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the Resolution that has just been read, I really feel that I am being killed very softly with your kindness.

Thank you very much.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, we have Senator Laurel who seeks the floor. I request that he be recognized.

Senator Laurel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Laurel is recognized.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF
SENATOR LAUREL
(Named as Vice Chairman of
Ethics and Privileges Committee)**

Senator Laurel. Mr. President, I stand also on a question of personal privilege. I would like to address this not only to my very esteemed Colleague, Senator Saguisag, but also to my other Colleagues here on this floor of the Senate.

Senator Saguisag just mentioned he is making me the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, and he said, as my penance. I consider this not a penance at all, not in any way or measure. I consider this, as a matter of fact, an honor, to serve as the Vice Chairman of a very esteemed Colleague of ours, Senator Rene Saguisag, and it is in that spirit that right now I say, Salamat po. Tinatanggap ko ang inyong bagong ipinapatong, iniaatas sa aking tungkulin sa bayan.

Marami pong salamat.

**BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 12—Renaming of MIA as the
Ninoy Aquino International Airport**

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 12.

The President. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 12 is now in order.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 12 entitled:
AN ACT RENAMING THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

SECTION 1. The name of the Manila International Airport, Paranaque, Metro Manila, is hereby changed to Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I request that Senator Ziga be recognized to speak on Committee Report No. 3 on S. No. 12 and H. No. 47.

The President. Senator Ziga is recognized.

Senator Ziga. Thank you, Mr. President. With the permission of the Chair, I would like to read Committee Report No. 3 submitted jointly by the Committee on Public Works and Committee on Public Services on August 13, 1987 on Senate Bill No. 12 and House Bill No. 47. Recommending approval of House Bill No. 47 without amendment in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 12, Sponsor: Senator Heherson T. Alvarez.

Mr. President, the Committee on Public Works and the Committee on Public Services to which was recomitted Senate Bill No. 12 introduced by Senator Alvarez, entitled:

AN ACT RENAMING THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

and to which was referred House Bill No. 47, introduced by Congressmen Daza, Romero, Gutang, Pilapil, Valencia, Unico, Lagman, Andaya,

Padilla, Gillego, Sarte, Alfelor, Marquez, Lingad, Martinez, De la Serna, Del Mar, Adasa, Bacaltos, Fua, Congresswoman Laurel-Trinidad, Congressmen Dragon, Guerrero, Nunez, Paras, Congresswoman Verano-Yap, Congressmen Garcia, (S.), Joson, Congresswoman Puyat-Reyes, Congressmen Bagatsing (R.), Fugoso, Lopez (J.), Mathay, Beltran, Apacible, Payumo, Rivera, Aniag, Webb, Lopez (Vito), Lopez (A.), Tirador, Legaspi, Bandon, Real, Pelaez, Congresswoman Plaza (C.), Congressman Plaza (D.), Congresswoman Labaria, Congressmen Romualdo, Chaves, Ozamis, Zubiri, Congresswoman Almario, Congressmen Rodriguez, Enverga, Ponce de Leon, Punzalan, De Venecia, Bengson, Sison, Abad, Orbos, Singson (E.), Puey, Locsin, Congresswoman Coseteng, Congressmen Lacson, Guanzon, Congresswoman Agana, Congressmen Tupas, Horca, Amatong, Ong, Montejo, Teves, Loreto, Garduce, Garcia(P.), Matti, Garin, Ocampo, Chiongbian, Amante, Zamora, Roco, Roxas, Ramirez, Cabochan, Ablan, Chipeco, and Congresswoman Gonzales, entitled:

AN ACT RENAMING THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

have considered and consolidated the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that House Bill No. 47 be approved without amendment in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 12. Respectfully submitted: Victor S. Ziga, Chairman, Committee on Public Works; John H. Osmeña, Chairman, Committee on Public Services.

Mr. President, I would like to request that the original Sponsor of the bill be recognized for his sponsorship speech, Senator Heherson Alvarez.

The President. Senator Alvarez.

SPONSORSHIP BY
SENATOR ALVAREZ

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President before I Proceed to make my statement, may I add into

the *Record* the names of Senators who have wanted all along to become cosponsors of this measure. While we had considered this measure much earlier than the House of Representatives, the procedures and administrative machinery brought this matter much later to our attention. It is now the opportunity to include the following names as cosponsors: Senators Maceda, Estrada, Tamano, Mercado, Lina, Tañada, Herrera, Osmeña, Romulo, Angara, Gonzales, Guingona, Rasul, Paterno, Manglapus and Pimentel. These are the Gentlemen who are going to be cosponsors of this Bill, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this measure could be very well pass in silence in this Chamber. In the other Chamber, referred to fondly as the "Little Chamber", it has overwhelmingly been passed, and I see no reason why we can not pass it here. No less than in the other Chamber, the late Senator lives in the hearts and minds of those who are here today.

But we rename the airport not to honor the man but to honor the people who have lived by the ideals and the courage shown by the man. The changes and the upheavals of our regime that brought us our freedom were a fulfillment of the things for which Ninoy Aquino had died for the people.

Mayroon po tayong kasabihan sa Tagalog na ang hindi lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararating sa paroroonan. At kung ito po ay ating isasalin sa wikang banyaga ay ganito: "Those who forget their past are condemned to relive it."

Kaya nais po nating lahat na pangalanan ang Manila International Airport ng Ninoy Aquino International Airport hindi lamang bilang parangal kay Ninoy kundi upang gunitain ang madilim na nakaraan. Ang galing at tapang ng ating bayan ay ating itugon sa kadilimang iyan. At si Ninoy ay isang simbolo; at ang airport ay magiging isang simbolo. Ang pagpapangalan sa

kaniya ay pagpaparangal sa simbolong iyan, sa buhay ng taong iyan, at gayundin sa buhay ng bayan na nagpatatag sa mga paninindigan ng taong iyan.

Marami pong salamat.

The President. Senator Pimentel would like to ask questions.

Senator Pimentel. Will the Gentleman yield to a few questions.

Senator Alvarez. As always, willingly to the Gentleman from Mindanao.

Senator Pimentel. At the very outset, Mr. President, I would like to make it of record that I am in full accord with the intention of this bill.

Long before anyone dreamt of naming anything after Senator Aquino, a few days after his assassination, in my capacity as then Mayor of Cagayan de Oro--I was under arrest then--we named a public building in honor of Senator Aquino.

