

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:18 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang pulong ng Senado.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Aawitin ng U.S.T. Action Singers ang pambansang awit at "Bayan Ko", at pagkatapos ay pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Santanina Rasul.

Everybody rose for the singing of the national anthem.

After the singing, everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Rasul.

BISMILLAH HIRRAHMAN NIRRAHIM,

Lord, as we go through the last chapter of our term of office, we are all the more mindful whether our contributions here in the Senate are truly being felt in the drive towards the alleviation of the plight of our people.

For one straight week, as torrential rains continue to deluge the whole of Luzon, most especially the Central Luzon area, vast lands were inundated by water, crops destroyed, and houses swept away. Certainly, the ranks of the poor, the sick, and the homeless will once again grow in number.

The yearnings of our people should be our first and primordial concern.

We seek Your guidance, O Lord, to open our hearts and set aside our pettiness that we may be able to focus our attention on the needs of our hapless people in the countryside.

* Arrived after the roll call

Touch us, O Lord, with Thy wisdom, and grant us the vision and strength to carry on the mandate and covenant with Your people.

WASSALAM.

ROLL CALL

The President. Babasahin ng Kalihim ang talaan ng mga Senador.

The Secretary.

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| Senator Heherson T. Alvarez | Absent |
| Senator Edgardo J. Angara | Present |
| Senator Agapito A. Aquino | Present |
| Senator Juan Ponce Enrile | Present* |
| Senator Joseph Ejercito Estrada | Present* |
| Senator Neptali A. Gonzales | Present* |
| Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr. | Present |
| Senator Ernesto F. Herrera | Present |
| Senator Sotero H. Laurel | Present |
| Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr. | Present |
| Senator Ernesto M. Maceda | Present |
| Senator Orlando S. Mercado | Present |
| Senator John H. Osmeña | Present |
| Senator Vicente T. Paterno | Present |
| Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. | Present |
| Senator Santanina T. Rasul | Present |
| Senator Alberto G. Romulo | Present |
| Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag | Present |
| Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani | Present |
| Senator Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano | Present |
| Senator Wigberto E. Tañada | Absent |
| Senator Victor S. Ziga | Present |
| The President | Present |

The President. Labingwalong Senador and dumalo sa ating pagpupulong; mayroon tayong korum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

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

The Secretary will read the Order of Business.

and the Privilege Speech delivered by Senator Enrile, entitled

THIS ADMINISTRATION MUST STOP PLAYING GOD,

recommending its adoption without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Estrada, Maceda, Guingona, Jr., Herrera, Mercado, Tamano, Laurel, Rasul, Tañada, Osmeña, Shahani, Enrile, Alvarez, Angara, and Ziga

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 1397, submitted by the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement on Senate Bill No. 234, introduced by Senator Lina, Jr., entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM, PROVIDE FOR A SOCIAL HOUSING TAX, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending the approval of the substitute bill.

Sponsor: Senator Lina, Jr.

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 1398, submitted by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws on Senate Bill No. 750, introduced by Senator Angara, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE FOR REACQUIRING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Angara and Lina, Jr.

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, we have visitors--foreign delegation--composed of Members of the Amnesty International, Ireland and Italy Officers. We have Gerry O'Connell from Ireland, Francesca Zagni from Italy, Franco di Benedetti from Italy, and Paula Benevene from Italy.

May I move for acknowledgment of their presence, Mr. President?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. We shall suspend the session for a few minutes, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:31 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Osmeña is recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR OSMEÑA (Death Penalty Lobbying by Foreigners)

Senator Osmeña. I would like to rise on a question of personal privilege.

I just want the records to show that this delegation, which are here with us today, from Amnesty International, made up of Europeans, are lobbying for the death penalty.

Since many of our Colleagues have, in the past, been so sensitive about infringement of our sovereignty by foreigners, I think this is a beautiful example of our sovereignty on the issue that is domestic. The restoration of the death penalty is a domestic issue. The presence of these foreigners here lobbying us, accompanied by certain personalities, is, to me, a clear-cut manifestation of external, shall we say, interference in a domestic issue.