

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1997

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:21 p.m., the presiding officer, Sen. Juan M. Flavier, called the session to order.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Flavier]. The 17th session of the Third Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Senate President Ernesto M. Maceda.

After the prayer, the Philippine Information Agency Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. It will also render another song, entitled *Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Maceda.

Almighty Father, again we are gathered in this Chamber to do our duties and tasks. We thank You for the much needed respite to refresh our weary minds and bodies.

Almighty Father, we are humbled by the events of these recent days; of the peaceful conduct of the people's rally against Charter amendments; of the prevailing storm in the currency market; of the impending price hikes in fuel and basic commodities; of the raging flames ravaging the forests of Indonesia; of the threatening haze in the neighboring countries. All these and more are but testaments of Your supreme power over all beings and all creation.

Almighty Father, as we sit down and brace for the work ahead, guide us through our deliberations. Teach us to be patient and understanding. Lead us to the right decisions and grant us, Your humble servants, the courage and strength to lead our nation and people to peace and prosperity.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:28 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Ernesto M. Maceda presiding.

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	**
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present*
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan	Absent
Senator Juan M. Flavier	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales	**
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal	Present*
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	**
Senator Freddie N. Webb	Present
The President	Present

The President. With 17 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Mercado. I move that we dispense with the reading

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

The Secretary.

September 4, 1997

The Honorable
ERNESTO M. MACEDA
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 3, 1997 approved the Conference Committee Report 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. To the Archives

The Secretary.

September 4, 1997

The Honorable
ERNESTO M. MACEDA
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 3, 1997 designated Rep, Dante O. Tinga, Enrique T. Garcia (in lieu of Rep. Ronaldo B. Zamora), Ralph G. Recto and Joker P. Arroyo (in lieu of Representative Arnulfo Fuentesbella) as additional members to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 9077, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

The Secretary.

September 5, 1997

The Honorable
ERNESTO M. MACEDA
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 4, 1997 passed House Bill No. 9791, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAPAN IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CALAPAN,

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committee on Local Government