I only want that of record because I want to ask the distinguished Gentleman if there is any reason whatsoever in his mind why we should approve this bill right now. What, in other words, is the urgency of this bill?

Senator Alvarez. I think the principal reason, Mr. Senator, is that there is ever no reason in our minds why we should not approve it right now. There is no reason why we should ever doubt the rationality, the importance of approving the bill right now.

Senator Pimentel. That is true, distinguished Colleague. However, this country is faced with a thousand and one problems which, to my mind, are more urgent than naming the International Airport in honor of the late Senator Aquino.

It may just be a matter of priorities; but if we approve this bill, and frankly, I do not see any reason why we should not before any other substan-

tial bill is passed by this Body, criticisms can be leveled against this House that we are engaged in more peripheral matters, rather than substantive issues that affect this nation.

That is my reservation, Mr. Senator, with regard to the passing of this bill at this point.

Senator Alvarez. I do not see any reason why anyone would doubt our bill of intention in discharging our functions, distinguished Colleague. The Senate has been very active in its pursuit of its daily functions. Things must fall in their proper places and one of the Senate's functions is to live for the beacon of raising a certain moral question, perhaps, an ethical injunction or teaching to the nation. More than politicians, we also are teachers and perhaps, approving a measure like this, symbolic as it might be, is a message of telling our people and the world that this nation or this Government, built on the sacrifices of men like Ninoy Aquino, will stand by those sacrifices, will continue to discharge the function.

This is not a misplaced priority. I think that when we begin to discharge our duties whatever they may be, we articulate our good intentions in our way of doing things, in the same manner that we have these little disputations among Senators, these little matters that we have cast aside, and putting in order our sense of ethics, our direction, and vision for certain things that should be done. And, Mr. Senator, the Senate, I must say, has been doing this well and putting these in order. A bill that declares our intention of continuing this good job is not, I think, a misplaced exercise of duty.

Senator Pimentel. I am honored by his including me as one of the cosponsors of this measure, and I will stick by that. I will, in fact, vote for this Bill with the reservations I have expressed because I am overwhelmed by his rhetoric and prolixity, as well as his forceful prose. Therefore, I beg leave to take my seat, overwhelmed as I am.

Thank you, Mr. Senator.

Senator Alvarez. Thank you very much distinguished Colleague.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, will the Gentleman from Isabela yield?

Senator Alvarez. Willingly, distinguished Colleague.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, we have certainly no objections whatsoever; and as a co-author, we will certainly work for the approval of this measure. I would just like to ask the distinguished Gentleman whether in the course of studying this measure he also took into consideration the renaming policy of other names, other streets, other public places because the distinguished Gentleman, I think, will agree with me that in the past there were several changes of names of streets, of parks, of public places. Will he not?

Senator Alvarez. That is correct, Mr. President, except that it is one particular measure, I thought, perhaps, that those social standards and rules of consideration may not be taken into account. I found that this is a very different and exceptional case. It will not be one of those namings compelled by "ego-tripping" but naming because we do honor to ourselves and to the man.

Senator Guingona. Yes, we fully agree with that.

I am talking about the policy of other names; other places.

Will the Gentleman agree with me in saying that, in the past, even persons living and alive were honored with names of specific parks, specific roads, and public places?

Senator Alvarez. Yes, Mr. President, but those names are more remembered in shame than in honor and reverence for whom those

parks and places have been named.

Senator Guingona. And would the distinguished Colleague agree with me that sometimes or oftentimes there was no in-depth study of why names of streets, parks, or public places were changed?

Senator Alvarez. I believe, Mr. President, that errors have been committed in the past.

Senator Guingona. And would the distinguished Gentleman agree with me that there is a necessity, therefore, for a better-studied policy concerning the naming of public streets, public roads, parks, or public places?

Senator Alvarez. I agree with the distinguished Senator and nothing could be more instructional or informative than setting the standard by naming the airport at this point with the late martyr's name, telling our people that, in fact, we should not be taking the privilege of naming names in honor of ordinary mortals.

Senator Guingona. That is agreed. Mr. Senator. Was this Bill of yours referred to the Committee on...

Senator Alvarez. Public Works.

Senator Guingona. And would the Gentleman adopt the policy of having a thorough study in the future for the renaming of streets, public places and public parks?

Senator Alvarez. I so agree with the Gentleman. I feel that after having done this, we could have set the standard of naming places.

There is one other reason why we are compelled to do this, because, would the Gentleman be aware that the 21st of August is going to be the forthcoming anniversary of the late Senator Aquino, and as one who had served very ably and brilliantly this Chamber, I think, it was appropriate that it

Senator Alvarez. Thank you very much distinguished Colleague.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

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would have been introduced here.

As a matter of fact, a duplicate copy of the measure which we have prepared was handed down to our friends in the House of Representatives, which they passed, approved there, and transmitted to us for consideration.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. Senator. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Alvarez. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tañada. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Tañada is recognized.

Senator Tañada. I would just like to make a comment, Mr. President.

Apprehension has been expressed here that the passage of this bill into law would open Congress to criticism from some sectors of the media or the public.

While there may be some bases in such apprehension, I submit, Mr. President, that there are important and overriding considerations favoring the passage of this bill.

For one thing, historical imperative is on the side of this proposed law, because it was the brutal and the outrageous assassination of Ninoy Aquino at the Manila International Airport that brought the Philippines into sharp focus before the eyes of the international community and exposed everything that was then happening in this country.

And, what is more significant is that the death of Ninoy Aquino at the Manila International Airport signaled the beginning of the end of the Marcos dictatorship, and the restoration of freedom and democracy to the nation.

These are high points in our history which should not be forgotten. On the contrary, they should be memorialized for future generations of Filipinos to remember.

Renaming the Manila International Airport

into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will, therefore, not only do honor to the memory of one of the greatest citizens this country has ever produced, but will erect an enduring physical and spiritual monument to the Filipinos' struggle against repression.

The proposed bill will bear no resemblance to the renaming legislations of the past, let alone the much-denounced practice of the Marcos regime. For a while Marcos, all by himself, decreed the renaming of streets, bridges, buildings, and places in his own name or that of his father or other living person, like his wife. The bill under consideration is an act of Congress which represents the entire Filipino people. And, whereas, Marcos renamed localities and sites indiscriminately, the renaming of the Manila International Airport into the "Ninoy Aquino International Airport" has direct bearing with the historical events of this country.

That the proposed law is to be the first enactment of this Congress, I submit, Mr. President, that would not be a valid argument against its passage. On the contrary, it can be validly said that it will be an appropriate and most fitting beginning for this Assembly to commence its process with a grateful act of tribute to the man who gave his life for the people.

And what is more, the proposed law is in harmony with the practices of other countries. Idlewild International Airport of New York, for instance, was renamed the "John F. Kennedy International Airport" after the assassination of President Kennedy. We should do no less for Ninoy Aquino, who, like Kennedy, was a martyr for the cause of peace, freedom and democracy.

I, therefore, would like to make of record that I will vote for the approval of the proposed bill. I submit that the passage of this bill will sit well with the Filipino people who, I know and I feel, desire a lasting memorial for the man who was once an outstanding Member of this Body.

Thank you, Mr. President. (*Applause.*)

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. Am I in order if I were to speak against this bill?

The President. We will have to ask the Sponsor whether he is through with his sponsorship speech, and if there are no other interpellations.

Senator Saguisag. It is because what has happened was that the debate started when the last Speaker did not interpellate him, and it should be in turns.

The President. Are there any other interpellations? We will have turns for and against the bill. Is the Sponsor through with his sponsorship speech?

Senator Alvarez. Yes, Mr. President. I am through with the sponsorship. I yield to Senator Saguisag, Mr. President.

The President. There is already a speech in favor of the bill. Would the distinguished Gentleman speak also in favor of the bill?

Senator Saguisag. Against the bill, Mr. President.

The President. Any other speech for the bill?

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Are we not going to do it by turns?

The President. Yes. Shall we consider Senator Tañada's speech as a speech for the bill instead of a speech during the sponsorship?

Senator Saguisag. I submit, Mr. President.

The President. If that is so, Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. Thank you, Mr. President. I regret to have to start by alluding to one of the statements made by the distinguished Senator from Quezon.

Incidentally, I will appreciate it if I am also identified not only as a Senator from Pasig but also as a Senator from Mauban, Quezon.

What I now say, I say with some regret because today happens to be the birthday anniversary of our very good friend from Gumaca.

He said something about the JFK airport being named after John F. Kennedy but Mrs. Kennedy did not become a president. She became Mrs. Onassis. So, this is what we have been fighting against all these many years. I have not had enough time to research, but I just stumbled into this old issue of *Malayang Pilipinas*. The issue of March 31 to April 6, 1978, which, ironically, partly, was able to see the light of day because of the assistance of the Aquino family.

And, a greater admirer of Ninoy Aquino than I, perhaps, one can not find. I can concede that this may be the right thing; but, is this the right time? When I wrote this article about ten years ago, the conclusion went something like this. I was referring to all the many things that have been named after the Marcoses, and this was my concluding paragraph:

There are far too many parks, avenues, sport complexes, barrios--even a wood derivative from coconut, this was the Imelda Madera...

and I am told mayroon pa raw hong hito named after the Marcoses--

... named after living persons whose tolerations of the practice give the impression that they are anxious to be immortalized in their own lifetime.

Are they afraid that people would not do it after they are gone? The reference to Republic Act No. 1059 which, of course, we can override

with a specific statute, refers to living persons. But I have always believed that there is the concept of united espousal personality. Do we want to put this President, whom we all admire, in this dilemma, whether she will sign this bill, allow it to lapse into law, or veto it? I am not sure that this is something that she would really appreciate. I even venture that this is really in violation of the spirit of the dynasty law of some kind.

My own view is that, even in doing the right thing, we have to do it at the right time even if I am to concede that we may be doing it in the right way, for the right reason. And I believe that this should be done when the incumbent President shall have stepped down. Maybe, five years from now, I am sure many of us will have been returned here by a grateful people, and I, as a private citizen in 1992, can come back here and plead that, maybe, the airport should be named the "Ninoy and Cory Aquino International Airport."

I am very much disturbed that things that we used to criticize before suddenly become right because friends are involved. We have to be consistent. We are talking of history and historical imperatives. Do we really want to be recorded in history that, at a time when the national agenda was cluttered with so many more serious concerns, we had as our first act, this law? Have we not honored Ninoy Aquino enough by the supreme compliment of electing his spouse, his wife, to the highest position the people were in a position to give? And that is not, of course, to take away anything from the merits of the President we all admire.

I have to be consistent here. I have fought against this practice and if we make an exception here now, we will have set a very bad precedent. In the future, another President who will not be scrupulous as the current one, will use this to name just about everything after every relative who may be gone through his or her influence in the Legislature.

So, as I have said, I am very much disturbed that mention was even made of some connection to August 21, as if the legislative business should be suspended to enable this bill to be enacted into law to be signed by her on that date. I would not want to place the President in that rather awkward and embarrassing position. Maybe, we can override it, assuming she vetoes it. I do not really know what her feeling on the point is. What I am trying to say here is that we should not even begin to put her in that position. Maybe, we can do it next year, if this will be reintroduced; maybe, we can wait, and then let us hear the opinion of the newest Member of the minority who is joining us on Monday. Maybe, if he is in favor of this, we can blunt any possible criticism. But I am persuaded that what we used to condemn in the past, we should not now be doing, just because people we love and admire are involved. We have to follow certain fixed stars that we should go by, detracting from personalities.

For all these reasons as of the moment, perhaps, I should try to maintain an open mind. Of course, there may be others who will argue on this. At the moment, my inclination is to vote against it, or maybe, abstain; but I can not—on the basis of what I have read and heard so far—support the bill.

And, I think that we will be doing the President a favor by not putting her in the position where she will have to sign it, and be criticized for signing a self-serving bill, or allow it to lapse into law which is an indecisive or even cowardly way out, or veto it. And this fate, I would want to spare our President from.

Thank you.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I have no

"identity crisis" about what the Gentleman from Rizal and Quezon has just stated. But later on, I will have an identity crisis about something else. So may I just, if the Gentleman will allow me and I am glad to see him smiling from ear to ear, state for the record that even if Cory Aquino were not the President in Malacañang today, if it were Doy Laurel or Jovy Salonga or Butz Aquino or Nene Pimentel or Sonny Alvarez or Tito Guingona or Neptali Gonzales or Orly Mercado, Number 3, or Bert Romulo, Number 6 in the last elections, this bill would have been presented and passed. Because, as the Gentleman from Gumaca, Quezon said, we are not passing this bill because somebody named Cory Aquino who happens to be the widow of Ninoy Aquino is the President in Malacañang.

