

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:44 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 38th session of the First Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Jaworski. Let us acknowledge the presence of the Lord.

Our dear Lord Almighty,

We beg You to remind us that tomorrow may never be, for today is and yesterday was.

Bless us, guide us and please help us to think, to speak, to act and to see through Your eyes and spirit, O Lord.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present
Senator Joker P. Arroyo	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	**
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. <i>Compañero</i> Cayetano	Present*
Senator Noli "Kabayan" L. De Castro	Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier	**
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski	Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present*
Senator Blas F. Ople	**

Senator John Henry R. Osmeña	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present*
Senator Francis N. Pangilinan	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.	Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto	Present*
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr.	Present
The President	Present

The President. With 17 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the 37th session, November 13, 2001 and consider it approved.

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

Senator Legarda Leviste. I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1879, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND GUARANTEEING PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONISM IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla

The President. Referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1880, entitled

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

Senator Pimentel. My best information, Mr. President, is an emergency loan of about P25 billion.

Senator J. Osmeña. Is it P25 billion?

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator J. Osmeña. And that is the subject of the negotiations now, Mr. President. Is that correct?

Senator Pimentel. That is my understanding too, Mr. President.

Senator J. Osmeña. And because Mr. Tan cannot pay back the P25 billion and they cannot afford to have the PNB collapsed, the government is now going to be forced to take over the PNB again as a result of a pseudo, *lutong macao* privatization and incur losses, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. That is correct, Mr. President. And this is precisely one of the reasons in the investigation that the proper committee should conduct on this issue, we also have to take a look at the privatization effort of the government.

Senator J. Osmeña. I would suggest very strongly, Mr. President, that this investigation should go back in time to the privatization, even prior to the purchase by Mr. Tan of shares of stock, I think, belonging to the employees, or some retirement fund of the employees, shall we say, at some point causing some disadvantage to the government, and all the subsequent developments in the PNB or maybe even before that, as to the management of the PNB going back to, I think, Palma-Gil who was the president at that time.

Also, would the gentleman be able to tell us what makes Mr. Tan such a sacred cow? He has been notorious and untouchable for the last 30 years—in the Marcos years, in the years of the Aquino administration, the Ramos administration, the Estrada administration. And even until now, he still continues to be a sacred cow and an untouchable, Mr. President. Would the gentleman be able to tell us why this is so?

Senator Pimentel. I do not know much about Mr. Tan personally, Mr. President. But I know that he is a very astute businessman and he knows how to deal with people in power. And obviously, this recent attempt to make the government absorb this P25-billion loan that cannot be paid anymore by PNB is another manifestation of his ability to survive even under the most difficult circumstances.

Senator J. Osmeña. Mr. President, I think, as a good indication of his astuteness is the fact that... I am sure that the gentleman has

taken the flights of Philippine Airlines. That whenever we miss the flight, we have to pay P200 in penalties for not showing up in the airport. But whenever the flight is delayed or even cancelled, there is no liability on the part of Philippine Airlines.

Senator Pimentel. That is only an icing on the cake of his astuteness.

Senator J. Osmeña. That is only a small speck of dust in all of the empire of Mr. Tan.

But in any way, Mr. President, I would like to express my support for the gentleman and contribute in my own little way to the gentleman's effort to get on with the investigation of the Philippine National Bank.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. Yes. As a closing statement, Mr. President, let me just put on record that there is information to the effect that withdrawals by the billions of pesos have been taking place at the PNB for sometime in September and early October. And that the collateral for the P25-billion emergency loan to PNB was worked out for the non-performing loans that were given a value, were in effect given some amounts and these were used as collateral for the P25-billion loan.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**MANIFESTATION OF THE CHAIR
(Referral of the Speech of Senator Pimentel
and the Interpellation Thereon to the
Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions
and Currencies)**

The President. The speech of Senator Pimentel Jr. together with the interpellation of Sen. John Osmeña is hereby referred to the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

**BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1824—Optional ROTC Program
(Continuation)**

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824 under Committee Report No. 3.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824 is now in order.

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I ask that Sen. Renato L. Compañero Cayetano be recognized. We are now in the period of amendments.

The President. The principal sponsor, Sen. Renato L. Compañero Cayetano, is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, may I ask the indulgence of the Chair that our colleagues be given an opportunity for a few minutes. We are presenting to our colleagues some kind of a working draft, taking into consideration some of the points made during the debates as well as in the interpellations, and also some of the proposed amendments being considered by some of our members. So this is a working draft.

Senator Angara. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Edgardo J. Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. With the Chair's indulgence and the Body's indulgence, may I just ask the sponsor one question, Mr. President, because I believe that this is an important point that ought to be clarified before the amendments, whether collective or individual, will be made. Although I may make an individual amendment regarding this.

