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TSP - SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

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CP - SENATE

TSP

28

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:05 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. The session is called to order.

Senator Tamano will lead us in the opening prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

P R A Y E R

Senator Tamano.

Bismillah Rahman Irahim.

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Praise be unto Him the Lord of the Universe.

Master of the Day of Judgment.

Thee alone we worship and Thee alone we seek for help.

Show us the straight path.

The Path of those whom Thou has favored.

Not the path of those who have earned Thy anger.

Nor of those who have gone astray.

We beseech Thee O Lord to lend us a spark of Thy divine wisdom to enable us to perceive the thin dividing line of power that separates executive responsibility and legitimate legislative concerns, to discern that the theory of checks and balance in reality means that in certain instances these powers overlap, that the theory is merely one of the devices contrived to bring harmonization of these powers must be actively sought and conflict avoided if possible;

But there are many areas, dear Lord, where we are in disagreement with the executive, areas where we feel we are right and the executive wrong, such as the confirmation of certain executive appointments, the need to protect our local industries from dumping and other improper foreign competitions.

In these instances, give us dear God the will and the courage to insist on what is right, so that our action may be a precedent

NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE
RECORDS AND ARCHIVES DIVISION

for succeeding administrations to follow.

Eternal, loving and merciful God, forgive us our sins and remit the transgressions, if any, of our parents, let them dwell forever in Paradise and in the light of Thy presence.

Bless and protect our dear President, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, who is the worthy symbol of the Filipino nation, bless and give good health to our Senate President, Jovito R. Salonga.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez.....	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara.....	Present
Senator Agapito A. Aquino.....	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile.....	Present
Senator Joseph Ejercito Estrada.....	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales.....	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.....	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera.....	Present
Senator Sotero H. Laurel.....	Present
Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr.....	Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda.....	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado.....	Present
Senator John H. Osmeña.....	Present
Senator Vicente T. Paterno.....	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.....	Present
Senator Santanina T. Rasul.....	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo.....	Present
Senator Rene A.V. Saguisag.....	Present
Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani.....	Present
Senator Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano.....	Present
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada.....	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga.....	Present
The President.....	Present

The President. With 20 Senators present, there is a quorum.

*Arrived after the roll call

THE JOURNAL

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? (Silence.) The Chair hears none; the same is approved.

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

MALACANANG
Manila

5 August 1988

Hon. Jovito R. Salonga
Senate President
Senate, Congress of the Philippines
M a n i l a

Dear Senate President Salonga,

As the first submission under the Administration's legislative agenda, as taken up in our lunch meeting before the State-of-the-Nation Address, I have the honor to certify the attached bills for enactment by Congress:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

"AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 984, PROVIDING FOR THE REVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3931, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE POLLUTION CONTROL LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OR CONVERSION TO CHARTERED STATE COLLEGES OF STATE UNIVERSITIES, AND THE REVERSION OF THE ACADEMIC STATUS OF A STATE UNIVERSITY OR CHARTERED STATE COLLEGE."

"AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS."

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO

The President. The four bills are referred as follows: First, to the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance; Second, to the Committee on Natural Resources and Ecology; Third, to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; and Fourth, to the Committee on Ways and Means; and Local Government.

RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary. P. S. No. 251, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE (FSI) THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN COOPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO UNDERTAKE AN INDEPENDENT STUDY TO IDENTIFY REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EXTERNAL THREATS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND RECOMMEND DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY AND OTHER SUCH MEASURES TO MEET THESE THREATS

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and, National Defense and Security.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 317, submitted by the Committee on Public Services, on P. S. Res. No. 38, introduced by Senator Osmena, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO ENCOURAGE FREE COMPETITION IN THE AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE AIR LINES TO FAVOR THE SALE OF SHARES OF STOCK OF THE PHILIPPINE AIRLINES TO FOREIGN INVESTORS SUBJECT TO CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS, AND TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES GIVING HIGHEST PRIORITY TO SERVICING OUTLYING STATIONS

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Osmena.

The President. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 318, submitted by the Committee on Public Services, on P. S. Res. No. 224, introduced by Senator Maceda, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO INVESTIGATE PHILTRANCO'S OWNERSHIP, WHY IT WAS NOT SEQUESTERED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT DESPITE BEING REPUTEDLY OWNED BY KOKOY ROMUALDEZ, THE FACILITIES AND SAFETY MEASURES WHICH PHILTRANCO PROVIDE TO MEET THE INCREASING VOLUME OF PASSENGERS FROM THE SOUTH IN VIEW OF THE DONA FAZ TRAGEDY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

recommending that it be referred to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 319, submitted by the Committee on Public Services, on S. No. 121, introduced by Senator Maceda, entitled:

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE ONE AIRLINE POLICY IN THE DOMESTIC SERVICE, REPEALING AND REVOKING FOR THE PURPOSE LETTER OF INTRUCTIONS NO. 151 DATED DECEMBER 7, 1973 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

recommending that it be sent to the Archives.

The President. Referred to the Archives.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 320, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Relations, on P. S. Res. No. 174, introduced by Senators Shahani, Estrada, Aquino and Pimentel, Jr., entitled:

RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AGAINST FILIPINO ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS WITH THE VIEW OF AIDING SAID WORKERS THROUGH PROPER REPRESENTATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

requesting approval of various recommendations stated therein.

Sponsors: Senators Shahani, Estrada, Aquino and Pimentel, Jr.

