

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:36 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 16th session of the Third Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Ralph G. Recto.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Recto. Gracious Father, We are Your people embraced by Your love. We thank You for Your presence among us throughout all time.

As we continue serving our fellow Filipinos, create us anew; liberate us from that which keeps us from You; enable us to recreate our world and restore justice; heal us from every form of sin and violence; transform us to live Your Word more profoundly; reconcile us and let foes become friends.

Awaken us to sacredness. Nurture our relationships. Reunite our families. Fill us with joy to celebrate the fullest of life. Empower us to be a community of love growing in Your likeness.

We ask these through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The President. The Coro de San Sebastian will lead the Chamber in the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, after which it shall render another song, entitled Handog.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

The President. The Chair wishes to thank the Coro de San Sebastian for its wonderful rendition of the national anthem and Handog.

The Secretary will please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary, reading:

- Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta Present
Senator Joker P. Arroyo Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon Present
Senator Noli "Kabayan" De Castro Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier *
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Absent
Senator Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Francis N. Pangilinan Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Absent
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr. 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 Legarda. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the 15th session, August 27, 2003, and consider it approved.

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

BILL ON THIRD READING

S. No. 2636 - August 21 as Ninoy Aquino Day

Senator Legarda. Mr. President, before we proceed to the Reference of Business, I move that we vote on Third Reading Senate Bill No. 2636. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on August 25, 2003.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2636 is now in order. The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

* On official mission

So that my proposal would, therefore, be, after the word "annually" in line 16, delete the words "to be administered by a trustee appointed and supervised by the court" and add the following phrase: FOR WHICH HE OR SHE SHALL RENDER A SEMI-ANNUAL ACCOUNTING—in other words, twice a year—OF THE FUND TO THE DSWD.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The President. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 5:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Pimentel is once more recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, with the permission of the sponsor, may we introduce the following amendment in lines 16 and 17. After the word "annually", delete the words "to be administered by a trustee appointed and supervised by the court" and add the following: FOR WHICH HE OR SHE SHALL RENDER A SEMI-ANNUAL ACCOUNTING OF THE FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT.

Senator Magsaysay. We accept the amendment, Mr. President. I understand also that Senator Pimentel wanted to delete Section 16.

Senator Pimentel. Yes.

The President. Before we do that, can we first act on this amendment of Senator Pimentel?

Is there any objection to the Pimentel amendment in lines 16 and 17? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Now, we go back to Section 16, lines 5 to 11. What is the pleasure of Senator Pimentel?

Senator Pimentel. I move to delete the entire section, Mr. President.

Senator Magsaysay. We have no objection, Mr. President.

The President. All right, there being no objection, the amendment is approved.

Senator Pimentel. In which case, Mr. President, that deletion will affect not only the renumbering but also page 16, lines 16 and 17, because this speaks of violations of the provisions of Section 16 of this Act.

The President. All right. So, 16 would be deleted?

Senator Pimentel. Yes, lines 16...

The President. Lines 16 and 17 on page 16. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Pimentel. And, of course, the renumbering of the...

The President. And so in line 18, Section 17, should now refer to Section 16.

Senator Pimentel. That is correct, Mr. President.

The President. And there will be renumbering accordingly.

Senator Pimentel. Accordingly, Mr. President. Also on page 12 up to page 13, my proposed amendment has to do with the membership of the National Committee on Child Labor. I would like to propose that we reduce the number of members of the National Committee on Child Labor as follows, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

DRILON-PIMENTEL AMENDMENT

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, after that one-minute break, upon suggestion of the Senate President and the sponsor, together we have come to the conclusion that it would be best that the entire Article 7 that starts from page 12 up to page 14, line 6, will have to be deleted with the understanding that the rules and regulations to be hammered out to get the provisions of this Act implemented will contain a reference that the Bureau of Women and Young Workers of the Department of Labor and Employment

shall be the Secretariat only for purposes of getting this law implemented.

DRILON AMENDMENT

The President. If the Chair may suggest, subject to style, Section 29 will be reworded to read as follows: "The Bureau of Women and Young Workers of the Department of Labor and Employment shall be RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS LAW."

Senator Pimentel. Yes. That would be perfectly acceptable, Mr. President.

The President. Is that acceptable to the sponsor?

Senator Magsaysay. We have no objection. This is to lessen the bureaucracy. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. All right. With the permission of Senator Pimentel, we can delete on page 12 from line 10 down to...

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President. From line 9, actually.

The President. Line 9 refers to Article VII.

Senator Pimentel. Yes. All right, Mr. President.

The President. From line 10 up to page 14, line 3, all deleted. Section 29 will now be retitled *IMPLEMENTING AGENCY* and then we say: "The Bureau of Women and Young Workers of the Department of Labor and Employment shall IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT."

Senator Pimentel. That is perfect, Mr. President.

The President. Is that acceptable to the sponsor?

Senator Magsaysay. Yes. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Pimentel. That will be all for my amendments, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

The President. Are there any other amendments?

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President, there are several sections that have been removed so this becomes Section 26, and to be resectionized.

The President. Yes, the renumbering.

Senator Magsaysay. It will be renumbered.

The President. Are there any other amendments? *[Silence]* If there are no other amendments, with the permission of the Chamber, the period of amendments is hereby terminated.

Senator Magsaysay. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The Chair is now ready to receive the motion to approve the measure on Second Reading.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2155 ON SECOND READING

Senator Legarda. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2155, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2155, 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. 2155, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2155

Senator Legarda. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2155.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.