

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

Senator Raul S. Roco Present
 Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
 Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
 The President Present

The President. With 16 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

JOURNAL

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the 48th *Journal* of January 30, 2001 and consider it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF STUDENTS AND SEMINARIANS

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may we acknowledge the presence in the hall, for the record, of students from Arturo Eustaquio Colleges of Zamboanga City. They are here on a political science educational tour; seminarians from the Christ the King Mission Seminary in Quezon City and students from the Emilio Aguinaldo Colleges in Manila. [*Applause*]

The President. So acknowledged.

Senator Tatad. The applause coming from the hall is on behalf of the senators running for reelection.

Mr. President, I move that we defer the reading of the Reference of Business for a short while so that we can immediately consider on Third Reading two bills.

The President. There is a motion to do so.

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

BILL ON THIRD READING S. No. 2216 -- Art Authentication Act of 2000

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2216. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on January 26, 2001.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2216 is now in order.

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

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2216, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF ART FORGERY,
 PROVIDING PENALTIES THERETO, BROADENING THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM'S PANEL OF EXPERTS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The President. We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

The Secretary. *Senators*

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2216 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 14 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2216 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING H. No. 1674 -- Cebu Second Engineering District

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 1674. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on January 26, 2001.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, voting on Third Reading on House Bill No. 1674 is now in order.