

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2001

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., called the session to order.

The President. The 49th session of the Third Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Enrile. Let us bow our heads in the presence of our Lord.

Dear Lord,
Omnipotent God,
Master and Beacon,
Mysterious force behind all events;
We bow our heads in awe of Your power.

You alone know
How the future will unfold.

We, who sought solace in You
In time of turbulence,
Kiss Your hand in gratitude
For keeping Your flock
From pushing each other with the voice of unreason
Towards the ravine of violence and bloodshed.

In the imagination of mere mortals,
Heaven is a place of concord
Where peace is the air that angels breathe.
How different it is
In our life on earth,
Where in every corner lurks the shadow of discord.

Give us the grace and lead our spirits
To seek the pockets of heaven
Placed on our way
By taking each opportunity for reconciliation possible.

May no door be closed forever
As no heart be too hard
To forever bear a grudge
Against a brother or a sister,

Or the rich against the poor;
Or the strong against the weak;
Or a nation against its leaders.

In our material world where victory or defeat
Is as transient as the clouds in heaven,
Disagreement has its place
In bringing out the sides of every dispute.
Teach us to listen to Your voice
In the din of disagreement.
Remind us not to suspect the motives of others
As You alone know what lies in each man's heart.

Bless us then, Lord,
With Your compassion,
And bestow us the grace
To be open and forgiving
To a multitude of opinions,
Without always thinking that ours is the right one and
the best.
But with the purest of intentions,
Listen to every voice
In the hope that the voice we hear is none but Yours.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Absent **
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	Absent **
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	Absent
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present

* Arrived after the roll call

** On account of illness

petition for change of name. So as far as posting is concerned, I think it is merely clerical or typographical errors. But for a change of name in addition to posting, we have provided a safeguard which is publication of the change of name in a newspaper of general circulation.

The President. Where is that found? In another section, I suppose.

Senator Cayetano. No, that is found in the previous page, Mr. President, the one that the Chair has amended on page 3, which is typewritten in all caps.

The President. In all caps. All right. As long as that is understood.

Senator Tatad. We now go to page 4.

The President. Page 4. *[Silence]*

Senator Tatad. Page 5.

The President. Page 5. *[Silence]*

Senator Tatad. There is none. I do not believe there is any proposal here.

May we return to page 2, Mr. President.

The President. Go back to page 2.

TATAD AMENDMENT

Senator Tatad. My attention has just been called by my staff. In the second line of page 2, the proposal is to change the word "gender" to SEX. There is a distinction between the two words. I am just made to understand a person's sex is what appears on the record—male or female. Gender is either masculine or feminine.

The President. Yes.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, we accept that, if it is an editorial or an individual amendment.

Instead of the word "gender" it will be SEX.

The President. The amendment is accepted.

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

Senator Tatad. Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

May we reflect the Senate President's omnibus amendment in the title of the bill now "CHANGE OF FIRST NAME OR NICKNAME."

Senator Cayetano. CHANGE OF FIRST NAME OR NICKNAME.

Senator Tatad. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Senator Tatad. There being no further individual amendments, I move that we close the period of individual amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2159 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2159, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2159, 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. 2159, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2159

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2159.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1956—National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1956, as reported out under Committee Report No. 200.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1956 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this bill has been sleeping serenely in our Calendar.

There are a number of senators who have made the reservation to interpellate. I understand from the sponsor that they all have agreed to withdraw their reservation. So, we can now proceed to close the period of interpellations on Senate Bill No. 1956. Iso move, Mr. President.

The President. All right. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved. Shall we recognize Senator Jaworski?

Senator Jaworski. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if that has been carried or approved, then I would like to propose some committee amendments.

Senator Tatad. We are now ready for the committee amendments, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, committee amendments.

Senator Jaworski. Mr. President, this representation humbly submits the following committee amendments:

On page 2, line 27, under Section 4 of the bill, after the word "Museum"...

Senator Roco. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Raul S. Roco is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Roco. I move that we suspend the session for one minute. I do not have a copy. I am just trying to follow.

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

It was 4:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:23 p.m., the session was resumed with Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III presiding.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Sotto]. The session is resumed.

May we know the pleasure of Professor Roco? *[Silence]* None.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we still would like to hear from the sponsor.

Senator Jaworski. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Sotto]. Sen. Robert S. Jaworski is recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Jaworski. On page 2, line 27, under Section 4 of the bill, after the word "Museum", insert a comma (,) and the words THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE. So that now it reads as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Implementing Agency.* "The DENR shall be the lead agency tasked to implement the provisions of this Act in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the National Museum, THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE and concerned local government units (LGUs) for specific caves, except that in the Province of Palawan, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development shall be the lead implementing agency pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act.

Mr. President, on page 4, line 16, under Section 6 of the bill, after the word "Museum", insert the words THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, so that it will now read as follows:

SECTION 6. *INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF SIGNIFICANT CAVES.* - Information concerning the nature and specific location of a potentially significant cave shall not be made available to the public within one (1) year after its delivery by the DENR during which time the DENR, in coordination with the DOT, the National Museum, THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, concerned LGUs, the scientific community and the academe, shall assess its archeological, cultural, ecological, historical and scientific value, unless a written request is made and the secretary determines that disclosure of such information will further the purpose of this act and will not create a substantial risk of harm, theft or destruction on such cave.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Sotto]. Mr. Majority Leader, let us dispose of the first amendment first on page 2, line 27.

Senator Tatad. Yes, Mr. President. There being no objection, I move that the first amendment be approved.

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

Then the second amendment on page 4, line 16.

Senator Tatad. I move that the second amendment be approved.

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

Senator Jaworski. That is about all. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1956 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1956, as amended.

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Sotto]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1956, as amended.

As many as are in favor of the bill, say *aye*.

Several Members. *Aye.*

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Sotto]. As many as are against the bill, say *nay*. [Silence]

Senate Bill No. 1956, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1956

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1956.

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

At this juncture, Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III relinquished the Chair to the Senate President.

BILLS ON SECOND READING
(15 House Bills on the Grant of Franchise)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we consider on Second Reading under one omnibus sponsorship the following bills:

House Bill No. 8887 under Committee Report No. 541;

House Bill No. 12279 under Committee Report No. 578;

House Bill No. 12370 under Committee Report No. 580;

House Bill No. 10712 under Committee Report No. 581;

House Bill No. 12672 under Committee Report No. 582;

House Bill No. 10734 under Committee Report No. 583;

House Bill No. 9907 under Committee Report No. 584;

House Bill No. 11823 under Committee Report No. 585;

House Bill No. 12303 under Committee Report No. 586;

House Bill No. 8083 under Committee Report No. 587;

House Bill No. 10713 under Committee Report No. 588;

House Bill No. 11723 under Committee Report No. 589;

House Bill No. 12136 under Committee Report No. 590;

House Bill No. 4042 under Committee Report No. 591; and

House Bill No. 12671 under Committee Report No. 592.

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

Consideration of the aforementioned 15 House bills is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of each bill without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Secretary. House Bill No. 8887, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE CONNECTIVITY UNLIMITED RESOURCE ENTERPRISE, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES

The following is the whole text of the bill:

House Bill No. 8887

AN ACT GRANTING THE CONNECTIVITY UNLIMITED RESOURCE ENTERPRISE, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES