

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:17 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The seventh session of the Third Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. But since he is not yet in the hall, may I ask everyone to please observe a one-minute silent prayer.

Everybody rose for a minute of silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Celestial Choir will now lead us in the singing of the national anthem, after which they will render a song entitled *Prayer of St. Francis*.

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

Before the Choir will render us the next song, may we request everyone to remain standing for the prayer to be led by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Senator Enrile. Thank you, Mr. President. With my apologies for being a little late, I was with a group of students in the other room.

PRAYER

Senator Enrile. *Let us bow our heads before the Lord:*

Dear Lord,

Bless our country and our people

With a love that grows within and multiplies, with a compassion that is contagious and with a peace that balances out all uncertainty.

When the Good Book speaks of giving, let us, Your people, think of this not as an obligation, but as the secret to survival for the virtue of giving is relevant in both times of plenty and in times of need.

Where uncertainty turns to crisis, it seems more logical to hoard, to jack up prices, to close one's self to the needs of others.

When uncertainty turns to crisis, it seems more natural to be rude, to stake rights over territories, to establish dominance.

Teach us, Lord, that when uncertainty turns to crisis, giving becomes a sacred act of trust that You will not abandon us, if we do not abandon our fellowmen.

For in the act of giving, You bless both the giver and the beneficiary as we catch a glimpse of You in each one of us.

Amen.

The President. The Celestial Choir will now render a song entitled, *Prayer of Saint Francis*.

The Celestial Choir sang Prayer of Saint Francis.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. <i>Compañero</i> Cayetano ..	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavio	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
The President	Present

The President. With 22 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE; ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; TOURISM; AND PUBLIC SERVICES AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/ S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION LIBERALIZATION POLICY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Public Services

COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretary. Letter from Director Marcelino P. Hanopol Jr. of the Commission on Audit, furnishing the Senate the 1999 Annual Audit Report on the Las Piñas District Hospital.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Finance

The Secretary. Letter from Director Tobias P. Lozada of the Commission on Audit, furnishing the Senate the 1999 Annual Audit Report on the District Health Office No. II in Marikina City.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Finance

The Secretary. Letter from Director Truman A. Taup of the Commission on Audit, furnishing the Senate the 1998 Annual Audit Report on the Zamboanga City Water District.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Finance

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. May I ask that Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta be recognized.

The President. Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

MOTION OF SENATOR AQUINO-ORETA
(Referral of P. S. Res. No. 830 to Tourism Committee as the Primary Committee; and Education, Arts and Culture Committee as Secondary Committee)

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, I would like to refer to Proposed Senate Resolution No. 830. As read by the

Secretariat, it was referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and Tourism.

Mr. President, I would like to manifest that this resolution be referred to the Committee on Tourism as the primary committee and maybe to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture as the secondary committee.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. There is no objection, Mr. President.

The President. There being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 830 is hereby referred to the Committee on Tourism as the principal committee and the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture as the secondary committee.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1168—Prohibiting the Use of Hard Surfactants
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1168 under Committee Report No. 188.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1168 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. We are now in the period of individual amendments. I ask that the distinguished sponsor, Senator Magsaysay, be recognized; and to propose some amendments, the distinguished Minority Leader.

The President. The sponsor, Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr., and the Minority Leader, Sen. Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., are recognized.

Senator Magsaysay. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, will the distinguished sponsor yield for some questions before I propose some amendments?

Senator Magsaysay. Certainly, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. I understand that the surfactant manufacturers have already lowered the substance of their products to the extent that it is now under the safe level. Is that correct?

Senator Magsaysay. That has been going on for the past few years, Mr. President, and the efforts continue to work in that direction.

Senator Guingona. And that the only ones who are still producing surfactants with high content, which are detrimental, are the small manufacturers.

Senator Magsaysay. That is correct, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. The LNG officials specifically are requesting more time. But as the distinguished sponsor the other day said, they have been given enough time and he believes that one year is sufficient.

Senator Magsaysay. As a matter of fact, Mr. President, the industry had, a few years back, already voluntarily shifted to using soft surfactants—CFAS and LAS. They are simply following the lead of 61 other countries, including Europe, the United States, and Thailand. There are over 61 countries now. Even at this stage, I feel that one year is sufficient time for the very few remaining factories to shift to processing soft surfactants or even importing such because these are being demanded by the detergent and soap factories.

Senator Guingona. What about the Board of Investments' studies which allegedly give them more time—four years?

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President, the Board of Investments and the DTI originally recommended four years. However, the original bill which was filed over a year ago had a provision that we implement it immediately. But the committee saw it fit that we allow 12 months upon the signing of the bill into law because the other factories already knew all these years that the trend is really towards soft surfactants. So it would not be wrong to say that they know the trend but they kept on lobbying to increase it to four years. Again, we would be made to appear that we are not environmentally aware and not doing an activist kind of job to protect our environment by keeping on giving them one year.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, is it not true that the technical working group of the distinguished sponsor's committee agreed to a longer period?

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President, the technical working group did not agree with the proposal of the Board of Investments.

Senator Guingona. It did not.

Senator Magsaysay. It did not agree, Mr. President. In fact, the House version did not allow the one-year period that the Senate committee report allowed. So we still have to hurdle between one year or zero month when we meet in the near future during the bicameral conference.

Senator Guingona. In view of those answers of the distinguished sponsor, Mr. President, I will no longer propose any amendment.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Senator Magsaysay. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, that was the last reservation to propose an amendment on this particular measure. Unless there are any other proposed amendments from any other senator, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1168 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1168.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1168.

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. 1168 is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1168

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1168.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, consideration of Senate Bill No. 1168 is hereby suspended.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1957—Creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1957 as reported out under Committee Report No. 202. This is the housing bill sponsored by Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon.