

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:10 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Ernesto M. Maceda, called the session to order.

The President. The 29th 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 Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President.

Let us bow our heads before the Lord.

Dear Lord, we offer this session to You and ask You to bless it with Your wisdom and grace.

We thank You for this opportunity to be together again, to grow in our love and service of You and of each other.

We ask You to enlighten our minds and to know what is true and just and strengthen our wills to carry out faithfully our duties.

May all our thoughts, words, and actions be directed to making Your Name and Your love better known among men for their sanctification and their happiness here and in eternity.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. 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 . Absent
Senator Franklin M. Drilon **
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavieir Present

- Senator Neptali A. Gonzales Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Absent
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 **
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Raul S. Roco **
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Absent
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present*
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present
The President Present

The President. With 14 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Tatad. 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.

The Secretary will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2320, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CEBU STATE COLLEGE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senators Angara and Fernan

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance.

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission but arrived after the roll call

Senator Angara. Mr. President.

The President. The gentleman from Aurora, Quezon and Pampanga is recognized.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ANGARA
(Senator Osmeña as Coauthor of S. No. 2320)**

Senator Angara. May I manifest that Senator Osmeña is a coauthor of this bill.

The President. It is so noted.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2321, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6425 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7659, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 1972, TO FURTHER RATIONALIZE THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES PROVIDED THEREIN, AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN DRUG PREPARATIONS AS DANGEROUS DRUGS AND PROVIDING THE PENALTIES FOR THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Alvarez

The President. Referred to the Committees on Illegal Drugs; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2322, entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING MANDATORY AND PERIODIC DRUG TESTING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Alvarez

The President. Referred to the Committees on Illegal Drugs; and Finance

The Secretary. Senate Bili No. 2323, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN LUIS, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE GONZALO PUYAT SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Macapagal

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 634, submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance on House Bill No. 6778, introduced by Representative Lara, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAGAYAN VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL INTO A MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Webb

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 635, submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance on House Bill No. 1022, introduced by Representative Javier, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE RIZAL MEDICAL CENTER IN PASIG CITY, FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval without amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Webb

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 636, submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance on House Bill No. 1708, introduced by Representative Vergara, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER, LOCATED IN BAGUIO CITY, FROM FOUR HUNDRED (400) TO FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE-FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,