

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2001

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 3:14 p.m., the session was resumed, with the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., presiding.

The President. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

FIFTH ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 944, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON); AND JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF SEVERAL KEY OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN THE VARIOUS PORTS AROUND THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY IN THE PORT OF CEBU WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Barbers

The President. Referred to the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations; and Ways and Means

COMMUNICATION

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Letter from Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting to the Senate the 2000 Report on the implementation of Republic Act No. 7721.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Committee Report No. 651, submitted by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance on House Bill No. 10494, introduced by Representative Gonzales (N.), entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BONIFACIO JAVIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MANDALUYONG CITY, INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BONIFACIO JAVIER NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval without amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Aquino-Oreta and Osmeña (J.)

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Committee Report No. 652, submitted by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance on House Bill No. 10495, introduced by Representative Gonzales II, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ANDRES BONIFACIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF MANDALUYONG INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ANDRES BONIFACIO INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval without amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Aquino-Oreta and Osmeña (J.)

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

SIXTH ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Reyes]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 945, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO DETERMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE CAPITALIZATION OF PRIVATE ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES IN-SO FAR AS THE NEED TO PROVIDE RELIABLE ELECTRICITY AT REASONABLE COST TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN ITS FRANCHISE AREA

Introduced by Senator Osmeña (J.)

The President. Referred to the Committee on Energy

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2191 — Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001
(Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2191 as reported out under Committee Report No. 433.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2191 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. May I invite the attention of the Chamber to the amended copy as of May 30, 2001. This copy has been distributed to the members. Yesterday, we were in the period of amendments and Sen. Franklin M. Drilon introduced a number of amendments, some of which the committee agreed to reduce into precise text.

I would like to hear now from Senator Drilon to find out if the amendments as written by the committee agree with his original proposal.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

DRILON AMENDMENTS

Senator Drilon. Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, the amendments basically reflect the agreements yesterday. But for purposes of our record, may I suggest that the committee read into the *Record* the proposed amendments so that we can formally approve the same.

Senator Tatad. May I ask then that Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta be recognized for that purpose.

The President. Senator Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Thank you, Mr. President.

For the amendments, we deleted the words "career path" and in lieu thereof...

The President. What page is that?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 12, line 5, we deleted the phrase "career path for school heads".

We deleted lines 6 to 11 yesterday.

Lines 12 to 28 will read: THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL CREATE A PROMOTIONS BOARD WHICH SHALL FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF PROMOTION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERVISORS AND SCHOOL HEADS. PROMOTIONS SHALL BE BASED ON MERIT AND PERFORMANCE RATHER THAN ON THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS/LEARNING FACILITATORS AND LEARNERS IN THE SCHOOL.

There is a word "DUTIES" there, Mr. President.

We would ask that it be deleted.

The President. Where is this? What page?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. On page 12, line 18, there is the word "DUTIES". That is an error and we would like that deleted.

The President. "IN THE SCHOOL."

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes. "LEARNERS IN THE SCHOOL." Take out the word "DUTIES".

Now, lines 19 to 28 read: THE QUALIFICATIONS, SALARY GRADE, STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE AND BENEFITS SHALL BE THE SAME FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND INTEGRATED SCHOOLS. NO APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITIONS OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANT SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS SHALL BE MADE UNLESS THE APPOINTEE IS A CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER AND ROSE FROM THE RANKS OF THE DEPARTMENT. That is the amendment.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon. A point of inquiry, Mr. President. In line 16, are we saying that the number of teachers, learning facilitators and learners in a school will not at all be considered, or will this also be considered in addition to merit and performance?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually, the present setup, as we said yesterday, is counting the number of teachers and learners in the school and that will be the criteria for the promotion of the school head. But we found out that even if we have a small school, even if our learners are not that many but if we perform very well and the learning outcome of the school is such that the learners are getting very good education, we think that that could already be a basis for their promotion.

