

## 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. Flavie .....	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 Honorable  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.  
President of the Senate  
GSIS Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on December 6, 2000 adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 52, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY MILLION PESOS (P30,000,000.00) PROVIDED FOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2000 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (R.A. 8760) AS SAVINGS TO AUGMENT THE BUDGET OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS,

to which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. To the Archives

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes].

December 7, 2000

The Honorable  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.  
President of the Senate  
GSIS Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on December 6, 2000 concurred with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY MILLION PESOS (P30,000,000.00) PROVIDED FOR IN THE BUDGET OF THE SENATE UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2000 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (R. A. 8760) AS SAVINGS TO AUGMENT THE BUDGET OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. To the Archives

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON S. NO. 1946/H. NO. 8118  
(Philippine Quality Award Act)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now constitute the Senate panel to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1946 and its House counterpart. For this purpose, I hereby nominate Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. as chairman; and as members, Senators Serge R. Osmeña III, Gregorio B. Honasan and Juan M. Flavir.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING  
S. No. 1734 -- National Athletes, Coaches and Trainers  
Benefits and Incentives Act of 1999  
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1734 as reported out under Committee Report No. 69.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1734 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we are still in the period of interpellations I ask that the sponsor, Sen. Robert S. Jaworski, be recognized; and to interpellate, I ask that Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago be recognized.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. Senators Robert S. Jaworski and Miriam Defensor Santiago are both recognized.

Senator Jaworski. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Thank you, Mr. President. But I prefer to be known on record as the Chair's *inaanak*.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. My *inaanak*.

Senator Defensor Santiago. *Opo*.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile]. My *inaanak*, my co-counsel.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Mr. President, will the gentleman yield, please?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Thank you. I would like to go sequentially through the pages of our present bill. First, I would like to refer to page 1, Section 3, lines 10 and 14.

**Senator Jaworski.** All right.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** This defines "National Athletes" and "National Coaches/Trainers" as Filipino citizens. May I please inquire what is the definition of "Filipino citizens" in this context? Does the bill refer to a natural-born Filipino citizen who would then qualify for its benefits?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, and it will be in accordance with what is provided for in our Constitution, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** The Constitution provides for two kinds of citizens: the natural-born and the naturalized. And maybe, it might be useful for future purposes if we now make a distinction between these two with reference to the context of our bill or, say, categorically that we adopt both definitions.

In other words, the question is: When we make a definition of who is a "national athlete" or who is a "national coach" or "trainer" and impose a requirement that they should be Filipino citizens, do we mean that they can either be native natural-born and naturalized citizens, or only one of these two categories?

**Senator Jaworski.** Both, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Both. So "Filipino citizen" in our bill would refer to both natural-born and naturalized citizens?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Thank you.

I will now go on to page 3, Section 6, lines 18 to 23 which I will read:

**SEC. 6. Retirement Benefits.** - Any national athlete, coach or trainer who has won a championship as defined under this Act shall receive a lump sum amount equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of his/her total cash incentives computed from the start of his active sports career as a member of the national training pool up to the day of retirement from active competition.

I have a series of questions with respect to Section 6 that I have just read. The first question is: What is the meaning of the phrase "up to the day of retirement from active competition?"

For example, suppose the national athlete retires from active competition but subsequently decides to return to represent the country in international competitions, will that athlete receive additional retirement benefits, or is Section 6 intended to be a one-time benefit for athletes?

I raise this question because some of the amateur athletes retired from active competition but after one or more years, they return to represent the country in international competitions.

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, I think, what should be the basic guideline here is, first, they qualify for the requirements of the National Sports Association, which will then introduce their qualification to benefits to our Philippine Olympic Committee or to our Philippine Sports Commission, which will then determine whether they are entitled to the benefits. So if they retire but then requalify for the possible participation in international meets, then, I think, they ought to qualify for the benefits provided for. However, if and when they then retire, the commensurate benefits in terms of cash will then be computed to whatever figures they have earned in the event they have won in any of the international competitions.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Just to clarify. Do we mean therefore by this phrase in Section 6, "Up to the day of retirement from active competition," the day of last retirement in the case of athletes who may have had announced a prior retirement only to come out from retirement and engage once more in active competition? So are you referring to the day of last retirement?

