

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1999

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:22 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order.

The President. The 56th session of the Senate in 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. Gregorio B. Honasan.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Honasan. This is a prayer for peace.

Almighty God, Father to all, source of the light in our hearts and minds.

We again implore You to create in us an awareness of the real and fundamental issues that threaten our nation.

Please grant us a sense of urgency to mobilize the forces of decency and goodness, of justice, of love and peace in the land.

Where there is armed conflict, allow us to stretch out our arms in brotherhood and reconciliation without compromising our national honor and patrimony.

Where there is abundance, let there be simplicity and sharing.

Where there is poverty, let there be some measure of dignity and constant struggle for social equity.

Where there is selfish ambition, let there be quiet and humble service.

Where there is injustice, let there be atonement, restoration and mercy.

Where there is despair, let there be hope in good news.

Where there are wounds of division, let there be unity and solidarity.

Commit all of us, O Lord, to the building of Your kingdom on earth.

Not seeking to be cared for but to care just enough.

Not expecting to be served but to place ourselves last and in the service of others.

Not aspiring to be materially secure but to place our security entirely in Your hands.

Allow us to imbibe in the spirit of Your teachings and living example.

For it is only in emulating You, O Lord, that we discover the healing springs of life that will bring about a new birth to our country and hope for our people.

Amen.

The President. Thank you, Senator Honasan.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

- Senator Teresa S. 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 R. Osmeña Present*
- Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present*
- Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr **
- 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

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

**MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON
(Nomination of Senator Flavier as Chairman
of the Committee on Health and Demography)**

Senator Drilon. For the Committee on Health and Demography, may I nominate Sen. Juan M. Flavier as chairman.

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

**MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON
(Nomination of Sen. Legarda-Leviste as Chairman and
Sen. Honasan as Vice Chairman of the Committee
on Environment and Natural Resources)**

Senator Drilon. For the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, may I nominate as chairperson Sen. Loren B. Legarda-Leviste and as vice chairman, Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan.

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

**MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON
(Nomination of Senator Barbers as Chairman
of the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs)**

Senator Drilon. For the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, may I nominate as chairman, Sen. Robert Z. Barbers.

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, that completes the proposed committee chairmanships.

The President. Congratulations, to all the nominees and the newly appointed chairmen and vice chairmen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. 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 4:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

**MANIFESTATIONS OF SENATOR DRILON
(Designation of Vice Chairmen of Different Committees)**

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, we would like to manifest that for the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, the chairman, Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano has nominated as vice chairmen of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Robert Z. Barbers.

For the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs, Sen. Robert Z. Barbers has informed the Office of the Majority Leader that the vice chairmen would be Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano and Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III.

For the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, Sen. Ramon B. Revilla has manifested that Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste would be the vice chairperson.

The President. Has that completed all the vice-chairmanships to be announced? Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the manifestation is approved.

Senator Drilon. One more manifestation, Mr. President. For the Committee on Health and Demography, the vice chairpersons are Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Sen. Robert S. Jaworski.

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

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, 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. Mr. President, we are still in the period of individual amendments. May I ask the Chair to recognize Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan, the principal sponsor.

The President. Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan is recognized.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, referring to the same procedure that we were allowed to adopt yesterday, the committee would like to manifest the individual amendments, with the proper attribution to the concerned senator.

The President. Please proceed.

OSMEÑA III AMENDMENTS

Senator Honasan. These are the individual amendments from the honorable Sen. Sergio Osmeña III:

On page 26, Section 31, line 28, we delete the words and figures "twenty-five percent (25%)" and "one percent (1%)", and replace the same with FORTY-FIVE PERCENT (45%) and FOUR PERCENT (4%), respectively, and the paragraph shall then read as follows:

"a) no later than eighteen (18) months after the effectivity of this Act, no person shall manufacture, sell, supply, offer for sale, dispense, transport or introduce into commerce unleaded gasoline fuel with a regular anti-knock index (AKI) of 87.5%; By the year 2003, unleaded gasoline fuel should contain aromatics not to exceed FORTY-FIVE (45%) AND BENZENE NOT TO EXCEED FOUR PERCENT (4%)."

The amendments are accepted, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection?

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Guingona. It is not an objection, Mr. President. May I just seek clarification for the rationale of the amendment.

We understand that one of the rationales is the high cost of the investment to change gasoline containing 25% aromatics and 1% benzene specification. But as far as damage or harm to the environment is concerned, could we be enlightened by the proponent?

Senator Honasan. The rational offer aside from the other reasons mentioned which the committee accepts is that the current specifications of the DENR should be retained in the proposed bill until an assessment precisely on the meteorological and other relevant characteristics of the major Philippine cities shall have been conducted. This will be a function of the Presidential Air Quality Commission, a mechanism that is in place waiting to be activated.

Senator Guingona. I would like to thank the gentleman for that answer. When will this study, more or less, be made?

Senator Honasan. It is our thinking that within the year, an air quality assessment report will be submitted and consequently, the specifications will be further refined.