I hope that when President Aquino gets this bill when it is passed, she will also be objective enough to consider it in the light of what the House and the Senate shall have said and recorded in the *Record of the Senate*, because that is where it should be. When it comes to the consideration of bills including this one, as much as possible, no identify crisis with regard to our personal status or personal feelings or relations should be considered. It is what is right, what is proper, whether the bill is meritorious or not.

In that respect, Mr. President, as I said, I have no identity crisis. But I have some sort of an identity crisis because, well, I am grateful to the principal sponsor, the distinguished head of the Ninoy Aquino Movement in the United States of America and now all over the world, according to him.

I was hesitant at first to accept the sponsorship because I also have a problem with timing, not with regard to the timing question that the Senator from Cagayan de Oro and the Senator from Rizal and Quezon have brought up, but as to whether at this time the MIA is worthy enough to be named "Ninoy Aquino Airport."

With regard to the representation of the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro and Gentleman from Rizal and Quezon, lest our constituency get misled, Mr. President. Last week, all of us must have attended an average of 10 to 14 committee meetings.

Mr. President, more than 50 bills had been filed, and that took a lot of work just to prepare those bills. About ten privilege speeches were delivered on this floor covering different subject matters. We converted ourselves into a Committee of the Whole, and are going through the painful process of trying to inquire into our foreign debts. So let it not be said, Mr. President, that the Senate is not doing anything by passing a bill renaming the Manila International Airport because the job of the Senate is not only in discussing bills on Second Reading but, more importantly or equally as important, in conducting committee hearings, in listening to all the privilege speeches and interpellations and in preparing the bills that are being presented.

So, let us clarify that once and for all. The fact that we are taking up this bill today is simply because of the practical reason that all the 51 or so other bills that have been sent to the committees are much more complicated and require much more time, while this is a one - paragraph bill and a relatively non-controversial one, and, therefore, was reported out ahead of the others. Not because it is for Ninoy Aquino, not because Ninoy Aquino is the husband of Cory Aquino, but simply because it happens to be the first one to be reported out for being uncontroversial. So let me clarify that, Mr. President.

But the other point was--I am sorry to mention it at this time but I just want to go through it briefly; and probably in the light of the somber atmosphere that is prevailing in this Chamber today, probably because Typhoon Herming has just passed, and Typhoon Rene has just come back.

I would like to reserve what is in this folder, Mr. President, as the subject of a privilege speech at a later time. I will not go at present into the comments of the Secretary of Tourism himself, delivered in front of the Chairman and Members of the Committee on Tourism during our briefing a few days ago, when he commented and I quote, "The Manila International Airport is a disgrace." Those were his actual words, Mr. President. I will not go at the moment into the complaint of *Japan Air Lines* and the other airlines, of the ALPAP, the Pilots' Association, about the inferior quality of the runway and the delay in the repair of the same. They consider it the worst runway in the world.

I will not go into the question of contracts and concessions allegedly being given to favored persons in that airport. I will not even mention with much detail Joe Guevarra's column that we should clean up the airport. As I say, I will just leave those to some other time. Let me just express the hope that, as I agree to be the author of cosponsoring this bill, the renaming of the MIA will serve as an inspiration to the people who are running the MIA to make it worthy of the name "Ninoy Aquino," and not continue to make it or maintain it as a Wild, Wild West, where people with UZI and submachine guns are running all over the place; where officers are pictured in the newspapers as pointing a gun on a fellow officer on the floor and fighting about police jurisdiction.

Mr. President, that was my identity crisis, whether I will cosponsor this bill or not in view of my feeling that really there is much to say that, maybe, at this time, MIA does not deserve the honor of being named "Ninoy Aquino International Airport." But I express the hope that after this renaming, as I hope it will be renamed, I repeat that it will serve as an inspiration to the people who run the airport, to belie the statement of no less than the Secretary of Tourism that this airport is a disgrace.

Thank you, Mr. President. (*Applause.*)

The President. Is there any other speaker? Senator Tamano.

Senator Tamano. I would like to address a few questions to the Gentleman from Manila, Laguna and Ilocos Sur. Perhaps, by a little accident, Mr. President, the bill we are considering now would have been "Ninoy Aquino and Ernesto Maceda International Airport." (*Laughter.*)

Mr. President, it is the fortune of our generation, or perhaps, the misfortune, that we are close to the events that produced such an unfortunate catastrophe for the Filipino nation, that we were deprived of the services, in the flower of his youth, of one of the most brilliant minds of our country, and that is Ninoy Aquino. And perhaps, I said by some quirk of fate or by accident, another brilliant mind by the name of "Ernesto Maceda" was spared the same fate.

Mr. President, I think it is in the interest of the authenticity of history that we call upon the distinguished Senator to explain why, at the last moment, because this has been the subject of endless speculation in Manila and throughout the country, he did not go with his friend on his fateful journey to his homeland. That is like Damon and Pythias parting ways at crossroads. We would like to know that, Mr. President, for the record. (*Laughter.*)

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I am certainly most grateful to the underserved honor that the Gentleman from Lanao has sincerely thrown my way; but certainly, I am happy to be alive and here today, contributing to our proceedings. If the Gentleman will not mind, I take the nature of the questions to be very personal, and I would not like to detract from the merits of the proposal right now. I would rather give him my answer in private, because after all, Ninoy Aquino is dead and Ernie Maceda is still alive.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tamano. Mr. President, I will not insist, but I brought this up because this is a very painful incident in the minds of everyone of us who were close to the event. I was one, Mr. President, of the five who were supposed to meet Ninoy Aquino at the airport, chosen by the Vice President, then President of the United National Democratic Opposition to be a member of the welcoming party. But, strangely enough, we were not allowed to see Ninoy although we were officially members of the Welcoming Committee. Trying to be resourceful, I attempted to get into the airport and tried to bring my car into the tarmac. I went to all the entrances to the airport and I found that they were guarded, not by ordinary troopers or soldiers or security guards but by soldiers in full riot gear, meaning they had guns and all sorts of equipment intended to frustrate a riot, a large number of people. Mr. President, in all the entrances, I met the same number--at least a platoon or a company of soldiers. And at that very moment, I wondered why these soldiers in riot gear gathered there at the airport. So my curiosity was aroused. And for the purpose of history, I think my question was relevant.

I have no desire to reopen an old wound, Mr. President. I only want to set the record straight because this is a matter that is subject to speculation. But, certainly, the point that was brought out by the speakers about whether it is appropriate at this time to name the airport as the "Ninoy Aquino International Airport" has much to commend itself. They are all important; they all have logic.