**Senator Jaworski.** I guess that is very important, Mr. President, considering that... Anyway this specific provision cannot be abused, because there are standards that must be acceptable with the specific sports.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Since among the gentleman's many distinctions is that he is considered a living legend in the field of basketball, could he kindly educate me and our colleagues why is there a penchant among athletes for retiring and then coming out of retirement and engaging in active competition once more; and then announcing possibly a second retirement or possibly even a subsequent retirement? Why does this phenomenon happen?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, to the honorable senator, I guess this is also like politics. [Laughter] There are politicians who believe that they can still be president even if they have lost three or four elections. And there are also athletes who have retired sometimes in the spirit of glory or in the spirit of shame but deep within themselves that fire continues to burn and they want to either show the public that they have something or nothing left. And so they just try until finally nature takes its

own toll and either they can no longer move or they will have to be moved from where they want to be.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Mr. President, may I just articulate, so far on an unexpressed inquiry on the part of the fans, friends, and supporters of the distinguished sponsor. Does the gentleman intend or is the gentleman attracted to the phenomenon of a retirement that is later on rescinded in favor of active competition? In other words, is the living legend going to resume the legend part II or is the gentleman determined to remain in politics?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, just like the others, I would like to say that I would only go back if there is better competition. But I would rather stay in the Senate where there is more action. But kidding aside, I love the sports so much. I think I have done my humble share for what the sport is today. But if given the opportunity to do some exhibition games for charity and all that, I would love to do that. And other than that, I would also be more than willing to extend some time to my fellow legislators towards physical fitness.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Yes, if the gentleman will allow me the indulgence of displaying this naked *[Laughter]* state of inquisitiveness, may I inquire from the distinguished sponsor which of the 24 incumbent senators today would most likely constitute attractive competition in basketball sufficient to encourage the sponsor to return to his old occupation? *[Laughter]*

**Senator Jaworski.** I know that we have a lot of shooters; we have a lot of dribblers, but I think we have a very good assist man in the person of Senator Flavie, who used to be a center during his younger days. *[Laughter]*

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** I will now turn to page 3, Section .7, lines 24 to 27. I will read:

**SEC. 7. Cash Incentives.** - Filipino athletes who have brought honor and prestige to the country by winning gold, silver and bronze medals in the World Olympics, Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), Asian and other World Championship Games shall be entitled to cash awards in the following amounts:

My first question is: Does this provision mean that there is a uniform cash incentive even considering that Olympic games, Asian games, Southeast Asian games as well as other world competitions are evidently distinct categories? In other words, would it not be better to give the national athletes cash incentives depending upon the level of competition so as not to demoralize other athletes who are competing for Olympic games or other world competitions?

Please allow me to elucidate. Since the Philippines joined the Olympics in 1924, no Filipino has ever won a gold medal. In boxing, two fighters came close—Featherweight Anthony Villanueva in 1964 and Light Flyweight Mansueto “Onyok” Velasco in 1996, but they lost and settled for silver medals.

Let me give an example in the form of a chart. Let us look at the category of Olympic games. It is held every four years. Let us compare it with the Southeast Asian Games. Whereas Olympic games are held every four years, Southeast Asian Games are held every two years. Whereas for the Olympic games, training takes four years; for Southeast Asian Games, they take two years. And whereas for Olympic games, there is an international qualifying competition; for Southeast Asian Games, there is no international qualifying competition.

So in view of these examples, would it still be preferable to give just a uniform cash incentive for all athletes regardless of the category of the international competition they are entered in?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, the observation of the lady senator is very correct. There must be a distinction especially in the incentives. However, first, this representation would agree that as far as the Southeast Asian Games’ athletes are concerned, there should be a very minimal, if we can call it, incentive. But when it comes to the Asian Games considering that the greater number of people are in this part of the region, I honestly believe that if we could give the same incentive for the Asian winners with the Olympic winners, it would be of equal importance. That is the basic thought.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** In the light of that response, would it be desirable to maintain a list of world championship games competition in which would qualify the athletes for the benefits of our bill? Should we not have a list?

For example, what happens if a Filipino compete in a prestigious international competition joined by the best players of the world but that international competition is not considered a world championship game? I am thinking primarily of something like the U.S. Amateur Ladies Golf Championship which is considered the most prestigious golf crown for women. Will a Filipina who joins this competition and wins be entitled to the cash incentives under this bill?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, it will be covered by a specific heading and we will incorporate that in the committee amendments as advised by the distinguished lady senator.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me now proceed to page 4, Section 8, lines 9 to 15, and I will read:

**SEC. 8. Qualifications for Winning Athletes.** - Only athletes duly registered with the Philippine Sports Commission as members of the National Sports Amateur Training Pool, and those who have participated and won in international competitions prior to the creation of the Training Pool under R.A. No. 6847 shall be entitled to the incentives provided for in this Act: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall prevent any Filipino athlete who have brought honor and prestige to the country, as defined and stated under this Act, to claim any benefits and/or incentives provided hereunder.