Senator Guingona. The duty for crude oil has been reduced or lowered to, I think, 3%; I do not exactly know to what percentage. But will this not compensate for building the refineries for gasoline containing 25% aromatics and 1% benzene?

Senator Honasan. It is estimated by the oil companies themselves that as high as P2.90 per liter might be passed on to the consumers if certain specifications are radically changed even within a given time frame. Considering the risk, the committee does not see any offsetting factor that will allow us to take this risk as well.

Senator Guingona. Even with a lower tariff?

Senator Honasan. That is correct, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Are there studies to this effect?

Senator Honasan. These are precisely what we are trying to consolidate in the absence of a confluence of both the technical and economic data. We would rather be conservative about these specifications.

Senator Guingona. When does the distinguished sponsor envision any basis for change?

Senator Honasan. I have already informed that within the year, we expect a comprehensive report.

Senator Guingona. Within the year. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you, Minority Leader.

Before we proceed, is there any objection to the amendment proposed earlier? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is hereby approved.

Please proceed, Senator Honasan.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 27, Section 31, subparagraph (b), line 3, after the number "47", we change the word "and" to OR. In line 4, change the number "55" to 47.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. So it will then read as follows...

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Again, Mr. President, with due permission from the sponsor, this is not to object. It is just to enlighten our minds because these are very technical terms.

What is the rationale for this? Is the economic aspect also the main consideration for this in order to save the users of the substantial amount? What is this cetane index at 47 minimum, if the distinguished sponsor can please enlighten us?

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. The rationale for these technical specifications is presented as the fact that the cetane number and cetane index both measure the ignition quality of the diesel fuel.

I realize that this may be beyond the competence even of the committee itself to evaluate. So the explanation is that it is like octane in gasoline. With these technical aspects, plus the other reasons, this is the proposal which, from the viewpoint of the committee, is acceptable.

Senator Guingona. Will there also be tests and studies for this within one year?

Senator Honasan. That is correct, Mr. President, as the Air Quality Commission, the only existing mechanism refines these specifications based on an evaluation.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I would like to thank the Minority Leader.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. I so move for the approval of the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Let us move on.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. Still on the same page 27, Section 31, subparagraph (b), line 5, change the figure "2003" to 2005.

As I am allowed to present the rationale, a further reduction in the sulfur content of automotive diesel fuel from 0.20% to 0.05% should only take effect by January 1, 2005.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Please proceed.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. We shall now go to the proposed individual amendments of the honorable Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

AQUINO-ORETA-TATAD AMENDMENTS

On page 21, line 27, Section 24, the entire paragraph is proposed to read as follows:

Existing industries WHO ARE PROVEN TO EXCEED EMISSION RATES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AFTER A THOROUGH, CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT MEASUREMENT PROCESS SHALL BE ALLOWED A GRACE PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS for the establishment of an environmental management system and the installation of an air pollution control device acceptable to both the Department and the owner concerned, *PROVIDED*, THAT AN EXTENSION OF NOT MORE THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS MAY BE ALLOWED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON MERITORIOUS GROUNDS.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. This particular amendment on page 21, Section 24, line 27, where the first part has been amended and the grace period has been changed from one year to 18 months...

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Tatad is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may we ask the sponsor to kindly read it again.

The President. May the sponsor please read the amendment again.

Senator Honasan. Existing industries WHO ARE PROVEN...

Senator Tatad. WHICH.

Senator Honasan. ...WHICH ARE PROVEN TO EXCEED

EMISSION RATES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AFTER A THOROUGH, CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT MEASUREMENT PROCESS SHALL BE ALLOWED A GRACE PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS for the establishment of an environmental management system and the installation of an air pollution control device acceptable to both the Department and the owner concerned, *PROVIDED*, THAT AN EXTENSION OF NOT MORE THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS MAY BE ALLOWED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON MERITORIOUS GROUNDS.

With the correction of the distinguished gentleman from Bicol, we accept the amendment, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, if we are talking of industries, perhaps we should also talk of owners. I heard the singular.

Senator Honasan. We accept, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. I will now read the proposed amendments of the honorable Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

ENRILE AMENDMENTS

On page 22, Section 25, line 1, the amendment is that: OPEN BURNING AND DUMPING SHOULD BE DECLARED AN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY ANY PERSON AND INSTITUTION.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection to the amendment, as accepted by the author?

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, just an editorial amendment.

The President. Senator Tatad is recognized.

Senator Tatad. OPEN BURNING AND DUMPING, we move from the singular to the plural, so we must say, THEY ARE HEREBY DECLARED ILLEGAL rather than IS.

The President. Is it accepted by the sponsor?

Senator Honasan. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. As amended by Senator Tatad, is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Honasan. On page 36, Mr. President, Section 49, line 9, after the last sentence, it is proposed that we include a new sentence to read as follows:

THE DRAFT OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE PUBLISHED AND BE THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WITH AFFECTED SECTORS. THERE SHALL BE A MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF, AND STANDARDS SET PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, WHERE PROPOSALS FROM AFFECTED SECTORS SHALL BE REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. As read by the sponsor, is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, if I may proceed.

