working hard but to help stabilize the situation in the country. We can not strengthen the democratic process without first insuring our own stability and survival. This is not to say that we are not thinking of the teachers, and other government employees, and I feel my sentiment is shared by all Members of the Senate that we have to move equally fast in rationalizing or increasing the pay of other employees of government who may feel left out because of this quick increases for the armed forces and the Integrated National Police.

The Secretary.
 Senator Osmeña
 Senator Paterno
 Senator Pimentel
 Senator Rasul

EXPLANATION OF VOTE
 OF SENATOR RASUL

Senator Rasul. Mr. President, the speedy approval of this adjustment of pay rates of the Integrated National Police, I think reflects the sensitivity of this august Chamber to a reality; and that is, the police force has long been forgotten, and with this, Mr. President, I hope the police force now will realize that we in the Senate are just as humane as they are. But oftentimes in the past, the general public seems to have forgotten that the men in uniform are not human. And so this approval of the adjustment, I hope, will serve as a beacon to the others that in the other service of the government, there will also be increases in salaries. With this, Mr. President, I vote *Yes*.

The Secretary.

Senator Romulo.
 Senator Saguisag.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE
 OF SENATOR SAGUISAG

Senator Saguisag. I am all for this bill, Mr. President. We cannot give our policemen enough. I know that were it not for General Lim and his gallant men, we might not even be here this afternoon. I admire the patience and understanding with which they have viewed the democratic process. They have stood in line to compete for our scarce resources. They did not have to shoot anyone. However, I can not immediately forget the stand I took yesterday. While I consider that we have the power and even the duty to meet today, I was impressed by the argument of one of us that maybe, without a valid notice to all of us, there could be some question. And I have to be consistent with that stand. Anyway, my vote will not affect the result. I have to be consistent with myself, and I therefore, respectfully abstain.

Thank you.

The Secretary.
 Senator Shahani.

Senator Tamano . . . yes
 Senator Tañada.
 Senator Ziga . . . yes
 Senate President . . . yes

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2585
 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, one abstention, House Bill No. 2585 is approved on Third Reading. [*Applause*]

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The session is suspended for



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE

Record of the Senate

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

VOL. I

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

NO. 94

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES2994
RESOLUTIONS2994

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR GUINGONA2994

On the *Doña Paz* and *Vector* Tragedy

Interpellations by Senators Pimentel, Maceda,, Enrile, Angara, Mercado, Rasul,
Aquino and Romulo

BILL ON SECOND READING (*Continuation*)3005

Senate Bill No. 249 – Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

Sponsor: Senator Alvarez

Interpellation by Senator Aquino,
(Consideration Suspended)

BILL ON SECOND READING3015

Senate Bill No. 34 – Abolishing the Metro Manila Commission

Sponsor: Senator Lina

Interpellation by Senators Maceda
Inquiries from the Chair
(Consideration Suspended)

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT3035

Re House Bill No. 2585 – Police Compensation Structure

Sponsor: Senator Maceda
(Approved)

the Province of Rizal and at the same time enlarge the Province of Bulacan with the return of Valenzuela to Bulacan. But as I have already stated, Mr. President, the intention of the framers of the Constitution is very clear. There are very clearcut statements that the territorial integrity of Metro Manila shall be preserved.

The President. I will recognize Senator Estrada now; and then Senator Enrile; then Senator Guingona.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 34

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, the Senators mentioned have agreed to interpellate tomorrow when we take up this bill. So, I would like to move for the suspension of the consideration of Senate Bill No. 34.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT (On House Bill No. 2585-Police Compensation Structure)

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move for the consideration of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2585 entitled

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE COMPEN- SATION STRUCTURE OF UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED NA- TIONAL POLICE IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

And for the purpose, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Defense Committee, Senator Maceda.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP BY SENATOR MACEDA

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, we are happy to report to the Body that we have come to an

agreement which basically maintains the original salary rates in the House Bill which places the patrolman at ₱1,000. However, to put the brigadier general and the major general in line with the Armed Forces of the Philippines' salaries, they have agreed to maintain a compromise amount of ₱7,500 for brigadier general and ₱8,000 for major general which is the same as those of the Armed Forces generals and major generals.

The House accepted the new section approved by the Senate making this bill applicable to civilian employees of the Integrated National Police, exactly in the same way and in the same language that appear in the DND-AFP salaries bill. The House accepted the revival of the limit of 56 percent of the amount that municipalities and cities can increase. The amended section now reads:

Municipalities and cities capable of increasing the current gross pay of cadet, sergeant, corporal, patrolman first class, and patrolman fireman are hereby authorized to grant allowances.

So with that, Mr. President, I move for the approval of the report.

The President. Is there any objection to the approval of the report?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President, it is not an objection really, but if it is not untimely, I would just want to go on record that I am changing my vote which was one of abstention last year because of the reasons I then gave, to Yes. And I am particularly appreciative that the non-uniform personnel are now included because they are only 3,680.

Thank you, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL
NO. 2585

The President. The Senate will now vote on the Conference Committee Report. As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*. [*Several Senators: Aye.*] As many as are against, please say *Nay*. [*Silence*] The Conference Committee Report is approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The President. The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 8:07 p.m.