I have two questions about this provision. The first is: Does the bill intend to cover both professional and amateur athletes?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, this only refers to amateur athletes.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Only amateur athletes.

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** The second component of the same question is: What is the attitude of the bill with respect to athletes who are already dead but who have brought honor and prestige to the country?

**Senator Jaworski.** I believe, Mr. President, that the families will have to enjoy some parts of the benefits that we have.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Is it the contemplation of this bill that it is not only the athlete personally who would be qualified to apply for its benefits but also the athlete's estate, if the athlete has died?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, let us take the case of scholarships. We would like to have this benefit extended to at least the fourth degree of consanguinity.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** To the fourth degree of consanguinity.

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** My next question is: In case of demonstration sports in the World Olympics, Southeast Asian Games, Asean and other world championship games, are athletes who participated and won included in the granting of cash incentives? I am particularly thinking of the case of Arian Cerdeña who won the gold medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, but at that time bowling was a demonstration sport. She won the gold medal there. So the question is, are these kinds of champions in demonstration sports also contemplated by our bill?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, I will be totally honest. I think this is one subject that we missed but I feel that while we have another provision, I believe that we could then incorporate this matter so that athletes who performed and won in this category—demonstration sports—should qualify for certain incentives.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. President.

If the distinguished Senate President will allow me, may I just ask a collateral question. Does the distinguished sponsor consider the marathon trial impeachment hearings a series of demonstration sport? For in that case, then the senator-judges might possibly qualify for the granting of cash incentives. *[Laughter]*

I withdraw the question. I will now go to page 4, Section 9, lines 16 to 21. I will read Section 9:

**SEC 9. Incentives for Coaches and Trainers.** - Coaches and trainers accredited with the Philippine Sports Commission or any recognized international coaches association shall also be entitled to cash awards if they have personally trained and rendered service to the athletes at least one (1) year prior to and during the competition wherein the athletes, trained by said coaches or trainers, won an award or awards. The individual athlete's certification to this effect shall be in writing.

My question with respect to Section 9 is this: If during the training the athlete has two coaches but the PSC for certain pecuniary reasons sends only one coach, would both coaches be entitled to cash incentives in the event that the athlete wins?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, I believe, it is only the certified coach that will then deserve the incentive or the benefit.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Only the certified coach? But suppose both were certified but only one was able to travel?

**Senator Jaworski.** If both were certified by the Olympic body and the sports association, then I believe that both of them will then deserve whatever is the commensurate benefit.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** Thank you.

My last question concerns page 5, Section 10, lines 5 to 7. I will read:

**SEC. 10. Adjustment of Cash Incentives - Provided.** *finally*, That donations and gifts from private institutions or groups shall be construed to be distinct and separate from the cash incentives provided herein.

My question is: What is the attitude of the bill with respect to gifts given by public officials? If an athlete receives a monetary gift from a public official, will that be deducted from the amount the athlete is supposed to receive under this bill? I am thinking of the common situation when the President, the Senate President, as well as the Speaker of the House, might give a cash award to an athlete who has brought honor and prestige to our country.

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, I believe that these are not institutional incentives and, therefore, let it happen if it happens. And let the awardee receive it then without necessarily being deducted from what is due him by law.

**Senator Defensor Santiago.** That certainly makes it clearer. Thank you very much, Mr. President, and I would like to express my gratitude as well to the distinguished sponsor for his hospitality to my interpellation.

**Senator Jaworski.** Thank you very much, too, Mr. President.

**Senator Tatad.** Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile].** The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Tatad.** I ask that Senator Roco be recognized.

**The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile].** The distinguished gentleman from Camarines Sur, Sen. Raul S. Roco, is recognized.

**Senator Roco.** If the gentleman would yield, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Sen. Enrile].** He may yield, if he so desires.

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, I am in agreement with the philosophy of the bill. There are two aspects I would want the gentleman to comment on. I have never been by any chance an athlete. When I finished high school, I was only 4'11" so the school had to create a special category for all of us who were below 5'. We were not even midget. I think we were below the midget. We were even below the category of Dr. Flavier. I do not know what they call us. But they had to make special games for us because we were so small. But I am under the impression, having watched it, that it is the preparation that makes a good athlete. And if there is anything else to be added, it is also more preparation. Will that be correct?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President. That is one of the best observations I have heard in the Senate about sports.