The statement of the distinguished Senator from Mauban and Pasig is also worth considering. But I want to put it on record, Mr. President, that I am in favor of this bill and the transformation of the Manila International Airport into the "Ninoy Aquino International Airport." If scoundrels are still to be seen in the premises of

the international airport, perhaps, the renaming of the airport will be an added inspiration to all law enforcement agencies to drive away all these people who desecrate the premises of the international airport.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, just to comply partially with the sentiments of the Gentleman, I would just like to put on record that when the preparation was being made for Ninoy Aquino's return which premised on the recognition of his human right to have a passport and to travel back to his own country, he would have come home not only with Ernie Maceda and Sonny Alvarez but with about 135 newsmen--many had already made reservations--and about 65 other exiles or about almost one whole planeload. What happened was that, after we were informed--under the signature of the then Secretary of National Defense who will be coming shortly as the 24th Member of this Body--that he was not being permitted to return and that no travel documents would be issued and that the telegram was sent to me as the attorney or lawyer for Ninoy Aquino at that time, Ninoy decided that a smaller party of less than ten shall accompany him because he would then come back by secret measures. And it was decided at that time that a smaller party would come home.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Any other turn against the bill?

Senator Laurel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Laurel is recognized.

Senator Laurel. Not really against, Mr. President. I just stand here to address a few questions to the Sponsor, if I may.

Senator Alvarez. Willingly, Mr. President.

Senator Laurel. I understand that the Gentleman is the principal author of this Bill and that there are about 15 other coauthors, is that correct?

Senator Alvarez. Seventeen including myself, Mr. President.

Senator Laurel. Seventeen. Well, I had the privilege of hearing from my esteemed Colleague and boss in the Committee on Ethics and Privileges that since this is the first bill that we would be presenting to the President, we will be putting her in a predicament. And I think I have a solution to this problem in order to relieve, or shall we say, help the President sign this bill ultimately. I do not know we have already 17 coauthors. I have not been asked to coauthor it; and there are, I think, a number of us yet, probably six more or three more, who would be asked or who would be willing to coauthor this bill. I, for one, would like to say that I would not coauthor the bill. I really do not know why I have not been asked. I hope it is not for the reason that my name is Laurel. But I would say that the reason is probably, well, it was done in a hurry. That was what I gathered from the principal author of the bill.

May I make a suggestion, my dear Senator from Isabela? Would the distinguished Senator kindly ask the other Senators who have not coauthored this, or who have not expressed their preference or their opinion on the matter? And I would request the Chair that a recess of two minutes be declared for that purpose, to enable the Senator to ask the other Senators if they are willing to coauthor the bill. I, for one, am in favor of this, but it seems that if this is the sentiment of the Body as I think it is, and certainly Senator Aquino deserves the honor that we are giving him regardless of whether it is his widow who is the President now or not—I think this is immaterial—it will relieve her of all that feeling of sensitivity and *delicadeza* kung lahat tayo rito—ang damdam ko naman ang aking kaibigan na si

Senator Rene Saguisag will also sign because it is only a question of time. But here, it is the ultimate sentiment of the entire Body that supports this Bill.

Thank you very much.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, I would gladly do that—approach the remaining Senators whose approval have not been sought yet. Let it be made of record that Senator Laurel is as ever loved by this Representation; and if given the chance—a while ago while I was soliciting coauthorship, if he was not late in taking his seat, he would have been one of the first ones I have solicited to coauthor this Bill with me. Nonetheless, Mr. President, I will go around and solicit the support of other Senators.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The session is suspended for a few minutes, if there is no objection. *(There was none.)*

It was 4:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. I understand Senator Guingona would like to address questions to the Sponsor.

Senator Guingona. Now, Mr. President, I would like to ask just a few questions from "Typhoon Rene" if the Gentleman will yield not to the Sponsor, but to "Typhoon Rene". *(Laughter.)*

Senator Alvarez. I am prepared to yield to the Gentleman from Quezon, Mr. President.

Senator Saguisag. It is just a parliamentary inquiry. If it is in order, I would very gladly yield to the Gentleman.

Senator Guingona. We have relaxed the *Rules* for this afternoon's session, Mr. President, I understand, and I only take it, upon leave of the Chair, if the Gentleman would yield.

Senator Saguisag. Gladly, as always, Mr. President.

The President. All right.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, the Gentleman alluded in his speech to the fact that he was really not opposed to this measure, is that correct?

Senator Saguisag. Yes. I think, it is the right thing being done at the wrong time.

Senator Guingona. So that the merits of this measure are, to the Gentleman's mind, not in any way under cloud or under question, is that correct?

Senator Saguisag. Subject to the qualification and, I think, it is five years too soon.

Senator Guingona. And, therefore, it is only the circumstance that he objects to, is that correct?

Senator Saguisag. Sometimes, timing is everything.

Senator Guingona. No. But as far as the essence of the bill is concerned, the Gentleman has no objection, has he?

Senator Saguisag. None, subject to qualification.

Senator Guingona. As a matter of fact, the bill has only four lines, has it not?

Senator Saguisag. The best evidence, as lawyers say, is the document itself.

Senator Guingona. I have here the bill.

Senator Saguisag. I am sure that he can count as well as anybody can.

Senator Guingona. Better than the COMELEC. (*Laughter.*)

Senator Saguisag. Which one? (*Laughter.*)

Senator Guingona. The past one. (*Laughter.*) And, therefore, the Gentleman will agree that this bill is not only simple; it is in essence okay?

Senator Saguisag. I will use a more parliamentary term; it is "all right." (*Laughter.*)

Senator Guingona. The Gentleman, I think, is referring to the time of the 1969 elections when Marcos stood for "okay" and Osmeña stood for "all right". (*Laughter.*)

But, at any rate, will the Gentleman agree with the proposition that this bill, in essence, being "okay" or "all right," can be considered apart from who the spouse is?

Senator Saguisag. I think, there is a need at times to protect ourselves from our own emotions.

Senator Guingona. Does not the Gentleman give the benefit of the doubt to other companions in the Senate, who will consider this measure in its essence and not in its circumstances?

Senator Saguisag. I think, anything we do here has to stand the test of time and history.

Senator Guingona. In the Gentleman's perception.

Senator Saguisag. I am just afraid it will be very hard to evade or to prevent later the President in subsequent years from believing differently because he or she can always use what is not a very prudent precedent that we are setting here today.

Senator Guingona. But the Gentleman will be frank that as far as others are concerned, they

may not have that perception that he perceived. Is that correct?