The President. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 321, submitted by the Committee on Rules, on S. Ct. Res. No. 19, introduced by Senator Mercado, entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE
CALENDAR FOR THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor. Senator Mercado.

The President. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 322, submitted by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, on S. No. 510, introduced by Senator Pimentel, Jr., entitled:

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND OTHER
HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT TO DIVEST
THEMSELVES OF ALL THEIR INTERESTS, HOLDINGS,
PARTICIPATION, OR INVOLVEMENT IN BUSINESSES OR
ACTIVITIES THAT MAY CONFLICT WITH THE FUNCTIONS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEIR OFFICES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Pimentel, Jr.

The President. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, on a matter of personal privilege, I move that we recognize Senator Agapito Aquino.

The President. Senator Aquino is recognized.

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, before I deliver my privilege speech, may I request that Senate Bill No. 429, which was referred back yesterday to the Committee on Agriculture and Food, be also referred to the Committee on Education.

The President. Is there any objection? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is approved.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR AQUINO

(On the Challenge to the Minority Floor Leader to Name Names)

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, we are all interested in protecting the gains of the EDSA Revolution. Keeping the public informed about erring government officials is vital to the preservation of democracy.

The challenge to the Aquino Administration to deny that persons close to it are engaged in graft and corruption, has been made by our distinguished Minority Floor Leader. The

Gentleman alleged in a newspaper report that systematic looting on both public and private properties by officials close to the Administration, by friendship or by kindship, has mired the Aquino Government.

So, it is in this light that I would like to challenge the Minority Floor Leader to name names, if ever he shares our people's dreams of building the nation out of the ruins of the past corrupt regime, of which he was a part of.

Vestiges of corruption still do exist. If we as public officials want to clean the Government, then we must respect the right of the people to know and seek justice, if ever Senator Enrile's allegations are true.

We are doing our best to fulfill the aspirations of our people shared at EDSA. And if we are to build a new moral order, I dare our distinguished Minority Floor Leader to come up with names and evidences, rather than wild accusations and sweeping generalities. If Senator Enrile obliges, then I welcome any inquiry that would investigate the accusations he has made. Let us all rise above politics and family loyalties and propel ourselves towards the realization of a truly just and democratic social order.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, for the Privilege Hour, I move that we recognize the Minority Floor Leader.

Senator Enrile. May I just ask a few questions of our distinguished Colleague, Mr. President?

Before I deliver my speech this afternoon, Mr. President, may I just ask permission to direct a few questions to my distinguished Colleague, if he cares to answer?

The President. The Gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator Aquino. I yield.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, does the Gentleman know who is managing the Soleil in Tanauan, Leyte?

Senator Aquino. No, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Does the Gentleman know that this is owned now or operated by one Baby Lopa?

Senator Aquino. No, I do not know that, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Does the Gentleman know what is the relationship of Baby Lopa to the President?

Senator Aquino. Yes, Mr. President, he is a brother-in-law of the President.

Senator Enrile. Thank you very much, my Colleague.

Does the Gentleman know who acquired the Security Bank and Trust Company early after the Revolution?

Senator Aquino. No, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Does the Gentleman know who is Manuel Zamora?

Senator Aquino. Yes, I know the Gentleman.

Senator Enrile. Is he not now a political factotum of the Party in power?

Senator Aquino. I know that he is a brother of Ronnie Zamora, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Is he not the treasurer of the emerging LDP, a party ostensibly run by Speaker Mitra, and the brother of the President, Congressman Jose Cojuangco?

Senator Aquino. I believe that they have not elected their officers yet, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. But the Gentleman knows that he is running the Security Bank?

Senator Aquino. I know he is connected with the Security Bank.

Senator Enrile. Is the Gentleman related to the Chairman of the Security Bank, Mr. President?

Senator Aquino. May I know the name of the Chairman, Mr. President?

Senator Enrile. One Paul Aquino, I understand, is the Chairman of the Security Bank. That is my information.

Senator Aquino. I have a brother whose name is Paul Aquino; but to the best of my knowledge, I do not think he is the Chairman of Security Bank.

Senator Enrile. Anyway, this is the information I received; but if the Gentleman wants some more, I am ready to present the materials, Mr. President, before anybody, who will call for an investigation of this whole thing. In fact, I have requested the Blue Ribbon Committee to subpoena Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, so that she could shed light as to what happened with the valuables that were in Malacanang right after the departure of

President Marcos and his family. And the Senate President and I were witness to an event in the house of Dr. Mila Trinidad Reyes of Dasmariñas Village, and we never saw Mrs. Tingting Cojuangco there, although she claims that she was there at that time. And, I asked the Blue Ribbon Committee precisely to subpoena her to shed light on this fact.

I also requested the Blue Ribbon Committee to subpoena the person of Baby Lopa to shed light on the reported reacquisition or repossession of 36 companies alleged to have been taken from him by Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, and to determine under what law and by what authority he could repossess such number of corporations in spite of the absence of the owner. And I would like also to ask him point blank whether Soleil, which was among the 36 corporations that he was supposed to have repossessed, belongs to him at that time of the alleged transfer of some corporations by him to Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

Senator Aquino. That is why, Mr. President, as I said, I welcome any formal investigation rather than any innuendo or sweeping generality.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, I never make any innuendo or sweeping generality. I never make any move unless I am sure of my ground.

Senator Aquino. And so, that is the challenge, Mr. President, to make the allegations formal...