The President. Please proceed.

MAGSAYSAY AMENDMENTS

Senator Honasan. I will now read the individual amendments proposed by the honorable Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

On page 23, line 24, we delete the words "Trade and Industry", and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

So that, Mr. President, the accreditation of private emission-testing centers will be under the DENR instead of the Department of Trade and Industry.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

Still from Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. On page 24, after Section 27, we insert a new section to read as follows: THERE SHALL BE A BAN ON THE IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SECOND-HAND ENGINES FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President, and subsequently, if this is approved, we shall renumber accordingly the sections downwards.

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

Please proceed.

Senator Honasan. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I shall now read the proposed amendments of the honorable Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

CAYETANO AMENDMENTS

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, the amendment is on page 19, line 4.

Beginning in line 4, we delete the whole paragraph and rephrase it to read as follows:

UPON APPLICATION AND THE ISSUANCE OF A SEARCH WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE UPON HIS DETERMINATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF PROBABLE CAUSE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS ACT HAS BEEN COMMITTED OR IS BEING COMMITTED, THE DEPARTMENT, THROUGH ITS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES, SHALL HAVE A RIGHT OF ENTRY OR ACCESS TO, ANY PREMISES INCLUDING DOCUMENTS AND RELEVANT MATERIALS OF SUCH PERSON OR ESTABLISHMENT, INSPECT ANY POLLUTION OR WASTE SOURCE, CONTROL DEVICE, MONITORING EQUIPMENT OR METHOD REQUIRED, AND TEST ANY EMISSION WHICH SUCH PERSON IS REQUIRED TO SAMPLE.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. As read by the author, is there any objection to the proposed amendment starting from line 4 up to line 11? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is hereby approved.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 30, line 15, there is a proposed amendment to delete the whole text and replace it with the following text:

SEC. 39. *Citizen's Suits.*— ANY PERSON MAY INITIATE AN APPROPRIATE CIVIL ACTION IN COURT WITH AN APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND/OR PRELIMINARY MANDATORY INJUNCTION, AS THE CASE MAY BE, AGAINST ANY PERSON, WHETHER NATURAL OR JURIDICAL, AND/OR PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHO VIOLATES, FAILS OR NEGLECTS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT OR ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES. SUCH CIVIL ACTION MAY PROCEED INDEPENDENTLY AND SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR CRIMINAL ACTION THAT MAY BE FILED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. That is known as Section 39, Citizen's Suit?

Senator Honasan. That is correct, Mr. President.

The President. This is just the observation of the Chair. We are using the term "any person". If we use the term "citizen", from the title, we are limiting the scope to citizen. On the other hand, it can refer to any person who can initiate the action that has been spelled out.

This is just the observation of the Chair and if the sponsor can suggest something to make it jibe with the idea that anyone can file the suit, whether a citizen or a noncitizen...

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Cayetano is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. With the permission of the sponsor, may I be privileged to reply to the query or observation of the Chair?

Senator Honasan. Yes, please, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. The Chair is correct that it is entitled "Citizen's Suit", but it starts with the words "Any person". The reason, Mr. President, is that the suit is not only limited to citizens only. In fact, it may be brought about by a resident alien.

The President. That is correct.

Senator Cayetano. So this change is to assure that any individual, regardless of nationality, who is affected by the violations of the Act and who resides in the Philippines, may

have an opportunity to go to court. That is the reason for that, Mr. President.

The President. So, the point raised by the Chair is: Would it be proper to use the term "citizen" or we use another word? Because when we say "citizen," we are limiting the scope of the term to just a citizen, rather than include noncitizens and citizens.

Senator Cayetano. In that case, Mr. President, again with the permission of the principal sponsor, accepting the observation, this representation wishes to inform the sponsor that we may probably change the phraseology "citizen's suit" to just plain "court action", or something like that.

The President. In order not to give rise to any confusion.

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, we have no objection. Although from the point of view of the committee, would changing the word "person" to "persons" or "resident"...

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, if the sponsor has a copy, the "person" there speaks of whether it is natural or juridical. The point is I have no objection to the proposal of the sponsor.

The President. So long as it cannot be interpreted as limited to citizens.

Senator Cayetano. As long as it is not limited to the interpretation that only a citizen may bring such a suit. As I said, Mr. President, an individual, a foreigner, an alien who lives here and adversely affected by the violation of any of the provisions of this bill should be able to go to our court, and in fact, he has a right to go to our court.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, with the permission of the two distinguished gentlemen. May an expatriate executive of a corporation who is temporarily assigned to the Philippines and whose family would be affected by any pollutants during the period of assignment here institute a suit under this law?

