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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:24 a.m., the session was resumed, with the Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, President of the Senate, Presiding.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I ask that the Secretary read the Third Additional Reference of Business.

The President. The Secretary will read the Third Additional Reference of Business.

THIRD ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary [Prof. Hezel P. Gacutan].

February 2, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 passed House Bill No. 9920, entitled:

"AN ACT PROMOTING AND REGULATING THE
OPERATION OF CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEMS AND
RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

to which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Public Services.

BILL ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2508, entitled

AN ACT INTEGRATING COOPERATIVE EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE INSTITUTIONS, STUDENTS, BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURAL ENTITIES, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gonzales

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Yes, the Assistant Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, if the Secretary is still reading the Reference of Business, I will wait.

The President. The Secretary may proceed.

FOURTH ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

January 29, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that in view of the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1325, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE CEBU STATE COLLEGE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY"

which was passed by the House on August 5, 1997 and Senate Bill No. 2320, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE CEBU STATE COLLEGE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

which was passed by the Senate on December 8, 1997, the House of Representatives requests a conference on these two bills and has elected Representatives Jose Carlos V. Lacson, Allen S. Quimpo, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Eduardo R. Gullas and Alfredo Amor E. Abueg Jr. as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

January 29, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that in view of the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2586, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINE HERALDRY AND VEXILLARY"

which was passed by the House on April 21, 1997 and Senate Bill No. 630, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE CODE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG, ANTHEM, MOTTO, COAT-OF-ARMS AND GREAT SEAL OF THE PHILIPPINES"

which was passed by the Senate on October 21, 1997, the House of Representatives requests a conference on these two bills and has elected Representatives Jose Carlos V. Lacson, Allen S. Quimpo, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Eduardo R. Gullas and Alfredo Amor E. Abueg Jr. as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

January 30, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on January 29, 1998 elected Representatives Victorico L. Chaves, Gregorio A. Andolana, Erasmo B. Damasing, Prospero C. Nograles, Ariel Zartiga and Didagen P. Dilangalen as conferees should the Senate ask for a conference upon approval of its counterpart version of House Bill No. 9960, entitled:

"AN ACT TO RESCUE THE NATIONAL SHELTER PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT BY CONDONING THE PENALTIES AND SURCHARGES ON ALL OUTSTANDING/DELINQUENT HOUSING LOAN ACCOUNTS WITH ANY OF THE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYTEM (SSS), HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG) AND THE NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC) AND BY AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1752, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7742"

which was earlier approved on January 27, 1998.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

February 2, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate

Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on January 30, 1998 elected Congresswoman Rosenda Ann M. Ocampo as additional member of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2585, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES HERALDRY AND VEXILLARY"

and Senate Bill No. 630, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE CODE OF THE NATIONAL
FLAG, ANTHEM, MOTTO, COAT-OF-ARMS AND
GREAT SEAL OF THE PHILIPPINES"

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 approved the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6951, entitled:

"AN ACT PENALIZING CREDIT CARD FRAUD,
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"

and Senate Bill No. 2051, entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF
ACCESS DEVICES, PROHIBITING FRAUDULENT

ACTS COMMITTED RELATIVE THERETO,
PROVIDING PENALTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 approved the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 9274, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PROMOTE ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE
PHILIPPINES"

and Senate Bill No. 2120, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PROMOTE ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE
PHILIPPINES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL
WELFARE ACT OF 1997"

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1208
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 approved

the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 9549, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE NO. 81"

and Senate Bill No. 2242, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 7 AND SECTION 13 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 81, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 1986 REVISED CHARTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES"

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 elected Representatives Victorico L. Chaves, Julio A. Ledesma IV, Felicito C. Payumo, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, and Carlos M. Padilla as conferees should the Senate ask for a conference upon approval of its counterpart version of House Bill No. 6455, entitled:

"AN ACT REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE PHILIPPINE EXPORT AND FOREIGN LOAN GUARANTEE CORPORATION, AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1080, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

which was earlier approved on February 2, 1997.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. To the Archives.

The Secretary.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 elected Representatives Mario S. Ty, Catalino V. Figueroa, Jovito O. Claudio, Bernardo M. Vergara, Antonio M. Abaya and John Henry R. Osmena as conferees should the Senate ask for a conference upon approval of its counterpart version of House Bill No. 6680, entitled:

"AN ACT BANNING CIGARETTE/CIGAR SMOKING IN
CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES AND IMPOSING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF"

which was earlier approved on May 29, 1997.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Secretary.

February 3, 1998

The Honorable
NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 2, 1998 elected Representatives Mario S. Ty, Catalino V. Figueroa, Jovito O. Claudio, Temistocles S. Dejon Sr., Antonio M. Cerilles and Socorro O. Acosta as conferees should the Senate ask for a conference upon approval of its counterpart version of House Bill No. 10497, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH), DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

which was earlier approved on February 2, 1998.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 995 submitted by the Committee on Public Services on House Bill No. 8509 introduced by Representative Fuentes, et. al., entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE UBC MEDIA, INC., (LOVE RADIO NETWORK) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

recommending its approval with amendments by substitution.

Abstaining: Senator Romulo
Sponsor: Senator Herrera

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 996, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Public Services; Public Information and Mass Media; and Ways and Means on Senate Bill No. 2507 with Senators Webb, Shahani, Magsaysay, Jr., Herrera, Revilla and Roco as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING AND REGULATING THE OPERATION OF CABLE TELEVISION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 679 and 1365, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 108.

Dissenting: Senator Maceda
Sponsors: Senators Herrera, Revilla, Roco, Webb, Shahani and Magsaysay Jr.

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Romulo, is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, yesterday, the Minority Leader expressed his intention to deliver his valedictory address, as well as to ask and to remind other Senators who may want to do so. May I know what time these addresses are scheduled for today's session?

The President. I would consider this as a matter of personal privilege. Therefore, any member can stand at any time and claim the Floor for that purpose.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. That is correct, Mr. President. But I was really waiting for the conference committee reports to be finished, especially the Oil Deregulation Bill, so that substantially, the work of the Senate is finished.

I would assume that shortly before twelve o'clock, we can do this, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair appreciates that gesture.

Senator Romulo. Therefore, in relation to that, Mr. President, may I know if, in addition to the Oil Deregulation Bill, there are other bills that will be taken up in today's session?

The President. Will the Majority Leader respond to that query?

Senator Tatad. The Oil Deregulation Bill is, in fact, a Bicameral Conference Committee Report. There are a number of bicameral conference committee reports that are making the rounds that are presently circulating to the Senators. In addition, there are some certified measures that are not that complicated which we believe we should be able to take up today: the Sugar Institution Law and the Special Economic Zone Act.

Senator Romulo. How about the bill on the election of sectoral representatives?

Senator Tatad. Yes, that was left hanging yesterday. I have not seen the certification, but I believe that even without a certification, if there is a gap, we should be able to take that up.

Senator Romulo. We will not take up the bill on the forest resource management, Senate Bill No. 2366.

Senator Tatad. The Minority Leader has indicated the desire to propound lengthy interpellations. We may not have the time for that as of this morning.

Senator Romulo. That is all, Mr. President, except that although it is a matter of personal privilege, the valedictory addresses... But since the Minority Leader said that perhaps he would deliver it at the close of the session, may I make this reservation to deliver a privilege speech on Burma and her patriot, Dao Ong Sun Chi before the valedictory addresses.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1497
ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, at the instance of the sponsor, I move that we reconsider the approval of Senate Bill No. 1497, the GASTPE bill, on Second Reading, which we approved last night, to introduce an amendment that is left out by oversight.

The President. Is there any objection to this motion? [Silence] There being none, the approval on Second Reading of Senate Bill No. 2497 is hereby reconsidered.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 2497 - The GASTPE Bill
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. As a consequence of the motion, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2497 and consider some additional individual amendments.

The President. May we know the sponsor of this measure?

Senator Angara. I am here, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Mr. President, the Bills and Index Service is still completing the final copy. May we ask for five minutes' suspension of the session.?

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

It was 10:37 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:37 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2497

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I ask that we temporarily suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2497.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1966--Special Economic Zone Act of 1995

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we consider on Second Reading Senate Bill No. 1966 as reported out under Committee Report No. 320.

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

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1966 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Senate Bill No. 1966, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The following is the whole text of the bill:

(insert)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure. May I ask the Secretary to please read the certification.

The Acting Secretary.

January 20, 1998

HON. ERNESTO MACEDA
Senate President
Senate, Manila

Dear Senate President Maceda:

Pursuant to the provision of Section 26 (2), Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 1966 entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7916, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

to meet the public emergency consisting of the urgent need to restore the Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (PEZA) power to expropriate to enable it to immediately address the needs of its ECOZONE locators.

Best wishes.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS

cc: Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for the sponsorship, I ask that the distinguished gentleman from Aurora, Quezon and Pampanga, Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, be recognized.

The President. Senator Angara is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President, with this proposed change, we hope to strengthen the capability to Special Economic Zone Authority. It is beyond doubt that the economic processing zones in this country have now played a very significant role in creating jobs and dispersing economic growth in the countryside.

The proposal, Mr. President, is rather simple.

Firstly, it will restructure the Board to make it from 8 to 11 and make the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as the chairperson, rather than the present situation where the Director General of the Zone is the presiding officer of the Board.

We have to correct this, Mr. President, because the Zone is really under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry and therefore, we ought to correct that anomaly where the subordinate is the chairman or the head of his superior.

Secondly, Mr. President, the power of the Board or the authority to expropriate is vested generally in government. This has contributed to the delay and procedural difficulty of PEZA acquiring additional land because it is not authorized to exercise its power of expropriation except through government. So this law will vest the power to expropriate directly in the PEZA.

And, thirdly, Mr. President, the Committee has identified an additional area for future site of an economic zone.

Those are the three principal changes being introduced under this law, Mr. President.

Thank you very much.

The President. Th Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, there are no interpellations. I move that the period of interpellations be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. There is one committee amendment. I move that we now consider the committee amendment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Angara. Mr. President, on page 3, between lines 11 and 12, insert a new section, as follows:

Section 5 is further amended to include the followings:

(n) SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY OF THAT PORTION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MARIBOJOC, LOON, CALAPE, TUBIGON, CLARIN, INABANGA, DAWIS, PANGLAO AND THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL.

And the subsequent letters be relettered, Mr. President.

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

Senator Angara. That is all, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. There is no further amendment from the committee. I move that the period of committee amendments be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, unless there are any

individual amendments, I move that the period of individual amendments be closed.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1966 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1966, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1966, as amended.

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

Several Members. *Aye*.

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

Senate Bill No. 1966, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 2505 - Amending R.A. No. 7202 (Sugar Restitution Law)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we consider on Second Reading Senate Bill No. 2505, as reported out under Committee Report No. 990.

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

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2505 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2505, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7202, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SUGAR RESTITUTION LAW AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The following is the full text of the bill:

SENATE BILL NO. 2505
(insert)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure. I ask that the Secretary read the certification from the Office

of the President.

The President. The Secretary may do so.

The Acting Secretary.

February 6, 1998

HON. NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Senate President
Senate, Manila

Dear Senate President Gonzales:

Pursuant to the provision of Section 26 (2), Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2505 entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7202, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
SUGAR RESTITUTION LAW AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES,"

to meet the public emergency consisting of the urgent need to place in and/or cover by the Sugar Restitution Fund the properties and assets transferred and ceded to the government under the Compromise Agreements entered into by PCGG and Roberto S. Benedicto for distribution to sugar planters who suffered heavy losses in the past due to government action.

Best wishes.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS

cc: Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for the sponsorship, I ask that the distinguished gentleman from Iloilo, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, be recognized.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon. Thank you, Mr. President.

Republic Act No. 7202, otherwise known as the Sugar Restitution Law, became a law in 1992. It is so-called because its primary purpose, as stated in the law itself, is to reconstitute the sugar producers for their losses due to actions taken by

government agencies during a ten-year period from crop year 1974-1975 to crop year 1984-1985. By restituting the sugar producers, it is expected that the economy in the sugar-producing areas of the country will be given an added boost.

Among the government agencies identified as having caused these losses estimated at not less than P30 billion to the sugar producers were the Philippine Sugar Commission (PHILSUCOM) and the National Sugar Trading Corporation (NASUTRA), both of which were under the control of Roberto S. Benedicto, then known as the sugar czar.