**Senator Roco.** As in lawyers, there are no good lawyers or bad lawyers. There are just lawyers who prepare and lawyers who do not prepare.

**Senator Jaworski.** I would agree, Mr. President.

**Senator Roco.** And I would imagine this applies to basketball, football, volleyball or whatever.

**Senator Jaworski.** Any sport, Mr. President.

**Senator Roco.** And that is one of my small problems with the bill. The bill talks of incentives. They are posts. They are incentives to national coaches and national athletes. But there is no provision here which strengthens the preparation.

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. President, this is actually just part of a bigger bill that this representation was proposing since last year. But considering the many happenings in the Philippines that are seemingly of greater importance... But in this specific bill, we also have some provisions which will be presented in the committee amendments toward a certain enhancement of the daily allowances and possible increase in even the monies for food and the like. Then, as I was saying, this could be tackled more comprehensively when we get into the mother bill which I believe is the ultimate corrective measure to our very sick and dying sports community.

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, that is precisely what I would have wanted to suggest to our distinguished committee. That instead of giving the awards, incentives, et cetera, there should already be a provision here on amounts of money to be spent by the government on the preparation of our athletes. It is not only on the preparation but also on the selection. It is the selection and preparation that are important for the athletic development.

In Catanduanes, Mr. President...only because I see a lawyer from Catanduanes at the back, and Senator Jaworski and the Majority Leader are jumping up and down.

Imagine I saw Abebe Bikila in 1964 when we were young. Abebe Bikila was the postman who ran around Ethiopia. Ethiopia at that time was the poorest, and even now, among many countries in Africa. But because he kept running up and down the hills of Ethiopia delivering letters, he became the champion marathon runner for two Olympics. The people of Catanduanes who run around the hills of Catanduanes, I am sure, can give Abebe Bikila challenges. But we must find them. We must find them and then we must devote monetary resources to train them.

*At this juncture, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile relinquished the Chair to Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.*

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, this is a very good

observation. But, as I said earlier, this is supposed to be addressed by the Philippine Sports Authority bill that we are trying to push. While seemingly, we have a certain amount of money being pushed or directed towards sports development, we have some problems specifically with the sports structure itself, the organizational structure. Therefore, it is not defined as to what the relationships of these sporting associations are with the government institutions supposed to handle sports with the Philippine Sports Commission. In the process, we have funding that goes to airconditioning and so many other very unwise directions that are being undertaken by the leaders in that industry.

I assure the honorable senator from the Bicol region and the Philippines that this representation is going to push hard for the passage of that bill. I do not know when. But, first, we have to study the structure, otherwise, if we just incorporate the money in this specific bill for national athletes' incentives, I do not think it will matter as yet. In due time, I would like to request the support of the honorable gentleman so that the other bill could be passed expeditiously.

**Senator Roco.** I have no problem, Madam President, and we will try to help. But I still would ask the committee to put in two sections here creating a special fund for the selection.

Again when we were kids—I am sorry to be referring to the time, maybe because we are growing older now, we have to refer to the time when we were kids—we had to run. Everybody in class, as I remember, from Grade II to Grade V, would compete as to who was the fastest. So that then, the fastest in our elementary school would compete with the other fastest guys in the other elementary schools—we came from the private—so that then we had the Bicol Meet. So we have the fastest guys not only in athletics, but in Arithmetic or in pingpong. Everybody who was the best in school, this was the selection process. And with very minimum amounts because these are already part of the curriculum—the tuition fees and these are already supported—so we can really have selection. Imagine, we have 75.4 million population right now, according to the National Statistics Office, and of that population, 60 percent are in school. So if a selection process can be instigated, then we shall have the beginning of a good preparation.

But I would prefer that it is in this bill rather than wait for a mother bill because big bills, as I have learned in the Senate, are harder to approve. The Exhibit "A", Madam President, is energy, whatever they call it now. It is very difficult. But if we put in a section here, a special fund for selection of athletes, a special fund for training of athletes, we have the bonuses, incentives, et cetera, then we have the beginning of the selection and training process that can already go a long way towards the next Olympics.

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, we will do that. I am

very honored and really happy that we have a great lawyer who realizes the state of Philippine sports.

Let me just add, Madam President. What we actually have to do are a good number of things, including what the distinguished gentleman has already said. The problem is, we have about 38 national sports associations and we do not even know how to divide, let us say, P900 million or P1 billion as to what, as to how much and then what sports specifically to push forth for international competitions.