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, in reply to the good gentleman from Cagayan, that is precisely the point I would like to bring. Regardless of the citizenship, this bill should allow an individual who may be adversely affected by any violation of this bill. After all, the intent of this bill is precisely to ensure a clean air to be breathed by every individual regardless of nationality, as long as that violation is in the Philippines.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, but the other question is: May an artificial person institute an action? I could see the reason or the rationale in the case of an individual because he breathes, he hears or she hears a noise or breathes the air. But a corporation,

a partnership, a trust, an association would not be in the same position as an individual. So if we use the word "person," the term "person" is a very general term and it covers both individual and artificial beings.

Senator Cayetano. In reply to that, Mr. President, may I inquire from the principal sponsor what is his preference, whether only natural persons or to include even juridical persons?

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. The committee views this in this light, that the overriding consideration would be the intent of the court action which is protection of all natural and juridical persons against pollution.

Senator Cayetano. In that event, Mr. President, I agree with the observation of the good gentleman from Cagayan that we should indeed limit it to natural person as the sponsor of the bill himself said.

Senator Enrile. Now, on the question of residence. If we are going to say "resident," if we are going to qualify the natural person to sue with the word "resident" or require him to be a resident, is that legal residence or does it include temporary sojourn in the country?

I already explained. Here is an American, a German, a Taiwanese, a Japanese or a Malaysian coming to the Philippines to serve as an executive of a corporation, or for that matter a member of a foreign embassy in the Philippines assigned here for a term. They are not permanent residents but they are residents during the period that they are assigned here. They are actually sojourning in the Philippines which is quite different from a tourist who is just here for pleasure and would have a choice to stay for a day or a week and leave, and therefore, could protect himself or herself from pollution. But persons assigned here for a period to perform either in a private enterprise or in the government agency of a foreign government, may these people be authorized to sue?

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, it is my hope that the principal sponsor would consider that as an appropriate measure which can be undertaken by an alien residing in the Philippines. As I have said, the very purpose of this bill is for every natural individual for as long as that individual resides in the Philippines regardless of nationality.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Tatad is recognized.

Senator Tatad. With the permission of our other colleagues, may I just go back to the discussion of the word "person." Our distinguished colleague from Cagayan submits that juridical

persons may be exempt from harm caused by pollution. I believe, on the other hand, Mr. President, that there are certain cases when, for instance, a firm manufacturing or producing food products—say, dairy products and other food items—are subjected to pollution within the vicinity. I believe they should be given as much right as a natural person to go to court for appropriate relief.

Senator Enrile. I have no objection to that. But I imagine that since this is a Clean Air Act and if we put a provision about noise, the corporation will not breathe the unclean air and it will not hear the noise. The ones that would have a right, I guess, to institute the action would be the workers, the owners of the business if they live in the area or persons who would be affected by the unclean air and the noise that would be emitted.

I would suggest, Mr. President, that whatever it is, if we are going to use as a qualifying term, the residence of the plaintiff, then we should adopt a terminology that will exclude temporary sojourners like tourists or temporary visitors into the country if we allow foreigners to sue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. The observation of the good gentleman from Cagayan is something that I hope the sponsor of the bill will consider. I certainly have no objection to that observation.

Senator Honasan. I wish to thank the gentleman, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the committee is open to any terminology that will clarify and address this infirmity in the proposed bill. At the same time, we refer to the rationale of the proposed bill to protect those who experience the risk of breathing polluted air without regard to whoever initiates the court action.

Senator Enrile. If I may suggest, Mr. President, for the consideration of the distinguished gentleman from Taguig and the sponsor, a phraseology, that states: ANY INDIVIDUAL PERSON, WHETHER A CITIZEN OR NOT, WHO IS NOT A TEMPORARY SOJOURNER OF THE COUNTRY MAY INSTITUTE THE SUIT.

The President. What is the pleasure of the sponsor?

Senator Honasan. We would accept that subject to any additional qualification which the original proponent of the individual amendment may introduce.

Senator Enrile. I would like to explain for the sake of interpretative guide in the future that the use of the word "sojourner" is done advisedly to indicate that this covers people who come here to visit for a short time like tourists, buyers of goods or

doctors who may come to visit some hospitals, or members of some government missions who will be in the country to do some studies for a short period. There is no indication of any term to stay in the country like a corporate executive, corporate official, an investor who stays here for a time to perform an assignment by his firm or by his or her organization, or like members of the diplomatic corps who are permanently assigned in the Philippines during a period, during a term of their stint in the country as members of the diplomatic suite of a foreign government.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair wishes to thank Senator Enrile.

So, the proposed amendment found in line 15 of page 30, which is in lieu of the existing Section 39, is hereby amended as read by the sponsor and further amended by Senator Enrile.

Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is approved. Let us move on.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. We shall now read the proposed individual amendments of Senator Santiago.

SANTIAGO AMENDMENTS

On page 13, Section 11, lines 29 to 31, we delete the sentence, "The Department shall issue air quality guideline values for an air polluted within twelve (12) months after such pollutant has been included in the list."

