

Senado, referente a la lectura obligatoria del *Noli Me Tangere* y *El Filibusterismo* en las instituciones docentes privadas y públicas.

1. Resolución de la "Holy Ghost College".
2. Adoración Nocturna de Bulan, Sorsogon. (Telegrama)
3. "Sodalists" de Cabanatuan City. (Telegrama)

El PRESIDENTE. Al archivo.

El SECRETARIO:

INFORME DE COMITÉ
(Informe Número 1262)

Mr. President:

The Committee on Foreign Affairs to which was referred Senate Bill No. 520, 3rd C. R. P., introduced by Senators Delgado, Primicias, Locsin and Zulueta, entitled:

An Act creating the Reparations Commission, has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the following recommendation: That it be approved with the following amendments:

1. On line 20, page 1, delete the words "twenty-four thousand" and substitute the words "EIGHTEEN THOUSAND" in lieu thereof;

2. On line 21, page 1, delete the figure "(P24,000)" and substitute the figure "(P18,000)" in lieu thereof;

3. One lines 21 and 23, page 1, delete the words "assimilated" respectively.

4. On page 3, Sec. 4, line 15, after the word "provided" and the "comma (,)" insert the following:

"THAT NO SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITION SHALL BE MADE AT LESS THAN THE LANDED COST, OR, AT LESS THAN THE FACTORY PRICE IF DELIVERY IS EX-FACTORY AND, PROVIDED FURTHER"

5. On page five (5) after Section 13, insert the following new section to be known as Section "14":

"SEC. 14. NO OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE OF THE GOVERNMENT, ITS SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES SHALL DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BE INTERESTED, FINANCIALLY OR OTHERWISE, IN ANY TRANSACTION WITH THE REPARATIONS COMMISSION ON REPARATIONS GOODS AND/OR SERVICES; AND NO MEMBER OF CONGRESS SHALL APPEAR AS COUNSEL FOR, OR IN ANY MANNER INTERVENE IN BEHALF OF ANY PARTY INTERESTED IN ANY TRANSACTION INVOLVING REPARATIONS GOODS AND/OR SERVICES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PROVIDED IN THE NEXT PRECEDING SECTION AND THE FORFEITURE OF THE OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT OF THE ERRING OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE."

6. On the same page, section 14 shall be known as "SEC. 15."

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) F. A. DELGADO
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable
The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
Manila

El PRESIDENTE. Al calendario de asuntos ordinarios.

INFORME DE CONFERENCIA

Senator PRIMICIAS. Mr. President, the Conference Committee on the part of the Senate on Senate Bill

No. 367 and House Bill No. 1225 regarding *prima facie* evidence in cases of arson has arrived at an agreement with the conference committee on the part of the House, in the sense that the Senate bill as approved in the Senate be approved. Their report reads:

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of the two measures, viz:

Senate Bill No. 367, entitled:

An Act to amend Act Numbered Two thousand four hundred and twenty-seven, otherwise known as the Insurance Act, as amended, by adding after section one hundred sixty-four thereof, section one hundred sixty-four-a, making obligatory the insertion in the policy of fire insurance a clause on *prima facie* evidence of arson, and for other purposes.

and House Bill No. 1225, entitled:

An Act to amend chapter eight of title ten, book two, of the Revised Penal Code, by adding thereto a new article on *prima facie* evidence of arson, after having met and fully discussed the subject matter in the conference, has come to an agreement, and the conferees hereby recommend to their respective Houses the following:

That Senate Bill No. 367 be approved as passed by the Senate in consolidation of House Bill No. 1225.

<i>Conferees on the part of the Senate</i>	<i>Conferees on the part of the House</i>
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(Sgd.) CLARO M. RECTO	(Sgd.) CORPUS (E. J.)
(Sgd.) LORENZO SUMÚLONG	(Sgd.) JOAQUÍN R. ROCES
(Sgd.) DECOROSO ROSALES	(Sgd.) CARLOS S. TAN

Mr. President, I ask that this conference report be approved.

The PRESIDENT. Is there any objection to the conference report on the part of the Senate? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The conference report is approved.

APROBACIÓN EN TERCERA LECTURA DEL
S. NO. 438

Senator PRIMICIAS. Mr. President, I ask that we vote on third reading on Senate Bill No. 438.

