

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, JULY 30, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:17 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang sesyon ng Senado.

Aawitin ng Cruzada Church of Christ Choir ang Pambansang Awit at "Lupang Tinubuan," at pagkatapos pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Juan Ponce Enrile.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem.

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

PRAYER

Senator Enrile.

LET US PRAY.

Our Father in heaven, we worship Your Holy Name. We acknowledge Your sovereign power over us, over our lives, over our decisions, and over our destinies.

We acknowledge, dear Heavenly Father, that these are not the best of times for our Nation. Our economy is in shambles. Our political future is uncertain. Our streets, even our homes, are no longer the safe havens that they used to be. And, as if our social turmoil is not enough, the forces of nature have shaken our nation to its very foundations. We are only starting to pick up the debris of the cataclysm. We have not even finished yet counting our dead.

But we are also aware, God, our Father that these are not the worst of times for our people, either. You have set the rainbow, like the loving Father that You are, as a sign of Your Promise that never again will You destroy

Your world as You did in the days of Noah.

We, therefore, thank You that we can call You, "Abba", Father. And we, Your prodigal children, now ask for the active intervention of Your Holy Spirit to lead our people to the joy, the peace, and the prosperity of Canaan, the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. We, here in the Senate, more than ever, need Your Divine Guidance in providing the moral and ethical leadership for the Filipino people. We have been badly shaken as a people. But we will survive and prevail as we humble ourselves, repent of our wicked ways, and seek Your face, dear Father, at all times.

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

The President. Labing-walong Senador ang dumalo sa ating pagpupulong. Mayroon tayong korum.

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

at least service the needs of about one hundred thousand small farmers in the country. So, for those one hundred thousand small farmers who will benefit from this bill, Mr. President, I vote yes.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I am voting in the affirmative and would like to submit a written explanation of my vote.

The following is the written Explanation of Vote submitted by Senator Mercado:

Mr. President, it is basic in any business undertaking, be it in agriculture or industry, that a good, solid financial base is established to ensure a more or less stable venture. However, this basic element is not found in the agricultural sector of our economy. Constantly, our farmers, fisherfolks, and rural-based workers are burdened by the lack of funds and the sources of funds to support their activities.

This bill may very well provide the means to make funds available to our workers in the countryside to enhance the growth in agricultural production, thereby improving their living conditions. In this light, I vote yes.

read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 335, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NURSING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 19

Senator Alvarez
Senator Angara*
Senator Aquino
Senator Enrile
Senator Gonzales
Senator Guingona
Senator Herrera
Senator Maceda
Senator Mercado*
Senator Osmeña

Senator Pimentel
Senator Rasul
Senator Romulo
Senator Saguisag
Senator Shahani
Senator Tamano
Senator Tañada
Senator Ziga
The President

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña. I vote yes, Mr. President, with the request that I be allowed to submit a written explanation of my vote.

BILL ON THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 335 - Act Regulating the Practice of Nursing

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 335. Copies of the bill have been distributed to all Members of the Senate on July 25, 1990.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 335 is now in order. The Secretary will please

RESULT OF VOTING

The President. With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 335 is approved on Third Reading.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Mr. President, I vote yes to this bill. In support of my position, may I submit my written explanation of vote. Thank you.

The following is the full text of the written Explanation of Vote submitted by Senator Angara:

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ANGARA

Mr. President, in the field of public health,

*With explanation of vote

among the unsung heroes in the country today are the nurses. Often they are overworked, underpaid, and unappreciated. The importance of nurses in the field of primary health care service cannot be overemphasized. While there are some 50,000 nurses in the Philippines, the Philippine Nurses Association estimates that about 96,900 nurses are needed by the country to perform in all areas of nursing. This problem is aggravated by the nurses' high migration to foreign lands. Figures from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration show that from 1985-1987, a total of 65,940 nurses were deployed overseas. Among the reasons for migration given by nurses interviewed are: (1) low salaries; (2) state of being overworked; (3) safety reasons; and (4) lack of opportunities for growth.

Senate Bill No. 335, entitled: "An Act Regulating the Practice of Nursing in the Philippines" aims to improve both the quality of nursing education and the administration of the profession. The proposed measure would update the existing laws on nursing, especially Republic Act No. 877 which was approved in 1953. The quantum leap in the development of medical science since 1953 necessitated the current bill which would keep the law abreast of the said revolutionary changes.

Senate Bill No. 335 redefines the scope of nursing. It gives added focus to the nursing process, including various aspects of nursing care which in turn includes, among others, both traditional and innovative nursing methods, therapeutic and self-expecting techniques, comfort measures, health teaching, therapies, medications, and hypodermic, intramuscular or intravenous injection.

Equally important, the proposed measure upgrades the qualifications of administrators and faculty of nursing to ascertain a high standard of education for nurses and qualified practitioners.

Senate Bill No. 335 seeks to discourage migration of nurses by providing for a specific article on "Manpower Development, Production, Utilization" which mandates that the standard basic pay of all nurses in public hospitals shall be fixed in accordance with the Salary Standardization Act. The Article also provides for a stricter implementation of the nursing profession by penalizing unauthorized practices which are sources of frustration for sincere, hardworking nurses.

It is my heartfelt belief, Mr. President, that Senate Bill No. 335 would definitely improve the lives of our friends in the nursing profession and make the law more responsive and relevant to existing realities in the public health sector.

For the abovementioned reasons, Mr. President, I vote yes.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, again, I am voting in the affirmative but would like to submit a written explanation.

The following is the written Explanation of Vote submitted by Senator Mercado:

Mr. President, nursing is a most noble profession comparable only to teaching and medicine. As such, the declared policy of the State, assuming responsibility for the protection and improvement of the nursing profession, will hopefully insure improved working conditions, better career prospects, and dignified existence of the Filipino nurse. Regulation of the practice of nursing, therefore, is a most timely endeavor of this august Chamber.

All of us here, with perhaps virtually no exception, has had, at one time or another, experience of getting sick and confined in a hospital and thus had some direct contact with nurses and the nursing profession. Any improvement in their training experience and working conditions will, in no small measure, add to their morale and professional well-being and will, in the long run, contribute to the improvement, in turn, of their services.

With the hope that this bill will materially help the nurses both in the public and private sectors, I vote yes.

BILL ON SECOND READING

Senate Bill No. 155 - Local Government Code
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we