

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1997

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:13 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Ernesto M. Maceda, called the session to order.

The President. The 80th session of the Second Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Marcelo B. Fernan.

After the prayer, the DTI Garments and Textile Export Board Chorale will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. It will also render another song, entitled *Sa Likod ng Pangarap*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Fernan.

Almighty God,

With one voice, we invoke the grace of Your mercy upon us all in this Chamber, and the Filipino people whom You have tasked to serve.

Grant us, O Lord, the illumination of Your spirit so that we can attend to the tasks of legislation with minds guided only by truth and right, and hearts filled only with the noblest intentions not for ourselves, but for the nation.

Help us to discern Your will on matters that affect our people, today and in the future, so that we can make the right decisions and pursue the best actions in crafting policies and programs to better uphold the interests of our people.

We direly need Your strength, O Lord, in these times that are fraught with omens of dissension and division brought about by the will of some to change what need not be changed in our democratic order, all for the sake of feeding appetites for more glory and more power at the expense of our democracy and the welfare of the nation.

Make us remember, O Lord, the gift of freedom You have mercifully granted to us, and which empowered us to banish the forces of tyranny in our

land—and in our remembering, inflame us with Your righteousness so that we would be armed with the unconquerable resolve never to allow again the subversion of our freedom by those who seek power for their own sake.

We ask all these with praise and gratitude in our hearts, and for Your greater glory, now and forever,

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The President. We will have a one-minute suspension of the session, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 3:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present*
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Absent
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavie	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal	**
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED PESOS (P1,200.00) FOR MEMBERS WITH AT LEAST TEN (10) CREDITED YEARS OF SERVICE AND TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) FOR THOSE WITH TWENTY (20) CREDITED YEARS OF SERVICE."

The distinguished proponent would like to increase this the moment there is service for at least 20 credited years from P2,000 to P2,400. That is the proposal.

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

Senator Fernan. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the period of amendments is finally and ultimately closed.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1663 ON SECOND READING,
AS AMENDED

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1663, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1663, 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. 1663, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

December 4, 1996

The Honorable
ERNESTO M. MACEDA
President of the Senate
Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives, on December 4, 1996, designated Hons. Thelma Z. Almario and Lally Laurel-Trinidad as additional members of the Bicameral Conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6265, entitled

AN ACT REDEFINING THE LAW ON RAPE, RECLASSIFYING THE SAME AS A CRIME AGAINST PERSONS TO INCLUDE OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON ANY PERSON, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AMENDING IN THIS CONNECTION ARTICLE 335 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, ACT NUMBER 3815, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

and Senate Bill No. 950, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF THE CRIME OF RAPE, RECLASSIFYING THE SAME AS A CRIME AGAINST PERSONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 320, prepared and