

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:32 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 28th session of the Third Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Anna Dominique Coseteng.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Coseteng.

Mahal naming Ama, Panginoon ng sanlibutan, Aming Diyos at Diyos na lumikha ng lahat ng nakikita at hindi nakikita, kami ay nagtitipon ngayon upang magbigay papuri at pasasalamat sa Inyong walang hanggang kadakilaan.

Kami ay dumudulog din sa Inyong harapan upang kami ay maging matibay sa lahat ng pagsubok at kapahamakan. Hinihiling namin na sana ay patnubayan Ninyo ang bansang Pilipinas at ang mga namumuno nito, ngayong aming hinaharap ang matinding pagsubok at krisis pang-ekonomiya at pampulitika. Pagliwanagin po Ninyo ang pag-iisip ng bawat isa sa amin upang magampanan namin nang wasto ang aming mga tungkulin.

Gayundin po, ang aming hiling para sa bawat mamamayan, ay magkaroon ng pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan na sana po ay isantabi ang pansariling kapakanan para sa kapakanan ng higit na nakararami. Basbasan po Ninyo ang bawat isa sa amin. Marapatin po ninyong malunasan ang pag-aalitag nananaig ngayon. Sa kalagitnaan ng mga isyung pampulitikang kinakaharap ng Pangulong Joseph Estrada at ng kanyang administrasyon, nawa ay katotohanan lamang ang mangibabaw dito at maisiwalat sa aming mga mamamayan ang lahat ng mga panig at kasama na rin ang iba't ibang karumaldumal na mga katiwalian noong panahon ng dating administrasyon nang may matitibay na ebidensiya sa ngalan ng katarungan.

Tulungan po Ninyo kami na makahanap ng lunas para sa suliraning pang-ekonomiya ng bansa. Nawa'y

ang tamang pag-iisip at kahinahunan at hindi karahasan ang maghari sa puso ng bawat Pilipino ngayon at sa oras ng kagipitan.

Magkaroon po sana ng katahimikan at kapayapaan dito sa aming bansa. Huwag sana kami magpadala sa mga mapanirang elemento na sakim sa kapangyarihan at nag-aabang lamang ng pagkaka-taong maibagsak ang pambansang ekonomiya at pamahalaan nang sila ay makabalik muli sa kapangyarihan.

Hanguin po Ninyo kami sa pagkalugmok at alisin po Ninyo ang kasakiman, inggitan, paninira, pagsasawalang-bahala at lahat ng hindi magandang pag-uugali sa aming mga isipan. Bagkus ito ay mapalitan ng pagtutulungan para sa isang maganda at matiwasay na kinabukasan.

Salamat po, Ama, sa lahat ng biyayang ipinagkaloob Ninyo. Mabuhay nawa kami nang naaayon sa Inyong kagustuhan.

Lahat ng ito ay aming hinihiling sa ngalan ni Jesus na aming Manunubos at ng Iyong Banal na Espiritu.

Amen.

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary, reading:

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	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavie	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.	Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Absent
Senator Blas F. Ople	*

* On official mission but arrived after the roll call

The President. Referred to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and National Defense and Security

The Secretary. Letter from General Counsel Juan De Zuñiga Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the Senate a copy of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 259, s. 2000, dated September 29, 2000, in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1595—Integrated Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595 as reported out under Committee Report No. 52.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is the Solid Waste Management bill. Yesterday, we closed the period of amendments.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1595 ON SECOND READING

Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1595, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1595, 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. 1595, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1595

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we transfer from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders, Senate Bill No. 2113, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL (PSHS) SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8496.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2129—Strengthening the ARMM Organic Act (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2129 as reported out under Committee Report No. 393.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2129 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we are still in the period of interpellations. I ask that the distinguished sponsor, Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., be recognized. And for the interpellation, I ask that Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago be likewise recognized.

The President. Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., the principal sponsor of Senate Bill No. 2129, is recognized. Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is recognized for the period of interpellations.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Mr. President, will the honorable sponsor yield the floor to me, please?

Senator Pimentel. With great pleasure, Mr. President.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Thank you. I am a former member of the faculty of UP College of Law and I went out of my way to seek the opinions and the comments of the professors in the UP College of Law who teach the subject of Local Government.