Actually, Mr. President, the reason for that is, if there is a lack of teachers it is because some schools do not want to let go of their teachers in spite of the fact that these teachers can go to other schools. These school heads precisely keep their teachers and that is a basis for their promotion.

Senator Drilon. So, would the sponsor have a strong objection if we insert the phrase SIMPLY ON THE BASIS between the words "than" and "on" in line 15. So that it will read: PROMOTIONS SHALL BE BASED ON MERIT AND PERFORMANCE RATHER THAN SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. Does that reflect...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, we will accept that.

TATAD-DRILON AMENDMENT

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, will Senator Drilon care to consider modifications? Instead of "THAN" and "ON", can we simply say THAN ON THE SHEER?

Senator Drilon. That is fine, as long as...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. THAN ON THE SHEER NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Now, the other amendment that we did, Mr. President, is on page 13.

The President. Before we go to page 13, Senator Aquino-Oreta, in line 27, after the words "SERVICE OFFICER", the following phrase follow: AND ROSE FROM THE RANKS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Are we precluding the promotion to the position of regional director, et cetera, of a career executive officer who could have transferred to the Department of Education and therefore, cannot be said to have risen from the ranks of the department?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Precisely, Mr. President, we feel that the experience of the one who came from the department and will rise to the rank of regional director or division superintendent carries a lot of weight for his or her promotion rather than one from another department who will go into this department and then will be promoted right away.

As we said, the secretary was asked to form a promotions board. If the promotions board does feel heavily for this particular person to be promoted to division superintendent or regional director, then we will not object. But we would want to see people who rose from the ranks because they know the career very well, Mr. President.

PIMENTEL AMENDMENTS

The President. In that case, Madam Sponsor, probably a wording to this effect: UNLESS THE APPOINTEE IS A CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER WHO PREFERABLY SHALL HAVE RISEN FROM THE RANKS.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We will accept that, Mr. President.

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, we will now go to page 13. The other amendment that Senator Drilon wanted us to do was to be precise on the Bureau of Physical Education and School Sports.

The new Section 8 will read, thus:

SEC. 8. ALL FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE DECS RELATED TO SPORTS COMPETITION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC). THE PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL SPORTS AND PHYSICAL FITNESS SHALL REMAIN PART OF THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE BUREAU OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SCHOOL SPORTS (BPSS) IS HEREBY ABOLISHED. THE PERSONNEL OF THE BPSS, PRESENTLY DETAILED WITH THE PSC, ARE HEREBY TRANSFERRED TO THE PSC, INCLUDING THE PLANTILLA POSITION THEY OCCUPY. ALL OTHER BPSS PERSONNEL SHALL BE ABSORBED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

The President. Without loss of rank?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Of course, Mr. President.

The President. Probably, it would then be more in consonance with that thinking if we will insert that phrase...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. "Without loss of rank"?

The President. Yes. In line 20, ARE HEREBY TRANSFERRED WITHOUT LOSS OF RANK...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We will accept that, Mr. President.

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

AQUINO-ORETA AMENDMENTS

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, also on page 13, line 10, we have the word "TRANSFER". We would like to delete the word "TRANSFER" and replace it with the word ABOLITION to harmonize with the title of the amendment. It says: "ABOLITION OF THE BUREAU OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION", etcetera.

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, just a little amendment on page 10, line 19. May we reinstall letter E, School Level, but in line 23, we delete "1. School Heads".

The President. Let us clarify that. So in line 19...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Line 19 will read letter E. School Level. But in line 23, we will delete "1. School Heads".

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, on page 13, line 7, delete "Culture and Sports now the Department of Education".

So, in line 6, it says, "with the Department of Education". In line 7, we want that phrase "Culture and Sports now the Department of Education" be deleted.