Senator Enrile. In fact, I will deliver another speech this afternoon, and it involves another Aquino.

Senator Aquino. I am prepared to listen, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Aquino. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move for a suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended for a few minutes, if there is no objection. (There was none.)

It was 4:22 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, for the Privilege Hour, I move that we recognize the Minority Floor Leader, Senator Enrile.

The President. The Minority Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ENRILE
(On Alleged Corruption in the Government)

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, since we are on the subject of corruption in Government and we are challenged to name names, I do not know whether it was Providence that impelled the distinguished Member from Tarlac to deliver a speech on a matter of personal privilege and challenged this Representation to name names. My Privilege Speech this afternoon, Mr. President, happened to be though in a lesser way, a matter that also involves an Aquino who used to be serving in the Office of the President, although he is now serving as a Member of Congress.

Mr. President, during the first week of August of this year, a controversy arose over the proposed salary increases for National Government officials and employees from the President of the Republic to the lowly janitor. Members of this Chamber and those of the Lower House were included among the intended beneficiaries of the proposal.

The proposal, Mr. President, was contained in House Bill No. 1054 and extensively made in line with the standardization and rationalization of the salaries of Government officials and employees. The proposal was immediately met with criticism and condemnation and properly sought and was deemed to be untimely, uncalled for, irrational and unconscionable for a very good reason. The distinguished Member of this Chamber from Manila noted the disparity in the proposed increases and expressed it very well when he said that under the plan, and I quote him, and I hope I quote him correctly: "the high and mighty will be keeping the spoils, with the scraps falling off the table, for the scrounging of the beggars lying at the gates."

For, indeed, under the proposed salary increases, high government officials would receive fat increases, some as high as 82%, while the lowly government workers would get the crumbs, an increase of only 27%. The plan would cost the Government, according to estimate some P5.9 billion at the time when the Government is unable to fund more urgent national projects or even pay, Mr. President, on time, the salaries of soldiers who are dying in the battlefield, the teachers, and even garbage collectors.

I have cited all of these, Mr. President, not, and I would like to repeat, not because I wish to revive the controversy over the proposed increases for government officials and employees, but to bring to the attention of this Body that while we criticize and condemn any untimely, uncalled for, or unconscionable excessive salary increases for national government officials and employees, there are people, Mr. President, surreptitiously and quietly and unknown to us, in our government, in this present regime, who have been reaping a bountiful harvest, so to speak, in salaries, allowances and representation expenses.

Mr. President, so that they will not say that I am making innuendos, I have received documents and they are here for the scrutiny of anybody interested about it. I have received documents which show that some privileged officials and employees in a particular government corporation under the Office of the President and its subsidiaries, have been enjoying the benefits of excessive and fantastic salaries and other emoluments, underscoring very clearly the morality and the disparity between the privileged few who are close to the powers that be, and the underprivileged majority whose salaries place them undoubtedly below the poverty line. The documents I have received, Mr. President, concerned the fantastic salaries and unbelievable allowances of officials of Strategic Investment Development Corporation, or SIDCOR, which was formerly the Human Settlements Development Corporation under Imelda Marcos; and also under the Ministry of Human Settlements under Mrs. Marcos; that it is still subsisting in spite of the protestation of the present regime; that they will abolish the Ministry of Human Settlements and all its adjuncts. It is really something for Rip Van Winkle and for the birds.

The documents allege that officials of SIDCOR and its subsidiaries have awarded to themselves through self-serving board resolutions, salaries and allowances and other benefits which provide them total income that are excessive and unconscionable.

According to the documents, one official, Mr. President, receives a gross income of almost P50,000 a month, much bigger than the Gentleman's salary and my own, and even that of the President of the Philippines. The same official, Mr. President, allegedly also has a yearly discretionary fund, which I doubt if the Gentleman has, which this humble Representation, elected to this august Chamber, does not have a discretionary fund of P1,000,000 a year and, on top of that, another amount of P1.1 million for representation expenses. That is why, perhaps, with this kind of a situation, the salaries of teachers, soldiers and other small functionaries of the Government cannot be paid because there is an imbudo going on in the Government.

Another official, Mr. President, allegedly receives a total of almost P91,000 monthly in salaries and allowances and has a

yearly discretionary fund of P200,000. Still, another high and mighty well-connected official in the same organization receives an even more fantastic amount of P124,000 per month in salaries and allowances. Although he has no discretionary fund, he has no representation expenses to avail of, but he is provided with a car and, perhaps, including the cost of chauffeur and gasoline expenses.

These are the three examples of officials of SIDCOR and its subsidiaries who are quietly amassing fantastic and unjustified income. You will recall, Mr. President, that the proposal to increase the salary of the President of the Philippines from P25,000 to P40,000 and the salaries of the Vice President, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from their present level to a higher level was assailed as untimely, uncalled for, irrational and unconscionable; and yet, we have these officials in a government corporation and its subsidiaries raking all that money belonging to our people, many of whom receive wages below the poverty line. This is what we should condemn as truly, and unabashedly and fantastically unconscionable.

It is apparent from the documents, Mr. President, that these officials have been able to get the bigger slices of the cake by placing themselves in advantageous positions in the Board of Directors of SIDCOR and its subsidiaries. I understand from these documents, Mr. President, that the three officials that I have cited are actually part of a gang of 12 who managed to take over interlocking directorships in SIDCOR and its subsidiaries. The documents have listed the names of these people and the fantastic salaries and allowances that they have been receiving all the time.