Senator Saguisag. I can not predict what can happen in the future. Those who like a certain person will think very highly of the person to be honored. That is why, we have to have a subjective standard in my view during the lifetime of a person, or in this particular case, when the extension of the personality of that person is alive because the spouse is in Malacañang. I think it is covered by the same spirit. We always have to protect ourselves from our own weaknesses, from the temptation to yield the easier course, and everything can be resisted according to us for a while, except temptation.

Senator Guingona. If that were so, then, the passage of the conversion of the name of "Idlewild" to "Kennedy International Airport" did not take into account either the circumstances of the spouse. Am I correct to say that I heard the Gentleman correctly that Mrs. Kennedy became Mrs. Onassis?

Senator Saguisag. The Gentleman heard correctly.

Senator Guingona. Therefore, if that circumstance were taken into account, that bill should not have been passed because Mrs. Kennedy was no longer Mrs. Kennedy, but already Mrs. Onassis.

Senator Saguisag. The point of what I said earlier is that if Jacqueline Kennedy were the President, it would, in my view, have been premature and improper.

Senator Guingona. But precisely because she became Mrs. Onassis, this would not have been proper to name. If we follow the distinguished Gentleman's logic, it would have been proper since the circumstance would dominate the essence.

Senator Saguisag. My point, my distinguished Friend, is that, if today we have--instead of Presi-

dent Aquino--President Salonga, and there is such a bill, I would have told them about the bill.

Senator Guingona. If it were Butz Aquino?

Senator Saguisag. No, because for the same reason, I have to protect Butz Aquino from himself.

Senator Guingona. And, therefore, the Gentleman's logic is to allow circumstance to override the essence and the merit of the main merits of the bill. At any rate, has the Gentleman filed many bills, at least three?

Senator Saguisag. Four quality bills.

Senator Guingona. Four quality bills, and those bills have been referred to the appropriate committees, have they not?

Senator Saguisag. That is my impression.

Senator Guingona. And those bills are being studied, are they not?

Senator Saguisag. The distinguished Gentleman from Manila has just described how hard we worked here. The Filipino people, according to him, should realize how lucky they are.

Senator Guingona. And, therefore, since those bills are being studied, and this simple bill of four lines has been introduced earlier is simply a coincidence. Is it not?

Senator Saguisag. I am not sure that we can say that is merely a coincidence, because, as I have repeatedly said, it can set a very bad precedent. Everything that we say here is a deposition for history.

Senator Guingona. Would the Gentleman, therefore, wish that this four-line measure be deferred until his own four bills which are quality bills be first studied, reported out, ordered introduced, and debated?

Senator Saguisag. I want to table it for

the next five years. In fact, that may be the motion. I may not want to have it killed, although, I am not unfamiliar with this role. I often find myself defending most unpopular causes.

Senator Guingona. Does not the Gentleman agree with Napoleon who said that history can change in seven hours?

Senator Saguisag. When did he say that? It sounds like Marcos.

Senator Guingona. Before, what have you, Mr. Senator?

I am saying this because I would like to appeal to the Gentleman that history certainly can be made, if not in seven hours, in seven days, and we should not necessarily have to wait for five long years if we believe that this bill is meritorious.

Senator Saguisag. Iyan nga po, Dakilang Sponsor ng bill na ito. Ang limang taon ay isang kisap-mata lamang sa kasaysayan ng bansa. In the life of the nation, five years is very short. So, as I have said, we should protect ourselves from our own impulses.

Senator Guingona. In the light of the adopted son of many mothers, it may be long.

Senator Saguisag. Can I take the long view in this case?

Senator Guingona. At any rate, did I hear the Gentleman right when he said that influence was used upon this Assembly to consider this bill now?

Senator Saguisag. Well, the moral suasion, because we have the President we all admire in this country.

Senator Guingona. In that case, I would have to ask the Gentleman who used this influence?

Senator Saguisag. No. There was no direct communication. It is just something that, you know, it favors someone, a family we all admire;

a family that has suffered so much to liberate us from the clutches of Martial Law; so, something, even if unspoken can be understood, that this is something that would, in the view of many, possibly please her; that the contrary view that this will place her in a very awkward position; that she may not want to approve it; she may not want it to lapse into law; she may not want to veto it. And I do not want to add to her many burdens. She will get criticized for this, and she has been criticized enough.

Senator Guingona. Is that the criteria that the distinguished Senator suggests for the consideration of the many vital bills that he has authored--four bills, that will look into the circumstances, the timing, the sensibilities of those who will be affected by his bills?

Senator Saguisag. I have always believed that even in doing the right thing, we have to do it at the right time, in the right way, for the right reason. So circumstances could be evident.

Senator Guingona. In which case, we would have to wait for sensibilities even at the sacrifice of moving forward.

Senator Saguisag. I do not really see any connection. I think, we honor Mr. Ninoy Aquino best by working very hard for the welfare of the nation. I am not sure that he really cares, if we name the MIA after him now because his name is engraved in the hearts of all of us.

Senator Guingona. At any rate, the Gentleman agrees that this is a meritorious bill.

Senator Saguisag. Yes, but not to implement.

Senator Guingona. Thank you.

The President. The Sponsor will continue.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President.

The President. The Gentleman may wish to close the debate; we shall enter into the period of amendments, if there are no other remarks.

Senator Alvarez. Let me make the observation, Mr. President, that I did not expect that this simple measure could elicit such conscientious sensibilities to problems of how our conduct would be perceived outside of this Chamber, and that this is going to involve the President in a very difficult position. Perhaps, it is well and good that the bill, simple as it is, may pose some challenges to the President. And in this, it might be revealing how she is going to control these challenges, whether she will find that, because she herself is involved; there are some difficult measures which she might make before she can uphold this bill; or that, even as she is involved, because something is above and beyond her personal feelings in relation to the martyrs, she may have to approve this bill.

I am fascinated by the possibilities raised by the Gentleman from Quezon and Rizal, when the President conforms to this bill.

Now, Mr. President, with that and the deliberations of the Sponsors of the bill, which I will reserve to amend later, may I move to close the period of sponsorship and debate and proceed now to the period of amendments.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

The President. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

We are now in the period of amendments.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. May I ask the main Sponsor, Mr. President, to accept an amendment to the effect that instead of naming the international airport after Ninoy Aquino, it should be named after BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. Instead of using a nickname, we use the full name of the person we are intending to honor.

