

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2002

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:59 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 11th session of the Second Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Juan M. Flavier.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Flavier. This prayer is based on the prayer for peace written by Inayat Khan in 1921.

Our Lord and our God:

Send Your peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Your peace, O Lord, that we may think, act and speak harmoniously.

Send Your peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for Your bountiful gifts.

Send Your peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife, we may enjoy Your bliss.

• Send Your peace, O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all, and in the thought of Your grace and mercy.

Send Your peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a Divine vision and in Your light, all darkness may vanish.

Send Your peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we, Your children of this nation, may all unite in one family.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta **
Senator Joker P. Arroyo Present

Senator Robert Z. Barbers Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon Present*
Senator Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano ... Present
Senator Noli "Kabayan" De Castro Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda Leviste Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Francis N. Pangilinan Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr. Absent
The President Present

The President. With 20 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the 10th session, August 19, 2002, and consider it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF NURSING STUDENTS FROM EMILIO AGUINALDO COLLEGE, MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS NURSING ASSOCIATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND DELEGATES TO THE 29TH SHIP SOUTHEAST ASIAN YOUTH PROGRAM

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, we would like to acknowledge the nursing students from the Emilio Aguinaldo College, the Philippine Nursing Association members, the members of the Board of Nursing, the National League of Government Nurses, the Mother and Child Nurses' Association of the Philippines, the Military Nurses Association and the Operating Room Nurses Association who are present in the hall today.

Also, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the delegates to the 29th Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program or

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

Resolution Nos. 24 and 88, concerning the ongoing demand of Filipino comfort women for an apology and postwar legal compensation from the Japanese government.

The President. Senator Ejercito Estrada may proceed.

MOTION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA
(Referral of P. S. Res. Nos. 24 and 88 Secondly to Youth, Women and Family Relations Committee)

Senator Ejercito Estrada. Mr. President, please note that during the previous Congress, then Senator Francisco Tatad, filed a similar resolution, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 446, that was primarily referred to the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and secondarily referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. President, considering that the import of the two resolutions involves women issues, may I therefore move that Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 24 and 88 be secondarily referred to the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations.

Thank you.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, 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 4:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Senator Legarda Leviste. Yes, Mr. President. The two resolutions requested by Senator Ejercito Estrada, I move that they be referred to her committee—Youth, Women and Family Relations—as a secondary referral.

The President. Can the Chair have the motion of Senator Ejercito Estrada?

Senator Legarda Leviste. There is a motion to refer secondarily the two resolutions she mentioned to her committee—Youth, Women and Family Relations.

The President. So, it is referred to the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations as a secondary committee. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2101 — Instituting a *Balikbayan* Program
(Continuation)

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2101 as reported out under Committee Report No. 38, the amendments on the *balikbayan* privilege program.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2101 is now in order.

Senator Legarda Leviste. This is a certified measure, Mr. President. May we request the Secretary to read the certification.

The President. The Secretary will read the certification.

The Secretary.

August 9, 2002

HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President
Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Drilon:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2101, under Committee Report No. 38, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6768, ENTITLED "AN ACT INSTITUTING A *BALIKBAYAN* PROGRAM," BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO *BALIKBAYAN* AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

to address the urgent need to strengthen the economic standing as well as the moral fibre of *balikbayans* and their families by providing them the opportunity to avail of the necessary privileges, benefits and training to enable them to become economically self-reliant and productive members of the community upon their return, counting them as responsible and invaluable pillars of our society.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

cc. HON. JOSE C. DE VENECIA JR.

Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 2101 — Instituting a *Balikbayan* Program

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, in view of the certification, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2101.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill 2101 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2101, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6768,
ENTITLED "AN ACT INSTITUTING A
BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM," BY PROVIDING
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO
BALIKBAYAN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The President. We will now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. Senators

Angara	Yes
Aquino-Oreta	
Arroyo	Yes
Barbers	Yes
Biazon	Yes
Cayetano	Yes
De Castro	Yes
Ejercito Estrada	Yes
Flavier	Yes
Honasan	Yes
Jaworski	Yes
Lacson	Yes
Legarda Leviste	Yes
Magsaysay Jr.	Yes
Osmeña (J.)	Yes
Osmeña III	Yes
Pangilinan	Yes
Pimentel Jr.	Yes

Recto	Yes
Revilla	Yes
Sotto III	Yes
Villar Jr.	
The President	Yes

The President. With 21 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2101 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2292 — The Philippine Nursing Act of 2002
(Continuation)

Senator Legarda Leviste. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2292 as reported out under Committee Report No. 68.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2292 is now in order.

Senator Legarda Leviste. We are now in the period of interpellations. I ask that Sen. Juan M. Flavie, the sponsor, be recognized.

The President. Sen. Juan M. Flavie is recognized.

Senator Legarda Leviste. And to interpellate, I ask that Sen. Edgardo J. Angara be recognized.

The President. Sen. Edgardo J. Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, will the dynamic former secretary of Health and our leading doctor in the House answer some questions for clarification?

Senator Flavie. With pleasure, Mr. President, to the author of landmark medical health bills in the Senate and the senior author of the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002.

Senator Angara. With that, Mr. President, I would like to sit down and terminate my interpellation. [*Laughter*]

Mr. President, we must really commend the distinguished author and sponsor for this modernization and updating of the Philippine Nursing Law. We had the opportunity to author the original one, but I am very happy that the version that we are now discussing will replace that old one and in a way incorporate some basic provisions that would modernize the whole profession.