The reason offered is that the deletion will, in effect, require the department to publish annually the list of hazardous air pollution together with the guideline values and standard or both.

We accept this amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 19, line 4, after the word "identification", insert the phrase AND ONLY UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE COURT. The paragraph, as amended, would then read as follows:

THE DEPARTMENT, UPON PROPER IDENTIFICATION AND ONLY UPON LAWFUL ORDER OF THE COURT, shall have a right of entry to, or access of, upon, or through any premises of such person or establishment, where the source of emission is maintained, and may, at any time during the day or night, have access to and copy any relevant record, inspect

any pollution or waste source, control device, monitoring equipment or method required, and test any emission which such person is required to sample.

We accept this amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. On page 32, Section 43, the first paragraph is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 43. *Penalties for Violation by Stationary Sources.* - For actual or imminent exceedance of any pollution or air quality standards under this Act or its rules and regulations, the Pollution Adjudication Board shall impose THE FOLLOWING FINES:

(A) A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) for every day of violation AGAINST THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A STATIONARY SOURCE UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE STANDARDS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH;

(B) THE FINE SHALL BE DOUBLED IN CASES WHERE THE VIOLATION BY A STATIONARY SOURCE IS MADE IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA."

We accept this amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 35, after Section 47, it is proposed that we insert a new section. Before the actual amendment, there is an explanation. This new section will give protection to employees who may be laid off or threatened with discharge as a result of the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

The new section after Section 47 shall then read as follows:

SEC. 48. POTENTIAL LOSS OR SHIFTS OF EMPLOYMENT.
- THE SECRETARY OF LABOR SHALL CONDUCT CONTINUING EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL LOSS OR SHIFTS OF EMPLOYMENT WHICH MAY RESULT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OR ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, INCLUDING WHERE APPROPRIATE, INVESTIGATING THREATENED PLANT CLOSURE OR REDUCTIONS IN EMPLOYMENT ALLEGEDLY RESULTING

FROM SUCH ADMINISTRATION OR ENFORCEMENT.

AN EMPLOYEE, OR ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH EMPLOYEE, WHO IS DISCHARGED OR LAID OFF, THREATENED WITH DISCHARGE OR LAYOFF, OR WHOSE EMPLOYMENT IS OTHERWISE ADVERSELY AFFECTED OR THREATENED TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGED RESULTS OF ANY REQUIREMENT IMPOSED UNDER THIS ACT, MAY REQUEST THE SECRETARY OF LABOR TO CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER. ANY SUCH REQUEST SHALL BE REDUCED TO WRITING, SHALL SET FORTH WITH REASONABLE PARTICULARITY THE GROUNDS FOR THE REQUEST, AND SHALL BE SIGNED BY THE EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH EMPLOYEE, MAKING THE REQUEST. THE SECRETARY OF LABOR SHALL THEREUPON INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND AT THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY, SHALL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS IN NOT LESS THAN FIVE DAYS NOTICE. AT SUCH HEARINGS, THE SECRETARY SHALL REQUIRE THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THE EMPLOYER INVOLVED, TO PRESENT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL EFFECT OF SUCH REQUIREMENTS ON EMPLOYMENT AND THE DETAILED REASONS OR JURISDICTION THEREOF.

IF THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THERE ARE NO REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING, HE SHALL NOTIFY IN WRITING THE PARTY REQUESTING SUCH HEARING OF SUCH DETERMINATION AND REASONS THEREFOR. IF THE SECRETARY DOES CONVENE SUCH HEARING, THE HEARING SHALL BE ON RECORD. BASED ON THE REPORT OF SUCH INVESTIGATION, THE SECRETARY OF LABOR SHALL MAKE FINDINGS OF THE FACT AS TO THE EFFECT OF SUCH REQUIREMENTS ON EMPLOYMENT ON THE ALLEGED ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL DISCHARGE, LAYOFF, OR OTHER ADVERSE EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT, AND SHALL MAKE SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS AS HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE. SUCH REPORT, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Mr. President, unless there are proposals from our colleagues to refine this particular amendment, the committee is inclined to accept.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. I shall then read the individual amendments proposed by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

LEGARDA-LEVISTE AMENDMENTS

On page 4, line 22, she proposed to insert the following definition:

(f) AROMATICS - SHALL REFER TO A GROUP OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS WHICH ARE BENZENE DERIVATIVES OR WHICH CONTAIN ONE OR MORE BENZENE RINGS AND WHERE THE ELECTRONS MOVE CONTINUOUSLY AROUND THE RINGS. THEY HAVE DISTINCT, SWEET ODORS JUST LIKE THOSE OCCURRING IN SOME PETROLEUM RESERVES AND TO A LARGE EXTENT IN COAL TAR OBTAINED FROM THE DISTILLATION OF COAL.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. On the same page 4, as we subsequently redesignate the letter designations of subparagraphs, it is proposed that after the definition of "aromatics", we add the following definition to be designated letter (g):

(g) BENZENE - SHALL REFER TO AN AROMATIC HYDROCARBON WHICH CONTAINS SIX CARBON AND SIX HYDROGEN ATOMS IN ALTERNATE DOUBLE AND SINGLE BONDS. BENZENE HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AS A GROUP I CARCINOGEN.