Senator Alvarez. That matter has been taken into account, Mr. President, and those who have studied the measure felt that "Ninoy" is the more appropriate name. This was also taken into account when this bill was deliberated in the House, a copy of which was furnished us by the sponsors. For that reason, I would insist that we stick to the original proposal.

The President. Is the Sponsor rejecting the amendment?

Senator Alvarez. I am rejecting the amendment, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any other, proposed amendment?

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I think it is normal in all bills like this that a nominal appropriation is included, because, how will the Gentleman change the name of the airport when there is no money to put in the new sign? Normally that should have been referred to the Committee on Finance.

May I just suggest that we adopt by amendment a second paragraph to authorize the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation and Communications and/or the MIA Authority to use any savings they have out of their present appropriations to implement the provisions of this Act.

The President. May we ask the proponent of the amendment to put this in written form so that it can be submitted to the Sponsor.

Senator Maceda. The Department of Transportation and Communications or the Manila International Airport Authority is authorized to use, out of its savings, any amount that is necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

The President. The implication of this will

be that the version of the House, and the version of the Senate will differ. So what is the pleasure of the Sponsor?

Senator Alvarez. For that reason, distinguished Colleague, I hesitate to accept the amendment. And considering the fact that this is not going to entail any considerable allocation -I can almost assume that the changing of the name and, perhaps, the simple matter of engraving the name of "Ninoy Aquino" will not entail any expenditure. The bill will not suffer without stating a mandate for appropriation.

Senator Maceda. I will not insist, Mr. President. There may be donations; but I have a feeling that the airport is big and this is not going to be an ordinary sign. I am willing to bet the distinguished Gentleman's ear that that sign both in front and back of the airport will cost anywhere from P500,000 to P1 million, if we are really going to put the usual letters. But if the Ninoy Aquino Movement will donate the amount, then I am willing to withdraw the amendment.

As far as the different versions in the House are concerned, well, that could be done in a five-minute conference procedure. I do not see any practical problem there; but if the Sponsor feels like not accepting the amendment, I am not going to insist. I was just pointing out what would have been a normal section in a bill like this.

Thank you, Mr. President. I withdraw the amendment.

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Saguisag is recognized.

Senator Saguisag. I just want to ask, but since it has been withdrawn, it is moot and academic, Mr. President, whether we might have had problems in relation to Section 24 of Article VI which says that all appropriation bills shall originate exclusively in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose counter

amendments. But it is academic now, since the amendment has been withdrawn.

The President. Senator Maceda.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I understand the misgivings of the distinguished Gentleman from Pasig and Mauban. But while the appropriation is incidental and certainly minimal to the purposes of the bill, it is not considered an appropriation bill.

The President. Anyway, that is moot and academic at this point.

Now, is there any other proposed amendment?

The only amendment so far is with respect to the number of Sponsors and the names of Sponsors.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, if it is appropriate, may I enter the additional names of the five Sponsors?

The President. Please do.

Senator Alvarez. Senators Victor S. Ziga, Leticia Ramos Shahani, Sotero H. Laurel, and the Senate President, with the Chair's permission. That will make us 21 in all, including myself. Senator Angara who is indisposed confirmed his sponsorship of the bill.

The President. Shall we have a clean version of this Bill before it is voted on for second reading?

We can do that tomorrow.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President. The Majority Floor Leader informs me that time is of the essence to pass the bill.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I believe

the Sponsor is picking August 31 as the day that this could be approved, possibly with the President. So, with that in mind, considering that the Bill is not very complex, and it consists only of four lines, maybe, a clean copy can be dispensed with; hence, we can proceed to a voting on Second Reading.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 12
ON SECOND READING

The President. Now, are we ready for the voting on Second Reading of this Bill? (*Silence.*)

As many as are in favor of the bill, will please say *Aye*. (*Several Senators : Aye*) As many as are against will please say *Nay*. (*Silence.*) The *Ayes* have it. Senate Bill No. 12 is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Aquino. Mr. President, I am not objecting to the Bill nor am I voting in favor of the Bill. I just like to register that I am abstaining from the deliberations as a matter of *delicadeza*.

Thank you.

The President. Let the vote of abstention be recorded.

Senator Saguisag. May I also request that my vote be recorded as one of abstention.

The President. Let that be so recorded.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES
(*Continuation*)

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I would like to submit additional names of members of the Committees. For the Committee on Ethics and Privileges: Chairman—Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag; Vice Chairman—Senator Sotero H. Laurel. Members: Senators Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr., Raul S. Manglapus, Vicente T. Paterno, Alberto G. Romulo, and Wigberto E. Tañada.

The President. Are there any comments? Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) Hearing

none, the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, for the Committee on Investigations, Blue Ribbon: Chairman—Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.; Vice Chairman—Senator Sotero H. Laurel. Members: Senators Raul S. Manglapus, Neptali A. Gonzales, Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Edgardo J. Angara, Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano, Leticia Ramos Shahani, Ernesto M. Maceda, John H. Osmeña, Alberto G. Romulo, Wigberto E. Tañada, and Jose D. Lina, Jr.

The President. Are there any comments? Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none; the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. And to complete, Mr. President, the Committee on Education, it is submitted that we include the name of Senator Neptali A. Gonzales.

The President. Are there any comments? Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none; the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. To complete the Committee on Games and Amusement, the inclusion of the name of Senator Heherson T. Alvarez.

The President. Are there any comments? Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. Likewise, for the Committee on Health, the inclusion of the name of Senator Ernesto Maceda.

The President. Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. And for the record, to indicate that Senators Ernesto M. Maceda and Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano as Vice Chairmen of the Committee on Rules.

The President. Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. We have also put an



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Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 12-Renaming the MIA as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading Senate Bill No. 12.

Printed copies of the bill have been distributed to all the Members of the Senate on August 14, 1987.

The President. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Voting on the bill is now in order.

The Secretary will read the title of the bill.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 12, entitled:

AN ACT RENAMING THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 20

Senator Alvarez
Senator Angara
Senator Estrada
Senator Gonzales*
Senator Guingona
Senator Herrera
Senator Laurel
Senator Lina

Senator Mercado
Senator Osmeña
Senator Paterno
Senator Pimentel*
Senator Rasul
Senator Romulo
Senator Salonga
Senator Shahani

*With explanation of vote.