Therefore, as I was saying earlier, we really have to define now what we want to achieve. Is it a medal right away, or do we want to strengthen the base for selection which is through the strengthening of physical education as an institution considering that we have a greater number of people who are already set for sports through the Physical Education subject? And then ultimately, the out-of-school youth which could also be incorporated by a community-based program. These are all that we are trying to envision.

Now, the distinguished gentleman is talking of Abebe Bikila. They only sent two or three athletes and they went home with two or three medals. But here, we send 100 athletes, 400 officials and we go home with a lot of shopping bags. So it is actually defining our objective, once and for all.

Madam President, we will do what the distinguished gentleman said and I hope that when the figures come out specifically for this purpose, the Body will be here to support this endeavor.

**Senator Roco.** Thank you, Madam President, for those observations. But again, if the gentleman wishes to address that problem, let us also put it here.

If we have so many athletic and sports commissions or whatever and they are always quarreling, let us put a provision here that anybody who has been more than four years in the sports commission should be barred forever from the sports commission because, after all, they have not shown any distinctive results. We will not abolish the commissions. We will just disqualify everybody who has been around for more than four years because they have nothing to show but failure. Then that solves the problem of the distinguished gentleman.

I was in one of the distinguished gentleman's committee hearings and I appreciate his effort in trying to be nice and being politic about them. But since they have not shown any results, let us just mandate that we now have a selection even of the officers. So we put it as part of the educational program. Everybody selects the fastest runner, the fastest swimmer in their provinces or in their regions or whatever. We also select the new trainors, et cetera, and

we just put in the repealing clause here to repeal all these laws that we do not like.

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, I would love to do that. But the problem is, a great number of our so righteous people are hiding under the cloak of the Olympic movement. And therefore, they say that nobody and nobody can ever touch them because under the Olympic movement, they are the most righteous, they are the most nationalistic, et cetera. And this is where the problem lies. So before one can even enter a sport association, he already has a problem.

That is the reason in the bill that we are proposing, there is a memorandum of agreement with these private righteous groups which say that if they do not perform, et cetera, then they do not deserve any government funding.

But still, Madam President, the distinguished gentleman is correct. We do not solve the problem of an embarrassing representation.

**Senator Roco.** No. Selection and preparation are the two thrusts, Madam President, I am suggesting. This Olympic righteousness.

Now is the time, Madam President, to precisely remove all these so-called Olympic officials. Because the Olympic itself before the Australian Olympics were proven to be so incompetent, transparent and they were favoring the relatives of the Olympic officers. And even in the preparation for the... Are we going to China for the next Olympic? The choice of China, I think was... Is it China for 2004 or Greece?

**Senator Jaworski.** No, Greece.

**Senator Roco.** I think China or Greece. Even the selection of the next site, Madam President, for the Olympic has been under scrutiny and under tremendous criticism.

So, now is the time to go against all these Olympic righteousness as the chairman would put it. Again, we have evidence to show that this Olympic righteousness is fictitious and fraudulent. Now is the time to hit them. Let us remove them from the budget. Let us just put here, special accounts, special funds for selection, special funds for preparation, plus incentives and then we put here also... Let us abolish already what the gentleman does not like. Tell me what he does not like—the basketball commission. We abolish it. We put it in the repealing clause. I do not know what else he does not like. But let us remove it now while the iron is hot.

**Senator Jaworski.** We appreciate the advice of the honorable

senator and we will do our best to incorporate it here and present it to him for his guidance.

**Senator Roco.** I appreciate, Madam President, if the special fund for selection, the special fund for preparation is there. I would like to be a cosponsor or a coauthor of those sections. And if the gentleman tells me whoever he does not like, I will invent the repealing clause so that we will repeal them out of his hair.

Thank you, Madam President.

**Senator Jaworski.** Thank you, Madam President.

**Senator Tatad.** Madam President, I ask that Senator Sotto be recognized.

**The Presiding Officer [Sen. Aquino-Oreta].** Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III is recognized.

**Senator Sotto.** Thank you, Madam President.

With the indulgence of our esteemed colleagues, just a clarificatory question. Is this bill retroactive, Madam President? I want to know because I was a gold medalist in the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia in 1977, a silver medalist in the Asian Games in 1978, and also a bronze medalist in the Asian Games. Then I was also the coach of the three-gold medal team in 1985 in Australia. So, I would like to know if I am qualified for this bill.