What makes the whole affair even more reprehensible, Mr. President, is that the Board of the subsidiaries which apparently are being used as the milking cow of this gang of 12 has been held to have been illegally formed, according to an opinion of the Department of Justice. A copy of the opinion issued by the Secretary of Justice last July 20 of this year says that the administrative order establishing the subsidiaries is deemed to be without force and effect.

So, we have a situation, Mr. President, where officials of a government corporation have been awarding themselves with fantastic salaries and allowances from subsidiaries deemed to have been illegally created. The documents, Mr. President, also questions some of the actions of SIDCOR in the disposition of certain properties, real or personal, of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlements following its takeover by the present regime. It is charged that some properties were sold for much less than their market values, sometimes lower than 50 percent or up to 100 percent.

Related to all these, Mr. President, is a letter, with supporting documents, which brings to my attention the existence

of a foundation, the President of which was one Herminio Aquino. The founding chairman, when it was established, was the former Minister of Human Settlements under the previous Administration, Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

The letter-writer suspects that the foundation's initial funding of P20 million may have come from the Government. This is not only a P20 million corporation, Mr. President, it is a fantastically rich corporation. The foundation was formerly known as the "Technology Resource Center Foundation, Incorporated." This has been changed under the new Administration to the "Philippine Development Alternatives Foundation," whose president is a close relative of the present President of the Republic of the Philippines.

Shortly after the February Revolution, a new set of officers took control over the management of the foundation. Since it used to be under the umbrella of the defunct--but to my surprise--still existing, Ministry of Human Settlements, the officers of the foundation, the letter-writer puts it, have apparently managed to hide from the PCGG and the Commission on Audit or COA the real character of the foundation so much so that they were never sequestered or touched by the PCGG; nor were they ever audited by the Commission on Audit. It also appears that the incumbent foundation president has been drawing from the foundation P25,000 monthly as his salary, plus other benefits. The letter-writer is requesting that the matter be investigated, if it is cared to be investigated by any committee of this Chamber and the foundation sequestered by the PCGG.

It is in this light, Mr. President, and because of my belief that public interest demands that we should look into these serious allegations of anomalies in the SIDCOR and its subsidiaries, and the related alleged anomaly that exists with regard to the real character of the Philippine Developmental Alternatives Foundation.

Thank you, Mr. President. I have accepted the challenge of the distinguished Gentleman from Tarlac. (Applause.)

The President. Senator Pimentel, then Senator Aquino.

MOTION OF SENATOR AQUINO
(Referral of Minority Floor Leader to the Blue Ribbon)

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, I move that the speech of the Minority Floor Leader be referred to the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee.

The President. Is there any objection? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Will the distinguished Gentleman kindly

yield to a few questions, Mr. President?

Senator Enrile. Gladly, all the time to the distinguished Gentleman from the golden Cagayan, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. The better Cagayan, distinguished Colleague.

Senator Enrile. I do not know about that, Mr. President. As a matter of perception, it depends on who is perceived.

Senator Pimentel. It is shared by more voters than the Minority Floor Leader ever received.

Senator Enrile. I would not comment on that, Mr. President. There are varied reasons for the outcome.

Senator Pimentel. Anyway, Mr. President, the distinguished Minority Floor Leader spoke of or identified Herminio Aquino in connection with the alleged bloated salaries and allowances being enjoyed by certain people in the new corporation which took over from the Ministry Human Settlements. But it is of common knowledge, Mr. President, that Herminio Aquino is now a Congressman and has been a Congressman since 1987 after the Congressional elections, is that not correct, distinguished Colleague?

Senator Enrile. I think, that is a matter of judicial notice, Mr. President, but I am referring to the document. Maybe, if the distinguished Gentleman would help this Representation, we can get the records of this foundation and find out whether he really acted as president of the foundation and whether he received emoluments out of that foundation, and how much.

Senator Pimentel. So, therefore, at this point, Mr. President, the distinguished Minority Floor Leader is not in a position to tell us that Mr. Aquino receives so much at a given time?

Senator Enrile. The document that was submitted to me, Mr. President, stated that he was receiving, as president, P25,000 as his salary.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, but in fairness, that must have been before the Congressional Elections, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Well, I suppose so, Mr. President. I do not know whether he continued to be receiving after.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, of course. But is there anything that can be used as a basis, in the Gentleman's opinion, to say that the receipt of Mr. Aquino of P25,000 is violative of the law?

Senator Enrile. I am not saying that. I am only saying about the amount, Mr. President. The Gentleman is receiving P17,000; the Gentleman is a Senator of the Republic, but a president of a foundation who is not doing anything, and is receiving P25,000. I do not know the Gentleman's conclusion about that.

Senator Pimentel. Certainly there is an imbalance there; there is an inequity. It is an inequitous setup. But I would like to point out that the Gentleman rose in an attempt to pinpoint actual wrongdoing, corruption and misdeeds of the ...

Senator Enrile. Well, there was no idea...

Senator Pimentel. Will the Gentleman kindly allow me to finish. But there is nothing as far as I could hear that shows that any law was violated or that there was corruption by the mere fact of that P25,000 being received by Mr. Aquino.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, if the Gentleman was listening to my speech...

Senator Pimentel. I was listening.

Senator Enrile. ...there were two parts of my speech: the case of the three officials of SIDCOR who are receiving fantastic salaries, based on interlocking directorships in reorganized boards of subsidiaries contrary to law, according to the opinion of the Secretary of Justice. I do not know what the Gentleman can conclude from the wording "contrary to law" in the case of a foundation that was never sequestered, never audited, never brought to light, and the President of which was Mr. Herminio Aquino, now, according to the Gentleman, a Congressman, and receiving a salary of P25,000 when he was President of this corporation.

Now, if the Gentleman does not want to investigate this, Mr. President, because the Gentleman believes that there is no corruption--I just brought it to the Chamber--it is up to the Chamber to do whatever it wants with my speech.

Senator Pimentel. The point of the matter being investigated has already been acted upon. We heard the distinguished Senator from Tarlac, Senator Aquino, himself, moved that the matter be investigated which could not have happened during the Gentleman's time when we were in the Batasan. The Gentleman knows that very well.

Senator Enrile. Let us not talk about history, Mr. President. We are talking about the Gentleman's time, and I am glad that we are in this time.

Senator Pimentel. That is correct.

Senator Enrile. And I think it is already academic even for

the Gentleman's question because the matter has been acted upon by the Chamber. It was already referred to a Committee, as the Gentleman said. So that, the Gentleman's effort to impugn my GM speech to soften it, I think, is a very lame effort to minimize the impact of what was said.

Senator Pimentel. As a matter of fact, we are trying to give the Gentleman all the leeway to bring out these matters. But it was the Gentleman who said that these matters had already been referred to the Committee, and the Gentleman wants us to desist from questioning further the position we have taken. By all means, let it be.

Senator Enrile. I think, Mr. President, we can take the whole afternoon and the whole night to debate on this if that is the Gentleman's wish. I am not really shying away from the debate.

Senator Pimentel. Not at all. I am not suggesting that the Gentleman is. But the Gentleman said so, that the matter should have been referred to the Committee; and if it be the Gentleman's wish that we stop...

Senator Enrile. It is not my wish, Mr. President. In fact, I am interested to answer the Gentleman's questions.

Senator Pimentel. Yes. So, at any rate, earlier, Mr. President, the distinguished Minority Floor Leader was quoted in the newspaper that Senator Aquino adverted to, specifying that relatives and cronies of the President, I think, have committed graft and corruption. And the Gentleman pointed out, Mr. President, during the interpellation when the distinguished Gentleman was interpellating the Senator from Tarlac, the fact that Mr. Lopa took over Soleil, did the distinguished Senator say that, Mr. President?

Senator Enrile. Yes, that is according to the newspaper, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. But does the mere fact of taking over Soleil a sign or proof of corruption, Mr. President?

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, I do not know which is which. I do not know which to believe. According to the PCGG, they sequestered these things; but according to the group of Mr. Sandejas, these were sold by Mr. Kokoy Romualdez, and in fact, this was affirmed by former Chairman Ramon Diaz of PCGG last night when he appeared in the program of Mr. Louie Beltran's Straight from the Shoulder. These were sold to the group of Mr. Lopa, et al, right after the revolution. I do not know who is telling the truth or who is telling the falsehood, Mr. President. That is why, as a humble Member of this Chamber, I never challenged anybody, I just simply requested, in the course of the hearing of the Blue Ribbon Committee, that subpoena duces tecum and subpoena testificandum be issued to the proper persons; so

that, we can enlighten ourselves on these. I was challenged to name names. I named them to this Chamber. And if that is not satisfactory to the distinguished Senator, then I can do no more, because like everyone else in this country, we have to depend on the newspapers and their integrity for information.

Senator Pimentel. That is absolutely correct, Mr. President. But what we want to find out really, is whether or not the distinguished Gentleman is inferring that there is corruption or violation of the law simply because Mr. Lopa. . .

Senator Enrile. I am not the only one inferring. . .

Senator Pimentel. Will the Gentleman kindly allow me to finish. . .

Senator Enrile. Please go ahead. I thought the Gentleman finished his question already.

Senator Pimentel. No, not yet. So, whether or not, in the Gentleman's opinion, there was corruption or there was a violation of the law, simply because Mr. Lopa took over Soleil, that is the whole point.

So, as the distinguished Gentleman said, he himself does not seem to be sure, because the Gentleman said he does not know what version is correct.

Senator Enrile. As I know, Soleil belongs to Kokoy Romualdez and never belong to Mr. Lopa. First, how come, Mr. President, and I hope somebody can answer, that this was never sequestered? And second, how come that it is now being managed by Mr. Lopa's group? And third, how come that the proceeds of the sales were never sequestered or said to be sequestered?

Senator Pimentel. Yes. These are loose ends that still have to be answered. I agree with the Gentleman. But that does not prove that there is corruption by the mere fact alone that Mr. Lopa took over because, for all we know, there was an arrangement between Mr. Lopa and whoever was the previous owner, et cetera.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, does the Gentleman think that Mr. Lopa will be able to get this property if he is not well connected?

Senator Pimentel. Well, Mr. President, we are operating under a democratic space now. Anybody who has the money can possibly take over corporations, why not, with or without the connection in Malacanang.

Senator Enrile. I doubt it, Mr. President. Only people well-connected these days can buy from the Government assets available for the taking at a low price - P5 million for 36

corporations.

Senator Pimentel. In fact, Mr. President, the very fact that this Government has been trying to be fair, the Gentleman's family was never deprived of its dividends from Philcomsat.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, that is a legal dividend. And if the Gentleman feels like litigating it, he is welcome to it. I will meet him in a court room.

Senator Pimentel. Nobody is litigating it. It is just a citation that in this Government, as long as one operates within the law, anything is possible.

Senator Enrile. Well, I agree, Mr. President. But the point is, I think, we are like an ostrich burying his beak or head into the sand, if we do not, at least, accept the reality of the present situation which was, admittedly, a reality also under past regimes, especially during the last regime, where relatives and friends were favored and, in fact, they were the ones causing trouble for the ruling leader.

Senator Pimentel. Which we do not want to happen now, that is why, we are supporting the Gentleman's call, in fact, and that is exactly why, Senator Aquino moved for the referral of the privilege speech to the Blue Ribbon Committee, which I also support, and I want to thank the Gentleman for the privilege of this exchange, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Knowing the Gentleman's goodness and his high moral qualities, and his desire to clean up the Government; and to foster and implement and put into reality the spirit of EDSA; I am trying to help him by delivering these speeches; so that, I can contribute to the national endeavor of making this country a paradise of saints and sinless people.

Thank you, Mr. President. (Applause.)

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. (There was none.)

It was 4:51 p.m..

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, Senator Saguisag wishes to make a manifestation, I move that he be recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Thank you, Mr. President.

If it is not too late, I just would want to record my vote in regard to the motion that the subject matter of the Privilege Speech of the distinguished Minority Floor Leader be referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee, as one of abstention.

I have great doubts as to the propriety of any Congressman being investigated by the Senate. I know that we have investigated just about everyone and everybody. However, at some point, there must be a fine line we should not cross. I would never want any Member of this Chamber to be made to account before any Committee in the other House. There must be some rules on interbranch courtesy in this respect; and that is why, I would want my vote to be recorded as one of a definite abstention.

A dangerous precedent may be set if Congressman Aquino will have to account for his actuations before any Committee in this Chamber no matter how highly placed, and no matter how competent and qualified its Members are. And I cannot see how we can investigate actuations without investigating the actor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, lest a misunderstanding will arise with respect to that portion of my speech. I would like to state for the Record that it was not my intention to cause the investigation of any Member of the Bigger House by any Committee of this Chamber. I am talking of the fantastic salaries of the three officers that I mentioned who are sitting as officials of SIDCOR. In fact, Mr. President, I never wanted to name the distinguished Member of the other Chamber were it not for the fact that there was a challenge that I must make; I must name names. And it was only because of that challenge that I have to name names. I have no regret in naming these names.

The President. In any event, the Chair believes that the Blue Ribbon Committee will take action in accordance with parliamentary rules.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I would just like to extend the Privilege Hour, if it has expired, to ask two questions from the Minority Floor Leader.

Mr. President, first of all, I would like to thank Senator Aquino for standing up and reading this article. If he did not do so, then I would not have even noticed it at all.

Mr. Senator from Cagayan, the Gentleman from Tarlac has every reason to feel unhappy because reading the first two paragraphs here, they are really all-encompassing. I was wondering whether, first of all, this was properly quoted, and I read:

Some officials in the Administration and those close to them by reason of friendship or kinship took advantage of the situation to begin their systematic looting of public and private assets and properties secretly dividing the spoils among themselves.

Was the distinguished Gentleman properly quoted on this?

Senator Enrile. Yes, Mr. President, that was a product of my speech.

Senator Maceda. Yes. And yet, in response to the Gentleman, the Gentleman has mentioned only three names and three transactions. I was wondering whether that was the only basis.

Senator Enrile. I am talking of friends and kins.

Senator Maceda. Right. But nowhere in the speech, as I read it down the line, has the Gentleman charged that the President herself is involved.

Senator Enrile. No, Mr. President. In fact, I said, I challenge the President to deny this as a fact.

Senator Maceda. Now, is it not a fact, that the President of late, has taken very significant action on these matters, among which were her action in changing the leadership in the PCGG, changing the leadership in the NFA and, asking, whether we think it is sufficient or not, but at least, asking her relatives to explain to her.

At this juncture, the President relinquished the Chair to the President Pro Tempore.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, in the case of the PCGG, I do not think the Chairman was removed because of corruption. I think he was removed because of disagreement between him and the Solicitor General. And in the case of the official of the NFA, although there was an ongoing investigation by the Blue Ribbon Committee chaired by the distinguished President Pro Tempore of the Senate on corruption charges, he was relieved by the President for incompetence. And I can only conclude that that was a neat maneuver to kill the ongoing investigation by the Blue Ribbon Committee bearing on that agency.

Now, what was the other part of the Gentleman's question, Mr. President? I do not know that there was a question about the relatives being asked to explain. But one thing I know is that the President said: "Well, we will let the law take its course." And later on, she asked the brother-in-law, Baby Lopa, to explain. I understand, a written explanation was filed by Mr. Baby Lopa. And the President, after receiving the explanation, publicly announced that he was not guilty, that there was no wrongdoing.

Later on, Mr. Lopa said that they will no longer pursue their desire to reacquire the 36 companies. But of late, there was another story which says that, "Well, they are still working with the PCGG to reacquire these companies." But recently, there was a story on Soleil saying that Mr. Lopa owned Soleil. And last night, Mr. Ramon Diaz confirmed the fact that Soleil and these 36 companies were supposed to have been sold by Mr. Romualdez in a negotiation conducted between the group of Mr. Lopa and Mr. Romualdez in Honolulu, Hawaii, although I must add that the former PCGG Chairman said: "The PCGG does not recognize the sale by Mr. Romualdez of his 36 corporations to the Lopas." But, Mr. President, the question remains--I wonder whether one can deny this--that there are no fiscal agents or representatives of the PCGG assigned to these companies reacquired by Mr. Lopa.

Now, maybe, we should ask whether Mr. Lopa is a fiscal agent of the Presidential Commission on Good Government

Senator Maceda. Well, Mr. President, in the interest of brevity, I will just summarize what I am trying to say. First of all, the Gentleman concedes that he did not, in any way, say or imply that the President is involved or even tolerated any of these. Secondly, deficient as they may be, probably, by the Gentleman's standards, lately, the President has been taking action with regard to all these cases of graft and corruption, including calling meetings in Malacanang on the matter. Thirdly, the last point was going to be that, certainly, the President of the Philippines herself is not expected to be the investigating body on all of these because there are established agencies in Government, including the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Sandiganbayan, the Tanodbayan, and the fiscal's office among others.

Certainly, the President has not shown any inclination to cover up or to defend or to bat for her relatives by blocking or indicating in any way that she would not welcome any investigation by the established agencies with regard to this matter. I do not know of any effort on the part of the President to make it difficult, let us say, for the Senate or any of its committees to investigate. As a matter of fact, her policy has always been "hands-off." If one has any evidence, if one has any charge, he can bring it before the appropriate body or committee, and let it be. It is the same with the case of the return of Mr. Marcos. Her statement has always been, "If the courts of the Sandiganbayan decide, I will respect." So, I do not think that the Gentleman from Cagayan is really saying that he expects that the President herself would constitute herself as the investigating body for all these charges that are coming out.

Senator Enrile. Amen.

Senator Maceda. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Floor Leader.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move for the suspension of the session.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. (There was none.)

It was 5:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

It has been suggested that we suspend the session to meet in caucus in the Senate Lounge.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Therefore, the session is suspended.

It was 5:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 7:55 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Floor Leader

CONSIDERATION OF P.S. RES. NO. 199
National Population Program
(Continuation)

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 276 on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199.

We are in the period of interpellation, Mr. President. I move that we recognize the Sponsor, Senator Shahani.

The President. Senator Shahani is recognized.

Senator Shahani. Thank you, Mr. President.

I should like to thank everybody for having worked together to come up, Mr. President, with a revised text of the Resolution in question. I believe a copy has been distributed to everyone and I think that this draft should meet the approval of the Members of the Senate. To save time, would the Chair allow me to read the text of the Resolution so that it will be clear what we are adopting before adjournment?

The President. This will have the effect of a substitute Resolution.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move for the consideration of this Resolution in substitution of the previous Resolution No. 199 that is before the Body.

The President. Is there any objection? (Silence.)
Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Shahani is recognized.

Senator Shahani. May I, therefore, read the substitute Resolution, Mr. President.

RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE CONVENING OF THE PHILIPPINE
PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE AND RECOGNIZING ITS
IMPORTANCE

WHEREAS, the Philippine Parliamentarians Conference will be held on 2 September 1988 in Manila;

WHEREAS, disturbing demographic trends characterize the Philippine population as manifested in its continued rapid growth and unbalanced population distribution within the context of individual and family welfare;

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 3(1) of the Constitution provides that the State shall defend "The right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood", and Section 3(4) of the same Article provides that the State shall likewise defend "The right of families or family associations to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them;

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution, on State Policies, provides: "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception...";

WHEREAS, the following have been identified as concerns shared by a good number of people and on which a national consensus is sought:

(1) The recognition of the close interrelationship among population, economic growth, provision of basic services and environmental factors in the management of the national economy and respect for the dignity of the human person as well as the promotion of the family as the foundation of the nation;

(2) The need to broaden population concerns to include family planning, maternal and child health, child survival, women's health, morbidity, mortality, population distribution, urbanization, internal and international migration and population structure;

(3) The recognition of the important role of

government and non-government Filipino organizations in the promotion of people's welfare through the population program, it being understood that the State shall protect the family from population policies imposed as a condition for foreign aid or loans;

(4) The achievement of national self-reliance in the provision...

I think this is deleted. Am I correct? This paragraph was deleted really on the suggestion of Senator Guingona and with the approval of the rest of the Drafting Committee. So, the new paragraph (4) is:

The improvement of the system of obtaining timely and reliable national data for more realistic evaluation of all components of the population program and better basis for decision-making;

(5) The dispersal of industries in the rural areas and other methods of encouraging rural-based development as well as the reallocation of resources in favor of depressed and backward areas as a means of rationalizing population movement;

(6) The consideration of an increase in government resource allocation to provide adequate and quality family welfare services to the growing population;

(7) The ultimate goal of the population program shall be the improvement of the quality of life in a just and humane society;

(8) In the implementation of the program, respect for the rights of couples to determine the size of their family and choose voluntarily the means which conform with their moral convictions and religious beliefs shall be maintained;

(9) The program shall affirm that family planning is a basic human right; and

(10) It shall reject abortion as a method of family planning:

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate welcomes the holding of the Philippine Parliamentarians Conference and recognizes its importance.

Resolved, further, That the Senate looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the conference which shall be accorded consideration by the Senate in the formulation of a national population policy for the Philippines.

Resolved, finally, That this Resolution be presented to the Philippine Parliamentarians Conference.

That is the text of the revised Resolution, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair notices that in the fifth "WHEREAS", "WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Senate that the ultimate goal of the government's population program should be the improvement of the quality of life in a just and humane society," that is repeated in the seventh concern.

Does not the Sponsor think that there may be no more necessity for the Number 7 concern? That will be merely a repetition.

Senator Shahani. Yes, Mr. President. I think it is the "WHEREAS" which should be deleted, Mr. President, and the concerns should be left.

Senator Aquino. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Aquino is recognized.

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, in the third "WHEREAS", we have here in quotation "The right of families or family associations," etc. In the Constitution, it is the right of spouses to found the family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood.

I just want to cite this. Are we quoting the Constitution or are we summarizing the Constitution?

Senator Shahani. Mr. President, the text is correct. This is Article XV pertaining to the family, Section 3, but we forgot to place paragraph 4. And the text is correct--the right of families or family associations to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them.

The President. All right. Is there any other observation?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag, is there any other observation or objection?

Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, in the third "WHEREAS", I think we should remove the word "likewise".

The President. Where is that?

Senator Maceda. In the third "WHEREAS", Mr. President, where we just inserted paragraph (4).

The President. Yes.

Senator Maceda. On the second line, "that the State shall likewise defend", I think there is no need for the word "likewise".

The President. All right. Is there any objection?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. The reason why "likewise" is in this "WHEREAS", is because we omitted, as the preceding "WHEREAS", the more basic proposition also in Article XV, Section 3, subsection (1) which says:

The State shall defend:

The right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood...

I think that should be restored, Mr. President, and then we can retain the "likewise" because it will be touching on the same subject.

The President. All right. Is there any objection? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

Senator Guingona. The guidelines were included in the concerns, and I was just wondering--No. 7 of the guidelines, of the concerns on page 2, Madam Sponsor. We propose the deletion of this.

Senator Shahani. Does the distinguished Gentleman mean "the consideration of an increase"? I think, on No. 4, we agreed to the deletion of "the achievement of self-reliance".

Senator Guingona. No, no.

Senator Shahani. Maybe, if the distinguished Gentleman could read the text; it would help because there is a change in the numbering.

Senator Guingona. The original guideline No. 4:

"It shall ensure the availability and accessibility of services to couples desiring to practice family planning."

This was deleted.

Senator Shahani. Yes. I did not read that.

Senator Guingona. Oh, I see.

The President. All right. Is there any other observation or comment?

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Yes. Since that was not read, actually, there are only ten concerns; seven, eight, nine, ten; no 11, Mr. President.

The President. Yes. All right.

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

SAGUISAG AMENDMENT

Senator Saguisag. A small point of style in the third "WHEREAS" where it says: "WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 3". We should add "(4)".

The President. All right. Is there any objection? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENT

Senator Pimentel. Can we add a final portion to the "Resolved" section? This will be on page 3, Mr. President.

The President. All right.

Senator Pimentel. The final "Resolved", in other words:

RESOLVED, FINALLY, THAT SENATOR LETICIA RAMOS SHAHANI BE AUTHORIZED, AS SHE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED, TO PRESENT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

The President. But she is a coauthor of this Resolution.

Senator Pimentel. All right. Why do we not just authorize the authors, in general? Because this now becomes a Senate Resolution.

The President. What is the pleasure of the Sponsor?

Senator Pimentel. I wanted to single out Senator Shahani because the truth of the matter is that she carried the ball, and I think, it is only fair to recognize that. In spite of my reservations...

Senator Shahani. Well, I do not know whether Senator Pimentel is trying to please me, Mr. President. (Laughter.) I would like to assure him that the very fact that he has now supported the Resolution makes me extremely happy.

I think we can say that, "RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONFERENCE".

Senator Pimentel. Yes, words to that effect.

Senator Shahani. I think that would meet the desire of Senator Pimentel for which I thank him very much.

The President. Is there any objection to the amendment, as amended? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Gonzales. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Gonzales is recognized.

Senator Gonzales. May I just know how the first paragraph of the resolutory portion is written? The "Now, Therefore". Because in the copy that I have, it reads as follows:

"Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate welcomes the holding of the Philippine Parliamentarians Conference and recognizing its importance."

Senator Shahani. It should be "and RECOGNIZES its importance", Mr. President.

Senator Gonzales. All right. That is what I was going to propose, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader, if there is no other objection.

ADOPTION OF P.S. RES. NO. 199

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move for the approval of Senate Resolution No. 199.

The President. Is there any objection? (Silence.) Hearing none, the same is unanimously approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, on Monday, we shall continue the discussion of the two measures in the Unfinished Business--the early retirement bill, and possibly, the bill on dual positions.

The President. Just a moment. May we know from Senator Shahani at what time we are expected there tomorrow?

Senator Shahani. Mr. President, 8:30 a.m. is registration and at 9:00 a.m., the program will promptly begin.

The President. Where will this be held?

Senator Shahani. At the PICC, Plenary Five, Mr. President. And may I make an appeal, Mr. President? In view of the intense interest shown now in the population issue, I very much hope that there will be 100 percent attendance of the Senate in the Conference.

The President. At what time are we expected in the afternoon?

Senator Shahani. Well, Mr. President, the discussions will really finish by four o' clock, and then, there will be a draft declaration which will be presented as the final document. There will be discussion. The expectation is that we shall adjourn at about 5:30 p.m., and then, there will be cocktails after that. So, I hope that people will be able to attend the entire affair.

Thank you.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

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

The President. The session is adjourned until Monday at four o' clock in the afternoon.

It was 8:12 p.m.