

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

The President. The 61st session of the Third Regular Session of the Thirteenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Richard J. Gordon.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Gordon.

Lord, we bow before You today, sincerely hoping that You will lend an ear to our prayer. There have been many prayers in this Chamber. Everyday we pray and we sincerely hope that You lend an ear to our prayers today. We pray for Your guidance and Your spirit that we may be led by Your will in the final days of the Thirteenth Congress and use this remaining time to pass legislations that would promote the welfare and prosperity of our people.

We pray likewise for our colleagues who are ending their terms as senators of the land. We thank You, Lord, for the wisdom that they have shared with this august House and we pray that You will lead them to paths that would enable them to continue to serve the interests of the nation outside of the Senate.

We pray for humility, Lord, that we may, as a nation, submit ourselves to Your will in order to achieve the greatness that You intended for our beloved country; that You imbue this nation with worthy causes, Lord, and the courage and fortitude to pursue and realize these causes, for a nation without a worthy cause is a nation without a soul.

Strengthen our minds that we may understand that each of us must do our part in the work of nation-building, and bless us with a generous heart to give the best of ourselves that we may be worthy of our position, our families, and our paramount role as a citizen of this nation.

And, Lord, I would like to end with the prayer of Saint Ignatius:

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve Thee as Thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to labor and not to seek for rest; to toil and not to ask for reward; save that of knowing I am doing Thy most holy and sacred will.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Joker P. Arroyo	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada	Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present*
Senator Juan M. Flavio	Present
Senator Richard J. Gordon	Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson	Present
Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid	Present
Senator Alfredo S. Lim	Present
Senator M. A. Madrigal	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present*
Senator Kiko Pangilinan	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.	Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto	Absent
Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.	Present
Senator Mar A. Roxas	Present*
The President	Present

The President. With 19 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Pangilinan. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the 59th session, January 29, 2007 and consider it approved.

* Arrived after the roll call

Senator Osmeña III. Yes, Mr. President, there are a few committee amendments, just an oversight on my part and I take the blame for this. But it is just very short.

The President Pro Tempore. Please proceed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Osmeña III. On page 2, lines 11 to 15, delete the entire subsection "EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES; PROVIDED, THAT THEIR ANNUAL TAXABLE INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED THE POVERTY LEVEL AS DETERMINED BY THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) FOR THAT YEAR."

We propose to delete this entire section. It is going to be very difficult for the BIR, and besides, if they fall below the poverty level they have no income tax to pay.

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

Senator Osmeña III. And an omnibus motion to renumber all sections subsequent to that. On page 4, line 16, after the word "SUBMISSION", insert the phrase OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING. That is the extent of our amendment.

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

Senator Osmeña III. On the same page, same line, after the word "THERETO", delete the phrase "ANY OF THE FOLLOWING". We are just repositioning.

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

Senator Osmeña III. On the same page, line 18, after the article "AN" delete the acronym "ID" and in lieu thereof insert the words IDENTIFICATION CARD.

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

Senator Osmeña III. On page 6, line 16, after the word "against", delete the words "DISABLED PERSONS" and in lieu thereof insert the words PERSONS WITH DISABILITY.

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

Senator Osmeña III. On page 7, line 7, after the word "INTO" correct the spelling of the word DEGRADATION. It is spelled "DEGRATION". That should be DEGRADATION, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. On the title of the bill, after the words "AN ACT", delete the words "GRANTING OTHER PRIVILEGES AND INCENTIVES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND GRANTING THEM THE RIGHT TO LIVE FREE FROM VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL RIDICULE AND VILIFICATION...."

The President Pro Tempore. Is that the extent?

Senator Osmeña III. Yes, that is the extent of the amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña III. After the word "AMENDING" on the third line of that, insert the words FOR THE PURPOSE....Excuse me, Mr. President. Ah, to delete the phrase "FOR THE PURPOSE".

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

Senator Osmeña III. And that shall be the extent of our amendment, Mr. President.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Leader is recognized. Are there any reservations for individual amendments?

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we close the period of committee amendments.

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

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, there are no reservations for individual amendments. I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2580 ON SECOND READING

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2580.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection?
[Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2580, as amended.

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

Several Members. *Aye*.

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

Senate Bill No. 2580, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2580

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2580.

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

Please proceed.

BILL ON SECOND READING H. No. 4065—Volunteer Act of 2005 (Continuation)

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of House Bill No. 4065 as reported out under Committee Report No. 231.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, resumption of consideration of House Bill No. 4065 is now in order.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, we are in the period of interpellations, but there are no reservations for interpellation. I move that we close the period of interpellations.

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

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, we are in the period of committee amendments. There are no committee amendments. I move that we close the period of committee amendments.

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

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, there are likewise no reservations for individual amendments. I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 4065 ON SECOND READING

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 4065.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 4065.

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

Several Members. *Aye*.

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

House Bill No. 4065 is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H. NO. 4065

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of House Bill No. 4065.

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

Please proceed.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 2587—Magna Carta for Social Workers (Continuation)

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2587 as reported out under Committee Report No. 238.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2587 is now in order.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, we are in the period of interpellations. However, there are no reservations for interpellation. I move that we close the period of interpellations.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the period of interpellations is hereby closed.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, we are now in the period of committee amendments. Since there are no committee amendments, I move that we close the period of committee amendments.