Mr. President, in the committee's attempt to clarify or simplify the technical aspects of this proposed amendment, we accept the amendment with a slight modification. I shall read the proposed amendment as accepted by the committee, with the indulgence of the proponent.

(g) BENZENE - SHALL REFER TO AN AROMATIC HYDROCARBON WHICH CONTAINS SIX CARBON AND SIX HYDROGEN ATOMS IN ALTERNATE DOUBLE AND SINGLE BONDS. BENZENE HAS BEEN DEFINED AS A GENOTOXIC CARCINOGEN FOR WHICH THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SAFE EXPOSURE LEVEL.

In this form, we accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair would like to know what is the pleasure of the proponent if she is still on the floor? Has she manifested whether she agrees to the amendment to the amendment?

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, the proponent, Senator

Legarda-Leviste is not in the Session Hall right now.

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, the committee proposes that we hold this particular amendment in abeyance until we can get the comments or the consent of the proponent.

The President. We will then hold this in abeyance.

Senator Honasan. On page 5, line 24, after the word "which", we delete the phrase that begins with the word "chemical" and ends with the phrase "waste-to-energy process", and replace this with the following phrase: WASTE GARBAGE, REFUSE AND OTHER MATERIALS ARE BURNED OR RAPIDLY OXIDIZED INTO ASHES.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. On page 6, line 4, we insert the following: INCINERATOR SHALL REFER TO A FURNACE OR AN APPARATUS FOR BURNING TRASH, GARBAGE OR OTHER MATERIALS INTO ASHES;

The committee, Mr. President, as we in principle accept this amendment, would like, with the consent of the proponent, to add after the semicolon (;) and the word ASHES the following: WHICH CAUSES AIR, WATER AND SOIL POLLUTION;

Since the proponent is not on the floor, the committee suggests that we hold this in abeyance.

The President. The same is hereby held in abeyance to await the presence of the proponent.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Please proceed.

Senator Honasan. On page 6, line 6, we add the following definition: LEAD SHALL REFER TO A HEAVY, SILVERY GRAY METAL ADDED TO GASOLINE, PRIMARILY FOR ITS OCTANE ENHANCING, AND SECONDARILY FOR LUBRICATING PROPERTIES. IT IS ABSORBED INTO THE BLOODSTREAM AND IS KNOWN TO CAUSE ABNORMALITIES IN PREGNANCY AND FERTILITY, HYPERTENSION AND EXTREME FATIGUE IN ADULTS AND RETARDATION, POOR INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT AND GROWTH DEFICIENCIES IN CHILDREN.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

Still on page 6, line 18, after the acronym "(MON)" which is an acronym for Motor Octane Number, it is proposed that we add the following: THE OCTANE REQUIREMENT, WITH RESPECT TO AUTOMOTIVE GASOLINE FOR USE IN A MOTOR VEHICLE OR A CLASS THEREOF, WHETHER IMPORTED, MANUFACTURED, OR ASSEMBLED BY A MANUFACTURER, SHALL REFER TO THE MINIMUM OCTANE RATING OF SUCH AUTOMOTIVE GASOLINE WHICH SUCH MANUFACTURER RECOMMENDS FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF SUCH MOTOR VEHICLE, OR A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF SUCH CLASS, WITHOUT KNOCKING.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Still on page 6, line 14, we propose to insert the following definition: A NEW VEHICLE SHALL REFER TO A VEHICLE CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY FROM NEW PARTS THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN SOLD OR REGISTERED WITH THE DOTC OR WITH THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY OR AUTHORITY, AND OPERATED ON THE HIGHWAYS OF THE PHILIPPINES, ANY FOREIGN STATE OR COUNTRY.

The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 25, line 21, after the word "devices", we delete the rest of the sentence and replace it with the following text: IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT SUCH VEHICLES WILL CONFORM TO THE EMISSIONS WHICH THEY WERE CERTIFIED TO MEET. THIS REGULATION SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ENSURING THE DURABILITY OF EMISSION DEVICES.

It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. On page 26, line 26, Mr. President, after the

acronym "AKI" or "Anti-Knock Index", we delete the word "of" and replace this with the word BELOW. After the number "87.5", we add the phrase MAXIMUM REID VAPOR PRESSURE OF 9PSI—which is an acronym for 9 pounds per square inch.

We accept this amendment, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. This is a very technical amendment and there was a previous amendment in the same line. May we know what is the effect now of this amendment to the previous amendment that was also accepted by the committee?

Senator Honasan. The committee, Mr. President, shall attempt to consolidate these as we accept the amendments based on the proposals of the different senators. The effect will be determined as we receive the technical data.