El PRESIDENTE. La votación en tercera lectura del Proyecto de Ley Número 438 del Senado está en orden. Léase solamente el título del proyecto, si no hay objeción. (*No la hubo.*)

El SECRETARIO:

An Act to include in the curricula of all public and private schools, colleges and universities courses on the life, works and writings of José Rizal, particularly his novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, authorizing the printing and distribution thereof, and for other purposes.

El PRESIDENTE. Léase la lista.

El SECRETARIO:

Senador Domocao Alonto

EL SEN. ALONTO EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator ALONTO. Mr. President, I would like to explain my vote.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman may proceed.

Senator ALONTO. Gentlemen of the Senate: When the original bill, which is popularly known now as the Laurel bill, was presented before the Senate, I was one of those who had the honor to sign it. When I signed that bill there was no other motive, there was no other intent on my part except that I sincerely did believe, as I do believe now, that it was in accordance with sound legislation that this bill be presented before the Senate. I believe so because I am aware that in this country of ours composed of people belonging to different religions, of people belonging to different groups, of different dialects and languages, there is only one common ground that binds us together, and that is the common ideal. We are very well aware of the fact that in all nations all over the world, there are several factors that unite a group of people thus constituting them into a nation. One of these factors is a common language. That, we do not have in this country. Another is a common religion. We also unfortunately do not have that in this country. Having then a common ideal, or rather believing in it so, we should strengthen that ideal, we should create things that would strengthen that common ideal with which the Filipinos are bound together. It is because of that fact that I signed the original bill which would make the works of Rizal, particularly the *Noli Me Tangere* and the *El Filibusterismo*, compulsory reading in all our schools. I had never believed that when I did so, this bill would create dissension among our legislators. That is understandable, because I happen to belong to a religion that has nothing to do, or does not oppose any portion of the works of our great national hero. So, as I said, I was motivated by that desire of fostering unity among the Filipino people, and the approval of this bill will strengthen the bonds that bind our people together into one united nation. However, since the members of this august body could not agree on this bill because of divergent opinions, I believe that a happy compromise was reached when the amendment to the bill that was acceptable to all was passed by this body almost unanimously. So, as a humble member of the Senate, and desiring that the bonds that bind our people be strengthened all the more, I am most grateful that we have come to a happy compromise. I hope, however, that in the future, when we legislate on other matters that would strengthen our national unity, we will all be united and act as one for the sake of our people.

For these reasons, and for the reason that I know that this bill will strengthen the bond of unity among our people and create a better citizenry especially among the young people and the generations yet to come, I vote in favor of this bill.

EL SECRETARIO:

Senador Domocao Alonto	Si.
" Manuel C. Briones	Ausente.
" Edmundo B. Cea	Si.
" Mariano J. Cuenco	

EL SEN. CUENCO EXPLICA SU VOTO

El Sen. CUENCO. Señor Presidente, desearía explicar mi voto.

El PRESIDENTE. Tiene la palabra el caballero de Cebú.

El Sen. CUENCO. Inmediatamente después de haber empezado la consideración del proyecto de ley número 438 del Senado, presentado por los Senadores Recto, Laurel y otros, registré en la Secretaría de esta Cámara una enmienda del siguiente tenor:

En la página primera, línea cuarta, suprimase el punto y después añádase la siguiente cláusula condicional: "PROVIDED, THAT PUPILS WHO, PERSONALLY OR THROUGH THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, SHALL, AT ANY TIME SERVE NOTICE IN WRITING THE PRINCIPAL, DIRECTOR, PRESIDENT, OR HEAD OF THE SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, THAT SAID PUPIL BE EXEMPTED FROM READING ANY OF THE BOOKS, BECAUSE PORTIONS THEREOF ARE AGAINST THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, SHALL NOT BE COMPELLED TO READ SAID BOOKS."

Aunque esta enmienda ha sido suscrita únicamente por un servidor, lo cierto es que la misma contaba con el apoyo de los senadores Rodrigo y Rosales.

Señor Presidente, si se examinan la enmienda que acabo de leer y la enmienda que finalmente fue aprobada por el Senado, se vería inmediatamente que una y otra expresan el mismo pensamiento, la misma intención, cual es: primero, que los libros escritos por el Doctor Rizal sean declarados de lectura obligatoria; segundo, que los alumnos que por sí mismos o por medio de sus padres o tutores expresen su resolución de no leer dichas novelas por contener pasajes y sentencias que son contrarios a sus creencias religiosas, queden exentos de la obligación de leer dichos libros.