**Senator Jaworski.** This is a very good question, Madam President. At present, we are trying to look at the Asian Games winners. If we include the Southeast Asian Game winners, there are over a thousand of them. But since 1958 up to the present, we have about 302 Asian Games winners, and this is what we are looking forward to extending this incentive. For the Southeast Asian Games winners, I am sorry. The distinguished senator may just deduct it from his earnings. Anyway, he has been winning in the Asian Games.

**Senator Sotto.** In other words, it is retroactive.

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, it is retroactive.

**Senator Sotto.** Up to what year?

**Senator Jaworski.** 1958. As I told the gentleman, we have 302 winners. But we have to look back to those people who have done their share in representing the country to the best of their ability.

**Senator Sotto.** Thank you, Madam President. In that case, I would just like to disclose that I will benefit from this bill.



**Senator Tatad.** That does not mean an intention to retire from the Senate, Madam President. *[Laughter]*

Madam President, may I ask that Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano be recognized.

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano is recognized.

**Senator Cayetano.** Thank you, Madam President. Will the kind sponsor answer some clarificatory questions?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Madam President, to the senator from Michigan and the Philippines.

**Senator Cayetano.** Madam President, first of all, let me congratulate one of the greatest athletes ever produced by the country and now a member of this august Chamber. Only the gentleman from the sports world from Quezon City, Manila, and the whole Philippines could think of such a noteworthy bill. Certainly, we would like to congratulate him.

But let me ask first: How does an athlete get selected? I understand there is a sports association that picks up track and field, volleyball, basketball and swimming.

**Senator Jaworski.** There are about 38 of them, these national sports associations.

**Senator Cayetano.** Are they all independent in the sense that...

**Senator Jaworski.** They are very independent. But I just want to caution our distinguished colleague that sometimes there are two associations for one sport. That is how messy they are.

**Senator Cayetano.** That is my point, Madam President. Now that our greatest athlete has hit the nail on the head, so to speak, I am wondering, can we not go further on this bill and perhaps create—if there is a need for one—or even abolish these different sports associations which take care of the different athletes in the Philippines who participate in Asian, regional, world and Olympic championships? Because I notice that, indeed, sometimes there are two associations involved and they are quarreling. Of course, this affects the morale of the athletes.

More than that, Madam President, I recall that one of them, Mr. Go Teng Kok, who was condemned by the Committee on Justice and recommended for prosecution is still very much active in one of these sports associations. I cannot understand why such an individual who has been recommended for prosecution by the Chamber is still very much active. What kind of lesson can our

young athletes get from these associations and association leaders?

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, first of all, my indulgence to the good senator. I am not privy to facts relative to Go Teng Kok or other officials as far as our Department of Justice is concerned. But nevertheless, I can share with our distinguished colleague's concern about the characters of the people who lead the sports associations. But let me just tell our distinguished colleague how independent they are.

First, we have the International Olympics Committee that will only accredit countries so that they can represent in the Olympic movement or in the Olympic competition. Through that manner, they elect their own representative from a specific country and this is elected by the national sports associations that are also accredited by the Olympic movement. Therefore, they are extremely independent and untouchable. Not even the Department of Justice can touch them.

**Senator Cayetano.** Does the distinguished sponsor mean that when an association leader or head commits a crime, the Department of Justice cannot prosecute this individual?

**Senator Jaworski.** When it is a crime against anything beyond the association, then maybe we can.

**Senator Cayetano.** Beyond sports, am I correct, Madam President?

**Senator Jaworski.** But within the association, I do not know how we can, because the first thing they will say is, "Our accreditation by the Olympics will be cancelled if you ever touch us because that is going to be government intervention." And so we cannot look at their books, we cannot look at their expenses, and if they do not want anybody to enter their facilities, no one can enter them.

**Senator Cayetano.** Madam President, let me try to clarify. This is really my fault. I do not understand—I do not play a lot of athletic sports. But let me go into this organization, with the indulgence of our good friend here.

So, we have, let us say, the International Olympics Committee.

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Madam President.

**Senator Cayetano.** Am I to understand that this International Olympics Committee appoints different athletic associations in the Philippines and accredits them? Or there is such a thing as a Philippine Olympics Committee, am I correct?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Cayetano.** So how does one relate to the others? We have the International Olympics Committee; we have the Philippine Olympics Committee; and we have the different associations. May I be favored, Madam President, to be provided with a concept of their relationship with one another?

**Senator Jaworski.** The Olympics Committee has a representative in the Philippines, presently, I believe, who is Mr. Elizalde.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right.

