

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1999

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order.

The President. The 89th session of the First Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

After the prayer, the Philippine Sports Commission Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render another song, entitled *Sampaguita*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Santiago. This prayer was written by Samuel Johnson who lived from 1709 to 1784.

O Lord, my maker and protector, who has graciously sent me into this world, to work out my salvation, enable me to drive from me all such unquiet and perplexing thoughts as may mislead or hinder me in the practice of those duties which Thou has required.

When I behold the works of Thy hands and consider the course of Thy providence, give me grace always to remember that Thy thoughts are not my thoughts, nor Thy ways my ways. And while it shall please Thee to continue me in this world where much is to be done and little is to be known, teach me by Thy Holy Spirit to withdraw my mind from unprofitable and dangerous enquiries, from difficulties vainly curious and doubts impossible to be solved.

Let me rejoice in the light which Thou has imparted, let me serve Thee with active zeal and humble confidence, and wait with patient expectation for the time in which my soul which Thou receivest shall be satisfied with knowledge. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen.

Senate Administrative Order No. 61 re REITERATING THE PROVISIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1-A DATED JANUARY 6, 1954, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1 DATED DECEMBER 30, 1965, PROHIBITING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FROM ENTERING INTO CERTAIN KINDS OF OFFICIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH REAL OR IMAGINED RELATIVES OF THE PRESIDENT

The President. Referred to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations.

MOTION OF SENATOR DRILON
(Senator Jaworski Instead of Senator Barbers as
Member of Conference Committee on S. No. 1320)

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, before we proceed with the business of the day, may I make a correction on the motion that we made during the previous session. This is on the matter of the Senate contingent to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1330, the bill regarding the imposition of countervailing duties.

In the previous session, we nominated Sen. Robert Z. Barbers as among the members of the Senate contingent. We made a mistake, Mr. President. Instead of Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, it should be Sen. Robert S. Jaworski. Thus, we move to withdraw the previous nomination of Sen. Robert Barbers and in his place, we nominate Sen. Robert S. Jaworski as a member of the Senate contingent.

The two Minority members nominated by Senator Guingona were Sen. Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano and Sen. Juan M. Flavier.

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, there are a number of privilege speeches which two of our colleagues have manifested they will deliver during the Privilege Hour. But before that, may I ask the Chair to recognize the Minority Leader, Sen. Teofisto T. Guingona Jr., for a point of personal privilege.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR GUINGONA
(On His Alleged Monopoly of the Floor Debates on VFA)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I rise on a point of personal and collective privilege on behalf of those who have reservations or who dissent against the VFA.

Last Friday, the distinguished main sponsor, Sen. Blas F. Ople, extended the debates to his personal column in the *Manila*