

## RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

*At 3:26 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan called the session to order.*

**The President.** The 18th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the 11th Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.

*Everybody rose for the prayer.*

### PRAYER

**Senator Pimentel.**

Lord, as we, Your senators, pray to You, this afternoon, we echo what the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr has once said:

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime, therefore, we must be saved by hope.

Nothing that is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in the immediate context of history, therefore, we must be saved by faith.

Nothing we do, however, virtuous, can be accomplished alone, therefore, we must be saved by love.

Indeed, Lord, we ask that You strengthen our hope in ourselves so that we may overcome any adversity that comes our way; that You fortify our faith in You so that You will always be there to hold our hand as we cut our way through the thickets of materialism that seems to suffocate the values that we hold dear; and that You animate our love for one another, for our people and for our country so that whatever we do as legislators or as plain citizens, we do for Your greater glory and the welfare of our people.

Finally, Lord, we pray that You enlighten our President, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, whom You have called by name even before he was conceived in his mother's womb to be the leader of this country at this crucial moment of our history, so that he may be rid of any and all vices, real or imaginary, to enable him to fulfill his

campaign promise that his presidency will be for the *mahirap* of the land, not for those who are greedily trying to make hay while the Erap sun shines in Malacañang.

All this, we ask in the name of Jesus, Your son and our Lord.

Amen.

**The President.** Thank you, Senator Pimentel.

### ROLL CALL

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 .....	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. ....	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan .....	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski .....	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 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 .....	Absent
The President .....	Present

**The President.** With 20 senators being present, the Chair declares the presence of 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 the previous session and consider it approved.

\*Arrived after the roll call

\*\*On official mission

we not just develop a bigger sense of responsibility and concern for themselves and for their neighbor? Should that not be the solution instead of forcing people, kahit ayaw nila? Kung, psychologically gusto noong mga tsuper na may nakikitang silver na kabayo sa harap ng sasakyan para maging mahusay ang pagmamaheno nila, kunsuwelo na nila iyon. That is their choice. So we should leave them because that is the essence of responsible citizenship.

But this law or the bill presupposes the reverse; presupposes people who are irresponsible, and that we know what is better for them.

**Senator Sotto.** No, Mr. President. It is not that we know what is better for them. But there are many aspects to this like, for example, iyon pong mga kabataan. We are responsible for ourselves. Kung ayaw nating mag-seat belt, it is our liberty to do so. Ngunit paano na iyong batang nasa tabi ninyo na dahil sa tigang ng ulo ay ayaw magsuot ng seat belt? Okay na rin sa kaniya kung mabunggo o maumpog ako sa kaniya, o mamatay kami.

Also, if we look at it that way, we should probably review also the laws in all the other countries in the world. Bakit ang Pilipinas lamang ang hindi dapat magkaroon ng ganitong batas? Kailangan nang isabatas ito. Sapagkat sa ibang bayan, 70 percent of the people use the seat belt. Nagsi-seat belt ang mga tao para hindi sila mamultahan. It is for their own good.

Hindi naman sa nagmamagaling tayo o nagmamarunung-marunungan kung kaya tinuturuan natin sila ng ganito. Hindi naman ganoon. Ngunit ito ang kinakailangan sa panahong ito.

**Senator Roco.** Ginoong Pangulo, nang hindi ako makuha sa tingin ng Majority Leader, ang ginawa nito ay tumindig at pinuntahan ako. Kaya ako po ay hihinto na.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just raised the questions out of a sense of participation.

**Senator Sotto.** Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to thank Senator Roco. I was almost tempted to use the Neptali Gonzales defense, but I restrained myself.

**The President.** The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, as we earlier manifested, Senator Santiago also reserved her right to interpellate. However, she is not in the hall right now.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1137

Without prejudice to the privilege of Senator Santiago to

reopen the period of interpellations, I move to close the period of interpellations on Senate Bill No. 1137, as reported out under Committee Report No. 3.

**The President.** There is a motion to close the period of interpellations on Senate Bill No. 1137, as reported out under Committee Report No. 3, without prejudice to reopening the same upon the request of Senator Santiago.