**Senator Jaworski.** And then through Mr. Elizalde, he is supposed to watch over the Philippine Olympics Committee which is now headed by Mr. Dayrit. Now, Mr. Dayrit has a board which is comprised of a good number of the national sports associations. He accredits...

**Senator Cayetano.** Who is "he," Madam President? Mr. Dayrit or Mr. Elizalde?

**Senator Jaworski.** Mr. Dayrit as the president of the Philippine Olympics Committee. And he accredits all these associations to qualify in any Olympic activity.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right. Does Mr. Dayrit, as president of the Philippine Olympics Committee, accredit each of the sports associations?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Mr. President.

**Senator Cayetano.** Now, Madam President, is there any direct relationship between the International Olympic Committee and the different national sports associations recognized or given authority by Mr. Dayrit? In other words, can the National Sports Association now, let us say, authorized by Mr. Dayrit, directly deal with the International Olympics Committee without going through the Philippine Olympics Committee?

**Senator Jaworski.** If he believes that there are certain activities that he feels do not go within the framework of the Olympics movement, then he will address his communication to the International Olympics body.

**Senator Cayetano.** Is this Mr. Dayrit? When the gentleman says "he," is that Mr. Dayrit, Madam President, or Mr. Elizalde?

**Senator Jaworski.** He can do that, either to Mr. Elizalde or to the International Olympics Headquarters.

**Senator Cayetano.** Now, the gentleman said that the National Sports Association is almost an independent republic of its own.

It cannot be touched by the Republic and it seems to me that it even enjoys some kind of immunity, more immunity than the members of this Chamber. But if the officials are appointed by the Philippine Olympics Committee, how can that kind of status be granted to the National Sports Association of the Philippines?

**Senator Jaworski.** I beg the gentleman's pardon, Madam President. They are not appointed by the Philippine Olympics Committee. They are elected by individual vice presidents that they have also appointed. The national sports associations are headed by people who are involved in this specific sport and are elected usually by people they appoint themselves. So, it is a pretty ridiculous situation,—the vice president from certain areas that elects one to head the National Sports Association.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right. May we go to more specific? Let us say, in track-and-field, I understand it is headed by Mr. Go Teng Kok.

**Senator Jaworski.** I believe so.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right now. Who elects Go Teng Kok to be president? Maybe we can understand this problem more.

**Senator Jaworski.** There are individuals, some of them are not even involved in the specific sport that the distinguished colleague is talking about...

**Senator Cayetano.** Are some of them fictitious?

**Senator Jaworski.** Not fictitious in the sense of name. But I know some people who have been elected in the Basketball Association of the Philippines who do not know anything about basketball...

**Senator Cayetano.** Who does not know the difference between basketball and volleyball?

**Senator Jaworski.** Maybe they know that. But just the same, it does not mean that he qualifies. I think there is a better arrangement for this to be more transparent.

**Senator Cayetano.** Let us go further, Madam President.

There are certain individuals who elect Mr. Go Teng Kok. These individuals, as the gentleman said, can just be anybody. Am I correct?

**Senator Jaworski.** They are also accredited by those specific associations.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right. So the track-and-field headed by

Mr. Go Teng Kok authorizes or recognizes certain individuals to be members of that association. Am I correct?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Madam President.

**Senator Cayetano.** Therefore, since Mr. Go Teng Kok is the president of the Track-and-Field Association and he appoints these individuals to be members of this association, *ay talagang lutong makaw*. Can we not say that?

**Senator Jaworski.** It has happened. That is why there are guys who have been there for 30, 35, 40 years. We have been participating in the Olympics since 1924. We only won nine times—seven bronzes and two silvers. That is about it.

**Senator Cayetano.** Having said that, Madam President, I appreciate it. Now what can this bill offer? I know this bill is a pretty good bill, granting monetary incentives and some material incentives as well. May we not include something here in order to reform precisely? Because we are granting here the individual athletes. But if the athletes are at the mercy of the different national sports associations whose heads are either incompetent or are not necessarily of good moral character, but somebody to look up to as a model like our good colleague here, Senator Jaworski, may we not put something here in this bill...?

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, this is precisely the reason earlier I was saying that we have a mother bill which is the Philippine Sports Authority which we have been trying to work on. This answers a good number of questions of the good senator, exactly instituting certain reforms in the organizational structure of the sports industry, also addressing their specific functions and coming up with a memorandum of agreement with these various national sports associations so that there is a certain degree of check and balances and accountability, which are the key words.