The President. Senator Angara may proceed.

Senator Angara. Yes, with the Chair's permission, Mr. President.

My understanding is that this bill, if made into law, will not apply to the graduates of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy because the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, a government school that trains people for maritime service, is also like graduates of the Philippine Military Academy and receives a commission upon graduation. Is that understanding correct?

Senator Cayetano. As far as I recall, Mr. President, the gentleman from Aurora, Michigan and the Philippines is correct, because what is covered here are college students in the tertiary level under the supervision of CHED and TESDA. As far as I recall, while the...

Senator Angara. Philippine Merchant Marine.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, it is under CHED, but I do not think that it has an ROTC program for that matter, Mr. President.

Senator Angara. No, in fact...

Senator Cayetano. It is a maritime school.

Senator Angara. It is a maritime school with naval training component and therefore...

Senator Cayetano. Of its own.

Senator Angara. Of its own. And therefore, it is the counterpart of the PMA for sea, as PMA is for land.

Senator Cayetano. That is right. That is my understanding and I do not think we should really consider that.

Senator Angara. We should...

Senator Cayetano. Not include.

Senator Angara. We should not include them in the application of this bill.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Angara. Because if the law is made to apply to them, then the students of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy will then have a choice of not going through with the naval curriculum of the academy.

Senator Cayetano. I agree with that, Mr. President.

Senator Angara. So with that clear understanding and on the record, Mr. President, perhaps we can reflect it in a one-sentence amendment.

I thank the distinguished gentleman.

The President. All right. So do we now suspend the session?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for five minutes.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for five minutes.

It was 4:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Cayetano is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, for brevity, I am submitting a copy of this working draft to our Secretariat for the purpose of having this printed in our *Journal*.

Mr. President, I am now ready to answer some of the questions that may be raised in connection with this draft.

The President. Are we now in the period of amendments? So may I suggest that we proceed...

Senator Cayetano. Yes, we are in the period of individual amendments. Well, at this point in time, we have submitted this draft which has already included some of the amendments. But if there are other amendments, Mr. President, we certainly are willing.

The President. So, can we designate this for purposes of the record as the draft dated November 14, 2001?

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. This is the draft as of 14 November 2001. All right, shall we proceed? Is there any amendment in Section 1?

Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, I am on page 2.

The President. All right. Is there any amendment on page 1, Section 2? *[Silence]* On page 1, Section 3? *[Silence]* We go now to page 2.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENTS

Senator Pimentel. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 2, lines 5 and 6, may I suggest to the principal sponsor that for symmetry's sake, the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program should be defined "SHALL REFER TO"—because this is how the wording of the rest of the enumeration goes, Mr. President.

I hope the principal chairman follows what I am trying to say. For example, letter (b) of line 7 states: "Public Safety and Convenience Training Program shall refer to," and then it defines the program. In line 12, "(c) Civic Welfare and Community Service Program shall refer to"...

The President. In other words, define what is the Reserve Officers Training Corps program?

Senator Pimentel. Yes, that is my suggestion, Mr. President, and I will leave it to the sponsor for that definition.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President. I do realize the point of the Minority Leader. Let me just explain the reason there is no more reference to the definition or characterization because what constitutes Reserve Officers Training Corps is quite understood under the law. That is the only reason.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, but it will not do harm, Mr. President, if we just incorporate the definition.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, I think we can do this.

The President. We can incorporate the existing definition in the existing law.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, I think we can say here SHALL REFER TO THAT PROGRAM UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077.

Senator Pimentel. Something like that.

Senator Cayetano. Will that be correct, Mr. Minority Leader?

Senator Pimentel. Yes, and probably a brief description of what the program is, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. All right. The Chair assumes that the sponsor accepts the amendment.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, it is accepted.

The President. Is there any objection to the Pimentel amendment? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Pimentel. And then editorial suggestion, Mr. President. In line 5, "The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program SHALL REFER TO" and then the definition will follow. But subsequently for items (b), (c), and (d) just to be a little clearer—"Public Safety and Convenience Training Program"—that is in line 7—"shall refer to the program THAT WILL enhance..." In other words, I think it is better. It is more direct to the point.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. This is in line 8. We delete the phrase “designed to” and substitute the same with the phrase THAT WILL.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Is that accepted by the sponsor?

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Pimentel. And if we can make that an omnibus kind of motion so that replacement of words will also take place as far as items (c) and (d) are concerned.

The President. There is an omnibus motion...

Senator Cayetano. Yes, that is in line 13, and also in line 24. We will take note of that point, Mr. President.

The President. All right, is that accepted?

