

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:15 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang sesyon ng Senado.

Pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Sonny Alvarez.

Everybody stood for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Alvarez.

We do not ask You, Lord, to give us divine wisdom to understand the hidden meaning behind the death, destruction and despair that have befallen us in the wake of last week's temblors.

But we ask You to give us--

Faith, enough to make us believe something good will come out of the incomprehensibility and cruelty of this national tragedy;

Hope, that we may be able to look beyond today's dark pain and see the glimmer of a kinder tomorrow;

Strength, to be able to bear the weight of our sorrows and to carry on with our lives.

In carrying on, next to the pain of devastation, the ability to rebuild must energize our national will. At no other time than now, must we face squarely the issue of our foreign obligations.

Father in heaven, in this hour of almost utter desperation, give our creditor nations the same graces of mercy and compassion that moved our foreign friends to lend a hand in saving lives. Move them with the knowledge that they hold in their hands the power to make us surmount this supreme trial with dignity and grace. Lord, help

them see in our tragedy a rare opportunity to reflect Your divine qualities of compassion and benevolence.

We do not ask for condonement, though our suffering people surely deserve it. We only ask for a decent breathing spell. Priorities dictate that rebuilding our Nation must indeed truly come first.

In these hours of grief, make us a wiser people. Help us to discover peace amongst us and put an end to the daily tragedies of our own making -- where Filipinos slay their brothers.

Bless us some more that we can settle in debate and negotiation all our disagreements, so that, united as a people we can rise above these common tragedies and awesome disasters amidst economic poverty.

Amen.

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

ROLL CALL

The Secretary.

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

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

Senator Gonzales. Mr. President, I would like to say that this bill is not the be-all of the Government efforts to help in the reconstruction or rehabilitation, because we have also a public works program, or whatever it may be, which may actually include a renewed city in their plans and programs. But, understandably, we cannot include all in this single bill. And then, let us say, a suspension of real property taxes. That is essentially a local tax; and instead of helping the devastated cities and towns, we are actually imposing a heavy burden upon them, because when we exempt all the properties from the payment of real property taxes which actually go to the local government units, then we are cutting their ability to rise from the rubble of destruction.

Senator Angara. What we are suggesting, Mr. President, is just suspending the collection. What we are just saying is: "Put in one pocket what you are collecting from the pocket." Because that is essentially what the suggestion is--we postpone and forego the collection, and that is one definite assistance, I think, that we can render to these devastated communities.

Senator Gonzales. I would suggest that this bill is not really a rehabilitation bill. This is a specific appropriation measure.

Senator Angara. Exactly, Mr. President, the concept I am trying to debate with the Gentleman is: Let us make this more than just an appropriation bill. Let us make it a rehabilitation bill. I am sure we will never have a chance again to discuss and pass a rehabilitation bill of this nature. I am sure what we will have in the future would be appropriations bills, and this is an opportunity for us, I believe, to really have communities rehabilitated, not just some physical isolated infrastructure reconstructed.

Senator Gonzales. What I am trying to say, Mr. President, is that, if we are thinking of a comprehensive rehabilitation bill with which I agree with the Gentleman, then there is nothing really to stop us from approving a rehabilitation bill; but in the meantime, this bill, which is really a special appropriations bill for a special purpose, let it be so. It can stand on its own and it can be complemented by a rehabilitation bill which is more comprehensive, in which we can get now

the inputs of, not only, government experts, but also of town and city planners and others. That understandably will require time.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The Chair will intervene at this time, and let us suspend the session for a few minutes, if there is no objection? *[There was none.]*

It was 7:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 8:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 31448

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of House Bill No. 31448.

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

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, we have one item. May we recognize Senator Alvarez to make certain manifestation for amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Alvarez is recognized.

MOTION OF SENATOR ALVAREZ (Reconsideration of Approval of Senate Bill No. 335)

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, because of the exigency, may I move for the reconsideration of Senate Bill No. 335, the Philippine Nursing Act, which we approved on Second Reading during the last day of our session here before we took a break.

The corrections will only be on the reference to the name of the bill, which is the "Nursing Bill of 1987." It should be the "Nursing Bill of 1990", which had not been reflected on Second Reading. And on page 2, line 8, to refer to "Section 5", instead of "Section 4". May I move for the reconsideration of the bill to take advantage of the last available day, according to the

Rules, so that these two minor amendments could be effected.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Guingona. I so move, Mr. President.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

Senate Bill No. 335 - An Act Regulating the Practice of Nursing
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 335.

The President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 335 is now in order.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, ...

The President. Just a moment. We approved only the motion for reconsideration.

Senator Guingona. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Let us have the substance.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, I move to amend on page 1, line 3...

The President. This is a clerical error, is it not?

Senator Alvarez. These are clerical errors.

The President. All right, let us so state it.

ALVAREZ AMENDMENTS

Senator Alvarez. These are the clerical errors. On page 1, line 3, instead of "1987", this should be referred to as "1990".

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

Senator Alvarez. And on page 2, line 8, instead of "Section 4", it should read "Section 5".

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

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 335
ON SECOND READING**

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Senate Bill No. 335, as amended, on Second Reading.

The President. We shall now vote on the bill, as amended, on Second Reading. As many as are in favor of the bill will please say *Aye*. [Several Senators: *Aye*]. As many as are against will please say *Nay*. [Silence] Senate Bill No. 335, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The President. The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 8:26 p.m.