

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:47 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Blas F. Ople, called the session to order.

The President. The 67th session of the Second Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Renato L. Compañero Cayetano.

PRAYER

Senator Flavier. Mr. President, I have been asked by Sen. Rene Compañero Cayetano to read his prayer. Let us bow our heads and pray to the Almighty.

With the advent of a new millennium, we undertake to write a new chapter in the pages of this august Chamber's history with daunting tasks ahead of us.

May You continue to give us the strength and the wisdom to carry out our tasks with earnestness, to lead with humility, to help through benevolence, to assist with selflessness, to overcome hardships through patience, to open our minds through understanding, to arrive at the truth through justice, to open our hearts through forgiveness, to make the people reap the fruits of our labors through unity, and to invigorate our souls through prayer.

We ask these in reverence to our Lord.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon Present
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano ... Absent
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ... Absent
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier 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 *
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Raul S. Roco **
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
The President Present

The President. With 18 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

JOURNAL

Senator Drilon. 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 MEMBERS OF THE RURAL IMPROVEMENT CLUB AND 42 PRESIDENTS OF THE LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF CANDON, ILOCOS SUR

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, before we proceed with the Reference of Business, may I first have the opportunity to recognize the presence in the hall of the members of the Rural Improvement Club of the municipality of Candon, province of Ilocos Sur and the 42 presidents of the Candon Ladies' Association. [*Applause*]

The President. The Senate warmly welcomes the delegation from Candon, Ilocos Sur, which I hope will become a city in the near future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF REP. GRACE SINGSON

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, we would like to acknowledge the presence also of the representative from the 2nd District of Ilocos Sur, Rep. Grace Singson. [*Applause*]

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

The President. Referred to the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

The Secretary. And Memorandum of the Executive Secretary on the subject

**CLARIFYING THE PRIMARY PROVISIONS OF
THE VARIOUS ISSUANCES ON FOREIGN
TRAVELS**

The President. Referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

The Secretary. Indorsement from Mildred N. R. Lamoste, Provincial Board Secretary of the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, respectfully endorsing to the Senate the attached Resolution No. 2000-012 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Vintar, Ilocos Norte, urging Congress to restore and fully fund the appropriation for Internal Revenue Allotment.

The President. To the Archives

The Secretary. Resolution No. 144 of the ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly, Cotabato City, commending the members of the Senate Committees on Local Government; and Finance for their untiring efforts in conducting Public Consultation/Hearing on the ARMM Expansion Bill in various parts of Mindanao.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

The Majority Leader is recognized.

**MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON
(To Reconsider the Termination of the Period of
Interpellations on S. No. 1902)**

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, before I call on the next measure for debate, may I first move that we reconsider yesterday's closure or termination of the period of interpellations on Senate Bill No. 1902 under Committee Report No. 17. This is the proposed Electronic Commerce Law.

We were informed that Sen. Raul S. Roco wishes to resume his interpellation on this measure, therefore, we move to reconsider the termination of the period of interpellations.

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

**BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1862--Tax Amnesty Act of 1999
(Continuation)**

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1862 as reported out under Committee Report No. 167.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1862 is now in order.

Senator Drilon. We are still in the period of interpellations. May I ask the Chair to recognize the principal sponsor, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

The President. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is recognized.

Senator Drilon. To continue his interpellation, the Minority Leader requests to be recognized.

The President. The Minority Leader, Sen. Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. President.

Will the distinguished sponsor yield for further questions?

Senator Enrile. All the time, Mr. President, to the Minority Leader.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. President.

May we know how much is the targeted goal of the proposed tax amnesty in terms of pesos?

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, a low of P4 billion; a high of P11.6 billion; and a medium estimate of P7.7 billion.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. President. Over what period, may we know?

Senator Enrile. One time, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Yes, but this is one time over what period?

Senator Enrile. During the first year of the law, Mr. President, because normally in cases of amnesties like this, we get the bulk during the first year. I would imagine that about 90 percent of the collectibles out of this law would come in during the first year.

Senator Guingona. The estimated number of tax returns to be filed under the networth method would be 197,728 for individuals.