The President. And put a period (.) instead of a comma (,) in line 6 at the end of the sentence.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We have no more amendments, Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Franklin M. Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon. On page 16, Mr. President, lines 11 and 12, which read: "SEC. 15. *Mandatory Review.* Congress shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act after seven (7) years from the date of the approval of this Act." I move to delete this provision.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We will accept that, Mr. President. Any Congress can review it at anytime, but we thought that if it is not attuned to the times, Congress might want to take a complete overhaul of this. But we accept that deletion.

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

Senator Drilon. As a matter of editorial correction, therefore, Sections 16, 17 and 18 should now read Sections 15, 16 and 17.

The President. It is noted.

Senator Drilon. There are a few editorial amendments that I will propose to the sponsor, Mr. President. On page 7, line 9, we propose to delete "1. Duties and Responsibilities of the Regional Director." This is simply repetitious. This is an editorial amendment, if it is acceptable to the sponsor.

The President. So delete the entire line 9?

Senator Drilon. Yes, Mr. President. Anyway, the next line, line 10, reads: "The regional director shall have authority, accountability and responsibility..."

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. The same editorial amendment on page 8, line 25.

The President. Page 8, line 25 reads: "Duties and responsibilities of Schools Division Superintendents." The whole phrase is deleted.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. The same editorial amendment on page 10, line 7.

The President. It reads: "Duties and responsibilities of Schools District Supervisors." Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Drilon. The same editorial amendment on page 11, line 6.

The President. "Duties and responsibilities of school heads." Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Drilon. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Cayetano is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, with the permission of the sponsor, I just want to clarify what was the committee amendment, if we may call it committee amendment, on page 12, starting from lines 19 to 22.

The President. Lines 19 to 22?

Senator Cayetano. Yes, Mr. President. I just want to be enlightened—to whom or to which? Because I do not know. It says: "THE QUALIFICATIONS, SALARY GRADE, STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE AND BENEFITS SHALL BE THE SAME FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND INTEGRATED SCHOOLS."

Do the qualifications, salary grade, status of employment and welfare and benefits apply to school supervisors, superintendents, school heads or...?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. To the school heads, the principals.

Senator Cayetano. The school heads.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Probably we should clarify that.

Senator Cayetano. Preliminary to what may be an amendment later on that I may propose, may I inquire from the sponsor: Are the qualifications, salary grade, status of employment, and welfare and benefits of school heads in elementary, secondary and integrated schools not the same? Are they not the same now?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No, Mr. President.

The President. Are they not the same?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. They are not.

Senator Cayetano. They are not the same. There must be a reason, Mr. President, why they are not the same. I would imagine the qualification, salary grade, status of employment, welfare and benefits of the school head of an elementary school should logically be different from that of the qualification, salary grade, status of employment, and welfare and benefits of the school head of a secondary school. I do not know.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, the reason we placed this is that the elementary school head and secondary school head may have the same responsibility and may have the same

load of work, but they do not have the same salary grade. And so, we are saying that the salary grade and benefits of school heads, whether they be elementary school head or secondary school head will be the same because of the responsibility that both school heads entail.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, that is my point. Why should they be the same? Because there are reasons for distinction. Because a school head of an elementary school certainly has lesser responsibility than that of a school head of a secondary school, among others.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, the reality right now is that there are times that the school heads of the elementary schools have even more responsibilities, have more learners in their schools, have more teachers to take care of in their schools, have more work to do in their schools, and yet they are one grade lower or two grades lower than their counterpart in the secondary school head.

Senator Cayetano. But is it not a fact, Mr. President, that in the hierarchy of education, obviously the lower level will be the elementary, and the secondary will be higher? So I could imagine that a school head of a secondary school should really have a better and probably a higher grade level and even in benefits. So that is the point I just want to clarify.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, we feel that the salary should be equal to the responsibility. It is not as if the responsibility of a school head of high school and a school head of elementary school in giving out quality education or the responsibility of training or fleshing out better education from our learners is different. As far as responsibility is concerned, we feel that this responsibility is the same and yet their salary grades do not compensate for the same responsibility that they face.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I do realize the point of the sponsor. But I think there will be demoralization on the part of school heads of secondary schools. In fact, if I am not mistaken, school district supervisors come from school heads of secondary schools, not from elementary schools because of the hierarchy.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Mr. President, with the permission of the Majority Leader, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 3:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Cayetano is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, after conferring with the sponsor, the sponsor will make of record why she believes that this particular provision, beginning in lines 19 to 22, is needed with respect to equalization of qualifications, salary grade, status of employment, and welfare and benefits vis-a-vis public elementary and secondary integrated school heads.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Aquino-Oreta is recognized.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Right now, there is a move by the department officials to really equalize the school heads of the elementary and secondary, because they finally realized that the responsibilities of elementary school heads are sometimes even greater than the responsibilities of the secondary school heads.

Also, in the secondary level, there are more support being given to the school heads, unlike in the elementary school where sometimes the school head has to do everything herself or himself.

With this, since the responsibility is the same, the work load is the same, and also the challenge to bring out the quality of learning is the same, we thought that we would already put down or we would start the equalization of the elementary school heads and the secondary school heads. In fact, the district supervisors, of which Senator Cayetano is concerned about, do not supervise secondary school heads anymore. The district supervisors are there to supervise the elementary school heads on their academic functions. And so, Mr. President, the reason we placed lines 20 to 22 is precisely to elevate or at least to make school heads equal whether they are elementary or secondary school heads.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I would like to thank the sponsor for explaining the reason for these provisions and I would take that as the gospel truth. Therefore, I will no longer attempt to make an amendment and leave this provision as is.

May I be permitted to go to another point, Mr. President?

The President. Before the senator does so, may I ask the sponsor what she means by the term "integrated schools?" I looked at the definition on page 5, in line 21.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. "Integrated schools," Mr. President, means both elementary and high schools are together. Right

now, the elementary school is separated from the high school. But there are some places in our country, we call these "integrated schools," wherein the elementary schools and the high schools are together in one building. These are the integrated schools.

The President. That may be so but the definition on page 5, lines 6 to 8, does not quite reflect the concept. Because "integrated schools" is merely defined as a school that offers a complete basic education in one school site. So, it raises more questions than it would answer.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, the language that is being used now, when we say "basic education," means elementary and secondary.

The President. That is good. So it has a technical meaning when we say "basic education."

Senator Aquino-Oreta. When we say "basic education" now, if we are talking to educators, it means the whole 10 years as far as the Philippines is concerned. That is elementary and secondary.

The President. And in line 7, it says "It has unified instructional programs." And then there is an open parenthesis "(integrated curriculum for elementary/high school)."

In other words, it is difficult to be defining a phrase by using the same word. So, when we ask, "What is an integrated school?" "Well, it has an integrated curriculum." Probably, we can come up with a better, more understandable definition.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. I will ask for another word, Mr. President, because actually these words are the words being used by the department. So, I will have to ask for another word so that it will be clearer.

The President. Yes, thank you. Senator Cayetano, please proceed.

Senator Cayetano. Thank you, Mr. President.

With the permission of the President, may I ask also the sponsor, on the same page, page 12, line 13.

The President. Line 13.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, "promotions board." "The Secretary of Education," under line 12, "shall create a promotions board."

Do we know, Mr. President, or do we intend to leave to the secretary of Education the membership of this promotions board? Completely limit... I mean, I just want to find out if that is our intent.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually, we would like to think that the secretary of Education would know what to do with so many school heads in the department.

Senator Cayetano. No, my point, Mr. President, is—

The President. The composition?

Senator Cayetano. I want to find out from the sponsor if we are leaving the composition of the promotions board solely to the secretary of Education.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. That was the idea, Mr. President. That the secretary will form a board that will be composed of members from the different levels of the bureaucracy so that each one of them can give out his or her opinion on matters on hand.

Senator Cayetano. I am satisfied.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We wanted the secretary of Education to lead this kind of a promotions board and get out of the present promotions board, the criteria of which are the number of learners in the school and the number of teachers a school head has. We want to get out of that mode and go into merit and performance and benchmarking of school heads on the quality of education that is being given out.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I am satisfied with the answer that we are leaving to the secretary of Education the composition of the promotions board.