Senator Drilon. The problem, Mr. President, is that the amendments are being approved by the Chamber. I do not know the answer myself, but I do note that there was a previous amendment in the same line, on the same page and this was approved by the Chamber.

Now, there is another amendment being proposed by another senator. Ordinarily, we would seek the consent of the original proponent of the amendment accepted by the Chamber before another amendment is introduced.

Moreover, as I said, this is a very technical amendment and honestly, this representation is not in a position to answer the question as to what is the effect of this amendment to the previous amendment approved by the Chamber.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. We are informed that there is no previous amendment regarding the same section, Section 31, page 26, line 26, referring to the anti-knock index.

The President. Are there still several amendments that the Chamber has to tackle? If there are several, it might be a good idea to put them down in writing so we will have time to peruse over them.

Senator Drilon. Our understanding with the sponsor, Mr. President, is that after these amendments which were submitted in writing by our colleagues are accepted, a new version will be written and will be distributed to the senators which will now be the basis of a page-by-page review as part of the period of individual amendments.

In any case, I have raised that question and I hope that can be taken into account by the committee when it conducts another review of the version. And maybe procedurally, at that point, the committee can just ask for a reconsideration of certain approvals if, in its judgment, there are already inconsistencies in the amendments being proposed.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. In fact, this is what the procedure that the committee has adopted. Unless there are any conflicts in the proposed individual amendments, we have been liberal in accepting these amendments pending a more thorough review based on the empirical data that have been given to us by the technical working groups.

Senator Drilon. So on that understanding, Mr. President, we would continue with the proposed amendments which are being accepted by the committee from the individual senators indicated in the amendment and thereafter, we will just have to print a new version and would have to examine again every page for purposes of the period of individual amendments. We will have to be guided by the technical working group on the matter of the technical meaning and effect of such very technical amendments being introduced on the floor.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Guingona. May I make a suggestion. To save time and energy on the part of the distinguished sponsor, can we not allow him sufficient time to determine which amendments he will accept or not? Then, supply us with the new copy, together with the proposed individual amendments so that it will be faster and it will be less taxing for the distinguished sponsor.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. In fact, the sponsor would like to inform the Body that this is the last cluster of individual amendments which I suggest we complete pending the printing of a corrected copy that will be reviewed by the individual senator, the technical working groups and the committee itself.

Senator Drilon. So, Mr. President, we concur with the sponsor, and may we manifest that indeed the sponsor should be allowed to finish all the individual amendments submitted to him.

The President. So Senator Honasan may now proceed.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. On page 27, line 3, delete the first word "for" and the phrase "minimum cetane number of 47 and".

In line 4, we delete the number "55" and replace this with the number 50.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. On page 28, line 31, after the word "manner", we insert the phrase LEADED GASOLINE AND.

We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, the proposed individual amendment of Senator Legarda-Leviste refers to Section 39, the *Citizen's Suit*, which has already been addressed by an individual amendment from the honorable Sen. Renato Cayetano. I will not read anymore the complete text of the proposed amendment since the committee, with the indulgence of the proponent, regretfully declines the proposed amendment considering that the amendment of Senator Cayetano is a more compact and refined version, with the exception of the last paragraph as proposed by Senator Legarda-Leviste which reads:

THE COURT SHALL EXEMPT SUCH ACTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF FILING FEES AND SHALL, LIKEWISE, UPON *PRIMA FACIE* SHOWING OF THE NONENFORCEMENT OR VIOLATION COMPLAINED OF, EXEMPT THE PLAINTIFF FROM THE FILING OF AN INJUNCTION BOND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.

Considering that the proponent is not here, again, we move that we hold this proposed amendment in abeyance until we can get the position of the proponent.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 5:52 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, may the Chair of the Committee refer back to Section 31 on page 27.

Previously, Mr. President, as it was entered into the *Record*, the committee accepted the amendment that deletes the word "for" and the phrase "minimum cetane number of 47 and" and in line 4, delete the number "55" and replace it with the number 50. The Chair recognizes a conflict in the technical details, and we reconsider our acceptance of this amendment pending a reconciliation of our technical data.

The President. On the grounds stated by the proponent, is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is hereby approved. Please proceed.

Senator Honasan. On page 31, line 4, the proposed amendment takes on the same nature as the amendment of Senator Jaworski as proposed yesterday, but we will read it anyway.

