

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1999

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:35 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order.

The President. The 75th session of the First Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President. May I invite everybody to bow their heads.

It is said, dear Lord, that other than love,
The ideal that is most
sought after in all
prayer is peace.

The promise of peace, Almighty Lord,
is everyone's hope
Building peace protects us
from a rapidly disintegrating world.
It is a vaccine that immunizes
us from the despair that comes
from the realization
that the natural order of things
is to fall apart.

That is why, Lord,
When our children break our hearts,
Or when our own people provoke us into war,
Or when we hear news of sickness or calamity
It is peace that we pray for.

To desire peace, Lord, is
to nurture a hope
that for every act of destruction
there are ten equal gestures of rejuvenation.

They say, it begins
With the silence
That empties our hearts
from all doubt.
Peace is an intake of breath
That fills us with the presence

Of a Being far more evolved than we.
Peace is the calm that washes over us
When we let go as we exhale,
Feeling the rhythm of the Universe
Supporting us as we expand.

They say, Heavenly Father, that in its purest form,
peace is inner silence filled with
the power of truth.

And so, dear Lord, this afternoon, I wish this to each and
everyone in this room: Peace be with you.

ROLL CALL

The President. Thank you very much, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

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|---|---------|
| Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta | Present |
| Senator Robert Z. Barbers | Present |
| Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon | Present |
| Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano | Present |
| Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng | Absent |
| Senator Franklin M. Drilon | Present |
| Senator Juan Ponce Enrile | Present |
| Senator Juan M. Flavio | * |
| Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. | Present |
| Senator Gregorio B. Honasan | Present |
| Senator Robert S. Jaworski | Present |
| Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste | * |
| Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. | Present |
| Senator Blas F. Ople | Present |
| Senator John Henry R. Osmeña | Present |
| Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III | Present |
| Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. | Present |
| Senator Ramon B. Revilla | Present |
| Senator Raul S. Roco | Present |
| Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago | * |
| Senator Vicente C. Sotto III | Present |
| Senator Francisco S. Tatad | Present |
| The President | Present |

The President. With 19 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* On official mission

A CRIME INVOLVING THE KILLING OF PERSONS SHOULD IDENTIFY THE VICTIMS IF KNOWN TO THEM AND INDICATE THE SITE WHERE THEIR BODIES WERE LEFT OR BURIED.

Senator Honasan. Mr. President, subject to style.

DRILON-GUINGONA AMENDMENT

Senator Drilon. It is not an objection, but would the sponsor accept an amendment to the amendment so that instead of saying "sentiment of the Senate," IT IS THE SENTIMENT OF CONGRESS?

Senator Honasan. We accept the amendment to the amendment, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. All right. Since the main amendment and the amendment to the amendment have been accepted by the sponsor, is there any objection from the floor? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment, as read by the Minority Leader, is hereby approved, subject to style.

Is there any other individual amendment?

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Magsaysay]. Senator Magsaysay is recognized.

MAGSAYSAY AMENDMENT

Senator Magsaysay. Thank you, Mr. President. On page 3, line 16, after the word "Resolved", delete the phrase "as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate of the Philippines concurs," and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase BY THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES CONCURRING, TO CONCUR.

Senator Honasan. We accept the amendment, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved. The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, may we ask the Secretariat to print a new copy of Proposed Concurrent Resolution No. 5,

together with the amendments, subject to style, before we finally pass this on Second Reading.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The Secretariat is so directed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF S. CT. RES. NO. 5

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Proposed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1404—Solo Parents Welfare Act
(Continuation)

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1404 as reported out under Committee Report No. 15.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1404 is now in order.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, may I ask that the principal sponsor, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, be recognized.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, since there are no more interpellations, I move to close the period of interpellations.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, we are in the period of committee amendments. May I ask the Chair to recognize once more Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Thank you, Mr. President. We have some committee amendments.

On page 1, line 12, after the acronym "(DILG)", insert the

following: THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE).

