

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1999

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:02 p.m., the Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. John H. Osmeña, called the session to order.

The President Pro Tempore. The 33rd session of the Second Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan.

After the prayer, the Senate Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render another song, entitled *Lupang Sarili*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Honasan.

Once more, Heavenly Father, we humbly stand before You to ask for divine guidance and strength.

We, who by Your grace bear upon our shoulders the duty of choosing the path our nation must take.

We, who in our mortal frailties must raise the beacon of hope to guide a people besieged by seemingly insurmountable challenges in the face of economic crisis, unstable peace, unrest and conflict.

Today, Father, and in all the days that we bear this responsibility, make us instruments of Your will.

Make us leaders of virtue, slow to anger, clear in vision and fair in judgment.

Make us men and women of wisdom, peace, and love.

So that through us, amidst the chaos and uncertainties, our people may still believe in the triumph of the human spirit and in the truth that peace, prosperity, and joy are every person's birthright.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

ROLL CALL

The President Pro Tempore. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. <i>Compañero</i> Cayetano ..	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier	*
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	*
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
The President	Absent**

The President Pro Tempore. With 19 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of session Nos. 31 and 32 covering the sessions on October 5 and 6 and consider it approved.

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

* On official mission

** On account of illness

on the test results, it should also exert every effort to ensure fairness and the level application of the law. We have every expectation, Mr. President, that that will be done.

With those, Mr. President, I vote yes.

The Secretary. Senators

Santiago Yes
 Sotto III Yes
 Tatad Yes
 The President

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1271 ON THIRD READING

The President Pro Tempore. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1271 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
 S. No. 1621--Amending Section 5 of the Energy Act of 1992

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1621. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on October 5, 1999.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1621 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1621, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7638 ENTITLED "THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACT OF 1992" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The President Pro Tempore. 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
 Guingona Yes

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1621 ON THIRD READING

The President Pro Tempore. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1621 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
 S. No. 468--Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 468. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on October 18, 1999.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 468 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 468, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FACILITATION SERVICE NETWORK THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, KEY CITY AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

The President Pro Tempore. 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
 Guingona Yes
 Honasan Yes
 Jaworski.....
 Leviste Yes
 Magsaysay Yes
 Osmeña (J.) Yes
 Osmeña III Yes
 Pimentel III Yes
 Revilla Yes
 Roco Yes
 Defensor Santiago Yes
 Sotto III Yes
 Tatad Yes
 The President

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, on a point of personal privilege, I move that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile be recognized.

The President Pro Tempore. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Minority Leader, Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr., is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Before recognizing the distinguished gentleman, may I just make a parliamentary inquiry.

The President Pro Tempore. The Minority Leader may proceed.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 468 ON THIRD READING

The President Pro Tempore. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 468 is approved on Third Reading.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR GUINGONA
 (Difference Between a Question of Privilege and a Privilege Speech)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF
 ASEAN ORTHOPEDIC TRAVELLING FELLOWS

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, before we proceed to other matters, may I first acknowledge, for the record, the presence in the Hall of the Asean Orthopedic Travelling Fellows consisting of the following: Dr. Pasicorn Chaivanichsiri from Thailand, Dr. John Chen from Singapore, Mr. Dwikora Utomo from Indonesia, Dr. Selva Kumar from Malaysia and Dr. Aquilino Pimentel IV from the Philippines.

Senator Guingona. May we know the difference between a parliamentary question of privilege and a privilege speech.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there a motion to suspend the session?

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Leader may respond.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. I so move for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, under our Rules, a question of personal privilege would pertain to any question affecting the individual or collective privilege of a senator or of the Chamber, while a privilege speech is availed of during the privilege hour on any subject of public interest.

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

Senator Guingona. Yes, Mr. President. I would like to thank the distinguished Majority Leader for that answer. This is not in any way to block or preempt. It is just for clarification. If I understand correctly, the distinguished gentleman's privilege speech is based on a pending Senate investigation.

It was 4:21 p.m.

Senator Drilon. We are not aware of that, Mr. President. As a matter of procedure, Senator Enrile may wish to state, for the record, the point of personal privilege.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

Senator Enrile. Actually, I was going to start that but I was interrupted. I would like to thank the Chair for that permission.