

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 10:18 a.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., called the session to order.

The President. The 43rd session of the Senate in the Third Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Sen. Francisco S. Tatad will read the prayer by Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

After the prayer, the University of the East Chorale will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The choir will also render another song, entitled *Gumising*.

Senator Tatad. This is a prayer prepared by Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Tatad.

Almighty God,

We lift our hearts to You in praise and thanksgiving.

We realize that in serving the interests of our people, we are, in fact, serving Your interest.

We realize too that few are called upon to serve You in this way, and that it is our responsibility to live up to Your expectations.

Inspire us to treasure Your blessings as we go about the work that our people have seen fit to entrust to us.

Grant us a mind so clear that we may hear Your voice and a will so resolute that we may act accordingly.

Gracious God, as we feel our way through the uncharted waters that lay before us, grant us the wisdom to discern the truth from the arguments, evidence and testimonies to be presented before us, the humility to submit to this truth as our principles flow from our perceptions of what is true, the courage to stand up for our principles when we are finally called upon to render our judgment, and finally, the grace to respect

whatever verdict we may arrive at collectively, for it is in grace that understanding is achieved, it is in courage that honor is fostered, it is in truth that we are set free, and it is through wisdom that we can come to do Your will.

Amen.

The President. Thank you, Senator Tatad.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

The President. We would like to thank the University of the East Chorale for their fine rendition of the song *Gumising* and also for the national anthem.

Thank you very much.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present*
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Absent***
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano ...	Present*
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ...	Present*
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	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 Ramon B. Revilla	Present*
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present*
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
The President	Present

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission but arrived after the roll call

*** On account of illness

The President. With 13 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of Session No. 42 of Wednesday afternoon, December 6, 2000, and consider the same as approved.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, today is the birthday of the Senate President. I move that we suspend the session for one minute so that the members of the Chamber can formally greet the Senate President.

The President. I will go down to greet the senators.

Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader.

Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended.

It was 10:26 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:29 a.m., the session was resumed with the Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile presiding.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. By authority of the Senate President, the session is resumed.

MOTION OF SENATOR TATAD (Deferment of Reading of Reference of Business)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, to allow us to act on a number of measures on Third Reading, I move that we defer the reading of the Reference of Business to a later hour.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON THIRD READING S.No. 1946--Philippine Quality Award Act

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third

Reading on Senate Bill No. 1946. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on December 4, 2000.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1946 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Senate Bill No. 1946, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE
QUALITY AWARD IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE
ORGANIZATIONS IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND
PUBLIC SECTORS TO ATTAIN EXCELLENCE IN
QUALITY IN THE PRODUCTION AND/OR
DELIVERY OF THEIR GOODS AND SERVICES

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Senators

Aquino-Oreta	
Barbers	
Biazon	Yes
Cayetano	
Coseteng	
Defensor Santiago	Yes
Drilon	Yes
Enrile	Yes
Flavier	Yes
Guingona Jr.	Yes
Honasan	Yes
Jaworski	Yes
Legarda-Leviste	
Magsaysay Jr.	Yes
Ople	
Osmeña (J.)	Yes
Osmeña III	
Revilla	Yes
Roco	Yes
Sotto III	
Tatad	Yes
The President	Yes

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1946 ON THIRD READING

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. With 14 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1946 is approved on Third Reading.