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

#### BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 1136 - Amending RA No. 7916 or the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 *(Continuation)*

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136, as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

**The President.** Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136 is now in order.

**Senator Drilon.** We are now in the period of individual amendments. I ask that Senator Osmeña III be recognized.

Mr. President, before we adjourned yesterday, it was Senator Roco who was on the floor proposing his individual amendments. May I also ask that Senator Roco be recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

**The President.** If there is no objection, the Chair would like to declare a one-minute recess. *[There was none.]*

*It was 5:47 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:49 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President.** The session is resumed. Senator Roco and Senator Osmeña III are recognized.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, this has been discussed with the distinguished sponsor. As I understood from the Majority Leader and the distinguished sponsor, we will avoid amending the definitions. Is this correct?

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

We shall leave Section 4 under RA No. 7916 as it is. There may be steps made by other senators to reamend it, in other words, to remove the amendments that have already been included in the committee amendments.

#### ROCO AMENDMENT

**Senator Roco.** So that Section 1 will be deleted in the bill. There is no more need for Section 1.

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

**Senator Roco.** May we then formally move just to implement the agreement that it be deleted, Mr. President?

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Roco.** Now I understand, Mr. President, on the composition of the board, the committee has an amendment or maybe Senator Flavier will have the amendment. I am not sure.

**Senator Flavier.** I am on page 1, Mr. President, line 11.

**Senator Roco.** Wala na.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 5:51 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:51 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President.** The session is resumed.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, just for expediency only because people have appointments. I understand, as agreed upon with the committee, the Majority Leader and the other members, the board shall now be composed of a chairman who is the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry; the vice chairman is the director general; and then the secretaries or their permanent representative as mentioned in the bill. That is the composition of the board, subject to style, and that is how it will go, so that we avoid the problem of the secretaries' multiple office.

**The President.** What is the pleasure of the sponsor?

**Senator Osmeña III.** Would the proponent kindly restate his amendment or his question?

**Senator Roco.** I have no words, but the concept was there will be a 13-man board, but I would have preferred to have it smaller because it is not lucky. Anyway, just to facilitate the discussion, the concept being the Secretary of Trade and Industry as chairman; the director general is the vice chairman; the other secretaries or their permanently designated representatives who shall be of the rank, at least, of an undersecretary, as members. They shall compose the board of 13 or 11 members or whatever.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Did I understand the distinguished senator from Bicol say the undersecretaries, instead of the secretaries?

**Senator Roco.** The secretaries or their permanently designated representatives who shall have the rank of, at least, an undersecretary.

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

**Senator Roco.** That is styling, Mr. President, because it is relatively *de cajon* under Administrative Law, we can leave it.

**The President.** What is the pleasure of the sponsor?

**Senator Osmeña III.** The way it reads as amended, Mr. President, is that in the event that a secretary of a department cannot attend any board meeting, he shall designate a permanent representative to attend in his stead; provided that the representative designated shall, in no case, be holding a position lower than undersecretary. That is the way it has been written.

**Senator Roco.** Maybe, we can clarify this, Mr. President; I am not sure I understood it. I thought, to avoid the problem of the prohibition on multiple offices, should the secretary decide to attend, then he must attend. But should he decide to designate a representative, then that representative must attend all the time. Because it is the continuity that creates efficiency.

**Senator Osmeña III.** That is why we have the word "permanent," Mr. President.

**Senator Roco.** Yes, Mr. President. Then the words will have to be modified a bit. Because here, the secretary has the option to attend when able and then the permanent representative attends. That lack of continuity—from what I have seen in meetings with Cabinet members—just gives us inefficiency because they do not participate in the collegial discussion all the time. So the concept—maybe we can have a recess—I understood

from the Majority Leader, was that the Secretary may choose to attend. But the moment he chooses not to attend, whoever he designates must continue attending all the time. So he becomes the permanent member of the board.

That is different, in effect, because then he is participating all the time in the meetings. That is why the wordings may have to be modified a little.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, may we ask for a one-minute suspension of the session?

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

*It was 5:55 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:02 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President.** The session is resumed. Please proceed.

**Senator Roco.** I am on page 2.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, Senator Legarda-Leviste has an anterior amendment.