5 Sugar trading became a government monopoly. Government corruption was rampant and inefficiency was the direct result of absolute power and authority that the government enjoyed over all aspects of sugar production and trading. The sugar producers were not only not paid the correct price for their sugar produce, but such payment was also unreasonably delayed. In addition, interests on sugar loans charged by government financial institutions were inordinately high, reaching to as much as 48% per annum. These high interest rates aggravated the already precarious condition of the sugar industry at that time. As a result, the sugar industry was driven to near collapse. In 1985, it was already described as a "sunset" industry, the end of the sugar trading monopoly. The 1986 revolution, however, gave it life.

The Sugar Restitution Law was, therefore, passed as an act of justice to give partial restitution to the sugar producers for their losses. It wisely provided that what should be used for restitution should be the assets or money recovered by the government through the Presidential Commission on Good Government which have been stolen or illegally taken from the sugar industry.

That law was passed six years ago. Up to now, the law has not been implemented. The sugar producers for whose benefit the law was passed have not been restituted for their losses.

The reason for its lack of implementation is the absence of an effective mechanism by which illegally acquired assets from the sugar industry which were recovered by PCGG may be turned over to the sugar producers. For example, Roberto S. Benedicto ceded assets to the government as part of a compromise agreement he entered into with PCGG. These assets should have but have not been turned over to the sugar producers for pro rata distribution in accordance with the law.

This deficiency in the law is sought to be remedied in the attached bill. It provides that:

1. The Benedicto-ceded assets will be used to reconstitute the sugar producers for their losses in accordance with the law.
2. Ten percent of the value of such assets shall go to the

sugar workers who were and continue to be the indispensable partners of sugar producers in sugar production.

3. PCGG shall turn over such assets to the Sugar Regulatory Administration for implementation of the law.

Mr. President, the sugar industry was and remains to be a major contributor to the national economy. It is a major export earner. Its earnings from export and domestic markets contribute substantially to the gross national product. It employs half a million people and more than five million more are indirectly dependent upon it, majority of whom are coming from Region VI which I represent. Trade liberalization has adversely affected it although, in spite of difficulties, it is adjusting to existing economic realities and striving towards achieving global competitiveness in the very near future. We can help the industry achieve this end, among others, by giving them what had been promised six years ago in the Sugar Restitution Law.

For this reason, I appeal to the leadership of this Chamber and to my colleagues for the immediate approval of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for the next sponsorship speech, I ask that the distinguished lady Senator from Pampanga, Pangasinan and Negros, Sen. Gloria Macapagal, be recognized.

The President. Senator Macapagal is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MACAPAGAL

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, as author of Senate Bill No. 2460, which has been renumbered Senate Bill No. 2505 under Committee Report No. 990, under the chairmanship and sponsorship of Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, with the Chairman's permission, I stand to rise in cosponsorship of Senate Bill No. 2505 under Committee Report No. 990.

As our distinguished Chairman said, six years ago, Congress passed the Sugar Restitution Law, then authored by Sen. Alberto C. Romulo, Republic Act No. 7202, An Act of Social Justice. Its primordial aim was to redress the devastation caused to the sugar industry as a result of practices attributed to government agencies during the 10-year period of the sugar trading monopoly. Thus, the law declared the policy of the government to reconstitute the losses suffered by the sugar-producing areas of the country.

In pursuit of this government policy, the law provided that whatever amount recovered by the government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government or any other agency or

from any other sources and whatever assets or funds that may be recovered which have been determined to have been stolen or illegally acquired from the sugar industry, shall be used to compensate all sugar producers from crop years 1974-1975 up to and including crop years 1984, 1985 on a prorata basis.

Congress passed this law with a high hope that justice would be served and, in view of the urgent need to revive the economy of the sugar-producing areas, that its implementation will be prompt and immediate. But, again, as said by Chairman Drilon, up to now, nearly six years later, the law still remains to be implemented.

Allow me to recall facts and events established during public hearings conducted by the Senate and by the House of Representatives which led to the approval of that law. Recalling these facts may help all of us realize the urgency of passing a remedial measure to make the promise in the law a reality to its beneficiaries--the sugar millers, planters, and the hundreds of thousands of sugar workers who will directly benefit from it.

Certain government agencies during the 10-year period mentioned in the law had been given such absolute complete control of the sugar industry; that even the act of selling or assigning one's sugar produce was a criminal act for which, if convicted, the seller or assignor could be imprisoned for five to ten years. In the process, the sugar producers were deprived of the opportunity to realize profits from sugar trading, whether for the domestic or export market. They were paid a liquidation price at levels far below what they themselves could have obtained from their own, and the payment for the sugar produce was always unreasonably delayed.

In addition, loans obtained from government financial institutions charge exorbitant rates, reaching up to 48 percent per annum. This resulted in sugarlands and sugar mills mortgaged to the banks which are eventually foreclosed and the ownership transferred to the banks and to other persons.

Some of these foreclosed sugar mills are no longer operating to the prejudice not only of their owners but also to their workers and the communities which depended on them.

These agencies which controlled the sugar industry included Philippine Sugar Commission (Philsucom), a government agency created in 1974 by Presidential Decree No. 388, and the National Sugar Trading Corporation (Nasutra), a corporation organized by Philsucom to act as the single buying and selling agency for sugar.

Records show that the transactions entered into by these agencies resulted in millions of dollars of profit which should have been paid to the sugar producers.

Roberto Benedicto, chairman and chief executive officer of

both agencies, was made the principal defendant in the complaint filed by the PCGG with Sandiganbayan, Civil Case No. 0034. But this case did not go to trial as Benedicto entered into a compromise agreement in which he ceded certain assets to the government.

The Sugar Restitution Law remains unimplemented to this day. The Benedicto-ceded assets are still with government. The sugar producers have waited for the last six years for the act of social justice promised to them in the law to become a meaningful reality. It is still possible to fulfill that promise. This amendatory bill intends to do just that.

This bill provides that Benedicto-ceded assets, as a result of the compromise agreement entered into between him and the PCGG, shall be distributed to qualified sugar producers on a *pro rata* basis. Instead of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, it is now the Sugar Regulatory Administration which shall implement the distribution of these assets.

Labor, an indispensable partner of capital, will receive 10 percent of these assets as their share. SRA is authorized to incur administrative and other related expenses for the purpose of determining the identities of the sugar producers entitled to the benefits of the law, or to the heirs of those who are now deceased, determining their sugar production during the ten-year period and effecting distribution. This may require the services of accountants, lawyers and other professionals including clerical staff.

In other words, this bill will see to it that any possible impediment to the effective and efficient implementation of the original law is removed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR MACAPAGAL
(Senator Romulo as Coauthor of S. No. 2505)

Mr. President, I, therefore, urge the Senate to join me in approving this amendment to the Sugar Restitution Law, and I also manifest that Senator Romulo is a coauthor of this bill.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I would like to thank the distinguished sponsor and author, Senator Macapagal, for including me as one of the coauthors having been the principal author of the original bill.

May I direct some questions to Senator Macapagal.

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, I will do my best to answer the questions, although the distinguished author of the original law certainly is very familiar with the problem that we

are seeking to address.

Senator Romulo. Thank you, Mr. President. Under this bill, as the distinguished Senator and Senator Drilon have said, a mechanism will now be in place in order to ensure that the aggrieved parties may be able to recover what they have lost out of the proceeds of some of these ill-gotten wealth specifically from Mr. Roberto Benedicto. May I be informed on the particular mechanism or procedure?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, as the bill provides, the PCGG shall turn over to the Sugar Regulatory Administration all the funds and assets already recovered within 90 days from the approval of the Act.

Senator Romulo. In other words, the PCGG is in possession of these assets and proceeds at the moment.

Senator Macapagal. Yes, Mr. President. In fact, the reason for the filing of this bill was that, in various committee hearings that we were holding on different subjects touching on the sugar industry, the Chairman of the PCGG, Magtanggol Gunigundo, told us that these funds are in escrow. But the reason why he did not want to use them for the restitution is that he wanted these assets to be specifically named in the legislation so that they could be given out for the restitution. That is why this bill came about.

Senator Romulo. And this is the purpose of this bill where these assets are specifically identified?

Senator Macapagal. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. What are identified here specifically are the recovered assets from Mr. Roberto Benedicto?

Senator Macapagal. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. Are there other assets that are in escrow or with the PCGG which refers to the sugar industry which could also be subject to this amendment?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, to the best of the knowledge of the sugar industry, the main assets that can be used for the restitution are the recovered assets from the Benedicto property.

Senator Romulo. How much is the amount of these recovered assets from Benedicto and his empire?

Senator Macapagal. It has an estimated value of at least P3.5 billion.

Senator Romulo. What is the estimated loss of the sugar industry or the members of the sugar industry as a result of the

pillage and plunder by the Marcos administration as engineered among others by Mr. Roberto Benedicto?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, it is estimated at P30 billion.

Senator Romulo. Therefore, if it is P3 billion plus, this is merely 10 percent of the pillage and plunder by the unlamented dictatorship of the past.

Senator Macapagal. That is right, Mr. President, only 10 percent.

Senator Romulo. Is there any possibility or any move to recover the balance or the 90 percent of the loss of the sugar industry?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, according to the members of the sugar industry, that would require going to court, but right now there has been no such action.

Senator Romulo. But the sugar industry can identify or, in fact, has identified the parties, the institutions, and the enterprises which hold most, if not all, of the balance of 90 percent?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, this information is contained in the complaint filed by the PCGG.

Senator Romulo. Therefore, in that complaint, if we would delve into it, the entire P30 billion is enumerated and specified?

Senator Macapagal. An estimate.

Senator Romulo. An estimate, yes. It could be P40 billion; it could be P35 billion that Mr. Enriqueto Zobel has just exposed in the papers the other day. Do we have a copy of the complaint filed by whoever in the PCGG?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, it is not immediately available.

Senator Romulo. But can that be obtained? Or does the industry have it now in its possession?

Senator Macapagal. The industry has a copy, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. Without delaying the passage of this important bill, may this representation ask if he can be provided by the industry with a copy of that portion of the complaint, if not the whole complaint, which cites or enumerates the whereabouts or where the balance of the P30 billion, give and take P5 billion or P10 billion, can be found.

Senator Macapagal. I am sure it is within its pleasure to provide it, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. Does this amending bill provide for a mechanism whereby when the 90 percent is finally identified or adjudged, wherever it is, that that will also be made available? Is this in the bill amending the original bill?

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, perhaps that can be provided under Section 2 of this bill where the FNB, the Republic Planters Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines, and other government-owned and controlled financial institutions which have granted loans to the sugar producers shall extend condonation of interest in excess of 12 percent, and have recomputed loans amortized for a period of 13 years.

These measures are really in the original law authored by Senator Romulo. So they are contained in the original. What this bill provides is the benefit of *pro rata* distribution.

So whatever is recovered will be distributed prorata. If only P3.5 billion is recovered then only P3.5 billion will be distributed prorata.

Senator Romulo. I see and I understand. Now, this case with Mr. Roberto Benedicto is subject of a compromise agreement or settlement. Is this correct?

Senator Macapagal. That is right, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. And as a result of this compromise settlement, the amount coughed up by Mr. Roberto Benedicto and his empire totalled P3.5 billion. Is that correct?

Senator Macapagal. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. Of course, he retains the bulk of them?

Senator Macapagal. That is right.

Senator Romulo. Does this compromise settlement waive further criminal and other suits, in other words, total immunity from further suit?

Senator Macapagal. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. So this is the price that we have paid and this is precisely the peril that we want to avoid in other compromises. I hope that we should not compromise on the other settlements where we waive criminal and civil liabilities, where we give immunity from suit to those who have pillaged and plundered our country.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. There are no further intepellations...

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I dissented from the Committee Report because I find something fundamentally unacceptable, principally, No. 1, that all of those recovered from Mr. Roberto Benedicto are deemed to have been illegally stolen or acquired from the sugar industry. I think we all know that Mr. Benedicto was not only in sugar, he was in shipping, trading and media, and there is a question of fact that is involved here.

And No. 2, there is a matter of equity. There are other claimants, the human rights victims who have outstanding claims. There are technical problems here. For example, are Channels 9 and 13, which even now are being bidded out, going to be given to the sugar industry?

There are a thousand and one questions that have to be clarified. I supported the original bill and it is still good. That as long as there is proof that certain assets were stolen from the sugar industry, fine, let us give it to them. But that is the crux of the question.