Senator Maceda
Senator Manglapus

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 3

Senator Aquino
Senator Enrile
Senator Saguisag*

Senator Tañada
Senator Ziga

The President. With 20 affirmative votes, without any negative vote and three abstentions, Senate Bill No. 12 and House Bill No. 47 are approved on Third Reading.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR GONZALES

Senator Gonzales. Mr. President, karangalan ko pong bumoto ng "yes" sa Senate Bill No. 12 and House Bill No. 47 na pinapalitan ang pangalan ng Manila International Airport ng Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Karapat-dapat lamang na ang pangunahing paliparan ng ating bansa ay ipangalan sa ating pambansang bayani at martir na sa kanyang kamatayan ay sumilang naman ang kalayaan at demokrasya pagkatapos ng mahabang panahon ng kadiliman sa ating bansa.

Inaasahan ko na ang sinumang lumapag o umalis sa paliparang ito, Pilipino o banyagan, ay tataglayin ang diwa na naglagos mula sa malamig na bangkay ni Ninoy Aquino sa mainit na tarmac ng nasabing paliparan, ang pag-ibig sa kalayaan, katotohanan at katarungan sa ilalim ng rehimen ng demokrasya.

Marami pong salamat.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, I rise to make of record my affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 12 and House Bill No. 47, renaming the Manila International Airport into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and my reservations thereon.

Ninoy Aquino was a friend long before it was fashionable or safe to be associated with Ninoy Aquino. During the dark days of martial rule, when Ninoy was hovering between life and death during his 40-day fast, I was among the few who attended the masses that were offered for his safety. I was also among the handful of his associates who visited him while he was detained in Fort Bonifacio. And when he dared to challenge the slate headed by President Marcos' wife in the elections of 1978, I was there, too, among the 28 Kamikaze souls who stood by him to try to do the impossible. Then when Ninoy got a 36-hour furlough from jail in October 1979, I visited him at his house on Times Street in Quezon City. The last time I saw him alive was in San Francisco in 1982 at the house of his sister, Lupita. I saw him upon his invitation to discuss the proposed merger of the Partido Demokratiko ng Pilipinas with the Lakas ng Bayan or LABAN.

When he came home in 1983, I failed to meet him at the Manila International Airport, not because I no longer wanted to be associated with him, but because I was under military detention myself, courtesy of then Minister of Defense, Juan Ponce Enrile.

Ninoy, as everyone knows, was killed on that fateful day of August 21, 1983 to manifest to the nation our lamentation, our indignation of President Marcos, and our admiration for Ninoy. Even as I was then under military custody for rebellion, the City Administration of Cagayan de Oro of which I was Mayor, named the City Hall Building, the Benigno S. Aquino Hall of Justice, much to the consternation of the then ruling party, the KBL, under military cohorts.

I recount these events, Mr. President and dear Colleagues, to disabuse the minds of people who might see in my reservations on this bill, an attempt to downplay the heroic contribution that Ninoy Aquino has given to the national struggle for freedom, justice and peace. Ninoy's death at the tarmac of the Manila International Air-

port gave life to the dying resolve of many Filipinos to try again by the ways of peace to restore democracy to the land under the leadership of his widow, now President Corazon C. Aquino, who has succeeded.

Much indeed is owed to Ninoy, thus I vote for this token of appreciation, a bill to rename the airport where his assassination is part of the dying embers of the struggle for freedom into a conflagration whose liberating flames engulfed the whole nation and consumed the shackles that held a whole in bondage of fear and subjugation.

I vote affirmatively, however, with reservations, not on the merits of the bill, but on its timing. With all the problems that confront the nation today—poverty, insurgency, injustice, domination and exploitation, both foreign and domestic—the Congress of the Philippines approved as its very first bill an act renaming the Manila International Airport into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Where is our sense of priorities, our sense of values, our sense of direction, Mr. President? These are some questions that bother this Representation about the passage of this bill today.

It is for this reason that I gave my approval to this bill but with reservations.

Thank you.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR SAGUISAG

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President, the President will confront a cruel "trilemma" when the bill reaches her; namely, 1. sign it; 2. allow it to lapse into law; and 3. veto it. All three choices can only hurt her as she looks at the national agenda of our true priorities. The bill will put her between a rock or two rocks and a very hard place, so to speak.

The bill has dynastic overtones which remind

us of the darker side of the deposed conjugal dictatorship. I fought the "naming" practice for many years when our political foes were in power. We should take alarm at any experimentation with things we used to condemn.

The informal calls and consultations which I have been conducting with some constituents support my stand. They say, "now is not the time." They say that this should not be our first law. They prefer something substantive. Maybe, something we promised in the campaign or, perhaps, something we need to serve our constituents better.

I am not surprised that out of Cagayan de Oro, our distinguished Colleague from there should echo these thoughts.

There is a question even on how the bill could be implemented when it becomes a law without an accompanying appropriation of money. Section 25, subsection 4, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution says that in case of special appropriations bill, it shall specify its purpose and shall be supported by funds available as certified by the National Treasurer or to be raised by a corresponding revenue proposal therein. Is this relevant?

We trust the reports are not true that even now, steps have been taken to implement what is yet to be enacted in anticipation of its approval.

If the President allows the bill to lapse into law, this will not happen until September or beyond August 31, 1987. A great admirer of the Aquino couple than I, one perhaps can not find, but that is neither here nor there. I can not stress too strongly that, while the idea is right, it is being pushed at the wrong time; it can keep coming back to haunt us. But since I agreed that the bill in itself can be defended, I most respectfully abstain.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF
SENATOR MERCADO
(On the Approval of the NAIA Bill)**

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, with the indulgence of the Members of this Chamber, I would like to take two minutes on a matter of privilege which I feel affects the collective dignity of this Body.

I just would like to stress what has been said already before this Body that if we are approving House Bill No. 47 first, it is not because we do not have our priorities right. There are something like more than 50 bills that have been filed already. As has been stressed by the Assistant Majority Floor Leader in a previous remark that all the committees are meeting, it is just that in the legislative mill, matters like these which are not really controversial, which do not require appropriations, can easily pass. If we approve as our first bill, a bill changing the name of the Manila International Airport into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, it does not mean that we have closed our eyes to the very serious problems that this country faces. We are all aware of it and we are working hard in spite of the conditions that we are working in.

Mr. President, I move that we recognize Senator Joseph Estrada, who has a matter of privilege to discuss.

The President. Senator Estrada is recognized.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF
SENATOR ESTRADA
(Yielding the Minority Leadership)**

Senator Estrada. Salamat po.

G. Pangulo, maigsi lamang po ang sasabihin ko bilang pagsalubong sa ating kagalang-galang na Senador Enrile.

Napansin po ninyo marahil, lalo ako na ka-