**The President.** Senator Legarda-Leviste is recognized.

LEGARDA-LEVISTE AMENDMENTS

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Mr. President, I have an anterior amendment on page 2, line 7. Delete the word "with".

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Between the words "degree" and "in", please insert a dash (-) and the word HOLDER.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Between the words "in" and "economics", insert the phrase ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS and a colon (:).

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** The lines then will read as follows: "and integrity, and a degree-HOLDER in ANY OF

THE FOLLOWING FIELDS: economics, business, public administration, law, management or THEIR equivalent."

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, the proponent did not amend the word "its". Delete the word "its" and change it with the word THEIR and add S to "equivalent". Would the lady senator like to do that?

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** "...or THEIR equivalent". I have some misgivings, Mr. President, about the word "equivalent(S)". Unless the gentleman would enlighten me on this matter, I decided to leave it as "THEIR equivalent" thinking that "equivalent" could be a collective word.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** On the same page, line 16, delete the word "with"....

**Senator Drilon.** May we have a ruling first, Mr. President?

**The President.** All right. The amendments have been accepted. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendments are approved.

Please proceed.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** On the same page, Mr. President, line 16, the same corrections earlier stated. Delete the word "with" and replace it with the words HOLDERS OF. Between the words "in" and "economics", insert the phrase ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS and a colon (:), and on the same page, line 17....

**Senator Osmeña III.** Excuse me, Mr. President. I believe that the lady senator misspoke. I believe she meant delete the word "with" and then after "degree", insert dash (-) "HOLDER." Am I correct?

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** The gentleman is correct, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña III.** The amendment is acceptable.

**The President.** A "degree-HOLDER".

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Yes, Mr. President. Line 16 will read: "degree-HOLDER".

**Senator Osmeña III.** "...and a degree-HOLDER".

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** The gentleman is correct, Mr. President.

And still on the same page, may I proceed?

**The President.** Yes.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** In line 18, insert the word...

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, I believe she may want an earlier amendment in line 16. After the word "in", he may want to insert a phrase.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS: I am sorry, I thought I mentioned it already, Mr. President. Insert the phrase ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS.

**Senator Osmeña III.** And a colon (:), between the words "in" and "economics". It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** On the same page, line 17, delete the word "its" and replace it with the word THEIR.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Still on the same page, line 18, insert the word APPROPRIATE between the words "have" and "career".

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, she may have an anterior amendment. In line 17, she may want to add the letter "S" to the word "equivalent".

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Mr. President, earlier, I decided to leave it as "equivalent", believing that it could serve the same purpose.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Subject to style, it is accepted, Mr. President.

**The President.** So it is left as it is.

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** Yes, Mr. President.

In line 18, insert the word APPROPRIATE between the words "have" and "career", to read: "They must have APPROPRIATE career executive service eligibility."

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** May I also propose an omnibus amendment, Mr. President, that the word "ecozone" shall be capitalized.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

**The President.** Is there any objection?

**Senator Pimentel.** Objection, Mr. President.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, there is an objection.

**The President.** Senator Pimentel is recognized.

#### LEVISTE-PIMENTEL AMENDMENT

**Senator Pimentel.** Just to the amendment to capitalize the word "ecozone". The way it looks when we read the bill, it is as if we are to shout, ECOZONE!, when we see the word capitalized. I do not see any reason that should be capitalized, in all honesty. Probably, we should lower the case to make it a little more symmetrical with the rest of the sentence.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, unfortunately, the original bill, RA No. 7916, capitalized the word "ecozone".

**Senator Pimentel.** In which case, I propose an anterior amendment. That any reference to "ecozone" should now be lowered—the case should be lowered.

**Senator Osmeña III.** May we compromise and just capitalize the first letter so that those who subsequently read the bill may recognize the term "ecozone"?

**The President.** Is the counter-proposal accepted?

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** I will not debate on that matter, Mr. President. I withdraw my amendment. I accept the suggestion of the senator from Mindanao.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Actually, the senator cannot withdraw her amendment because I believe that the nature of the senator from Mindanao's amendment is an amendment to her amendment. So, if she accepts it...