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Pimentel. Then if there are no anterior amendments, I would like to go to lines 2 and 3 of page 3.

The President. Before we proceed, is there any other amendment on page 2?

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Sergio R. Osmeña III is recognized.

OSMEÑA III AMENDMENTS

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, with the permission of the kind sponsor, may I refer to lines 2, 3 and 4 of page 2. Because of the long titles of these various components, may we all agree using the same term? We can either use corps or service. I am suggesting—and this is preliminary to my reading the amendment—Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, Public Safety Training CORPS, Community Service TRAINING CORPS, and Livelihood SERVICE TRAINING CORPS.

Senator Cayetano. Well, it sounds great, Mr. President. If my good friend here will propose that as an amendment, we will accept it.

Senator Osmeña III. I do propose, subject to style, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. So the amendment is in line 3...

Senator Osmeña III. Lines 2, 3 and 4 on page 2.

The President. But the word “Corps” is found on page 2, line 2. We should start the amendment in line 3. I propose that we change the word “Program” to CORPS.

Senator Osmeña III. That would include deletion in line 2 of the two words at the end of the line “and Convenience”. So it would read “Public Safety Training CORPS.”

The President. All right.

Senator Osmeña III. So in line 3, we delete the words “Program, Civic Welfare and”.

The President. Would the gentleman be kind enough to state again the amendment? We delete the words “and Convenience” in line 2.

Senator Osmeña III. That is correct, Mr. President.

The President. All right. And then...

Senator Osmeña III. Then in line 3, delete the word “Program” and in its place, insert the word CORPS.

The President. All right.

Senator Osmeña III. Then further after that, delete the words “Civic Welfare and”.

The President. All right.

Senator Osmeña III. And after the word “Service”, insert the words TRAINING CORPS.

Senator Cayetano. With the indulgence of my colleague, may I again ask him to repeat? Delete what in line 3?

Senator Osmeña III. Line 3 would read as follows. It will be simpler this way. Then I will go to the specific deletion.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña III. Community Service TRAINING CORPS, Livelihood Service TRAINING CORPS.”

Senator Cayetano. All right.

Senator Osmeña III. Therefore, we delete the words "Program, Civic Welfare and" and another "and" which is the last word at the end of the line. And we delete all of line 4.

The President. All right. Is that accepted by the sponsor?

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. I have another amendment in line 7, Mr. President. Actually, this should be an omnibus amendment in line 7, line 12, line 23...

The President. All right. An omnibus amendment to follow the wording of lines 2 and 3 and the subsequent lines. Is that accepted by the sponsor?

Senator Cayetano. Yes, it is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, in line 15, instead of the word "guarding" which we propose to be deleted, insert the words PROTECTION OF.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. And further on, instead of the verb "participating", perhaps we should use the noun PARTICIPATION.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. In line 17, instead of the verb "cleaning up", we use the noun CLEANUP.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. In line 20, delete the word "public" and use the word COMMUNITY to be consistent with the earlier amendment regarding "COMMUNITY service work".

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. In line 20 also, Mr. President, I would like to preface my amendment with a question since I did not bother to take advantage of the period of interpellations in order to fast-track the passage of this bill. May I inquire from the kind sponsor what he means by "COMMUNITY service work in national and local government offices?"

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, this would refer to apprenticeship program or internship program that college students may take in any local government unit or any national agency of the government which would include, for instance, internship or apprenticeship in the Senate or in the House of Representatives in the case here in Metro Manila. Of course, in other local areas, it will be in cities and municipalities. So, the college students may perform one of these non-ROTC programs as apprentices or interns in order for them to understand the workings of the national and local government agencies for familiarity and, of course, inviting them for local and national services.

Senator Osmeña III. I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman for that, Mr. President.

Actually, I have no technical quarrel with this. But unfortunately our experience in the past, as most of us are aware, is that the so-called "out-of-school-youth program" has been utilized by politicians as a form of vote-buying. Here, we would be promoting that particular practice. Essentially, as we know, there is very little to be learned, say, in a local government unit. All the officials would do is declare, "Yes, Mr. Student, so and so has been reporting to work everyday and has thereby fulfilled his one or two-unit requirement." Maybe, the sponsor would accept an amendment that would qualify work with NGOs—bona fide NGOs—or social welfare offices rather than national and local government offices.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

May I move for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, Senator Angara would like to be recognized.

The President. Before we suspended the session, Sen. Serge Osmeña III had a pending proposed amendment.

Senator Osmeña III. Yes, Mr. President, I hereby withdraw my proposed amendment.

The President. All right. The amendment is withdrawn. Senator Angara is recognized.

ANGARA AMENDMENTS

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, on page 2, I propose to delete lines 7 to 29 inclusive. On page 3, delete lines 1 and 2 and in lieu thereof, insert the following letter (B)...

The President. Letter (B), as in boy?

Senator Angara. Yes. (B). LITERACY TRAINING CORPS— I think the accepted terminology now is “corps”—WHICH SHALL REFER TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TEACH LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH. Subject to style, Mr. President.

(C) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE CORPS WHICH SHALL REFER TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS REFORESTATION, UPKEEP OF PUBLIC PARKS, CLEANUP OF STREETS, DRAINAGE, ESTEROS, RIVERS AND LAKES. Subject to style, Mr. President.

(D) LIVELIHOOD TRAINING CORPS WHICH SHALL REFER TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND IMPART LIVELIHOOD SKILLS TO OUR YOUTH. Subject to style, Mr. President.

In other words, Mr. President, the components of the alternative service program shall now be the ROTC program, the literacy program, the environmental program and the livelihood program.

Just a moment, Mr. President. Did I miss health?

The President. Health?

Senator Angara. Health, Mr. President. Letter (E). HEALTH AND SANITATION TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH SHALL REFER TO A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PROMOTE HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS. Subject to style.

And finally, Mr. President, insert a proviso:

PROVIDED, THAT THE CHED AND THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED MAY DECIDE IN THE FUTURE TO INCLUDE SUCH OTHER TRAINING MODULES AS THE COUNTRY MAY NEED OR REQUIRE. Subject to style.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Cayetano. Subject to style, Mr. President.

OSMEÑA III-ANGARA AMENDMENTS

Senator Osmeña III. I have an amendment to the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Serge Osmeña is recognized.

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, would the presenter of the amendment define what he means by “literacy?” Would this be limited to “read and write,” or would it include “arithmetic, science?”

Senator Angara. Yes, that is my intent, Mr. President. That is why I also added the word NUMERACY. So it is not just LITERACY. Perhaps, the appropriate phrase would be LITERACY AND NUMERACY.

Senator Osmeña III. Would there be one generic term for this—“basic educational skills?”

Senator Angara. No, Mr. President, that is different. I think the standard phrase for that is LITERACY AND NUMERACY TRAINING.

Senator Osmeña III. All right. Also, instead of having another module for health, why not just include it or lump it with “environment” and call it an ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH TRAINING?

Senator Angara. That is possible. Yes, Mr. President. So we would have just four service components.

Senator Osmeña III. That is correct. And as far as livelihood training is concerned, I think the essential part of this program would be that we would be training trainers, and those trainers, in order to meet the requirements of the national service program, must actually conduct workshops or seminars, training out-of-school youths, unemployed women or anybody who would like to take the seminar.

Senator Angara. That is correct, Mr. President. That is an important component of a training program—that we are training trainers who in turn will train the trainees. So we echo the training program in other localities and in other venues.

Senator Osmeña III. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ANGARA AMENDMENT

Senator Angara. May I add what I forgot, Mr. President. May I add another proviso: *PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS MAY FORMULATE AND DEVISE ANY OF THE ABOVE TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND BE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM.*

The point, Mr. President, is that I think it might be very difficult to put the obligation of these non-ROTC programs solely on the shoulders of the schools. We may have to tap and enlist the assistance of NGOs in training, in livelihood, in environment and in health. I think this will expand the capacity of the school system, perhaps, even at a more cost-effective way. So we are including NGO programs that must, of course, be accredited in order to ensure quality assurance accredited by somebody, preferably the CHED. Again, this is subject to style.

The President. Sen. John H. Osmeña is recognized.

Senator J. Osmeña. Mr. President, with the permission of the two gentlemen on the floor, I would just like to interject an observation.

On page 1, line 15, Section 3, which is the beginning of the particular section now being amended, it says: "THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH SHALL FORM PART OF THE CURRICULA OF ALL TERTIARY LEVEL EDUCATION CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:" And then there is an enumeration of components.

If we now bring in an outside entity, such as an NGO as proposed by Senator Angara, are we in effect allowing a third party to take over the task of providing the training or the teaching of courses that form part of the curricula of an educational institution which will eventually give units of

academic credit which shall be credited to the graduation of this person? In other words, are we bringing in a third party to do something that normally is being done by the educational institution?

Senator Angara. Mr. President, the answer is yes and no. Yes, in the sense that we are, in effect, farming out or contracting out a training program that the school does not usually do. Like, if one is a college of dentistry. The college of dentistry does not do any livelihood training. So it may decide to get TESDA, an outside agency, or ERDA which is a private foundation good in training, or Don Bosco, another institution good in training, to do it for the college of dentistry. The academic program in a college of dentistry will still be part of its curriculum, but the training program will be done by an outside entity. So that is the yes part.

No, in the sense that, as I said, since this program envisions part of the academic curriculum and a training module, the curriculum part is retained by the school. What I am saying is, we must now anticipate that many of the schools are not geared or prepared, or equipped to do, for instance, livelihood training. So what is the best thing to do? As any reasonable person will tell us, "Get the expert to do it for you, but under your supervision and subject to your quality assurance." That is what this amendment intends to introduce into this bill.

Senator J. Osmeña. Mr. President, I have nothing against that particular idea. I think it is a very good idea. I just wanted to clarify because in the present practice, when a student of one educational institution wants to take a course in another educational institution that is not offered by the institution where he is studying, he cross registers. But both institutions—his own institution and the one where he is a cross-registrant—are both recognized educational institutions by the CHED.

In this particular proposal, the NGO is not a recognized educational institution by the CHED and that NGO will be providing training which will be earning credits, which will become part of the credits that will be earned by the student in the institution. If we are going to allow that, I have no objection as long as it is a conscious effort on our part.

Senator Angara. Yes, that is the intent, Mr. President. That is why I said that the training program of the NGO must be accredited by the CHED.

In the gentleman's example of a cross-registration, there is no problem because both academic programs are already accredited by the CHED. But in this new module we are introducing, the training program is not yet accredited academically by the body authorized to do that, which is the CHED.

Senator J. Osmeña. As a matter of fact, Mr. President, we can even conceive a situation wherein various schools contribute students to a third party because each of them may not have enough students to make up a class for that particular course. So if one school has five, another school has 10, and another school has 15, they all go to a third party that will provide that system. So as long as it is controlled so that there is no fly-by-night NGO, that would not be a bad idea.

I am happy to hear that it has to be accredited by CHED. The NGO has to be accredited by CHED.

Senator Angara. That is absolutely correct. That is an essential requirement, Mr. President, otherwise, we will have fly-by-night training institutions sprouting.

Senator J. Osmeña. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Serge Osmeña is recognized.

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, corollary to what our colleague from Cebu asked, when we say "accredited by CHED," is the institution or the NGO accredited?

Senator Angara. It is the program as well.

Senator Osmeña III. All right. Thank you very much.

The President. Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Just one question, Mr. President. Are cooperatives one of the forms by which this public service could be undertaken?

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President, especially cooperatives. When the training calls for livelihood, I think our cooperatives would be one of the best vehicles for training.

The President. What does the sponsor say to the amendments of Senator Angara, subject to style?

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, just one clarificatory question.

As we all know, Mr. President, it is not only CHED that accredits subject matters in private and school tertiary learning institutions but also TESDA. I would imagine that the proposal of my colleague from Aurora as far as the NGO's training program is concerned may not just be CHED but also TESDA. Am I correct in that?

ANGARA AMENDMENT

Senator Angara. That is correct, Mr. President. So, we may have to use a phrase that will include OTHER ACCREDITING INSTITUTIONS.

Senator Cayetano. All right. With that, Mr. President, the committee is happy to accept the amendments proposed by Senator Angara, as well as the amendments to the amendments proposed by Sen. Serge Osmeña and accepted by Senator Angara.

The President. Is there any objection to the Angara amendments, as amended by Sen. Serge Osmeña and accepted by the sponsor? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendments are approved.

Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, I would like to propose an amendment between lines 2 and 3 on page 3. The idea is to state very clearly that any of the alternative programs undertaken by concerned students or youths will already suffice to comply with the national service training program.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENT

So I am proposing the following wordings, Mr. President: THE ABOVE-ENUMERATED ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS SET OUT IN SUBPARAGRAPHS A, B, C, AND D—referring to the Angara amendments—MAY BE UNDERTAKEN INDIVIDUALLY BY THE STUDENTS OR YOUTHS CONCERNED AND WHEN COMPLETED SHALL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM.

Senator Cayetano. The amendment is accepted, Mr. President. That would be between lines 2 and 3 up to line 5 of page 3, am I correct?

Senator Angara. No, not in lieu.

The President. Not in lieu of. That is an insertion.

Senator Cayetano. Is that an insertion?

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, point of order.

The President. What is the point of order?

Senator Osmeña III. There are no more lines 2 and 3. These have been deleted.

Senator Pimentel. No, *mayroon pa*.

The President. Before line 3.

Senator Osmeña III. So, it is before Section 4?

The President. Before Section 4.

Senator Angara. That is correct.

Senator Cayetano. All right. Mr. President, let me...