La enmienda propuesta por mí y apoyada por los senadores Rodrigo y Rosales, y que después sirvió de base para la redacción de la enmienda que fue propuesta por los Senadores Lim y Peláez, demuestra concluyentemente que en esta Cámara y fuera de ella, ninguno ha expresado su oposición a que los libros del Doctor Rizal fueran leídos en nuestras escuelas públicas y privadas.

La única controversia consistía en que, mientras los propugnadores del proyecto querían obligar a todos, sin salvar convicciones de conciencia y aun

trunque de atentar contra la libertad de conciencia y la libertad religiosa, nosotros, desde un principio, hemos abogado, por que esta libertad sea garantida en cumplimiento de preceptos claros y terminantes de nuestra Constitución.

Es absurdo calificar a los miembros del Senado, tildando a unos de ser partidarios de Rizal y a otros de ser enemigos del mismo. Es más absurda aún la pretensión de algunos que han llegado hasta el extremo de pintarnos como hombres que queremos fusilar de nuevo al Doctor Rizal, solamente porque hemos defendido los derechos que tiene todo filipino de creer y de obrar como su conciencia y su inteligencia mandan y de acuerdo con los preceptos claros de nuestra Constitución.

Por las razones expuestas, Señor Presidente, voto afirmativamente por el proyecto porque, tal como está enmendado, es el mismo que queríamos fuera aprobado inmediatamente después de iniciarse la discusión del proyecto de ley que estamos votando.

EL PRESIDENTE. Prosigua con la lectura de la lista.

EL SECRETARIO:

Senador Mariano Jesús Cuenco Sí.
" Francisco A. Delgado

EL SEN. DELGADO EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator DELGADO. Mr. President, I wish to explain my vote.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman has the floor.

Senator DELGADO. When this bill was called for a vote on second reading, because of the hurry and flurry that took place, I was unable to comprehend the real meaning of the amendment and its implications. For that reason I abstained from voting.

Now, after a mature reflection, I am voting affirmatively because I believe that I can conscientiously vote that way, and in accordance with tenets that I hold dear. I vote yes, because I believe that this bill as approved is a step forward, and it is a step forward because it reasserts the power of the State to control and regulate the education of the people; and I firmly believe that this is a prime concern that belongs to the State. Secondly, the bill as approved conserves and preserves the liberty of conscience by leaving the option to the parties concerned that is, to the students themselves. Many may have wanted more, because it is a fact that it is a block on the escutcheon of the national dignity of the Philippines that the books of Dr. Rizal had been made compulsory reading in foreign countries, like Indonesia, while here nothing has been done heretofore.

Now, although this bill does not go far enough, it is however the beginning of what should have been done long ago. I only hope, Mr. President, that in the implementation of this bill, bigotry

and fanaticism be not made to rule the conduct of those called upon to implement it, and that the real purpose of the bill, that Rizal be known as he really is through his works and through no other sort, be carried out by those called upon to implement.

I vote yes for this reason, Mr. President.

EL SECRETARIO:

Senador Francisco A. Delgado Sí.
Senadora Pacita Madrigal González Sí.
Senador Ruperto Kangleón Sí.
" José P. Laurel Sí.
" Roseller T. Lim Sí.
" José C. Locsin Sí.
" Fernando López Sí.
" Alejo Mabánag Sí.
" Quintín Paredes

EL SEN. PAREDES EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator PAREDES. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words on this matter.

The President. The gentleman from Abra has the floor.

Senator PAREDES. In voting "yes" on this matter, I would like to express my congratulations to every member of the Senate that took part in the heated deliberation on the bill for the tolerance and the statesmanship that they have shown. I would like, however, to invite the attention of every member of the Senate,—and I wish that this statement would reach the Lower House—to a missing detail in the bill.

I wish to call attention to the fact that there is no appropriation provided in the bill. The law will be meaningless unless an implementing appropriation is voted. It will take another year before we see it implemented. There is a reason for the omission as far as the Senate is concerned. The bill originated in the Senate and, naturally we could not provide for any appropriation. We could only provide for authority to appropriate I think, P300,000. When the bill reached the Lower House, the bill had to be accepted in its entirety, or else the deadline would have passed, and the bill would not be converted into law, during the present sessions. The Lower House accepted the bill as passed by the Senate. Consequently, there is no appropriation now provided to carry out the purposes of this law. However, relying on the sincerity of everyone who voted unanimously for this bill, I hope that today someone in the Lower House will call on the President and ask for certification of urgency of a measure to be introduced actually appropriating the amount of P300,000 the appropriation of which we have authorized in this bill. So, with this invitation for implementation of the bill, if we really mean what we did—and I hope we did mean it—this is an appeal to everyone in

the Lower House to present a bill for the appropriation of P300,000.

Mr. President, my vote is "yes."

El PRESIDENTE. Prosigase con la lectura de la lista.

El SECRETARIO:

Senador Quintín Paredes	Sí.
" Emmanuel Peláez	Sí.
" Cipriano P. Primicias	Sí.
" Gil J. Púyat	Sí.
" Claro M. Recto	Sí.
" Francisco C. Rodrigo	

EL SEN. RODRIGO EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator RODRIGO. Mr. President, before I give my vote, I would like to say a few words.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Bulacán is recognized.

Senator RODRIGO. When this bill was first called to my attention, the gentlemen of the press immediately interviewed me and asked for my opinion regarding the bill. And right then and there, I told the gentlemen of the press that I agreed wholeheartedly with the purpose and the objective of the bill. However, I wanted to study the procedure or the method proposed in the bill, especially the element of compulsion. My stand has always been, Mr. President, that I am willing to go as far as possible to disseminate the reading by our people of the works of Dr. José Rizal, especially his two novels the *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, but without violating religious freedom and without violating the religious conscience of our Catholics who constitute the majority of our people. And so I am really very happy about this bill, because it attained those two objectives that I had in mind, to have the books of Rizal propagated and read by our people and at the same time safeguard the religious liberty and the religious conscience of our people.

Before I vote, Mr. President, I would like to make this appeal to our people to reunite our ranks. A typhoon has passed. Our fences are partly destroyed. Now is the time to mend those fences. And let us stop recriminations and discussions about this issue, and let us be careful in the future, to be more tolerant of opposition, and in our discussion let us avoid insults and invectives against those who happen to disagree with us.

Mr. President, I tried as much as possible during the discussion of this bill not to say anything that might hurt the sensibility of anybody. I have absorbed a lot of punishment, a lot of invectives, but I tried my best and I hope succeeded in keeping my temper and in avoiding to say even a word that

might be insulting or hurting to the sensibility even of those who were for the bill.

With this statement, Mr. President, I would like to register my vote in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The Secretary may proceed with the reading of the list.

El SECRETARIO:

Senador Francisco Rodrigo	Sí.
" Decoroso Rosales	Sí.
" Pedro Sabido	

EL SEN. SABIDO EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator SABIDO. Mr. President, I would like to explain my vote.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Albay has the floor.

Senator SABIDO. I vote "yes" because the bill embodied both the original and modified amendment that I have humbly introduced and, in my opinion, said amendment eliminates all possible objections. I vote "yes."

El PRESIDENTE. Prosigase con la lectura de la lista.

El SECRETARIO:

Senador Pedro Sabido	Sí.
" Lorenzo Sumulong	

EL SEN. SUMÚLONG EXPLICA SU VOTO

Senator SUMÚLONG. Mr. President, I will explain my vote in one sentence.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Rizal is recognized.

Senator SUMÚLONG. I come from a province whose name is "province of Rizal" and I would be guilty of treason to the name of my province if I do not support this bill or exert any further effort to make the life of Rizal and his writings, particularly the two novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* better read, better understood, better digested, and better appreciated by our people particularly the youth upon which Rizal pinned so much hope for the future of our country. I vote "yes."

El PRESIDENTE. Prosigase con la lectura de la lista.

El SECRETARIO:

Senador Lorenzo Sumulong	Sí.
" Lorenzo M. Tañada	Sí.
" José C. Zulueta	Sí.
El PRESIDENTE	Sí.

(El Secretario informa a la Mesa del resultado de la votación)

El PRESIDENTE. Por veintitrés votos, queda aprobado el proyecto en tercera lectura.