

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:32 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Blas F. Ople, called the session to order.

The President. The 60th session of the Senate in the Second Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Ramon B. Revilla.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Revilla.

Amanaming mapagmahal, kami ay muling dumudulog sa Iyo. Isugo Mo ang Iyong Banal na Espiritu upang kami ay gabayansa aming mga pagpupulong at talakayan.

Panginoon, humihingi kami sa Iyo ng linaw ng kaisipan upang sa mga ginagawa naming talakayan ay tunay na maghari ang katarungan at kung saan ito nararapat.

Hinihingi namin sa Iyo na sana ang magkabilang panig na nagsusulong ng usaping pangkapayapaan sa dakong timog ng bansa ay isaalang-alang ang tunay na diwa nito at hindi ang sa isang panig lamang at ang kani-kanilang pansariling interes.

Liwanagin Mo ang isipan ng mga taong patuloy na gumagawa ng mga bagay na nakapipinsala sa kapwa at sa kalikasan gaya ng mga sumisira ng kabundukan at ilegal na pagtotroso, pagsusulong ng bawal na gamot, panghahalay, mga pumapatay at gumagawa ng iba't ibang mga krimen, sapagkat ang mga bagay na ito ang nagiging hadlang sa pag-unlad ng ekonomiya ng bansa na labis na nagdudulot ng kahirapan sa mga mamamayan.

Tunay na sa Iyo nagmumula ang lahat ng mga biyayang tinatamasa ng tao at ito ay labis naming pinasasalamatan.

Patuloy kaming umaasa sa Iyong pagpapala at nawa ay hindi Mo kami pababayaang sa aming iba't ibang pangangailangan at adhikain.

Ang lahat ng ito ay aming itinataas sa Iyo.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

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

The President. With 18 senators present, there is a quorum.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Drilon. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE MAYOR AND 25 BARANGAY CAPTAINS OF STA. MARIA, LAGUNA

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, before the Reference of Business, may I acknowledge for the record the presence in the

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission but arrived after the roll call

*** On account of illness

instead of 5:51 p.m. as indicated therein because in the subsequent page, we suspended the session at 5:07 p.m. It could not have been possible that we resumed the session at 5:51 p.m. and suspended it at 5:07 p.m. There is an obvious typographical error.

I therefore move that on page 939, the time 5:51 p.m. be changed to "5:01 p.m."

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of Session No. 59 and consider it approved, as amended.

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, for tomorrow's session, I wish to inform our colleagues that we will calendar Senate Bill No. 1830 under Committee Report No. 89. The Minority Leader will deliver his speech *en contra*. Thereafter, we close the period of debates. We will proceed with the period of committee amendments, if any, and thereafter the period of individual amendments.

We also intend to call Senate Bill No. 1554 as reported out under Committee Report No. 39 to consider formally the committee amendments proposed by the sponsor.

We also would call for debates Senate Bill No. 1622 as reported out under Committee Report No. 62. This is the proposed measure which will create the Energy Regulatory Board.

If time permits, we will also call on the other committee reports found in our agenda for the week.

Mr. President, we have an Additional Reference of Business.

The President. The Secretary will read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1900, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO THE CIVIL

REGISTRY TO CORRECT DISCREPANCIES OR CLERICAL ERRORS ENTERED ON ITS RECORDS OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH WITHOUT NEED OF JUDICIAL ORDER, HEREBY AMENDING ARTICLE 412 OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Justice and Human Rights

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1901, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FILIPINO EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

The President. Referred to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1902, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE LAW AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senators Flavio, Ople, Magsaysay Jr. and Sotto III

The President. Referred to the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Science and Technology

RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 677, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-HAZING LAW WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING ITS PENAL PROVISIONS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION