

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1998

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:20 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order.

The President. The 22nd session of the Senate in the First Regular session of the 11th Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

The Senate Choir will lead the singing of the national anthem and thereafter will also render a song, entitled *Sa Iyo Lamang*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Sotto.

PRAYERS OF THE ANGEL

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You!

I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
I adore You profoundly and
I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, and Soul
and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the
Tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the
outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He
Himself is offended.

And through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart,
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You
the conversion of poor sinners.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will now call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

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

The President. With 19 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider it approved.

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

Senator Drilon. I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILL ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1230, entitled

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

Introduced by Senators Drilon and Ople

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

The Acting Secretary [Mr. Pineda]. Indorsement from Ms. Cresencia C. Calibuso, Administrative Officer III, Office of the City Secretariat, Lungsod ng Pasay, respectfully forwarding to the Senate, Resolution No. 1091 S-1998 entitled "A RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING AND FAVORABLY ENDORSING HOUSE BILL NO. 1710 INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE ELADIO M. JALA, AMENDING SECTION 468 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991."

The President. Referred to the Committee on Local Government

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 1137 — Use of Seat Belts Act

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, with the consent of the Chamber, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1137. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on September 29, 1998, thus complying with Section 26, paragraph 2, Article VI of the Constitution.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1137 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1137, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY COMPLIANCE BY MOTORISTS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC VEHICLES TO USE SEAT BELT DEVICES AND REQUIRING VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS TO INSTALL SEAT BELT DEVICES IN ALL THEIR MANUFACTURED VEHICLES

The President. We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. *Senators*

Aquino-Oreta	
Barbers	Yes
Biazon	Yes

Cayetano	Yes
Drilon	Yes
Enrile	Yes
Flavier	Yes
Guingona	Yes
Honasan	Yes
Jaworski	Yes
Legarda-Leviste	Yes
Magsaysay Jr.	Yes
Ople	Yes
Osmeña III	Yes
Pimentel	Yes
Revilla	Yes
Santiago	Yes
Sotto III	Yes
Tatad	Yes
The President	Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1137 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 19 affirmatives votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1137 is approved on Third Reading.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, two of our colleagues have made representation to avail of the privilege hour this afternoon. The first is Sen. Blas Ople and second is Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago. May I ask the Chair to recognize these colleagues of ours in the order which I have mentioned.

The President. The Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Blas Ople, is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR OPLE (Anwar Ibrahim in Prison Prometheus Bound)

Senator Ople. Mr. President, myths are the stuff of great literature, and among the world's men of letters, the favorite myth is that of Prometheus, celebrated in the immortal poem of Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*, and Percy Bysshe Shelly's modern version, *Prometheus Unbound*.

In the Greek legend, the God Prometheus created man out of clay and water. Prometheus was so enamored of mankind that he stole fire from Mt. Olympus and taught man all the useful arts and sciences, forging such a splendid civilization that Zeus himself became jealous, insecure and was greatly angered. By his orders, Prometheus, accused of treason for his encompassing love of mankind, was chained to a mountain peak in the Caucasus where his liver was exposed to daily torture by a vulture. Though rooted in Greek myths, Prometheus has become the universal symbol of modern humanism and the eternal search for freedom and excellence.