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 1, line 16, delete the entire line 16 and renumber the succeeding provisions accordingly.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 1, line 19, after the period (.) following the number 1, delete the words "rape victim" and insert the following: SURVIVOR OF RAPE AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 20, after the word "rape," insert the following: AND OTHER CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY UNDER ARTICLES 337, 338, 342 AND 343 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, EVEN WITHOUT A FINAL CONVICTION OF THE OFFENDER.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 2, line 5, replace the words "more than a" with the phrase AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. In the same line, after the word "conviction", insert the words OR INDICTMENT.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 8, after the word "spouse", add the phrase AS CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 11, add the

phrase FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR after the word "spouse".

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 17, insert the phrase FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR after the word "spouse".

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 17, delete the word "and".

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, on the same page, line 18, replace the word "unwed" with the word UNMARRIED.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. In line 21 of the same page, delete the word "and" after the semicolon (;).

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. In line 23 of the same page, replace the "period (.)" after the word "children" with a semicolon (;).

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

10. ADOPTIVE PARENT OR OTHER CARE-GIVERS WHO PROVIDE PARENTAL CARE AND SUPPORT TO A CHILD OR CHILDREN.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, on page 3, line 21, insert the following after the acronym "(DSWD)": DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE),

NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG).

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 21, insert the words LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS following the word "with"; then delete the phrase "other agencies and in consultation with NGOs".

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

The Chair would like to find out if the result of this amendment and the deletion of the word "NGOs" is to eliminate any consultation.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No, Mr. President, because in lieu thereof, we will insert the following: A KNOWN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD ON PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOLO PARENTS.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. This will be inserted in what line?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Line 21, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. After the words LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Will the lady senator kindly read the whole amendment?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President. It now reads:

"A comprehensive package of social development and welfare services for solo parents and their families will be developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), in coordination with LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND A KNOWN NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION WITH PROVEN TRACK RECORD

ON PROVIDING SERVICES FOR SOLO PARENTS."

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. That is the rest of the amendment that will be inserted in line 22 after the cancellation of the word "agencies" all the way down to the acronym "NGOS."

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 4, line 6, after the hyphen (-), delete the entire sentence up to line 9. We delete the sentence starting from the word "This" up to the word "assistance" in line 9.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The sentence starting from the words "This service" all the way up to the words "immediate assistance" in line 9 will be deleted.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President, and we will now insert the following: A PREVENTIVE STRESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN HANDLING CRISES AND CASES OF ABUSE.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 11, after the word "shelter" and comma (,), insert the following: COUNSELING, LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 31, after the acronym "(DECS)", insert the following: THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE TECHNICAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA).

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 5, line 2, after the word "children", insert the phrase IN INSTITUTIONS OF BASIC, TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL AND SKILLS EDUCATION.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On the same page, line 13, insert the words SOCIALIZED AND after the word "government".

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 5 up to page 6, delete the entire Section 12 and in lieu thereof, insert the following paragraph:

SEC. 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. - AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS), COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA), THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THIS ACT IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. That will replace the entire Section 12 which starts on page 5 all the way up to line 9 on page 6. Is that the intention of the sponsor?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The amendment is to delete the entire Section 12 found on page 5, from line 21 up to page 6, line 9—

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, it is quite a lengthy...

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. —and replace it with that whole paragraph read by the sponsor, which we will now repeat for the sake of those who did not listen earlier. *[Laughter]*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. I move for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection *[There was none.]*

It was 5:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Just to save time, I just consulted the sponsor about the amendment and asked her to read it off the record, and I am satisfied. I have no objection, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The sponsor is asking for a one-minute suspension of the session. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The session is resumed. The sponsor, Senator Aquino-Oreta, is recognized.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Antecedent amendment on page 5, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Let us go back to page 5.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, delete the entire paragraph from lines 5 to 8 which starts with letter “(b)” and ends with the word “learning” in line 8.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, those are the committee amendments.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we close the period of committee amendments.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, to enable our colleagues to review the bill with the appropriate committee amendments, may I ask that the Secretariat be directed to have a new printed copy of the bill with the approved committee amendments.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF S. NO. 1404

On that premise, I move to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1404.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. The Secretariat is so directed to have a new printed copy of the bill with the approved committee amendments.

Is there any objection to the suspension of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1404? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I now move to adjourn the session until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, March 17, 1999.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Pimentel]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is adjourned until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, March 17, 1999.

It was 5:37 p.m.