Because of that, Mr. President, I think there is a lot of documentation and information that I will have to ask, and I would like to have a few minutes to study the sponsorship speeches of the two sponsors before I would be ready to propound questions. I would therefore ask that my turn to interpellate be deferred in the meantime.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2505

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2505.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2497--Government Assistance to
Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE)
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2497 as reported out under Committee Report No. 952.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2497 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. We are in the period of individual amendments. I ask that the distinguished sponsor be recognized for his individual amendment.

The President. Senator Angara is recognized.

ANGARA AMENDMENT

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, the revised copy of the bill has been distributed.

On page 26, lines 12 and 19, we would like to propose the following amendments: ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THIS PURPOSE SHALL BE CONSTITUTED AS A TRUST FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL WHICH SHALL BE DIRECTLY AND AUTOMATICALLY RELEASED TO THE DIFFERENT REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS.

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

Senator Angara. That is all. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2497 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2497, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2497, as amended.

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

Several Members. Aye.

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

Senate Bill No. 2497, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I understand that there are

16 senators in the building at this point. May we ask the Secretariat to inform our colleagues outside the hall that their presence is needed in order for us to proceed with the Third Reading on certain bills.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 1568/H. NO. 129
(On the Prohibition of Imported Right-hand
Drive Vehicle)

Mr. President, I move that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1568 and House Bill No. 129.

I ask that the Chairman of the Senate panel, the gentleman from Cebu and Bohol be recognized.

The President. Senator Herrera is recognized.

REPORT OF SENATOR HERRERA

Senator Herrera. Thank you, Mr. President.

As Chairman of the Committee on Public Services and Chairman of the Senate panel, Mr. President, I am privileged to report the result of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1568 and House Bill No. 129.

The conferees agreed, Mr. President, to adopt practically the Senate version which was authored by Senator Maceda. So that almost the entire Section 1 was really lifted from the Senate version which now we prohibit the importation of a right-hand steering wheel vehicle.

That is the only disagreeing provision, Mr. President, and the conferees adopted the Senate version.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON
S. NO. 1568/H. NO. 129

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move for the approval of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1568 and House Bill No. 129 is hereby approved and adopted.

The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report:

insert

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 2425--Election of Sectoral Representatives
to the Local Sanggunian

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 2425 as reported out under Committee Report No. 864.

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

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2425 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2425, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER AND DATE OF ELECTION OF
SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN.

The following is the whole text of the bill:

Senate Bill No.
insert

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for the sponsorship, I ask that the gentleman from Quezon City, Tarlac and Bulacan, the Assistant Majority Leader be recognized.

The President. Senator Romulo, the Assistant Majority Leader is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ROMULO

Senator Romulo. Thank you, Mr. President.

I have been asked to sponsor this bill, which is authored by Senators Sotto, Herrera, Santiago and this representation, on behalf of the Chairperson of the committee, Senator Santiago,

Mr. President, this bill provides for the manner and date of the election of sectoral representatives to the local *sanggunian*.

The policy and the purpose of this bill is to have sectoral representatives to legislative bodies of local governments in order to uphold the right of the people and their organization to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making. This brings the participation of the sectoral representatives to the government nearest to the people which is the local government, whether it is a municipality, a city or a province.

Mr. President, for this purpose, the sectoral representatives would be represented by a group of citizens or a coalition of group of citizens who share similar physical attributes or characteristics, profession, employment, interest or concern.

Under this proposed bill, there shall be three sectoral representatives in the *Sangguniang Bayan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, and in the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* who shall be elected accordingly: one from the women sector, one from the workers sector, and one from any of the following sectors--the urban poor, the indigenous cultural communities, disabled person, or any other sector as may be determined by the *Sangguniang Bayan* or the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*. This must be manifested to the Commission on Election within 90 days prior to the holding of the next election.

The dates of the election for these local sectoral representatives are:

The first election in the *Sangguniang Bayan* and *Sangguniang Panlungsod* shall be held simultaneously with the local elections on the second of May, 1998. I believe that is on May 11, 1998, which also coincides with the national election. Thirty days thereafter, the first election for sectoral representative in the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* shall be held. So the election of the *Sangguniang Pambayan* and *Sangguniang Panlungsod* will be held on the second Monday of May, 1998.

However, the first election for sectoral representative in the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* shall be held 30 days thereafter or 30 days after the second Monday of May, 1998. In other words, this would, more or less, be about the second week of June, 1998. Thereafter, the election for the sectoral representative shall be held simultaneously with the local elections. Thirty days thereafter, representatives in the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* will be held. Again, there is that 30 days gap between the holding of the election for sectoral representatives in the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* and in the *Sangguniang Bayan* and *Sangguniang Panlungsod*.

Mr. President, the other parts of the bill deal with the the sectoral registration. In other words, any sectoral organization with a membership of not less than 25 registered voters may file with the Commission on Election a petition verified by its President or Secretary, stating its desire to participate in the election for sectoral representatives, and attaching thereto its constitution and bylaws, its program of government, list of officers, coalition agreement, certificate of accreditation by a government agency, and other relevant information that the Commission on Election may require. There are other requirements needed by both the Commission on Election and by the sectoral representative.

Mr. President, as I have already mentioned, any registered

sectoral organization may file with the Commission on Election not later than 90 days before every election a manifestation of its desire to participate in the election. It is also provided in this bill the causes or the grounds for removal or cancellation of registration.

The Commission shall certify the list of registered sectoral organizations after the sectoral organizations have submitted or made their applications which have been approved by the Commission on Election.

Mr. President, the qualifications for candidacy for the sectoral representative are basically 6 items:

1. He/She must be a citizen of the Philippines;
2. A registered voter in the city or municipality where he intends to be elected;
3. Such residency must at least be one year immediately preceeding the election;
4. He must be able to read and write Filipino or any other language or dialect;
5. And at least 23 years of age on election day in the case of electoral representatives in the *Sangguniang Panglalawigan or Panglungsod* and 18 years of age in the case of *Sangguniang Bayan* which is for the municipality.
6. He should be a member of a registered sectoral organization.

It is also provided here that there are candidates who are disqualified and it is enumerated here in Section XI.

So, Mr. President, this is the bill wherein we ask for the support and consideration of this Body. It is an important bill because it gives meaning to the constitutional provision of the participation of the people and sectoral representatives in the various government branches that we have. And here, we are providing sectoral representatives for the municipal council, the city council and the provincial council.

I urge our colleagues to support and vote for this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad, Mr. President, there are no interpellations, I move that the period of interpellations be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, there are no committee amendments, I move that the period of committee amendments be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. There are no individual amendments, I move that the period of individual amendments be closed.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2425 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2425.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading Senate Bill No. 2425.

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

Several Members. Aye.

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

Senate Bill No. 2425 is approved on Second Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 2497 - Providing Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2497.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2497 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2497, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 6728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION (GATSPE), ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBSIDIZING SALARIES OF PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure, the certification has just been read. I move that we now approve

on Third Reading Senate Bill No. 2497.

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
HerreraYes
Honasan.....
MacapagalYes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
MercadoYes
Ople
Osmena III.....
Revilla
Roco
RomuloYes
Defensor Santiago.....
ShahaniYes
Sotto
TatadYes
WebbYes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2497 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2497 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 1966 - Amending Certain Sections of R. A. 7916
(Special Economic Zone Act of 1995)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1966.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1966 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1966, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 7916,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF

1995 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure and the certification has been read. I move that we now vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1966.

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmeña III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The Senate President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 1966 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 1966 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 2524 - Increasing the Bed Capacity of
Zamboanga City Medical Center

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 2524. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 2524 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 2524, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER FROM TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7272

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmeña III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The Senate President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 2524 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 2524 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 2398 - Surigao State College of Technology

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2398. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1988.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2398 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2398, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SURIGAO DEL NORTE SCHOOL OF ARTS
AND TRADES, AND THE MALIMONO SCHOOL OF FISHERIES
INTO A STATE COLLEGE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SURIGAO
STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....Yes
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmeña III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The Senate President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2398 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative
vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2398 in substitution of
House Bill No. 1365 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 1760 - Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College
Ditsaan-Ramain, Lanao del Sur

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third
Reading on House Bill No. 1760. Copies of the bill were
distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There

being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 1760 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 1760, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ADIONG MEMORIAL POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DITSAAN-RAMAIN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR, INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADIONG MEMORIAL POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmeña III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The Senate President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 1760 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 1760 is approved on Third Reading.

RESOLUTION ON THIRD READING

P. S. RES. NO. 1145 - Ratification of RF-Hungary Convention for Avoidance of Double Taxation

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1145.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1145 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1145, entitled

CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE
TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH
RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure.

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	Yes
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmeña III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The Senate President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF P. S. RES. NO. 1145 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1145 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
S. No. 2465 - Amending the Local Government Code

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2465. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2465 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2465, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 41 (B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmeña III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The Senate President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2465 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2465 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 9739--Creating the City of Novaliches

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9739. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9739 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 9739, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE CITY OF NOVALICHES

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9739 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 9739 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 1921-City of Valenzuela

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 1921. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 1921 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 1921, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VALENZUELA INTO A
HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF
VALENZUELA

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 1921 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 1921 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 8729---City of Santiago

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8729. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8729 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 8729, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED 7720 - AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY
OF SANTIAGO INTO AN INDEPENDENT COMPONENT CITY TO
BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF SANTIAGO

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 8729 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 8729 is approved on Third

Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
S. No. 2477—Apayao State College

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2477. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2477 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2477, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE APAYAO INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AIST), AND ITS CONNER EXTENSION HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONNER, PROVINCE OF APAYAO, INTO A CHARTERED STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE APAYAO STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	Yes
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Yes
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2477 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2477 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 8774-Hondagua National High School, Lopez, Quezon

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8774. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8774 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 8774, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HONDAGUA, MUNICIPALITY OF LOPEZ, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, TO BE KNOWN AS THE HONDAGUA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....Yes
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmena III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes

The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 8774 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 8774 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 7080--Granting Philippine Citizenship
to Brother Stephen Kin-Sang Lo

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7080. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7080 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 7080, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO BROTHER
STEPHEN KIN-SANG LO

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

The Secretary. Senators:

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
HerreraYes
Honasan.....
MacapagalYes
Maceda.....No*

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MACEDA

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, the matter of citizenship is

* With explanation of vote

a very fundamental and important part of our nation's life. In addition, I think the procedure of acquiring citizenship by a private bill or by an act of Congress should be limited to the truly meritorious and outstanding for reasons that I have already stated.

With due respect to this person, who I am sure is a good man and has done a lot of good for the community that he has served, I believe that, by the standards that I would like the Senate to adhere to, people who are probably Magsaysay-awardee types or people who are Nobel prize-awardee types or people who have served our country for 30 years, 40 years or 50 years in a very extensive capacity, I regret to say that by these standards, the person involved does not qualify for the special privilege of being granted citizenship by legislation.

For that reason, Mr. President, I regret to say that I cast a negative vote on this matter.

The Secretary. Senators:

Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
MercadoYes
Ople
Osmena III.....
Revilla
Roco
RomuloYes
Defensor-Santiago.....Yes
Shahani
Sotto III.....
TatadYes*
Webb.....Yes
The Senate President...Yes

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR TATAD

Senator Tatad. May I be allowed to explain my affirmative vote.

Like the Minority Leader, I have very serious reservations about legislating the citizenship of foreign nationals unless they are truly deserving. The subject in question, in our judgment, is a truly meritorious foreign national who has served the country for so long and so well and has expressed the desire to make the Philippines his home. Given the fact that we have,

*With explanation of vote

by law, allowed once illegal aliens to become Filipino citizens, I believe this gesture will be appreciated by our people.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 7080 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 14 affirmative votes, one negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 7080 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10353--Granting First United Broadcasting Corporation a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10353. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10353 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10353, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC), A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

The Secretary. Senators:

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado	Yes
Ople	

Osmena III.....	
Revilla	
Roco	
Romulo	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad	Yes
Webb	Yes
The Senate President...	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10353 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10353 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING •

S. No. 2504 - Ilocos Sur Polytechnic College
Second District of Ilocos Sur

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2504. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2504 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2504, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING/CONVERTING THE ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF ILOCOS SUR INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes

Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Yes
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF. S. NO. 2504 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2504, in substitution of House Bill No. 7451, is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 7971 - Establishing an 'Adopt-A-School Program'

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7971. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7971 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 7971, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN 'ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PROGRAM,'
 PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
 PURPOSES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 AngaraYes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavier.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes

Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Yes
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF. H. NO. 7971 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 7971 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 4795 - Don Emilio del Valle Memorial Hospital
 Ubay, Bohol

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4795. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4795 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 4795, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY-BED EXTENSION OF THE GOV.
 CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL REGIONAL TRAINING
 HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF
 BOHOL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DON EMILIO DEL VALLE
 MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
 THEREFOR

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 AngaraYes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavier.....Yes

Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmena III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 4795 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 4795 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 9405 - Establishing Second Engineering District in the Second Congressional District of Bataan

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9405. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9405 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 9405, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SECOND ENGINEERING DISTRICT IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
AngaraYes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes

Flavier.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Yes
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9405 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 9405 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10219 - Amending Secs. 1, 3, 4, 7 & 12 of RA 7296
 Granting Davao Agritech, Inc., a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 12019. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10219 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10219, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 1, 3, 4, 7, AND 12 OF REPUBLIC
 ACT NO. 7296, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING DAVAO
 AGRITECH, INC., A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE
 AND MAINTAIN DOMESTIC AIR SPRAYING SERVICES WITH
 DAVAO AS ITS MAJOR HUB

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 AngaraYes
 Coseteng.....

Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavies.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Monasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10219 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 14 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 10219 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 5449 - Granting Muslim Development Multi-Purpose Cooperative a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1978.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5449 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 5449, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MUSLIM DEVELOPMENT MULTI-PURPOSE
 COOPERATIVE A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
 ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO STATIONS
 ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....

AngaraYes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavier.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Abstain
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 5449 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 14 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 5449 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 9952 - Granting Tamaraw Broadcasting Corporation
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9952. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9952 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 9952, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE TAMARAW BROADCASTING CORPORATION A
 FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,
 OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO STATIONS ANYWHERE IN
 THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 AngaraYes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavio.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Abstain
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....Yes
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9952 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 9952 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10294 - Granting Neutron Broadcast Network, Inc.
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10294. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10294 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 10294, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE NEUTRON BROADCAST NETWORK, INC., A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS
IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
AngaraYes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Monasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmena III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Abstain
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10294 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10294 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 8498 - Granting Valley Cable Television Network, Inc.
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8498. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8498 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 8498, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE VALLEY CABLE TELEVISION NETWORK,
INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND
TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
AngaraYes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....
Osmena III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Abstain
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 8498 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 8498 is approved on Third Reading.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Just to manifest my statement that I had registered and voted abstention on all franchise bills in the committee report, on Second Reading and Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 9931 - Granting Elfren B. Servando, Jr.
Broadcasting Network a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9931. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on House Bill No. 9931 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 9931, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE ELFREN B. SERVANDO, JR.
BROADCASTING NETWORK A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND
TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE CITY OF PUERTO
PRINCESA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9931 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative
vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 9931 is approved on
Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 6213 - Granting Premiere Mass
Media, Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third
Reading on House Bill No. 6213. Copies of the bill were
distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on House Bill No. 6213 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 6213, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PREMIERE MASS MEDIA, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION IN THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN, PROVINCE OF BOHOL

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 6213 THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 6213 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 9368 - Granting Image Broadcasting Corp. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9368. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on House Bill No. 9368 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 9368, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE IMAGE BROADCASTING CORP. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9368 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 9368 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10137 - Granting Philippine Multi-Media System, Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third

Reading on House Bill No. 10137. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on House Bill No. 10137 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10137, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE PHILIPPINE MULTI-MEDIA SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10137 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 15 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10137 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10175 - Granting Avila Broadcasting Network, Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10175. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on House Bill No. 10175 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10175, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE AVILA BROADCASTING NETWORK, INCORPORATED, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	Yes
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10175 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10175 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 10233---Granting Mindoro Telecommunications
Corporation a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10233. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998. Q

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10233, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MINDORO TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH,
INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE
NETWORK IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

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

The Secretary. Senators.

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
DrilonYes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....Yes
Osmeña III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Abstain
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10233 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative

vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10233 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 10174--Granting Panay Telephone Corporation
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10174. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10174 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10174, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE PANAY TELEPHONE CORPORATION A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL,
MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE
PROVINCES OF Aklan and Antique and in the
Municipality of Janiway, Province of Iloilo

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes
Honasan.....	
Macapagal.....	Yes
Maceda.....	Yes
Magsaysay Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	Yes
Osmeña III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10174 ON THIRD READING .

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10174 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 6311--Granting Flaridel Service Cooperative
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6311. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6311 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. House Bill No. 6311, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE FLARIDEL SERVICE COOPERATIVE A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL,
MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF FLARIDEL, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS
OCCIDENTAL

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
DrilonYes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....Yes
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....Yes
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
Mercado.....Yes
Ople.....Yes
Osmeña III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Abstain
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes

Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 6311 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 6311 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10377--Granting Multi-Line Construction International, Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10377. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10377 is now in order.

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 10377, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MULTI-LINE CONSTRUCTION INTERNATIONAL, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 Angara.....Yes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavio.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....Yes
 Osmeña III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Abstain

Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....Yes
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10377 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10377 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 9825---Granting Direct Broadcast Satellite
 Phil., Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9825. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 9825 is now in order..

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

The Acting Secretary. House Bill No. 9825, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE PHIL.,
 INC., A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, CONSTRUCT,
 INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL
 PURPOSES CABLE/COMMUNITY ANTENNAE TELEVISION
 SYSTEMS AND/OR DIRECT TO HOME SATELLITE SYSTEMS
 THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Acting Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 Angara.....Yes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavier.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....Yes

Osmeña III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Abstain
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....Yes
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 9825 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 9825 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 3802 - Granting Maasin Cable Television
a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 3802. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on House Bill No. 3802 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 3802, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MAASIN CABLE TELEVISION A FRANCHISE
 TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A COMMERCIAL
 CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE PROVINCE OF
 SOUTHERN LEYTE

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....
 Angara.....Yes
 Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....Yes
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavio.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes

Magsaysay, Jr.....	Yes
Mercado.....	Yes
Ople.....	Yes
Osmena III.....	
Revilla.....	
Roco.....	
Romulo.....	Abstain
Defensor-Santiago.....	Yes
Shahani.....	Yes
Sotto III.....	
Tatad.....	Yes
Webb.....	Yes
The President.....	Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 3802 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 3802 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING

H. No. 10169 - Granting Transpacific Broadcast Group International, Inc. a Franchise

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 10169. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on February 3, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on House Bill No. 10169 on Third Reading is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 10169, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE TRANSPACIFIC BROADCAST GROUP INTERNATIONAL, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FOR THE RECEPTION AND TRANSMISSION OF MESSAGES WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....	
Angara.....	Yes
Coseteng.....	
Drilon.....	Yes
Enrile.....	Yes
Fernan.....	Yes
Flavier.....	Yes
Herrera.....	Yes

Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....Yes
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
 Mercado.....Yes
 Ople.....Yes
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....Abstain
 Defensor-Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....Yes
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 10169 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 16 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, House Bill No. 10169 is approved on Third Reading.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S.NO. 1818/H. NO. 10510 (Prevention & Control of HIV/AIDS in the Philippine)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1818 and House Bill No. 10510.

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

Senator Tatad. I ask that the distinguished Chairman of the Senate panel, the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb, be recognized.

The President. Senator Webb is recognized.

REPORT OF SENATOR WEBB

Senator Webb. Mr. President. I am happy to report that the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1818 and House Bill No. 10510 met and fully discussed the subject matter in a conference, and I hereby report the following:

1. The Conferees agreed to use the Senate version as the working draft. These are the supposed amendments which were approved by both Houses:
2. Section 1 - The Senate version was adopted;
3. Section 2 (*Policies*) - The Senate version was adopted;

4. Section 3 (*Definition of Terms*). - Most of the definitions of the Senate version were adopted except for the following definitions:

d) Consent - The House definition of "informed consent" was adopted and became letter (m) in the consolidated version.

Two new definitions were introduced:

"G) HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL - REFERS TO MEASURES AIMED AT PROTECTING NON-INFECTED PERSONS FROM CONTRACTING HIV AND MINIMIZING THE IMPACT OF THE CONDITION ON PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV;" and

"Q) SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES - REFERS TO ANY DISEASE THAT MAY BE ACQUIRED OR PASSED THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT."

The definition of "Window Period" was amended and shall now read as follows:

REFERS TO THE PERIOD OF TIME, USUALLY LASTING FROM TWO WEEKS TO SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH AN INFECTED INDIVIDUAL WILL TEST "NEGATIVE" UPON HIV TESTING BUT CAN ACTUALLY TRANSMIT THE INFECTION.

5. Section 4 - "*Responsibility of the Department of Health*" was deleted. Consequently, the succeeding sections were renumbered accordingly;

6. Section 4 (*HIV/AIDS Education in School*) - Section 5 of the Senate version was adopted with amendment. On line 11, between the words "at" and "secondary", the word INTERMEDIATE GRADES were inserted;

7. Section 5 (*HIV/AIDS Information as a Health Service*) came from Section 6 of the Senate version.

8. Section 6 (*HIV/AIDS Education in the Workplace*) - Section 7 of the Senate version was adopted with certain amendments and shall now read as follows:

All government and private employees, workers, managers and supervisors, including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), shall be provided with the standardized basic information and instruction on HIV/AIDS which shall include topics on confidentiality in the workplace and attitude towards infected employees and workers. In collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH), the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment shall oversee the anti-HIV/AIDS campaign in all private companies while the ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PNP SHALL OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

9. Section 7 (*HIV/AIDS Education for Filipinos going*

Abroad) - Section 8 of the Senate version was adopted with amendment. On line 13, after the word "Affairs", insert the phrase THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

10. Section 8 (Information Campaign for Tourists and Transients) - Section 9 of the Senate version was adopted with amendment. On line 20, after the word "Tourism", insert the phrase THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.

11. Section 9 (HIV/AIDS Education in Communities) - Section 10 of the Senate version was adopted with certain amendments. It shall now read as follows:

Local government units, in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH), shall conduct an educational and information campaign on HIV/AIDS. The PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, CITY OR MUNICIPAL MAYOR AND THE barangay captain shall coordinate such campaign among concerned government agencies, nongovernment organizations and CHURCH-based groups.

12. Section 10 (Information and Use of Prophylactics) - The first paragraph of Section 11 of the Senate version was adopted, but the second paragraph was deleted.

13. Section 11 (Penalties for Misleading Information) came from Section 10 of the House version.

14. Section 12 (Requirement on the Donation of Blood, Tissue or Organ) - The first paragraph of Section 12 of the Senate version was adopted.

15. Section 13 (Guidelines on Surgical and Similar Procedures) - Adopted the same numbered Section of the Senate version with amendments. On line 19, between the words "providers" and "at", insert the phrase AND SIMILARLY EXPOSED PERSONNEL.

16. Section 14 (Penalties for Unsafe Practices and Procedures) - Section 15 of the House version was adopted with amendment. The penalty of imprisonment of "two (2) years to six (6) years" was increased from "SIX (6) years to TWELVE (12) years."

17. Section 15 (Consent as Required for HIV Testing) - Section 14 of the Senate version was adopted.

18. Section 16 (Prohibitions on Compulsory Testing) - Section 15 of the Senate version was adopted.

19. Section 17 (Exception to the Prohibition on Compulsory Testing) - Section 16 of the Senate version was adopted with amendments. On line 23, between the figures "264" and "335", insert the phrase 266 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8353.

Subsection (d) was deleted.

20. Sections 18 (Anonymous Testing), 19 (Accreditation of HIV Testing Centers), and 20 (Pre-test and Post-test Counselling) of the reconciled bill are verbatim adoptions of Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Senate version, respectively.

21. Section 21 (Support for HIV Testing Centers) came from Section 20 of the House version.

22. Section 22 (Hospital-Based Services) and Section 23 (Community-Based Services) are verbatim adoptions of Sections 20 and 21 of the Senate version, respectively.

23. Section 24 (Livelihood Programs) - Section 22 of the Senate version was adopted with amendments. It shall now read as follows:

Livelihood Programs AND TRAININGS - TRAININGS FOR LIVELIHOOD, SELF HELP COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS SHALL BE MADE ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE TO ALL PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS. Persons infected...health conditions.

24. Sections 25 (Control of Sexually-Transmitted Diseases), 26 (Insurance for Persons with HIV), 27 (Monitoring Program), 28 (Reporting Procedures), 29 (Contact Tracing), 30 (Medical Confidentiality), 31 (Exceptions to the Mandate of Confidentiality) and 32 (Release of HIV/AIDS Test Results) are verbatim adoptions of Sections 23 to 29 of the Senate version, respectively.