**Senator Legarda-Leviste.** I accept, Mr. President.

**The President.** The amendment is hereby accepted and approved.

**Senator Flavier.** Mr. President.

**The President.** Senator Flavier is recognized.

FLAVIER AMENDMENT

**Senator Flavier.** Mr. President, on page 2, lines 24 and 25, the last word of line 24 is "AND" and the first two words of line 25 is "MANAGING HEAD". May I move that the words "AND MANAGING HEAD" be deleted.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

ROCO AMENDMENTS

**Senator Roco.** In the same line 25, Mr. President.

**The President.** Senator Roco is recognized.

**Senator Roco.** Insert the word UNDER, so it becomes "the UNDERSECRETARIES."

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Roco.** In line 28, beginning with the article "THE" in the end, delete the phrase "THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". Delete those two departments, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President.

**The President.** The Minority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Guingona.** Include the Department of Transportation and Telecommunications.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, that inclusion was originally proposed in the original draft of the bill. However, the PEZA director general and other resource persons who testified during the hearings said that the transportation and communications department would have been important only in 1993 or 1994.

But now with the successful completion or partial completion of the rollout plan of the telecommunications industries—the DOTC is no longer needed.

Besides that would make this an even number board—12.

**Senator Guingona.** No, but we are deleting two.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It was 13, we deleted two, so it is now 11. If we add one more, it becomes 12.

**Senator Guingona.** Let us add one more. We feel, Mr. President, that the communications, although we respect the reasons, are still very vital to business.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, the reasons for including many *ex officio* Cabinet undersecretaries in the board was for coordinative purposes and the developers of the ecozones themselves, the 101 privately-owned ecozones or export processing zones and industrial estates, have said they have had no problem whatsoever getting connections—telephone lines and other telecommunications installations.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

**Senator Roco.** May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. President.

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

*It was 6:11 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:15 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President.** The session is resumed.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, on page 2, line 31, the term DEPUTY be inserted to qualify the Director General. So that it reads, "the DEPUTY Director General of the NEDA."

**The President.** What is the pleasure of the sponsor?

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Roco.** On page 3, lines 9 to 14 have become unnecessary. I move that lines 9 to 14 be deleted.

**Senator Osmeña III.** It is accepted, Mr. President.

**The President.** Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, lines 9 to 14 on page 3 are deleted.

**Senator Roco.** As a consequence of not touching the definition, I guess Section 3 will have to be deleted since we are no longer making distinctions.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, there is a different reason for this. I will try to explain.

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President.

**The President.** The Minority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Guingona.** I am sorry I was not aware of the deletion of the *ipso facto* clause. We would like to know whether the consequences of deleting, and as I heard now, there is no more distinction between public-owned and private ecozones. Would that be correct? I would like to be enlightened by the distinguished sponsor.

**Senator Osmeña III.** Mr. President, we are now on page 3. The *ipso facto* clause....

**Senator Guingona.** No, no, because we are on page 3, but Senator Roco said, if I heard him right, he would like to have this Section 15 deleted.

**Senator Osmeña III.** The administration of each ecozone, et cetera?

**Senator Guingona.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña III.** I do not think Senator Roco is deleting Section 15. I think he is deleting Section 3 which is a proposal to amend Section 15.

**Senator Guingona.** May we hear the proposal then, Mr. President.

**The President.** Yes, he has not commented yet.

**Senator Osmeña III.** This representation has not accepted the proposal of the gentleman from Bicol.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, all we were pointing out was that there will be no more changes in the definition. They are existing laws. When we lost Section 1, there is no more change in the definition.

**Senator Osmeña III.** This does not change the definition in Section 1. As of today, there is a conflict within Republic Act No. 7916 itself because Section 45 of Republic Act No. 7916 provides as follows: "*Relationship of PEZA to Privately-Owned Industrial Estates* - Privately-owned industrial estates shall retain their autonomy and independence and shall be monitored by the PEZA for the implementation of incentives."

However, in the management of each ecozone, the PEZA appoints the manager. There is an Executive Committee composed of three members and the PEZA dominates the Executive Committee. All what the private developers are asking for is that insofar as the administration, selling, marketing, maintenance of their individual estates are concerned, these functions should be left to private management, and that the PEZA continue to control the ingress and egress from the export processing zone, continue to control the tax incentives granted thereto, and continue to have police powers by keeping their blue guards posted at the export processing zone.