On page 31, line 4, we insert the following section:

"SEC. 40. HARASSMENT SUITS AND STRATEGIC LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OR SLAPP SUITS.— WHERE A LEGAL ACTION IS FILED AGAINST ANY PERSON WHO COMPLAINS OF POLLUTION, EXPRESSES A POSITION TO ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE INVESTIGATING PROSECUTOR OR THE COURT, AS THE CASE MAY BE, TO MAKE A DETERMINATION WHETHER SAID ACTION HAS BEEN FILED TO HARASS, VEX, EXERT UNDUE PRESSURE, OR STIFLE THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE RIGHT OF A CITIZEN TO PETITION FOR THE REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES. UPON MOTION BY THE DEFENDANT IN A HARASSMENT CASE, THE INVESTIGATING PROSECUTOR OR THE COURT SHALL SET THE CASE FOR HEARING NOT LATER THAN THREE DAYS FROM THE RECEIPT OF THE MOTION TO INQUIRE INTO THE ISSUE WHETHER THE CASE IS A HARASSMENT SUIT. UPON DETERMINATION, THE COURT MAY DISMISS THE CASE AND AWARD ACTUAL DAMAGES, ATTORNEY'S FEES, MORAL AND EXEMPLARY DAMAGES AS APPROPRIATE. THIS PROVISION SHALL ALSO APPLY AND BENEFIT PUBLIC OFFICERS WHO ARE SUED FOR ACTS COMMITTED IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, THERE BEING NO GRAVE ABUSE OF AUTHORITY AND DONE IN THE COURSE OF ENFORCING THIS ACT."

Mr. President, considering the action taken on the proposed amendment of Senator Jaworski, the committee requests that we hold this in abeyance until we reconcile this with the original proposal.

The President. Upon request of the committee to hold this in abeyance, is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is hereby approved.

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. On Section 43, page 32, line 16, after the words "In addition to", we delete the word "this" and replace it with the word THE.

We accept the amendment.

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

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, on the same page, Section 43, line 17, after the word "development", we delete the word "of" and replace this with a comma (,).

We accept the amendment.

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

Senator Honasan. In the same line, Mr. President, after the word "construction", we add the words OR CESSATION.

We accept the amendment.

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

Senator Honasan. In Section 44, Mr. President, page 33, line 19, after the word "vehicle", we insert the following: THE OWNER/OPERATOR OF THE IMPOUNDED VEHICLE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CORRECT ITS DEFECTS AND SHOW PROOF OF COMPLIANCE TO THE APPROPRIATE POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICE BEFORE THE VEHICLE CAN BE ALLOWED TO BE DRIVEN ON ANY PUBLIC OR SUBDIVISION ROADS.

We accept, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. On the same page, Mr. President, page 33, under the same section, line 23, we insert the following paragraph: ANY PASSENGER VEHICLE APPREHENDED FOR

VIOLATION OF EMISSION STANDARDS OR FOR SMOKE BELCHING SHALL PROCEED WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME TO HIS GARAGE OR REPAIR FACILITY AND SHALL REMAIN GROUNDED UNTIL THE DEFICIENCY HAS BEEN CORRECTED.

It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Still on page 33, Mr. President, we delete lines 23 to 31 and lines 1 and 2 on page 34 and replace this with the following: IF ANY VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN APPREHENDED FOR VIOLATION OF EMISSION STANDARDS OR FOR SMOKE BELCHING IS CAUGHT ON THE ROAD BEFORE IT HAS BEEN RECERTIFIED FOR USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES SO ESTABLISHED, THE VEHICLE SHALL BE IMPOUNDED IMMEDIATELY AND THE FOLLOWING PENALTY SHALL APPLY:

FIRST OFFENSE - A FINE NOT TO EXCEED P10,000

SECOND OFFENSE - A FINE NOT TO EXCEED P20,000

THIRD OFFENSE - ONE YEAR SUSPENSION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RECEIPT AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN P20,000 AND NOT MORE THAN P30,000.

Mr. President, it is the understanding of the Committee that other senators with their own individual amendments have variations to this. So, the Committee proposes that, again, pending reconciliation of this proposal, we hold this in abeyance.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. Finally, on page 34, line 3, Mr. President, we renumber "Sec. 25" as SEC. 26.

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

Senator Honasan. In line 4, Mr. President, after the letter "(d)" as in paragraph (d), we insert the following: WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING TECHNICIAN AND FACILITY COMPLIANCE.

We accept this, Mr. President.

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

Senator Honasan. Thank you, Mr. President. That was the last in the proposed individual amendments of the honorable Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

The President. Thank you, Senator Honasan. 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, and allow a new copy to be printed containing the amendments as accepted by the committee so that the Chamber will be clarified as to the new version of Senate Bill No. 1255.

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON (Constitution and Appointment of Senator Biazon as Chairman and Senators Cayetano, Magsaysay, Ople and Oreta as Members in the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee for Mt. Pinatubo)

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, for the record, we wish to manifest that the following senators have been appointed by the Senate President to represent the Senate in the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee for Mt. Pinatubo pursuant to Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7637.

The Chair of the Senate contingent is Senator Biazon and the following are the members: Senators Cayetano, Magsaysay Jr., Ople and Aquino-Oreta.

The President. Is there any objection to the constitution and appointment of the aforesaid senators? [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, we will have no session tomorrow morning as there are no local bills yet being reported out. May we therefore request the Chair to direct the Secretary to read the Additional Reference of Business.

Senator Roco. Before that, Mr. President, just on a matter of procedure because we are about to hold hearings.

The President. Senator Roco is recognized.

Senator Roco. Mr. President, may we ask, because the