25. Section 33 (Penalties for Violations of Confidentiality) came from Section 31 of the House version;

26. Section 34 (Disclosure of Sexual Partners) - Section 32 of the House version was adopted with amendment. The word "morally" between the words "is" and "obliged" was deleted;

27. Almost all the provisions under Article VII (Discriminatory Acts and Policies), from Section 35 up to Section 41, are verbatim adoptions of Sections 31 to 37 of the Senate version. Section 42 (Penalties for Discriminatory Acts and Policies) came from Section 41 of the House version;

28. The title of Article VIII, THE PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMISSION was replaced with the title THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL.

29. Section 43 (Establishment) and Section 44 basically came from Section 42 of the House except for some amendments. They have also been recast and shall now read as follows:

SEC. 43. ESTABLISHMENT. - THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL (PNAC) CREATED BY VIRTUE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 39 DATED 3 DECEMBER 1992 SHALL BE RECONSTITUTED AND STRENGTHENED TO ENABLE

THE COUNCIL TO OVERSEE AN INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE PHILIPPINES. IT SHALL BE ATTACHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

SEC. 44. FUNCTIONS. - A COUNCIL SHALL BE THE CENTRAL ADVISORY, PLANNING AND POLICY-MAKING BODY FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES. THE COUNCIL SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:

A) SECURE FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES COULD OPERATIONALIZE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. THE COUNCIL SHALL INTEGRATE AND COORDINATE SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT. THE COUNCIL SHALL LIKEWISE ENSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE COVERAGE OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

(1) THE INSTITUTION OF A NATIONWIDE HIV/AIDS INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM;

(2) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE HIV/AIDS MONITORING SYSTEM;

(3) THE ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES ON MEDICAL AND OTHER PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES THAT CARRY THE RISK OF HIV TRANSMISSION;

(4) THE PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING SERVICES TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF IT;

(5) THE PROVISION OF ACCEPTABLE HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS IN HOSPITALS AND IN COMMUNITIES;

(6) THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH HIV; AND

(7) THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF MEDICAL CONFIDENTIALITY.

(B) MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT, ISSUE OR CAUSE THE ISSUANCE OF ORDERS OR MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE;

(C) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM NATIONAL HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM AND MONITOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION;

(D) COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF AND STRENGTHEN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NONGOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIV/AIDS;

(E) COORDINATE AND COOPERATE WITH FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH AND TREATMENT MODALITIES CONCERNING HIV/AIDS; AND

(F) EVALUATE THE ADEQUACY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE UTILIZATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

30. Section 45 (Membership and Composition) was adopted from Section 44 of the House version with amendments. The member-offices are being required to be represented in the Council by their respective heads. Organizations of health professionals (the FMA, FNA, PDA and the PHA) which were given one seat each in the Council were given two slots in the Council as a group called the "HEALTH PROFESSIONALS". It was also qualified that six (6) nongovernmental organizations must be involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities. A representative from an organization of persons living with HIV/AIDS was given a seat in the Council. Thus, the membership of the Council was reduced from 27 to 26;

31. Section 46 (Reports) was adopted from Section 47 of the House version.

32. Section 47 (Creation of Special HIV/AIDS Preventional and Control SERVICE - was adopted from Section 38 of the Senate version with some amendments. It shall read as follows:

There shall be created in the Department of Health a Special HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control SERVICE staffed by qualified medical specialists and support staff WITH PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS and supported with an adequate yearly budget [which cannot be realigned or diverted to any other programs or budget. IT SHALL IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL. IN ADDITION, IT SHALL ALSO SERVE AS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL.

33. Section 48 (Appropriations) was adopted from Section 39 of the Senate version with amendments. It shall now read as follows:

THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000) SHALL BE INITIALLY APPROPRIATED OUT OF THE FUNDS OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY. SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS SHALL BE PROVIDED BY CONGRESS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNDER THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

34. Section 49 (Implementing Rules and Regulations) was adopted from Section 49 of the House version with amendment. The phrase "the Commission in consultation with concerned government agencies and nongovernment organizations" was deleted;

35. Section 50 - Separability Clause, Section 51 - Repealing Clause, and Section 52 - Effectivity, are the standard separability, repealing and effectivity clauses.

In case of a conflict between the statements/amendments stated in this Joint Explanation and that of the provisions of the consolidated bill in the accompanying Conference Committee Report, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

That is all, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON S. NO. 1818/H. NO. 10510

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we approve the Conference Committee Report.

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

The following is the whole text of the Conference Committee Report.

Insert

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, may I rise on a question of personal privilege.

The President. What is the privilege?

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR MACEDA
(Expressing Farewell to the Senate)

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I will not be back here in the resumption of our session in May and I would like to say a few words as a farewell to this distinguished institution and to my colleagues.

The President. The Minority Leader may proceed.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, before I start, may I just ask everybody in their chairs to join me in a brief prayer for the victims of Flight 387 who have gone to their rest in Cagayan de Oro City.

[Everybody rose for the prayer]

PRAYER

Senator Maceda.

O Lord, I have departed from this world and now return to You;

O Lord, in Your mercy, welcome them into Your heavenly kingdom;

They have gone to their rest; Now they hope to

rise with You;

O Lord, in Your encompassing love, bring them into the light of Your divine presence;

I meekly intercede, O Lord, for our faithful departed and for their families;

May those who have departed in Flight 387 find eternal peace with You;

May they inherit Your kind forgiveness; May they see You face to face.

Amen.

Mr. President, I stand today with mixed emotions. After all, I have spent one-third of my life in this august halls or campaigning for a seat in the Senate three times.

I am happy to be ending my third term as senator because I believe, with all sincerity, I have tried my best and I have done well. I am sad because I know that much remains to be done.

I stand here today to thank the so many people, and of course to thank the Lord Almighty, for the opportunity to serve them and to serve Him for the last 40 years, starting from 1957 when I got my first appointment as a Legal Assistant to the Social Security Commission. Shortly thereafter, as a Reparations Director in the Reparations Commission, and then served in the Senate as a Confidential Assistant to then Senate President Ferdinand Marcos way back in 1964.

I would like to thank the ward leaders, delegates and members of the Nacionalista Party way back in 1959 who really started me off on this long political and public service career by electing me as the topnotcher councilor in the third district of Manila at that time. It was at that time that I got started on the rough-and-tumble road of politics which included having to fiscalize and to lock horns with the great Mayor Arsenio Lacson for which, to this date, I am being criticized as a result of his comments about me during that fight which, subsequently, has been clarified by no less than Justice Germogenes Concepcion who said that the whole issue was purely political and had no basis in fact.

I am very grateful too to the presidents who have appointed me, President Marcos and President Aquino, as well as those who have worked with me. In the five Cabinet positions that I have been privileged to hold, five because, besides the secretaryship of Commerce and Industry, executive-secretaryship and the PACD, which was of cabinet rank, and of course, Minister of Natural Resources, I was also extended a separate appointment as chairman of the Commission on Reorganization which was then also a member of the Cabinet.

I wish to thank all of those who put trust and confidence in me in the other positions that I have held, Mr. President, Governor of the Development Bank, Trustee of the GSIS, Director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, President of the PTPA, Governor of the Philippine National Red Cross, member of the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines, and over a hundred ex-officio positions.

Mr. President, throughout the 40 years of my public service career, I have learned quite a few lessons. The foremost of which is that, no matter how you plan, no matter how you prepare, one's life and its incidents is not fully dependent on you. And that things will happen according to the will of God, whether you like it or not. Truthfully, as everyone has experienced, life is a matter of ups and downs. And it is really a matter of not giving up, a matter of not yielding but rather resolving further to do better after every defeat or after every downfall.

I have run for public office six times, I have lost twice. I have been appointed to the Cabinet five times, I have been fired twice. I have been elected Senate President, I was also fired as such, and so, that is what life is all about.

Mr. President, I take solace from Sir Winston Churchill's observation that politics is more dangerous than war, for in war, you are only killed once.

I have chosen a life in the public service, which is to say a life constantly exposed in the relentless arena of politics. It has been a life replete with victories as well as defeats. But through it all, there is much blessing to count: the innumerable Filipinos I have been able to help directly or indirectly, the billions I feel I have saved in my exposes, and a continuing and consistent battle against corruption in government and profiteering in the private sector.

Through all the vagaries and controversies that haunt all those who chose lives of prominence and engagement, I hope that I never lacked the courage required by Sir Winston Churchill's comparison of politics and war.

More than that, I hope I never lacked the moral clarity to do what has to be done for purposes of truth, freedom and honor.

That is for history to decide. It is for that moral clarity that I dared the ire of the powerful, the inconvenience of the unscrupulous and the discomfort of the dishonorable. It is for that moral clarity that I have dared the rage of some but won the support of even more.

I thank the Almighty for all the blessings that have come my way and all the friends who have offered that most priceless gift of loyalty. Both the blessings and friendships have been abundant and I they have given me the strength to continue and

the will to triumph over adversity.

I wish that my record of service will stand the scrutiny of those who truly matter, the common citizens of this great nation I chose to serve and whose well-being I value beyond all considerations.

This is the last time I rise to speak as a Senator of the Republic after three terms. I hope that it will not be the last time that will be heard of me as a public servant. From here, I will choose other paths to continue to serve our people. There is much to be done; there is much I may still be able to offer whether in government or out of government. There are commitments to live up to and a vision to live by.

I will not tarry much longer, as the poet Robert Frost put it: In three words I can sum up everything I have learned about life. It goes on.

Let me, in closing, sincerely thank all my colleagues in the Senate, the staff of this Chamber who worked tirelessly to support our efforts to bring forth legislation that will move our country closer to the next century, and the many loyal friends and supporters through the years, 40 long years, Mr. President, who had made life in and out of politics, a lot more convivial, a lot more fulfilling and a lot more satisfactory.

Sa inyong lahat po, malaki ang aking utang na loob na hindi ko mababayaran kaya, kung ano mang pagkakataon pa ang ibibigay sa akin na maglingkod kahit na hindi Senador, ay ako po ay handing tumanggap ng anumang pagkakataon na idudulot ninyo sa akin.

Sa inyong lahat po, sa bansang Pilipino, maraming salamat po sa malaking pagkakataon sa dakilang prebilihiyo at karangalan na ibinigay ninyo sa akin na maging Senador ninyong tatlong beses, naging Cabinet member ng limang beses at maglingkod sa inyo ng apatnapong taon.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. (Applause)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair declares a one-minute suspension of the session, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 12:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for lack of material time and in view of the numerous conference committee reports before us, may we have the consent of the Chamber to simplify the presentation of these reports.

MOTION OF SENATOR TATAD
(To Present the Numerous Conference Committee
Reports in an Abbreviated Form)

Since copies have been furnished all the members of the Chamber, may I move that the Majority Leader be allowed to present these reports in an abbreviated form, calling attention to the joint explanatory statement of the Conference Committee, the agreed bill that is attached to the report, and the statement that in case of conflict between the statement and the provisions of the bill, the latter shall prevail.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 2388/H. NO. 10363
(Deregulating the Downstream Oil Industry)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I now move to consider the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2388 and House Bill No. 10363, entitled

AN ACT DEREGULATING THE DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

REPORT OF SENATOR TATAD

The joint explanatory statement of the Conference Committee Report, as well as the agreed bill attached to the report, has been furnished the members of the Senate.

But may I refer to just the two most important provisions of this bill which entailed a lot of extensive discussion of the two panels.

Section 17, the agreed provision reads:

"The President may, when the interest of the consumers so requires, taking into account the rise in the domestic prices of petroleum products, use the "Reserve Control Account" as a buffer fund in an amount not exceeding Two Billion Nine Hundred Million

pesos (P2,900,000,000.00) to cover increases in the prices of petroleum products, except premium gasoline, during the Transition Phase over the prices prevailing as of the date of the effectivity of this Act. The "Reserve Control Account" refers to a lump sum collation of reserve impositions deducted from the appropriations approved by Congress for the operation of the government and the implementation of projects and programs."

"Section 19. *Start of Full Deregulation.* - Full deregulation of the Industry shall start five (5) months following the effectivity of this Act: *Provided, however,* That when the public interest so requires, the President may accelerate the start of full deregulation upon the recommendation of the DOE and the Department of Finance (DOF) when the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the world market are declining and the value of the peso in relation to the US dollar is stable, taking into account relevant trends and prospects: *Provided, further,* That the foregoing provision notwithstanding, the five (5)-month Transition Phase shall continue to apply to LPG, regular gasoline and kerosene as socially sensitive petroleum products and said petroleum products shall be covered by the automatic pricing mechanism during the said period.

