

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

*This being the day set by Presidential Proclamation No. 223 for the opening of the Second Special Session of the Eleventh Congress of the Philippines, the President of the Senate, Honorable Blas F. Ople, called the session to order at 3:19 p.m.*

**The President.** The first session of the Second Special Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon. After which, the Senate Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem.

Please rise for the prayer.

*Everybody rose for the prayer.*

PRAYER

**Senator Biazon.**

Heavenly Father,  
"The old has gone, the new has come."

In the light of this passage, we meditate on these:  
The old millenium has gone, the new has come;  
The old new year resolutions have gone,  
the new have come;  
To some, the old clothes have gone,  
the new have come;  
For our President, the old Cabinet has gone,  
the new has come.  
Still for a lot of us, the new may have come,  
but the old habits stay the same.

For this new year, we pray for a blessing --  
That we may have the spiritual wisdom to shed off  
what is old and useless;  
That we will have the desire and will to change  
for the better;  
That we will have fresh ideas instead of  
recycled dreams; and  
That we will be inspired by a new hope  
for our country.

But even before those, renew us for the new year;

For "new wine is not poured into old wineskins,  
lest the skins burst, the wine will run out  
and the wineskins ruined."

But for our wisdom, let us not forget the lessons  
from the past,  
So that we may not be doomed to repeat  
the same mistakes.

These we pray in Your Almighty Name.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.*

**The President.** The Secretary will please read the Proclamation of the President of the Philippines.

**The Secretary.**

PROCLAMATION NO. 223

CALLING THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO A SPECIAL SESSION

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Constitution, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, do hereby call the Congress of the Philippines to a Special Session on January 10 to 14, 2000 to urgently consider and enact the proposed General Appropriations Act 2000 and such other bills agreed upon by the Executive and Legislative panel as the Common Legislative Agenda.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 22nd day of December in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-nine.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

By the President:

(Sgd.) RONALDO B. ZAMORA  
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

**The President.** The Secretary will please call the roll

RESOLVED, By the Senate, the House of Representatives of the Philippines concurring, to create a joint committee of both Houses of Congress to be composed of six (6) members, three (3) to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and the other three (3) by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to notify the President of the Philippines that pursuant to Proclamation No. 223 issued by the Chief Executive on 22 December 1999, the Congress has convened its Second Special Session, and there being a quorum present, said Congress has already entered upon the exercise of its functions.

Adopted,

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
Senator

ADOPTION OF S. CT. RES. NO 20

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we adopt Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20.

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

MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON  
(Senators Sotto III, Jaworski and Cayetano as Members of the Joint Notification Committee)

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Sen. Robert S. Jaworski and Sen. Renato L. Cayetano be the members to compose the Joint Notification Committee on the part of the Senate.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

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

It was 3:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON  
(To Postpone the Reading of the Reference of Business at a Later Hour)

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, the next item in the agenda is the Reference of Business.

May I move that the Reference of Business be taken at a later hour. I wish to avail of the presence of our colleagues in the Chamber to approve on Third Reading a number of measures which are in the calendar.

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

BILL ON THIRD READING  
S. No. 1519--General Banking Law of 1999

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1519. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on December 16, 1999.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1519 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1519, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF BANKS, QUASI-BANKS, TRUST ENTITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The President. We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. Senators

- Aquino-Oreta ..... Yes
- Barbers ..... Yes
- Biazon ..... Yes
- Cayetano ..... Yes
- Coseteng ..... Yes
- Drilon ..... Yes
- Enrile ..... Yes
- Flavier ..... Yes
- Guingona Jr. .... Yes
- Honasan ..... Yes
- Jaworski ..... Yes
- Legarda-Leviste .....

Magsaysay Jr. ....  
 Osmeña (J.) ..... Yes  
 Osmeña III ..... Yes  
 Pimentel Jr. .... Yes  
 Revilla ..... Yes  
 Roco ..... Yes  
 Santiago ..... Yes  
 Sotto III ..... Yes  
 Tatad ..... Yes  
 The President ..... Yes

Jaworski ..... Yes  
 Legarda-Leviste .....  
 Magsaysay Jr. ....  
 Osmeña (J.) ..... Yes  
 Osmeña III ..... Yes  
 Pimentel Jr. .... Yes  
 Revilla ..... Yes  
 Roco ..... Yes  
 Santiago ..... Yes  
 Sotto III ..... Yes  
 Tatad ..... Yes  
 The President ..... Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1519 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1519 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 586—Amending the New Central Bank Act

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 586. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on December 16, 1999.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 586 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 586, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE ENTITLED "THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The President. We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. Senators

Aquino-Oreta .....  
 Barbers ..... Yes  
 Biazon ..... Yes  
 Cayetano ..... Yes  
 Coseteng ..... Yes  
 Drilon ..... Yes  
 Enrile ..... Yes  
 Flavier ..... Yes  
 Guingona Jr. .... Yes  
 Honasan ..... Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 586 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 586 is approved on Third Reading.

RESOLUTION ON THIRD READING

P. S. Res. No. 413—Ratification of the Convention on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 413. Copies of the resolution were distributed to the members on December 13, 1999.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 413 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read the title of the resolution.

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 413, entitled

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The President. We shall now vote on the resolution and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. Senators

Aquino-Oreta .....  
 Barbers ..... Yes