I am happy and proud to inform our colleagues that there is an undisputed consensus among these professors that, in

As an advocate of women's rights, how can we be assured through this proposal that Muslim women have their place in society by providing them with the right to engage in employment, especially in these times that incomes brought about by the husbands are inadequate to sustain the needs of the family?

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, the inhibition against women working, earning their keeps in Muslim societies is probably a cultural thing. So that it will take time before we can really insist by a legal provision explicitly stating that women be allowed to work or to earn their own livelihood or whatever, along that line.

Now, let me point out however that there is a provision embodied in this bill that makes the grant of more funds to the autonomous region dependent on the recognition of basic human rights and probably, we can include this right of women that the lady senator is thinking about as one of those things that the autonomous region must implement if it is to avail itself of additional financial support or some such thing from the central government.

Senator Legarda-Leviste. I would appreciate the distinguished sponsor's acceding to the inclusion of that at the proper time, Mr. President.

At this time, I would like to thank the distinguished sponsor for kindly answering my questions.

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

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2129

Senator Tatad. There are no further interpellations for today, I therefore move to suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2129.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2113 – Amending the Philippine Science High School Act of 1997

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 2113 as reported out under Committee Report No. 383.

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

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2113 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. 2113, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL (PSHS) SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8496

The following is the whole text of the bill:

Senate Bill No. 2113

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL (PSHS) SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8496

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. A second paragraph is hereby added under Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8496, otherwise known as the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act of 1997, to read as follows:

"THE STATE SHALL ALSO ENSURE THAT EVERY REGION IS GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PSHS SYSTEM. TOWARDS THIS END, ONLY ONE (1) PSHS CAMPUS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY."

SEC. 2. Section 3, paragraph (a) of the same Act is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"(a) Integrate the existing PSHS at Diliman, NUEVA VIZCAYA, CAMARINES SUR, ILOILO CITY, LEYTE, LANA DEL NORTE AND DAVAO CITY [Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao] into one system of governance and management;"

SEC. 3. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. *Scope.* - The Philippine Science High School System shall be composed of the existing PSHS campuses HEREIN MENTIONED [at Diliman, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao,] and future campuses which shall be established under this [law] ACT. THE EXISTING CAMPUSES AT DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY; BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA; GOA, CAMARINES SUR; JARO, ILOILO CITY; PALO, LEYTE; TUGBOK, DAVAO CITY; AND BALO-I, LANA DEL NORTE, SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE PSHS MAIN CAMPUS, PSHS CAGAYAN VALLEY, PSHS BICOL REGION, PSHS WESTERN VISAYAS, PSHS EASTERN VISAYAS, PSHS SOUTHERN MINDANAO AND PSHS CENTRAL MINDANAO, RESPECTIVELY.

THE NUEVA VIZCAYA SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, ESTABLISHED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7622, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8364, IS HEREBY ABSORBED BY THE PSHS SYSTEM AND SHALL BECOME PSHS CAGAYAN VALLEY CAMPUS.

THE PSHS BICOL CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOA, CAMARINES SUR, ESTABLISHED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8304, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8619, SHALL BE CONSIDERED DISTINCT AND SEPARATE FROM THE SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR. THE SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SHALL CONTINUE TO EXIST UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DECS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 580, AS AMENDED, AND SHALL MAINTAIN ALL PERSONNEL, ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND RECORDS PREVIOUSLY TRANSFERRED AND ABSORBED BY THE PSHS BICOL CAMPUS.

SEC. 4. A new Section 6 is hereby inserted between Sections 5 and 6 of the same Act, to read as follows:

SEC. 6. *RESTRICTION ON THE CONVERSION OF HIGH SCHOOLS INTO A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL.* -

IN ADDITION TO THE GUIDELINES/ CRITERIA THAT MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE PSHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, THE CONVERSION AND INCLUSION OF EXISTING HIGH SCHOOLS INTO THE PSHS SYSTEM SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED."

SEC. 5. Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. [6] 7. *Overall Coordinating Authority.* - The PSHS System shall be under the administrative supervision of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). THE PSHS SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) SHALL BE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ALL THE PSHS CAMPUSES WHEREVER SITUATED.

SEC. 6. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. [7] 8. *Board of trustees.* - There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of the secretary of the DOST as *ex officio* Chairman, the secretary of DECS as *ex officio* Vice Chairman, and the following members: The President of the U.P., the Executive Director of PSHS, the Director of the Science Education Institute (SEI) [and] the President from the PSHS National Alumni Association, AND THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY as *ex officio* members; and one (1) representative each from the private sector representing higher education, education for the gifted, industry, agriculture, and new and emerging technologies. The private sector representatives shall be appointed by [the Chairman subject to the confirmation of] the Board of Trustees UPON RECOMMENDATION OF A DULY CONSTITUTED SEARCH COMMITTEE. For the first set of appointments, three (3) of them shall serve for four (4) years, while the other two (2) for two (2) years, thereafter, succeeding appointments shall have a fixed term of four (4) years.

The Board shall exercise the following powers:

(a) Formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the PSHS System;

(B) FIX THE SITE OF THE PSHS CAMPUS IN EACH OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS;

(C)[b] [Formulate policies on the] APPROVE appointment, promotion, retention, [removal,] renewal, rewards and incentives for [administrators,] faculty and staff, FIX THEIR COMPENSATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, AND REMOVE THEM FOR CAUSE AFTER PROPER INVESTIGATION AND HEARING;

(D)[c] Approve the curricula submitted by the Executive Director;

(E)[d] Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;

(F)[e] Approve the grant of scholarship, stipend and such allowances for students;

(G)[f] Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS campuses;

(H)[g] Formulate policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;

(I)[h] Approve the PSHS System budget, RECEIVE and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the System;

(J)[i] Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings and improvements thereof; donations, contributions, bequest, gifts, and to formulate policies for the administration thereof;

(K) APPROVE THE USE OF ALL INCOME GENERATED BY THE SCHOOL IN THE PURSUIT OF ITS FUNCTION AND DONATIONS RECEIVED IN TRUST BY INDIVIDUAL CAMPUSES, ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF THE GAIN AND INTENTION OF THE DONATION. IN CASES WHERE INCOME/DONATION RECEIVED IS NOT INTENDED FOR A PARTICULAR CAMPUS, THE BOARD SHALL LIKEWISE APPROPRIATE THE SAME FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SYSTEM OR ANY PART THEREOF;

(L)[j] Develop policies for the expansion of enrollment in the campuses under the PSHS system;

(M)[k] [Set] ESTABLISH policies and FORMULATE GUIDELINES/criteria, REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY to rationalize the establishment AND OPERATION of the science high schools under the System IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY AND UNIFORM STANDARD INHERENT OF A BONAFIDE PSHS [,for its evaluation and approval thereof]; and

(N)[l] Prepare strategic plans to enhance the capability of the System in developing human resources with focus on youth with special talents in science and mathematics."

SEC. 7. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. [8] 9. *Executive Director (ED)*. - There shall be an Executive Director who shall be appointed by [the Chairman, subject to the approval of] the Board and shall be conferred the rank equivalent to a bureau director with a fixed term of six (6) years, renewable for another term. The ED shall [coordinate the implementation] EXERCISE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION OVER ALL CAMPUS DIRECTORS AND SHALL BE THE PRIMARY IMPLEMENTOR of policies and guidelines set by the Board of Trustees. As a member of the Board of Trustees, the ED shall articulate to the Board the mutual concern of all the campuses."

SEC. 8. A new Section 10 is hereby inserted between Sections 8 and 9 of the same Act, to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. -- *DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (DED)*. THERE SHALL BE A DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (DED) WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD FOR A TERM OF SIX (6) YEARS, RENEWABLE FOR ANOTHER TERM. THE DED SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR."

SEC. 9. Section 9 of the same Act is hereby renumbered as Section 11.

SEC. 10. Section 10 of the same Act shall be amended, to read as follows:

"Sec. [10] 12. *Executive Committee*. - There shall be an Executive Committee IN THE PSHS

SYSTEM composed of the Executive Director AS *EX OFFICIO* CHAIRPERSON and the Campus Directors [in the PSHS System] as members. [The committee shall be collegial in character.]

SEC. 11. Sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Repealing and Amending Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts hereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, for the sponsorship, I ask that the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, be recognized.

The President. Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR AQUINO-ORETA

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, esteemed colleagues:

I have the honor to present to this august Chamber an important piece of legislation which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 8496, also known as the Philippine Science High School System Law, in order to facilitate this law's declared objective to rationalize the establishment and governance of Philippine Science High Schools nationwide.