Upon the implementation of full deregulation as provided herein, the Transition Phase is deemed terminated and the following laws are repealed:

- a) Republic Act No. 6173, as amended;
- b) Section 5 of Executive Order No. 172, as amended;
- c) Letter of Instruction No. 1431, dated October 15, 1984;
- d) Letter of Instruction No. 1441, dated November 20, 1984, as amended;
- e) Letter of Instruction No. 1460, dated May 9, 1985;
- f) Presidential Decree No. 1889; and
- g) Presidential Decree No. 1956, as amended by Executive Order No. 137; *Provided, however,* That in the case full deregulation is started by the President in the exercise of the authority provided in this Section, the foregoing laws shall continue to be in force and effect with respect to LPG, regular gasoline and kerosene for the rest of the five (5)-month period.

I move for the approval of this Conference Committee Report.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]

Senator Santiago. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Santiago is recognized.

Senator Santiago. Mr. President, I would like to cast a negative vote on the call for a vote on this Conference Committee Report. If this is the proper occasion I will explain why. If not, I would like to have an opportunity to explain very briefly why I vote no.

May I proceed, Mr. President?

The President. Please proceed.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR SANTIAGO

Senator Santiago. I vote no against this Conference Committee Report on the ground that a five-month transition period will not be sufficient to make a difference. A five-month transition period is tantamount to immediate full deregulation of the oil industry, particularly in the light of the fact that the Bicameral Conference Committee has even added an acceleration clause in favor of the President on the ground of public interest.

The explanation is as follows:

The primary objective of deregulation is not just to remove government controls over oil pricing and monitoring. The primary objective, in fact, is to foster a market conducive to competition which can bring about fair pricing of petroleum products. Full deregulation is premised on a market already able to regulate itself because of the presence of competition.

In this light, five months is simply not a realistic estimate to achieve that objective. If so, then investors will not be attracted to our economy which is, like all the rest of the Asian economies in a state of meltdown. Foreign investors will not dare to spend money where they can only expect minimal returns, if it could be had at that, at this time of rising costs and stratospheric interest rates.

We experienced one-and-a-half years of transition to full deregulation, but during that period of one-and-a-half years, we discovered that price competition was absent and remains absent, especially in the retail aspect of the downstream side of the industry. The prices between the three major across different petroleum products were practically the same. New players were more driven to participate in the bulk market, while entrants to the retail sector needed ample time to set up the marketing network.

I therefore vote No on the bill providing for a five-month transition period with an acceleration clause on the ground that this is nominal, this is token. It will not be able to achieve the goal of a transition period.

The President. Thank you.

Senator Webb. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Webb is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR WEBB

Senator Webb. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Committee on Energy and of the Senate panel on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 10363 and Senate Bill No. 2383, I vote a resounding *No* to certain provisions of the proposed Oil Deregulation bill, particularly with regard to the provision on the acceleration, the implementation of full deregulation, the use of the word "may" in the buffer fund, and the deletion of the provision of "unfair trade practice."

Let me explain, Mr. President. Although I would admit that, to some extent, this new Oil Deregulation Law is better than Republic Act No. 8180, which was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. I cannot, with a clear conscience, agree with the provision on full deregulation because of the following reasons:

First, the provision allowing an acceleration clause to the implementation of full deregulation is prejudicial to the best interest of our people. The oil companies claimed that they are losing money because they cannot increase their prices. With full deregulation, earlier than five months, how can we be assured that the oil companies will not abruptly increase their prices to recover their supposed losses. May I underline the word supposed losses.

It should be noted that they are petitioning for an average increase of P2.80 per liter and ERB only allowed a provisional increase of P0.53. Last week, Mr. President, the oil companies filed with the ERB another petition for under recoveries in the amount of P15.5 billion to be charged from the QPSF. If the ERB denies this petition, who will prevent the oil companies from recovering the supposed losses again under recoveries amounting to P15.5 billion from our people once they are fully deregulated?

Second, Mr. President, is, another purpose for a transition period, is to allow the new industry participants to establish themselves in the market before full deregulation is implemented. With an acceleration clause, it is as if we were preparing David to go into battle with Goliath without his sling shot.

Mr. President, I am also opposed to the word "may" in the buffer fund provision. Let me explain.

The purpose of the buffer fund is to cushion the increase in oil prices during the transition period. The IMF is opposing this provision. In order to suit its requirement, the word "shall" was replaced with the word "may". Now, with the word "may" in place, the establishment of a buffer fund is discretionary upon the President.

I am opposing this amendment, Mr. President, because the issue has gone beyond the establishment or non-establishment of a buffer fund. The real issue, to my mind, is the choice between compromising our national sovereignty by allowing the IMF to dictate on government policy, or upholding the general welfare of our people by adopting measures intended to mitigate the effects of the currency turmoil affecting our region.

Mr. President, this year, we are supposed to celebrate our 100 years of independence. Independence from what? How could we say that we are independent if our policies are being dictated upon by foreign institutions? This is very ironic and disconcerting.

Lastly, Mr. President, I oppose the deletion of "unfair trade practices" provision.

As proposed by the Senate panel, Mr. President, unfair trade practice means the selling or offering to sell petroleum products at unreasonable prices by any person or persons through such scheme, method, or craft, short of cartelization: Provided, that if this act is committed by a person, damage or injury must be proved. For this purpose, the term "short of cartelization" shall mean the presence of any of the following elements:

1. Fixing of prices;
2. Restricting outputs or dividing markets either by products or by areas;
3. Allocating market shares either by products or by areas;
4. Any other similar act or scheme in restraint of trade or free competition.

Mr. President, contrary to the perception of the House panel, this provision does not set a price cap. It does not seek to punish the selling or offering to sell petroleum products at unreasonable prices per se. It requires the existence of some other elements before punishment may be imposed. These other elements are acts or schemes in restraint of trade or free competition. These are the very essence of anti-trust laws.

Mr. President, after the government fully deregulated last year, the oil companies had a great feast at the expense of our people. They were assailed left, right and center and even haled into court for setting prices at unreasonable rates. I expect this scenario to be replicated with the deletion of the unfair trade practice provision in the Bicameral Conference Committee Report which we now see.

I do not want to sound like a prophet of doom. But the way I see it, the provisions which have been cited and the deletion of the unfair trade practice provision are prejudicial to the

best interest of our people.

As it now stands, the only saving grace that can prevent the ill effects of these objectionable provisions is the sound exercise of the prerogatives of the chief executive.

In behalf of our people, we hope and pray that the actions of the President augur well during these times of crisis, as long as in the long term.

I would like to thank the Chair personally for taking his time out to get this Bicameral Conference Committee started. We invited the House panel along with the Senate panel. We have disagreed on certain interests in the particular bill, Mr. President, but I respect the rule of the majority, and I again vote a resounding *No*.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, allow me to register a negative vote to this Conference Committee Report.

Mr. President, we believe that the pricing of oil products, given the state of our economic development, is a social issue and cannot simply be treated on a commercial basis. We believe in free enterprise. But we also believe that in such issues as the pricing of oil products which goes into the basic core of our day-to-day living, we must protect our population from the vagaries of changes in the oil prices. Pricing of oil products cannot simply be left to market forces as we do for the other products.

We are in favor of deregulating once there are enough players in the oil industry to truly provide competition for the benefit of our consuming public.

Today, we believe, Mr. President, we have not achieved that state of free enterprise as far as the oil industry is concerned. For this reason, we believe that deregulating fully oil pricing at this stage will not bring us benefits that we seek from a free enterprise system.

With this, Mr. President, I cast a negative vote.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may I reserve the right to introduce a lengthy explanation of my affirmative vote in this report.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR TATAD

INSERT

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON S. NO. 2388/H. NO. 1063

I move for the approval and adoption of the report.

The President. Is there any objection to the approval and adoption of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2388 and House Bill No. 1063? Three dissenting votes had been registered. [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

INSERT: The following is the whole text of the
Conference Committee Report

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I rise on a question of personal privilege.

The President. May the Chair be informed as to the nature of the question of privilege?

Senator Romulo. Yes, Mr. President. I have been approached by the media and I have been asked why I have not said anything about our luncheon meeting with Dau Aung Suu Kyi. They said it is about time that I said something about what happened at that lunch.

The President. The Assistant Majority Leader may proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ROMULO
(Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Leader-in-Waiting)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, on October 17 last year, I had the rare privilege of having lunch with the Burmese patriot and national hero, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In the words of Secretary Siazon who was with me during the lunch, we had a good lunch with Dau Aung Suu Kyi. The lunch was held in the dining room of the residence of our ambassador to Burma, Ambassador Sonia Brady. With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was the Chairman of her party, the National League for Democracy of which Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi is the Secretary General.

There were three of us in the group--Sec. Domingo Siazon, Jr., Amb. Sonia Brady, and myself. Secretary Siazon and I arrived at the ambassador's residence ahead of the Burmese officials, National League for Democracy leaders. While we were in the living room, we heard the car of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi entered the gate. She alighted with her Chairman from their white Toyota car where they were greeted at the door by Ambassador Brady. Then she was introduced to us.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a petite, charming, very articulate lady, who exudes inner confidence and spiritual grace and strength.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi thereafter introduced us to her companion who is the chairman of the National League for Democracy, Aung Swe. Later in our conversation during lunch, she would refer to him as uncle. She later explained that in Burma, they usually refer to elder persons as uncle or aunt.

Mr. President, Ambassador Brady served us a simple lunch: soup, mixed vegetable and a chicken dish. I believe there was a dessert but I do not recall the dessert.

Mr. President, in 1948, Burma was the first country to leave the British Empire. During that time, 1948, there were a lot of festivities in Rangoon, with thousands of gaudy-oriental lanterns and fairy lights while public buildings were being floodlit at night by red, green, and blue lights.

As the official hour of Burma's independence approached, ceremonial drums beat out. As the sound of the last drum faded away, Burma ceased to be a part of the British Empire.

Mr. President, what a very auspicious start for Burma when it gained its independence from the British Empire.

Leading the independence movement, of course, was the father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, no less than General Aung Sun. It has been said of him that he was never a devious intriguer but a man who deeply loved his country and wanted to see its independence.

He quickly discovered that the independence the Japanese spoke of bore no relation to what he wanted. He had simply exchanged one master for a far more tyrannical one.

As time passed, he became more and more disillusioned. In the end, he offered his services and that of his army to the British. Some of the more dyed-in-the-wool members of the old regime were outraged at the proposal and turned it down. But Admiral Mountbatten, who is the commander in chief in that region, as well as the British Field Marshall William Slim, had no doubt at all that they could accept his services. They never

had cause to regret. Aung Sun fought under General Slim, who later became field marshall, who was most impressed with him, finding him a genuine patriot.

His reward for his unswerving dedication to Burmese independence was death, for he and several ministers of the First Independent Government were assassinated by some members of the Burmese hierarchy.

Mr. President, a story told of Gen. Aung Sun is very revealing of the character of this patriot. As he had hoped the Japanese would give real independence to Burma, he was with the Japanese Imperial Forces. When he found they would not but were tightening demands on his people, he, relying on the promise of the British, went to Field Marshall Slim, who was then the commander in chief of the British Forces in Burma.

General Slim said: "You only come to us because you see we are winning," to which General Aung Sun replied: "It would not be much good coming to you if you weren't with it."

General Slim said: "I could not question the truth of this. I felt yet scorned and I liked his honesty."

Mr. President, 50 years later today, as Burma celebrates its 50th anniversary, there are already several countries--81 countries to be exact--which are free, in which basic civil liberties and political rights are respected, the largest number ever recorded. There are at least 57 countries that are partly free; and there are 53 countries that are not free with basic rights suppressed and civil liberties denied. One of these 53 countries is Burma, or as the SLORC or now SPLCD calls Myanmar.

So, during the continuous struggle of the Burmese for not only independence but freedom and democracy, let us review the record from that time in 1948 when Burma gained its independence from the British empire.

In 1962, Gen. Ne Win started as chairman of the Burma Socialist Program Party. That started the reign of dictatorship in Burma under Gen. Ne Win.

In March 1988, Aung San Suu Kyi went back to Burma to attend to her ailing mother while a student protest broke out in Rangoon.

On July 23 1988, Gen. Ne Win finally stepped down as chairman of the Socialist Program Party after 26 years triggering the pro-democracy movement.

On August 8, 1988, the famous mass uprising started in Rangoon, which is now called Yangon, and spread to the entire country drawing millions of people to protest against BSPP government. The military crackdown killed thousands of Burmese.

On August 26, 1988, Aung San Suu Kyi addressed half-a-million mass rally in front of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon and called for a democratic government.

On September 18, 1988, the military reestablished its power, and thereafter State Law and Order Restoration Council, the notorious SLORC, was born.

On September 24, 1988, six days later, the National League for Democracy was formed with Aung San Suu Kyi as Secretary General.

On April 5, 1989, Aung San Suu Kyi confronted an army unit and was almost assassinated if not for the intervention of an army major.

On June 21, 1989, Aung San Suu Kyi attended the memorial service for the dissidents killed earlier in 1988.

On July 20, 1989, Aung San Suu Kyi was finally placed under house arrest, under martial law that allows for detention without charge or trial, for three years. She went on hunger strike to protect the students in her house from the military intelligence interrogation center recognized as a prison of conscience by Amnesty International.

If this sounds familiar, Mr. President, we also went through that phase, although for a much shorter period than Aung San Suu Kyi and the prodemocracy movement have.

Later thereafter, Aung San Suu Kyi received several international awards. In 1990, the RAFO Human Rights Prize; the Sakaro Prize in 1991; and the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize on October 14, 1991. All were awarded to her in absentia because she would not leave Burma, the land of her birth until Burma becomes free once again.

Mr. President, in 1994, the military junta used another excuse to continue the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. It said that she can be detained for up to six years under the law. While the regime as a whole can choose to detain a person for five years, the regime said an extra years can be added by the deletion of a three member committee comprising certain ministry. Is this not very reminiscent of the ASO and the other alphabetical committees that were set up during the Marcos dictatorship precisely to detain dissidents?

Finally, on July 10, 1995, the junta released Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

Mr. President, in our meeting with Daw Ang Suu Kyi, she was very emphatic that she would like to cooperate and work with the SLORC even if it had done her a lot of injustice and oppression. However, she said that there were at least four conditions on which she was willing to work and cooperate with them.

The first is that there must be openness in their dealings. In other words, she would not want to deal under the table; she would not want to deal in secrecy and under darkness, but that any dealings will be open and the people should know what they are talking about.

Second, she said that she would be willing to respect the government of SLORC provided in the negotiation, they also respected her side. Which means that she was not amenable to the proposal of the SLORC to meet, and that the SLORC when designating the members of the NLD, who would meet with them.

Third, the NLD is willing to cooperate and work with the SLORC and the army for the nation's interest and well-being.

In fact, they have agreed that in any meeting with the SLORC, the NLD will always be represented by the chairman who is Aung Shwe and the general secretary who is Daw Aung Suu Kyi. She said that mutual respect dictates that the SLORC should respect the representatives of her party talking with the SLORC.

Fourth and the most important, she said that the National Assembly must be convened. This is the National Assembly that in 1990, when the elections were called in a free election, out of about 400 members of the National Assembly, the National League for Democracy of Aung San Suu Kyi won more than 300 in that body. In other words, that was close to 75% of the total membership of the Assembly.

Even now, whenever they have a meeting or a convention, of course, whenever they are allowed by the SLORC to hold such meeting, at least 200 of these elected delegates to the National Assembly still attend. They attend on their own, Mr. President, even walking as far as the north and other hill tribes of Burma without any financial assistance from the party because the party does not have any money.

When we asked her if she believes her party can win if there is another election, she said that she is very confident that her party would win by even a bigger margin. And she said that she has no doubts that in election they would be returned to power.

When we asked her also if she was ready to govern,--because winning an election is one thing but governing is another part-- she said, "Yes, because many of the members elected to the National Assembly, more than 300 of the 400, can form a government right away, including those who are in exile, except that in forming a government, we should give preference to those who stayed behind, who remained with us in Burma soil for the struggle."

We also asked her about the renaming of Burma to Myanmar, and she said, "We have no objection to renaming Burma to Myanmar but this must pass a plebiscite or a referendum by the people."

Changing the name of the country cannot be done by a bunch of military generals. It should be presented to the people for the people to decide whether, in fact, they want to change the name to Myanmar or retain Burma."

We asked her about the role of the military and the army, and she said that she is willing to work with the army because she feels that the army should be part of any administration in Burma. In fact, she said, "Because the father of the Burmese army is my father, then I have a special close attachment to the soldiers in the military." It is time that the real talk between the democratic forces and the members of the SLORC, now SPLD, should take place. For even in 1997, the downturn in Burma's economy has made the people of Burma suffer. Economic growth was expected to slow to less than 5 percent. That was in 1997 before the economic crisis and turmoil engulfed the region and the ASEAN areas.

While inflation is running at about 27 percent, that was also at that time, there has been an alarming drop in foreign exchange reserve to about less than 200 million. Exports have fallen 15 percent and imports have risen nearly 7 percent.

In fact, in our meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, she said that one of the hardest hit by the inflation and the difficulty of life were the members of the armed forces. The lower ranks of the military were having difficult time earning about 1,000 kyats at that time when the minimum for decent living is at least five times, 5,000 kyats.

So, Mr. President, in the discussions and in the meetings with the ASEAN and with the United Nations, we hope that, first, the safety of Aung San Suu Kyi would be secured because she has been a subject of several assassination attempts, and we do not want to happen to her what happened to our own Ninoy Aquino.

Second, she must be allowed to exercise freedom to move so that there should be no restriction to her to go to any part of the country, and to peaceful assembly. But as of now, Mr. President, her residence is under barricade and she has to ask permission before she can leave.

Third, we hope that the National Assembly will be convened. As Daw Aung Suu Kyi said, "We do not expect that the National Assembly will be convened and last for the period that they were elected. As long as the National Assembly is convened, we are willing to negotiate how long it will convene, and if there is an election to be held, then we are agreeable to that."

Fourth, that a free, untrammelled and peaceful election will again be held.

But Daw Aung Suu Kyi, Mr. President, in spite of all these travails and trials, continues to have hope and continues to entertain hope for the future. As she said to us, "After all, I

can outlast all of them." At that time, she was 52 years old and in 1978, this year, she is 53 years old, much younger than most of the SLORC officers.

In fact, one of the favorite phrases that has been noted of her is the following: "How wonderful it is. It is no simple matter to decide who are the more fortunate. Those to whom life gives all or those who have to give all to life? A fulfilled life is not necessarily one constructed strictly in accordance with one's own blueprint. It can be a glorious collage of materials that have come unexpectedly to hand."

And then she added: "How wonderful it is that we do not know what tomorrow will bring." She has hope for the future. She hopes that one day, inevitably, Burma will again be free and will join the free nations of the world with the free people and freely elected officers.

It is in that sense that we join her in her dream and vision.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Shahani. Mr. President.

The President. May we know the pleasure of Senator Shahani?

Senator Shahani. Mr. President, I would like to speak on a matter of personal privilege.

The President. The lady Senator may proceed.

Question of Privilege of Senator Shahani
(VALEDICTORY SPEECH BEFORE ADJOURNMENT OF THE TENTH CONGRESS)

Senator Shahani. Mr. President, like seven of other colleagues in this Chamber, I am graduating from the Senate upon adjournment of this Tenth Congress. Completing now the constitutional limit of the two full terms in the Senate and having served continuously for 11 years, I find today's ceremony an emotional moment for me, a moment of fulfillment combined with the kind of sadness which finality brings. But the transcendent emotion I feel is profound gratitude and pride that the Filipino people have given this modest representation a rare opportunity of serving them in this hallowed Chamber, where great Filipino men and women, for decades, have articulated and fought through legislation and advocacy for the hopes and aspirations of our people.

At the outset, I should like to thank you, Mr. President, and all our other Senators for the opportunity of serving our country in your company. It has been a magnificent learning experience getting to know all of my colleagues and participating with them in our daily debates and discussions. The freedom of expression we have enjoyed here as well as the liveliness of our

debates have confirmed once more the great tradition of this institution as a national bastion of free speech, learned debate and scholarly discussion. But more than freedom of speech--for that would not be adequate to justify being a Senator of the Republic--the Senate has risen to the challenge of providing policy direction during very crucial periods of the past ten years. Each individual Senator has given his or her own unique contribution to the collective work of the Senate.

Mr. President, I am sure our other colleagues will not mind if today I single out for special mention those who will be finishing their terms in 1998--Senators Alvarez, Angara, Gonzales, Herrera, Maceda, Mercado, and Romulo.

To you, Mr. President, Senator "Ka Nep" Gonzales, go my special respect. You have been a true leader in this institution, giving it the stability and continuity, reminding us that greatness does not lie in the celebration of egoistic ambition but rather in purifying it for the greater good.

To Senators Angara and Maceda, who have served as able and hardworking Senate Presidents, also go my thanks and best wishes. And to the others, Senators Mercado, Herrera, Romulo and Alvarez, a fond farewell to all and my best wishes.

This morning, Mr. President, I made it a point to look at our election poster when we ran for the Senate in 1987. We looked slightly younger then, we were all of the same political party (LDPs)--we were the *Kabalikat ng Pangulo*, the *Kabalikat* of Cory Aquino. We ran under the same political ticket united during the heady and exciting days of the immediate post-People Power Revolution. Since then, we have followed other political paths, but it is my hope and prayer that whatever destiny has in store for us, we shall keep alive the bonds which we have forged together in this hallowed institution.

Permit me to mention some of the highlights of my legislative career seen from a personal perspective.

Mr. President, I take pride in initiating/authoring or sponsoring the following: the law creating the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the Magna Carta for Small-Scale Industry, the Law on Jewelry, the Education laws which restructured the educational system, the agricultural laws which helped to prepare us for membership in the World Trade Organization, the laws on women, particularly the Anti-Rape Law and the Act Providing Assistance and Recovery for Rape Victims.

There are many others, Mr. President, but this is not the occasion to recite them.

I regret, however, that a major piece of legislation, the Fisheries Code, did not make the bicameral meeting scheduled last night. I, nevertheless, would like to appeal most fervently, especially for the sake of our millions of fisherfolk, that the

Fisheries Code be finally approved by Congress at a special session should there be one called or, perhaps, after the period of canvassing.

I also should like to express regret that my bill to create a separate Department for Maritime Affairs, Senate Bill No. 1059, did not see the light of day. This is an important bill for an archipelagic country like ours for we are a maritime country and our destiny lies in the water and in the seas and oceans around us.

In this connection, I filed Senate Bill No. 2458 which proposes to define the archipelagic baselines of the Philippine Archipelago to include the Kalayaan Island Group. I am aware that the adoption of the archipelagic doctrine has many unresolved issues, but this is not the time to shelve indefinitely the issue of drawing the outer limits of our archipelago but to make policy recommendations which will preserve our territorial integrity and at the same time maximize our membership in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In this connection also, I would like to make an appeal that we should continue to keep under constant review our policy options on our Sabah claim and on the Kalayaan Group of Islands. In an era of globalization, we should be vigilant about the delineation of our national territory, including our territorial sea, and at the same time live in harmony with our foreign neighbors.

On another topic, may I say something about our method of work. This is not to cast aspersion on anyone. May I suggest that when "coups" in the Senate take place--and I suppose such lightning changes of leadership will continue--each senator belonging to the Minority group should have at least one committee. Committee work is the heart and soul of the formulation of legislation and to deprive a senator of real committee work as chairperson due to partisan politics when senators are elected by the entire Filipino people to legislate for them is, to my mind, a serious deviation from the sovereign will of the people.

I make this observation in the light of the present membership of the Senate of 24 senators and 36 permanent standing committees and five ad hoc committees. Surely, there is enough work to go around for both Majority and Minority groups.

At this juncture, I should like to express my gratitude to all the members of the Secretariat who served during my tenure. They are the anonymous brigade of competent and hard-working civil servants who had made possible the smooth operation of our proceedings, rain or shine, coups or no coups.

To my own legislative staff, past and present, my heartfelt thanks for their devotion, loyalty and hardwork despite the long

hours and the ever-changing nature of our substantive and political work.

Finally, as a woman senator who has fought steadily throughout these years for the rights of Filipino women, children and the family, it is my hope that more women will be elected to the Philippine Senate and participate in its valuable work. The issues relating to women's health, employment and education, have now become national issues and, in the very near future, the fact that women comprise half of our voting population, will be felt by those who will run for public office. This active representation of women's groups in the party list system attests to this.

Dear graduating Senators, my esteemed colleagues in this Chamber, Mr. President, "Hail and Farewell." May the good Lord continue to bless you and your families.

Mabuhay ang Senado! Mabuhay ang ating minamahal na bayan! [Applause].

Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The President. The session is suspended if there is no objection. [There was none]

It was 1:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1509 - Financing Company Act of 1996
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1509.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1509 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we were in the period of interpellations. I move that the period of interpellations be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. There are no amendments, either from the

committee or from the members, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1509 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1509.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1509.

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

Several Members. *Aye*.

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

Senate Bill No. 1509 is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure, I ask the Secretary to read the certification.

The President. The Secretary will read the presidential certification.

The Secretary.

February 5, 1998

Honorable NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Senate President
Senate, Pasay City
Dear Senate President Gonzales:

Pursuant to the provision of Section 26 (2), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 1509, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5980 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS REGULATING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF FINANCING COMPANIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

to meet the public emergency consisting of the urgent need to broaden the financing activities of finance companies to enable them to respond to the present demands of the business sector to hasten economic development.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS

cc: Hon. Jose C. de Venecia
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 1509 - Regulating the Organization and
Operation of Financing Companies

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third
Reading on Senate Bill No. 1509.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There
being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1509 is
now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1509, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5980 OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS REGULATING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF
FINANCING COMPANIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....Yes
Angara.....Yes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....Yes
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
HerreraYes
Honasan.....
Macapagal
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay Jr.....Yes
Mercado
OpleYes
Osmena III.....
Revilla
Roco
Romulo
Santiago.....Yes
ShahaniYes
Sotto
TatadYes

WebbYes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1509 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 14 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1509 is approved on Third Reading.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON S. NO. 1509/H. NO. _____
(Senators Drilon, Flavio and Fernan as Members of the
Senate Panel)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move to constitute the Senate panel to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1509 and its House counterpart, I hereby nominate Senator Drilon as Chairman, and as members, Senators Flavio and Fernan.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the Senate panel of conferees is hereby constituted.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now resume consideration of House Bill No. 8489. This is the ODA bill. We were in the period of interpellations...

Senator Herrera. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera. I stand on a matter of personal privilege, Mr. President.

The President. May we know what is the question of privilege?

Senator Herrera. I may not be able to come back in May, Mr. President.

The President. The distinguished gentleman from Bohol and Cebu may proceed.

Senator Tatad. May I first withdraw my motion, Mr. President.

The President. The motion is withdrawn.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR HERRERA
(Valedictory Remarks on Last Day of Session)

Senator Herrera. Thank you, Mr. President.

This being the last day of the regular session of the Tenth Congress, I rise on a matter of personal privilege to say goodbye to this great institution, the Senate of the Republic of the

Philippines.

My 11 years as Senator are among the most exhilarating in my life. I like to think that I gave to the business of the Senate my best in experience and intellect.

In these 11 years, I saw the resurgence of democracy in our land; the reinvigoration of a damaged economy; the rebirth of a national pride from the shame of martial law.

I have, according to my lights, participated fully in all the debates that shaped the laws that would guide the Philippine state towards a future that would be less uncertain.

These debates have been heated, sometimes acrimonious, but always with the highest standard of civility. We, therefore, can all part as friends but to meet again on other grounds.

I do not intend to retire from active public service. I intend to carry all my mission of ensuring that the development of our country will be more balanced, more equitable and more just.

The opportunity to do all these are available whether in or out of government. My years in the Senate have instilled in me a reverence for the democratic process that I think, all of us, would like to preserve and strengthen.

Mr. President, I thank all the Senators for their cooperation in all my appointed tasks as Chairman. I thank them also for their graciousness in accepting my views on their bills.

I thank the technical staff of the Senate including my own for their efficiency and cheerfulness in meeting my sometimes difficult demands.

But most of all, I thank the Lord God and the Filipino people for trusting me and for imposing in me the awesome duty of crafting the laws that would shape their lives.

Goodbye, and God bless all of you! (*Applause*)

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The President. The Chair declares a one-minute suspension of the session, if there is no objection? [*There was none.*]

It was 1:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

H. No. 8489 - Official Development Assistance Law of 1996
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of House Bill No. 8489, this is the ODA bill.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] resumption of consideration of House Bill No. 8489 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. We were in the period of interpellations. I move that the period of interpellations be closed.

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

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, there are no proposed amendments from the Committee nor from the individual members. I move that the period of amendments be closed.

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

APPROVAL H. NO. 8489 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 8489.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 8489.

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

Several Members. Aye.

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

House Bill No. 8489 is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is a certified measure. I ask the Secretary to read the Certification.

The President. The Secretary will please read the Certification.

The Secretary.

03 Feb 1998

HON. NEPTALI GONZALES

Senate President
Senate, Manila

Dear Senate President Gonzales:

Pursuant to the provision of Section 26 (2), Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 8489 (as contained in Committee Report No. 972) entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8182, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

to meet the public emergency consisting of the urgent need to completely allay the concerns of the donor community and thereby achieve fully the paramount objectives and purposes of R.A. No. 8182, otherwise known as the Official Development Assistance Act of 1996.

Best wishes.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS

cc: Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

BILL ON THIRD READING
H. No. 8489 - Official Development Assistance
Law of 1996

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8489.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8489 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. House Bill No. 8489, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8182, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....Yes
Angara.....Yes

Coseteng.....
 Drilon.....Yes
 Enrile.....
 Fernan.....Yes
 Flavio.....Yes
 Herrera.....Yes
 Honasan.....
 Macapagal.....
 Maceda.....Yes
 Magsaysay, Jr.....Yes
 Mercado.....
 Ople.....
 Osmena III.....
 Revilla.....
 Roco.....
 Romulo.....
 Defensor Santiago.....Yes
 Shahani.....Yes
 Sotto III.....
 Tatad.....Yes
 Webb.....Yes
 The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF H. NO. 8489 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 13 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 8489 is approved on Third Reading.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON H. NO. 6680/S. NO. 2383 (Anti-Smoking Act)

Senator Tatad. I move that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6680 and Senate Bill No. 2383.

REPORT OF SENATOR TATAD

The report and the resulting harmonized bill have been furnished the Senators. The bill is now entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE LABELLING, SALE AND ADVERTISING OF CIGARETTES (AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS), PROHIBITING SMOKING IN PUBLIC CONVEYANCES AND IN ENCLOSED PUBLIC PLACES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

signed by the conferees. On the part of the Senate, the panel was headed by Senator Webb.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 6680/H. NO. 2383

I move for the approval of this report.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There

being none, the Bicameral Conference Committee Report is hereby approved.

The following is the whole text of the Conf. Cttee. Report

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON H. NO. 10497/S. NO. 2373
(Establishing the National Institute of Health (NIH))

Senator Tatad. I move that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 10497 and Senate Bill No. 2373.

The report with the accompanying agreed bill has been circulated to the members. It is now entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH), DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The report is signed by all the conferees. On the part of the Senate, the panel was headed by Senator Webb.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON
S. NO. 2373/H. NO. 10497

I move for the approval of the Report.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the Bicameral Conference Committee Report is hereby approved.

The following is the whole text of the Conf. Cttee. Report

CONSIDERATION OF P. S. RES. NO. 1146
(Committee Hearings To Be Held During Recess of Congress)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now consider Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1146.

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

Consideration of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1146 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the Resolution without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1146, entitled

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL PERMANENT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO HOLD MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OR CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS IN AID OF LEGISLATION DURING THE RECESS OF THE CONGRESS FROM FEBRUARY 7, 1998 TO MAY 24, 1998

The following is the whole text of the Resolution:

P. S. RES. NO. 1146

Introduced by Senator Tatad

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL PERMANENT AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO HOLD MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OR CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS IN AID OF LEGISLATION DURING THE RECESS OF THE CONGRESS FROM FEBRUARY 7, 1998 TO MAY 24, 1998

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, To authorize, as it hereby authorizes, all permanent and special committees of the Senate to hold meetings and hearings or conduct investigations during the recess of the Congress from February 7, 1998 to May 24, 1998 for the purpose of studying and preparing any proposed legislation or to investigate any matter or subject falling under their jurisdictions;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, To authorize the committees to issue *subpoena ad testificandum* or *subpoena duces tecum* to any person, corporation, entity or its officers, to testify and/or produce such documents which may be needed in the meetings and hearings or investigations;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, To require the committees which will hold any meeting and hearing or conduct any investigation in aid of legislation during the recess to submit to the Senate on or before the resumption of the regular session on May 25, 1998, such recommendations which they may deem necessary and advisable.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR MACEDA
(Feasibility of Holding Committee Hearings
During the Recess)

Senator Maceda. While this is routine in previous instances, in view of the fact that the Senate will be ending by June and basically will come back only for its canvassing and proclamation duties, I really wonder whether it is necessary to still authorize the committees because they are supposed to do so in aid of legislation. Any legislation that is to be taken up in the new Congress will then have to be reconsidered anew by the committees of the new Congress.

But more importantly, Mr. President, it might be a temptation for committee chairmen who are running for office to use this power as a vehicle for political purposes--let us put it that way.

The other practical point is, with everybody campaigning including the members of the Minority, whether one is running or not, for a committee chairman to call a committee meeting, the chances are that many members of the Senate cannot attend and the committee chairman alone may be conducting the meeting for a specific personal advantage that he might think is necessary for him.

So I was wondering whether we really need to pass this usual resolution at this time, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may I ask for a few minutes' suspension of the session.

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

It was 1:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, after consultation with the Minority Leader, I move to amend the period covered by the hearings of the committees from FEBRUARY 7, 1998 TO FEBRUARY 28, 1998, instead of from February 7, 1998 to May 24, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There

being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. I have no objection. I just want the new calendar repeated.

Senator Tatad. This is not the calendar, Mr. President. This is the authority being proposed for the permanent and special committees of the Senate to continue holding meetings and hearings during the recess.

Senator Romulo. Thank you.

ADOPTION OF P.S. RES. NO. 1146

Senator Tatad. I move for the adoption of the report.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1146 is hereby adopted.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, there being no further business, I move...

The President. Before a motion for adjournment is made, we just want to pass on an information to the members of this Chamber that the Secretariat has furnished me a summary of matters taken during the sessions of January 26 to February 6, 1998, and I read them as follows:

Conference Committee Reports Approved	--- 26
Approved on Third Reading	--- 58
Approved on Second Reading	--- 2
Adopted Resolutions	--- 5

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 1:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 2425 - Election of Sectoral Representatives
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2425 as reported out under Committee Report No. 864.. This is a certified measure. May I ask the Secretary to read the Certification.

The President. The Secretary will please read the Certification.

The Secretary.

February 6, 1998

HON. NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Senate President
Senate, Manila

Dear Senate President Gonzales:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 (2), Article VI of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2425 entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTIONS OF THE
SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SANGGUNIANG
BAYAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, AND
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, FIXING THE DATES
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

to meet a public emergency consisting of the urgent need to provide sectoral representations in legislative bodies of local government units as mandated under Section 9, Article X of the Constitution.

Best wishes.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS
President

cc: Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

BILL ON THIRD READING
S. No. 2425 - Election of Sectoral Representatives

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2425.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2425 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2425, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTIONS OF THE SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, AND SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, FIXING THE DATES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

The Secretary. Senators

Alvarez.....Yes
AngaraYes
Coseteng.....
Drilon.....Yes
Enrile.....
Fernan.....Yes
Flavier.....Yes
Herrera.....
Honasan.....
Macapagal.....
Maceda.....Yes
Magsaysay, Jr.Yes
Mercado.....
Ople.....
Osmena III.....
Revilla.....
Roco.....
Romulo.....Yes
Defensor Santiago.....Yes
Shahani.....Yes
Sotto III.....
Tatad.....Yes
Webb.....Yes
The President.....Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2425 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 13 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2425 is approved on Third Reading.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, since we have just approved this bill on Third Reading, how about the Conference Committee, the Bicameral Conference Committee and the ratification of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report.

Senator Tatad. The panel can be constituted now or later. Whatever the situation is, the ratification will have to be done when we come back on May 25.

Senator Romulo. I mentioned this, Mr. President, because--just in the event there is a special session--I do not know if there will be one--if we constitute the panel, then perhaps they can report it out if there is a Bicameral Conference Committee Report and therefore, approve it during that period.

That is all, Mr. President.

The President. May we constitute the members of the Senate panel should the House decide to request for a bicameral conference?

Senator Tatad. I understand, Mr. President, the House version has not been acted upon yet.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

In that case, there being no further business, I move that we adjourn the session until ten o'clock in the morning of May 25, 1998.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, session is adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning of May 25, 1998.

It was 1:49 p.m.