

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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REGULAR SESSION

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SESSION NO. 152
Tuesday, May 17, 1988

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:10 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Jovito R. Salonga, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of prayer led by Senator Shahani.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Acting Secretary of the Senate called the Roll, to which the following Senators responded:

Alvarez, H. T.
Angara, E. J.
Aquino, A. A.
Enrile, J. P.
Estrada, J. E.
Gonzales, N. A.
Guingona, Jr., T. T.
Herrera, E. F.
Maceda, E. M.

Mercado, C. S.
Pimentel, Jr., A. Q.
Romulo, A. G.
Saguisag, R. A. V.
Salonga, J. R.
Shahani, L. R.
Tamano, M. A. J.
Ziga, V. S.

With 17 Senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Laurel, Lina, Osmeña, Paterno, Rasul and Tañada appeared after the Roll Call.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON H. BILL NO. 2523

Upon resumption, Senator Mercado informed that the Senate was in receipt of the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 2523 entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR A FREE PUBLIC
SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara for the presentation of the Report.

APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
REPORT ON H. BILL NO. 2523

Senator Angara informed that the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 2523 having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend to the Senate that the said bill be approved with the following amendments:

1. On page 4, line 18, between the words "students" and "of" insert a COMMA (,) and the phrase TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL;
2. On page 5, line 5, between the figure "(2)" and the word "school", insert the word CONSECUTIVE;
3. On page 5, lines 5 and 6, transpose the phrase "during the course of his study" after the phrase "in the majority of the academic subjects in which he is enrolled"; to read as follows:

"in the majority of the academic subjects
in which he is enrolled during the course
of his study";
4. On page 5, line 9, after the comma (,) after the word "establishment", insert RENAMING, CONVERSION, INTEGRATION, SEPARATION and a COMMA (,);

5. On page 5, line 11, after the word "teachers", add the phrase AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL;
6. On page 5, line 13, between the words "benefits" and "are", insert the phrase AS WELL AS THOSE ALREADY PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

Thereupon, a motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Conference Committee Report on H. Bill No. 2528 was approved by the Body.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SAGUISAG

Senator Saguisag noted that the procedural problem he had raised when the Body voted on H. Bill No. 2528 last May 2 remains unresolved, however, the problem is no longer present in the reconciled bill presented by the Conference Committee.

He manifested that he is changing his abstention to a yes vote, without prejudice to resolving the tension between the need for flexibility, on the one hand, and the need for predictability, on the other, which he hoped would be presently resolved by the Body. He stated that he does so despite his misgivings, now part of the Record, as he is 100 percent behind the commendable intent of the bill.

REMARKS OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado manifested that in view of the fact that the vote may not be changed, he was moving that the remarks of Senator Saguisag be noted in the approval of the Conference Committee Report.