The President. The way the Chair recalls the amendment, it is an insertion, and Section 4 in lines 3 and 5 is not being amended by Senator Pimentel.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, just a clarification. The proposed insertion would really cover Section 4. And if this were the intent of my good friend, the Minority Leader, certainly, that is the reason I said I accepted it because indeed Section 4, with that insertion, would now be redundant. So with the permission then of my colleague, the Minority Leader, can we make that as Section 4 instead?

Senator Pimentel. Yes, certainly, Mr. President. The sponsor has a point.

The President. All right. The Pimentel amendment would delete lines 3 to 5 and in lieu thereof, the amendment he has proposed which will now become Section 4.

Senator Cayetano. That is right, Mr. President.

The President. Is that accepted by the sponsor?

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Sen. Serge Osmeña is recognized.

OSMEÑA III AMENDMENT

Senator Osmeña III. In line 14, page 3, unless there is an anterior amendment. There is an editorial mistake here. "Reserve Officers Training Corps" should really be the National Service Training Program, because it is possible also, as they undergo the training, to telescope it into a one-summer program.

So I propose that we delete the phrase "Reserve Officers Training Corps" and insert the phrase NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, this particular paragraph refers only to ROTC as one of the national service training corps, and if we go a little bit to Section 5...

Senator Osmeña III. We are in Section 5.

Senator Cayetano. Yes. The ROTC program is intended to be taken for four semesters. In fact, all the national service training corps shall be undertaken in four academic semesters. Now, lines 10 to 14 consist of an alternative program for ROTC. Instead of taking it for four semesters, the Department of National Defense, CHED and TESDA may design a formula where...

Senator Osmeña III. Why is TESDA needed then?

Senator Cayetano. Well, because TESDA students are not necessarily enrolled in baccalaureate degrees. TESDA is involved in supervising vocational and technical schools where there are also ROTC programs.

So as far as ROTC is concerned, that is the only paragraph there which states that ROTC may be taken as a one-summer course.

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President, may I ask the sponsor how many hours is involved in the early part of Section 5, lines 7, 8, and 9, which reads that the Service Training Programs shall be undertaken for an academic period of four semesters and shall have a course unit of not more than one unit per semester?

Senator Cayetano. I understand, Mr. President, that one academic unit is taken for about three hours?

Senator Osmeña III. Three hours a week. For how many weeks?

Senator Cayetano. Well, for four semesters...

Senator Osmeña III. How many weeks in one semester?

Senator Cayetano. It is 15 weeks.

Senator Osmeña III. So there are 45 hours in a semester, and we are looking at a total of 180 hours.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña III. Can we not also give the students an option to have a telescope program for the other programs in much the same way that we are offering the ROTC a telescope program?

Senator Cayetano. Well, I really have no violent objection to that, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña III. Yes, because I think the absorption and the training is better if a student concentrates for six solid weeks rather than break it up over four semesters. They may also find it more attractive to give up one summer in return for not having to report on Saturdays, for example.

Senator Cayetano. Well, yes. In that case, Mr. President, if the proposed amendment is to delete in line 10 as well as in line 14 the phrase "basic ROTC program".

Senator Osmeña III. Yes. Then I will go back to line 10. We delete the words "basic ROTC program" and insert the phrase, NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM.

So it will read: "As another method to the system of conducting THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM", et cetera, et cetera. Then down in line 14 again, delete "Reserve Officers Training Corps" and include the phrase, THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. How about the word "optional"? Does that remain in line 14?

Senator Osmeña III. Yes, that should be deleted. I think that is redundant now.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. The amendments in lines 10 and 14, the Osmeña III amendments are accepted.

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Senator Pangilinan. Amendment to the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pangilinan may proceed.

PANGILINAN-OSMEÑA III AMENDMENT

Senator Pangilinan. In line 10, instead of using the term "another method", perhaps to be more precise, we can say AN EQUIVALENT ALTERNATIVE.

Senator Osmeña III. I used the word "option"—an optional method to the system would be to conduct a short program or one-summer program, subject to style.

Senator Pangilinan. Subject to style. We would like to stress that both options are available and are equivalent and therefore should be duly credited when one option or the other is taken.

The President. For the guidance of the Chair and the records of the Chamber, may we have a clear statement of the proposed second paragraph of Section 5?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Osmeña III. May I request a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

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

It was 5:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

CAYETANO-PANGILINAN-OSMEÑA III AMENDMENT

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, as requested by the Chair, lines 10 to 14 will now read as follows:

IN LIEU OF THE FOUR-SEMESTER PROGRAM FOR ANY OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM, A ONE-SUMMER PROGRAM SHALL BE DESIGNED, FORMULATED AND ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) (.) period.

The President. All right. Is there any objection?

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Senator Pangilinan. I think the term is MAY rather than "SHALL"—MAY BE DESIGNED.