Republic Act No. 8496 was enacted in 1998 so that the four different Philippine Science High School campuses existing at that time may be able to work towards ensuring that only one standard of instruction is followed. This is based on the premise that if all their students are required to master a uniform set of desired learning competencies, the quality of their graduates can be assured, and will potentially be part of our growing talent pool of people capable of handling the challenges of science and technology for our country's development.

Mr. President, esteemed colleagues, we are all aware that science and technology are major components of the engine

of growth of a country. We have seen the experiences of countries that invested substantially in science and technology, and the rewards they have reaped as reflected in terms of increasing GNPs and their improved standard of living.

The Philippine Science High School was precisely established to identify, nurture and develop our young learners who have an extraordinary aptitude in science and technology. Admitting only those who have hurdled its rigorous and challenging selection process, the Philippine Science High School has become home to the best and the brightest high school students in the country.

I understand that of its 6,882 graduates, 90% have pursued careers in science, mathematics and engineering; 77.7% are employed locally, either in the private sector or in government; while 5.3% have gone into entrepreneurship.

The concern on its ability to sustain the quality of its graduates in the face of its expansion, as it were, is therefore both rightly placed and, above all, timely.

The Philippine Science High School System

Republic Act No. 8496 was enacted in 1998, creating the Philippine Science High School System for the following purposes:

- * To integrate the existing Philippine Science High Schools in Quezon City, Iloilo, Leyte, and Davao into one system of governance;

- * To ensure uniformity in quality standards, and systematize the operations of schools under the Philippine Science High School System; and

- * To rationalize the establishment of science high schools.

Mr. President, esteemed colleagues, it is submitted that RA No. 8496 is deficient in that it has failed to anticipate the establishment of subsequent Philippine Science High Schools, and the establishment of separate governing boards.

Prior to the enactment of RA No. 8496, three new Philippine Science High School campuses were established: one in Lanao del Norte, one in Nueva Vizcaya, and another in Camarines Sur.

The question of governance has also come to fore. These new Philippine Science High School campuses have established their own governing boards. In an environment where

several governing bodies are able to determine their own standards of instruction, the objective of uniformity in quality standards will inevitably drift beyond attainability.

Features of the Proposed Amendments

To address these concerns, each region shall be given equal opportunity to benefit from the establishment of the Philippine Science High School System, hence, we propose to limit the number of Philippine Science High School campuses to only one per administrative region. In this way, the Philippine Science High School education will become accessible to more deserving and talented Filipino learners. At the same time, this thrust will be tempered by the recognition of the reality of limited resources, not only in terms of funds but the availability of qualified science and mathematics teachers as well.

We also want to strengthen the governance of the Philippine Science High School System by consolidating the powers and authority over all the Philippine Science High School campuses in the Philippine Science High School System Board of Trustees. To assist the Executive Director in the administration of the expanded PSHS system, a Deputy Executive Director, appointed by the board for a term of six years, renewable for another term, is likewise proposed.

The Philippine Science High School System Board will be further strengthened through the membership of the chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Science and Technology, who will be in a position to link the Philippine Science High School to other developments in science and technology.

We also propose to allow the individual Philippine Science High School campuses to use all income generated by the school in pursuit of its functions. It is hoped that through this, the Philippine Science High School System may be weaned away from its dependence on government subsidies.

Furthermore, the amendments will fix the sites of the Philippine Science High Schools in Lanao del Norte and Camarines Sur, in the municipality of Balo-i, Lanao del Norte, and in the municipality of Goa, Camarines Sur.

Lastly, the Nueva Vizcaya Science High School, the Philippine Science High School in Lanao del Norte, and the San Rafael Science High School will be formally absorbed into the Philippine Science High School System, as we propose to integrate the existing Philippine Science High Schools at Diliman, Nueva Viscaya, Camarines Sur, Iloilo City, Leyte, Lanao del Norte and Davao City into one system of governance and management.

Conclusion

Mr. President, honorable colleagues, I urge all to support these proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 8496. With these amendments, Republic Act No. 8496 will have the effect it was intended to have; and that is, to ensure that we would have the human resources to meet the demands of an increasingly technology-based economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2113

Senator Sotto. Mr. President, to allow the members of the Senate to go through the bill, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2113 under Committee Report No. 383.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, there being no further business for the day, I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 18, 2000.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 18, 2000.

It was 4:31 p.m.