**Senator Cayetano.** The other thing there which is also related to my question, Madam President, has something to do with the type of coaches that these athletes are training under.

Madam President, my daughter used to be a member of the Philippine Youth Volleyball Team when she was at the University of the Philippines. I do recall that one of her complaints was that their coach, although knowledgeable, is nevertheless not as much as knowledgeable compared to the other foreign coaches that they have been able to get in touch with. More often than not, the coach of the Philippine Youth Volleyball Team hardly attends the training. Again, how may we reform this kind of a situation? Because, I think an athlete is only as good as the coach is. Both the athlete and the coach can only be good as the association to which they belong.

Finally, of course, we have the Philippine Olympics Committee which should really be the disciplining body. Am I correct on this?

**Senator Jaworski.** Yes, Madam President.

**Senator Cayetano.** But as we know very well, even the Philippine Olympics Committee has been subjected to a lot of politics. I really want to help our young Filipino athletes excel because we certainly can excel especially in individual sports.

For instance, how may we not excel in track-and-field, in swimming or in boxing? Look how poor our boxers did in the last Sydney Olympics. There are many other individual sports that we could certainly excel in and I know that this bill is intended to help them. But if we do not include a reform in the different sports organizations, from the national sports organization to the Philippine Olympics Committee, and of course the coaches, we will not be able to get an athlete benefit from this bill which our good colleague here is intending to do.

**Senator Jaworski.** That observation is very correct, Madam President. As I said earlier, this will be addressed by another bill which will embrace all these factors that we have noticed and taken into consideration.

**Senator Cayetano.** All right. One or two more questions. There are monetary incentives. Is there a period by which they should remain an amateur, for instance, in boxing? Let us say, somebody wins a gold medal so he gets so much, silver or bronze, shall he stay in our "stable," so to speak, and not go professional, therefore get the money and leave the country behind? Is there a period that this bill has thought about or if there is none, should we not consider that? It is something like an academic professor who is sent abroad and everything is paid for by the university and afterwards, he has an obligation to go back to the university and teach for x number of years. I think, normally, it is multiplied by two. If he spends one year abroad, he is committed to go back and teach for two years.

Is there something like a forfeiture clause here where, for some reasons, he violates a certain code of conduct or he turns immediately professional and abandons his sport for which he was granted so much money? Is there such a thing?

**Senator Jaworski.** Madam President, I hope that our present laws will provide something that can make this option to the citizen just as easy as we are envisioning it to be without violating their human rights. Nevertheless, I think certain conditions could be incorporated. If certain athletes are extended specific and special training with so much money being invested, there should be certain conditions that our government could recover or get back its investments.

**Senator Cayetano.** Thank you, Madam President. I would like to thank the gentleman. At the proper time I will propose certain

amendments. But let me say, for the record, that I certainly would like to be a coauthor of this bill. This is a well-meaning bill that ought to get the approval of most of us after we have worked out many of these amendments.

Thank you, Madam President.

**Senator Jaworski.** With pleasure, Madam President.

**Senator Tatad.** Madam President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Tatad.** There being no further interpellations, I move that the period of interpellations be closed.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1734

**Senator Tatad.** In the meantime, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1734.

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

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON S. NO. 2113/H. NO. 8134 (Amending the Philippine Science High School Act of 1997)

**Senator Tatad.** Mr. President, I move that we now constitute the Senate panel to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2113 and its House counterpart. For this purpose, I hereby nominate Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta as chairperson, and as members, Senators Sotto, Coseteng and Magsaysay.

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

**Senator Roco.** Madam President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. Senator Roco is recognized.

**Senator Roco.** Just an inquiry for assistance of the Majority Leader.

#### MOTION OF SENATOR TATAD (Senator Flavir as Member of the Senate Panel re S. No. 2113)

**Senator Tatad.** Before that, with the permission of Senator Roco, may we amend the panel to include Senator Flavir?

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, Senator Flavir is included in the Senate panel.

**Senator Roco.** Madam President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. Sen. Raul S. Roco is recognized.

**Senator Roco.** Madam President, just an inquiry for assistance of the Majority Leader as regards the submitted Conference Committee Report on the Ad Ban. No, no, no... It has been approved. We approved it here, it has been pending in the House of Representatives. So a little suasion from the Majority Leader may get it done.

**Senator Tatad.** All right. I will do it, Madam President. We will communicate with the House of Representatives.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

There being no further business for the day, I move that we suspend the session until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

**The Presiding Officer** [Sen. Aquino-Oreta]. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, December 12, 2000.

*It was 12:00 p.m.*