The President. All right. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

We are now in line 15.

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, Senator Lacson wishes to be recognized.

The President. Senator Lacson is recognized.

LACSON AMENDMENT

Senator Lacson. Mr. President, in Section 5, page 3, line 17, I propose to insert the following phrase, subject to style: After the period (.) in line 17, SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT MEET THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO MAINTAIN THE OPTIONAL ROTC PROGRAM SHALL ALLOW THEIR STUDENTS TO CROSS-ENROLL TO OTHER SCHOOLS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SAID SCHOOLS ARE BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE SAME OR ANOTHER BRANCH OF SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO WHICH THE SCHOOLS ARE IDENTIFIED.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, subject to style, Mr. President.

The President. What section?

Senator Cayetano. Section 5, Mr. President.

The President. That style is enough. We do not need another style. *[Laughter]*

Senator Cayetano. I think the amendment was well-read into the *Record*, Mr. President. It is accepted.

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

Is there any amendment in lines 18 to 21?

Senator Osmeña III. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Sergio R. Osmeña III is recognized.

OSMEÑA III AMENDMENT

Senator Osmeña III. As discussed during the period of suspension and in order to afford some flexibility because we cannot at this time determine the actual cost on whether the tuition fees that are being proposed would cover the cost of the alternative service programs, may we just delete—which phrase may be probably reinserted in the Bicam—the words in line 20, starting from the words “which shall not exceed” up to all of line 21.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Cayetano. To delete what words from line 20, Mr. President?

Senator Osmeña III. Delete the phrase “which shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the tuition fee per academic unit.”

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Angara earlier wanted to be recognized.

Senator Angara. We have to make up our minds, Mr. President, whether we shall extend a subsidy to this intensive one-summer program because the next lines 22 to 23 are intended to provide that kind of incentive. Again, in the same fashion as raised by Senator Osmeña, we do not know the cost of this incentive or assistance.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, let me try to respond to the concern of my colleague from Aurora. This refers basically—lines 20 to 23—really to those who will opt to take ROTC. During the debate, it was brought here, I believe by a couple of our colleagues that if this bill, which is certain to become a law, will make ROTC optional, there may not be enough college students who will enroll in ROTC training course. Therefore, it was suggested that the Department of National Defense should probably adopt some kind of formula or incentive to attract some of the college students to take up ROTC even if it is an optional subject. This is the reason for this.

These lines 20 to 23 do not speak of financial assistance or incentive. It could be, as my cochairman, Senator Magsaysay, mentioned in one of the debates, giving free boots or shoes or giving out free T-shirts, or something like that. Just an incentive, Mr. President.

Senator Angara. That will still cost money, Mr. President. Yes, I understand the intended application of this phrase. But as I see now, with our last amendment, it will be very attractive to take the intensive summer course for ROTC because it is a substitute for any of the components of national service program. I can foresee that the enrollment in ROTC will be greater than what we anticipated when there is only one option taking it...

Senator Cayetano. One summer.

Senator Angara. No, four semesters or one summer but we do not have a program which will be in lieu of the other components. So, a one-summer intensive ROTC is now much more attractive. Perhaps, students will now prefer to take it rather than take a four-semester livelihood or health or environment training. So we must be prepared.

I am not against providing incentives. Because after all, when we take students away from the company of their families during

summers and also deprive them of the leisures afforded during summers, then we must compensate them in some way. But my main point is, are we aware at all of the scope and magnitude of this assistance?

Senator Cayetano. We are leaving that to the discretion of the Department of National Defense. Let me just also point out that the one-summer course for ROTC has been expanded to also include a one-summer course for all the other national service programs, like literacy, environment and health, and livelihood. In fact, that was just an amendment that we all accepted.

Senator Angara. I think we must clarify that, Mr. President. The one-summer ROTC program, if one decides to take it, will be in lieu of any of the other components.

Senator Cayetano. No, Mr. President.

Senator Angara. I do not think that we are adopting a one-summer health program or a one summer...

Senator Cayetano. Yes, that was...

Senator Angara. Yes, is that the amendment?

Senator Cayetano. Yes, that was the proposal, in fact, of Sen. Serge Osmeña when he made the point of how come we are allowing a one-summer program for ROTC in lieu of the four semesters and not with respect to the other national service programs, and the point of Senator Osmeña is to also include the other national service programs like literacy, livelihood and environment. This was accepted as an amendment.

Senator Angara. I may have to accept that with reservation because the learning turf and the training time for livelihood or literacy may take longer and cannot be compressed into one summer. But military service can be compressed into one summer. While maybe it is possible to compress it in two months' time, I think we sacrifice quality and learning if we do so.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 5:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Angara. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. For the sake of unity and peace, Mr. President, I withdraw my question, but I will have another amendment, subject to style, in Section 7.

