

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:18 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order

The President. The 62nd session of the First Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Sergio R. Osmeña III.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Osmeña III.

Heavenly Father, we humbly ask You to look with favor upon us Your children as we face another day full of challenges.

Help us to realize the value of the tasks we do, and grant us the light to align our goals with Your will.

Teach us the ways of peacemaking and give us the resolve to make our country a haven of peace and prosperity.

Help us keep our minds focused on the goal of serving our fellowmen. Direct our paths in serving especially the lost, the least and the last.

And above all, give us the courage to face the future, knowing that You will never leave our sides, and that the decisions we make in this Chamber will be inspired by Your wisdom, Your love and Your mercy.

Amen.

The President. The Chair would like to thank Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

ROLL CALL

The President. 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. Compañero 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 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 Present

The President. 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 the previous session and consider it approved.

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

Senator Drilon. 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

BILL ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1459, entitled

* Arrived after the roll call

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1404

Senator Drilon. I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1404 under Committee Report No. 15.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1255—Philippine Clean Air Act of 1998
(Continuation)

Senator Drilon. I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1255 as reported out under Committee Report No. 8.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1255 is now in order.

Senator Drilon. May I ask the Chair to recognize Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the principal sponsor, and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel for the period of individual amendments.

The President. Senator Honasan is recognized for sponsorship. Senator Pimentel is likewise recognized for interpellation.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONASAN
(Amended Copy of the Bill as of February 9, 1999
as Basis of Discussion)

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, before we proceed with Senator Pimentel's proposed amendments, the sponsor would like to manifest on the floor that we will use as reference the amended copy of the bill as of February 9, 1999.

The President. The basis of our discussion is the amended copy of the bill as of February 9, 1999.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, will the distinguished sponsor kindly yield for a few questions or suggestions for amendments?

The President. The gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

Senator Honasan. Willingly, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. I would like to start by saying that I got lost in the reading of the various versions that are supposed

to be used as basis of our discussion. In any event, I would like to seek the guidance of the distinguished sponsor by informing him that I would like to present an amendment on the matter of the preparation of the integrated air quality framework plan. I am not too sure where that is now.

May I just make this manifestation, subject to the gentleman's better judgment where to place it, that in the preparation of the integrated air quality improvement action plan, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall do so in consultation with the leagues of provinces, cities, municipalities, nongovernment organizations, the private sector and other appropriate government agencies and offices, et cetera.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENTS

The proposal then, Mr. President, is for the department to act in consultation with the leagues of provinces, cities, municipalities, NGOs, et cetera, in the preparation of an integrated air quality framework plan.

Has the gentleman found the section, Mr. President?

Senator Honasan. Yes, Mr. President. Referring to the amended copy as of February 9, it is located as part of Section 7.

We accept the wisdom of such a suggestion from Senator Pimentel. The committee intends to incorporate it on page 10 and page 11, in the last paragraph, which I shall read so that we may be guided accordingly, subject to style.

On page 10, lines 30 and 31, up to page 11, lines 1 to 3, I shall read the complete paragraph for our guidance. "The plan shall be formulated within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act with the participation of nongovernment organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), the academe and other concerned entities from the private sector."

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, may we include in that enumeration the participation of the local government units?

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, we shall, subject to style, be guided accordingly.

Senator Pimentel. Thank you, Mr. President. May we also kindly make this proposal that in the action plan thus adopted, companies that install pollution control devices or retrofit their existing facilities with technologies that reduce pollution shall be entitled to tax incentives, such as tax credits or accelerated depreciation deductions and the like.

Subject to style, at the proper section which this might prove to be useful.

Senator Honasan. Yes, Mr. President. This is in Section 9, Air Quality Control Action Plan. We accept the amendment, subject to style, and shall incorporate it accordingly.

The President. Before we act on Section 9, the second one, earlier there was the inclusion of "local governments."

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President. That was accepted by the sponsor.

The President. May the Chair know from the membership if there is any objection to the inclusion of the words "local government" in the enumeration, subject to style? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

With respect to the second one, it is the amendment which will be inserted as part of Section 9. It was already accepted by the author.

Senator Honasan. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Pimentel. I think that will be all, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you, Senator Pimentel. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1255

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we suspend

consideration of Senate Bill No. 1255 under Committee Report No. 8.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. 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 6:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, February 15, 1999, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The President. There is a motion to adjourn the session until February 15, Monday, at three o'clock in the afternoon. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

It was 6:05 p.m.