This representation found merit in that argument. And as such, he will be unable to accept the amendment to delete Section 3 of the bill, Mr. President.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President.

**The President.** The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, may we move to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136 under Committee Report No. 2.

**The President.** The Chair does not know what is the final reaction of the proponent of the amendment.

**Senator Drilon.** The proponent of the amendment has left the hall for another appointment. So there was a pending motion to amend which was opposed by the sponsor and therefore, we could not proceed.

We therefore move to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136.

*At this juncture, Senator Aquino-Oreta approached the Majority Leader.*

There is a special request from Senator Aquino-Oreta that she be allowed to propose an amendment first before we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136. So I withdraw my motion.

May we ask that Senator Aquino-Oreta be recognized, Mr. President.

**The President.** But, in the meantime, we hold in abeyance that proposed amendment of Senator Roco.

**Senator Drilon.** The proposed amendment of Senator Roco is held in abeyance.

**The President.** All right. The proposed amendment of Senator Roco will be held in abeyance.

Senator Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

AQUINO-ORETA AMENDMENT

**Senator Aquino-Oreta.** Mr. President, an omnibus amendment to the whole bill. Replace the word "his" with the words HIS/HER and also the word "he" with the words HE/SHE, if only to give cognizance of the fact that this Senate is keen on gender sensitivity.

**Senator Osmeña III.** I have no objection, Mr. President, if that shall be the legal style of all bills from now on. I accept. The lady senator might want to include the word "it". [Laughter]

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF S. NO. 1136

**Senator Drilon.** With that, Mr. President, may I reiterate my motion to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1136 under Committee Report No. 2.

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

**Senator Drilon.** Senator Sergio Osmeña III has a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President.

**The President.** Senator Osmeña III is recognized for his parliamentary inquiry.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF  
SENATOR OSMEÑA III  
(On the Listing of Authors of Similar Bills  
in Consolidated Bills)

**Senator Osmeña III.** Thank you, Mr. President. My inquiry deals with the listing of the authors of similar bills when those bills are consolidated into one substitute bill. In what order does the Secretary of the Senate list the authors of the several bills that might relate to the same subject?

Let me explain, Mr. President. There were two bills that were filed with regard to the seat belt law. The first bill was filed by Senator Flavier and the second bill was filed by this representation. However, in the committee report, in their substitute bill, the names of two other senators who were included at a later date as coauthors of Senator Flavier's bill appeared ahead of this representation's name in the list of authors.

I was wondering, Mr. President. Is there a way whereby the Senate could define the order in which names would appear as authors with regard to giving special attention to those senators who took the trouble and time to actually file a bill rather than stand up on the floor and simply request to be named coauthors.

**The President.** That query can be answered under Section 59, Rule XXI of the *Rules of the Senate*. This Rule is entitled *Requisites of Bills*, and Section 59 is entitled, *Consolidated and Substitute Bills*. It reads:

A consolidated or substitute bill made by a committee shall have as authors every member who has signed any of the original bills or resolutions consolidated or substituted for, in the order their names appear in the latter and according to the date of the filing thereof. In case the Chairman or any member of the committee desires to be an author of the consolidated or substitute bill, his name shall be added after the name of the last author listed in accordance with the order provided herein.

**Senator Osmeña III.** I have no question with that, Mr. President. As a matter of fact, we will notice that perhaps the dispositive portion in that particular Rule would be the date.

**The President.** According to the date of filing.

**Senator Osmeña III.** The date that Senator Flavier filed his bill was ahead of the date I filed my bill. But the date on which the coauthors of Senator Flavier were added to his bill came after the date on which I filed my bill.

**The President.** The Majority Leader would like to comment on the matter.

**Senator Drilon.** Yes, Mr. President. Senator Osmeña III is correct, because Section 59 refers to every member who has signed any of the original bills, therefore, those who have signed will appear in the order that the consolidated bill is filed. So that if a senator just manifested coauthorship on the floor, he is not one of those who signed. Therefore, his name