The President. So before that, lines 22 and 23 remain as presently worded.

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. All right. Senator Angara may proceed then.

Senator Angara. In Section 7, Mr. President, may I propose that this be rewritten in light of our earlier amendments where a third party will be brought into the training program.

ANGARA AMENDMENTS

It will go like this, Mr. President:

THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, AND IN CASE A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN CONTRACTED TO ADMINISTER OR TO FORMULATE A TRAINING PROGRAM, SHALL EXERCISE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION JOINTLY WITH THAT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President, except that, can we use the word ACCREDITED instead of...

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Angara. Finally, Mr. President, may I propose an insertion between lines 23 and 24, to read as follows: THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND/OR CHED SHALL ENSURE THAT GROUP INSURANCE FOR HEALTH AND ACCIDENT SHALL BE TAKEN FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Are there any other amendments on page 4?

Senator Pangilinan. Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson would like to be recognized, Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson is recognized.

Senator Lacson. On page 4, Section 9, line 7, Mr. President.

The President. Please proceed.

LACSON AMENDMENTS

Senator Lacson. I would like to propose that we delete the words "related private" in line 18 between the words "and" and "organizations" to be replaced by the words RECOGNIZED STUDENT.

The President. May we have that again, Senator Lacson?

Senator Lacson. Delete the words "related private" in line 18, between the words "and" and "organizations".

The President. And replace the same with...

Senator Lacson. RECOGNIZED STUDENT.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Is there any other amendment on page 4?

Senator J. Osmeña. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. John H. Osmeña is recognized.

J. OSMEÑA AMENDMENTS

Senator J. Osmeña. On page 4, line 26, Mr. President, I would like the whole paragraph to be reworded to read as follows:

THE REQUIREMENT OF ROTC TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AS A REQUISITE TO GRADUATION IS

HEREBY SET ASIDE FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO DESPITE COMPLETING ALL THEIR ACADEMIC UNITS HAVENOTBEENALLOWEDTOGRADUATE.AVAILMENT OF THIS PROVISION SHALL LAPSE ON JUNE 30, 2004.

The caption of Section 11 should be changed from *Amnesty Provision...* I do not like the word "amnesty," Mr. President, with the indulgence of the author. It sounds like they committed a crime. It should read as SUSPENSION OF REQUIREMENTS or words to that effect.

Senator Cayetano. I realize the purpose of this, Mr. President. I accept the proposed amendment.

Senator J. Osmeña. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The Acting Majority Leader is recognized.

PANGILINAN AMENDMENT

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, just a minor amendment on page 4, Section 10, line 24, because of the amendment of Senator Angara. The phrase "instead any of the two (2) National Service Training Program", should read: "any of the THREE (3) National Service Training Program". Because the fourth would be the ROTC Program.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Is there any other amendment on page 4?

Senator J. Osmeña. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Sen. John H. Osmeña is recognized.

J. OSMEÑA AMENDMENT

Senator J. Osmeña. A new Section 9 to be inserted after line 6, which is the last line of Section 8 on page 4, and the new section shall read:

SCHOLARSHIPS. SCHOLARSHIPS THAT MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT SHALL BE ALLOCATED

WHEN SO PROVIDED BY THE CHED NATION-WIDE IN PROPORTION TO THE STUDENT POPULATION OF EACH PROVINCE.

Senator Cayetano. It is accepted, Mr. President.

Senator J. Osmeña. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

Senator J. Osmeña. Amendments in aid of reelection. *[Laughter]*

CAYETANO AMENDMENT

Senator Cayetano. In that case, Mr. President, Section 9 would now be Section 10 and down the line there will be a renumbering.

The President. All right.

Senator Cayetano. Section 10 will now be Section 11; Section 11 will now be Section 12, on page 5; Section 12 will now be Section 13; Section 13 will now be Section 14; and finally, Section 14 will now be Section 15.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The editorial amendment is considered as approved.

Are there any other amendments? *[Silence]* There being none, the Chair is now prepared to receive a motion to terminate the period of amendments.

Senator Pangilinan. Yes, Mr. President. I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1824 ON SECOND READING

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1824, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1824, as amended.

As many as are in favor of the bill, say *aye*.

Several Members. *Aye.*

The President. As many as are against the bill, say *noy*. *[Silence]*

Senate Bill No. 1824, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Pangilinan. 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 5:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:53 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until...

The President. Before we adjourn, shall we first suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824?

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1824

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1824.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock in the afternoon, Monday, November 19, 2001.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon, Monday, November 19, 2001.

It was 5:54 p.m.