The President. Does Senator Cayetano think that as the gospel truth also at this point?

Senator Cayetano. Perhaps a little less, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

May I call the attention of the sponsor to page 12, line 15, which reads, "PROMOTIONS SHALL BE BASED ON MERIT AND PERFORMANCE RATHER THAN..."

My question is this, Mr. President: Shall we just leave promotions based on merit and performance? Shall we not consider the educational attainment of the school heads and school district supervisors?

Suppose we have a school head who has a master's degree or a Ph.D. or a school district supervisor who has a master's degree or a Ph.D. I think the educational accomplishment should also go as one factor in the promotion.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually, Mr. President, those are

the minimum requirements we need for the promotions. But when we talk of merit, we already consider the educational attainment of the individual.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President, I beg the pardon of the sponsor. Merit is quite different from educational accomplishment. Merit under the Civil Service Law is defined quite differently. It has something to do really with the performance of services, the quality of services, whether consistent or not, the degree of contribution of an individual civil servant and, of course, the pluses and positive points that a civil servant received given a period of time. But, normally, even when we talk about the bureaucracy, whether it is public or private, the educational attainment of a person to be promoted is normally considered a factor.

I am not saying it is supposed to be the factor. I was just wondering, Mr. President, if the sponsor would consider the educational achievement as one of the factors in addition to merit and performance.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, we took for granted the educational achievement. What we wanted to focus on really is performance. One can have a master's degree or a doctorate but yet the quality or the output of the learning outcome of his/her learners does not come to par.

We are looking at performance of school heads in running their schools and bringing out the quality that is needed for our education.

Senator Cayetano. I have no quarrel with merit and performance. But given to individuals with the same merit and performance and the other is with a masteral degree, Mr. President, if there is only one spot for promotion, I think, the choice of the promotions board should be somebody with the higher educational qualification.

So that is just the point. I am not saying it should be the factor. I am saying that perhaps we should include here the educational qualifications as one of the factors in addition to merit and performance.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. All right. We will accept an amendment that will say that the educational qualification is one added to merit and performance.

Senator Cayetano. Yes, SHALL BE BASED ON—if the sponsor will allow me to compose that amendment at this point.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

CAYETANO AMENDMENT

Senator Cayetano. So in line 16, after the words "BASED ON", after the word "ON", insert the phrase EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION, MERIT AND PERFORMANCE.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. I support the proposal of Senator Cayetano, except that I wish to make a short remark on the interpretation which he just gave. He said that the situation where we have two individuals, one with a Ph.D. and another without a Ph.D. and they have the same performance, we would normally promote the one with a Ph.D. I see differently. In that situation, I think we should promote the one without a Ph.D. because even without the Ph.D., he is performing in the same manner as the one with a Ph.D. So, he is the better individual, *mas magaling*.

Senator Cayetano. I agree with the Majority Leader that that is one way of looking at it, but perhaps in the second and third year, the Ph.D. holder will, in all likelihood, probably surpass the one without the Ph.D.

I would like to thank the Majority Leader for that comment.

The President. In any event, the amendment was accepted by Senator Aquino-Oreta. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. Sen. Franklin M. Drilon is recognized.

DRILON AMENDMENTS

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, on page 13, line 13, I think the word "DECS" should be changed to DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

The President. That is right. Spell it out.

Senator Drilon. It should no longer be DECS, Mr. President.

The President. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Senator Drilon. Is that accepted, Mr. President?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. On the same page, line 17, the phrase "FOR THIS PURPOSE", should be deleted.

The President. So, we start with the words "THE BUREAU OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION".

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, page 14 poses some difficulties to this representation. With the indulgence of the Senate President and the sponsor. Does the first sentence of Section 9 which is on page 14, line 4, authorize the secretary to reorganize the department?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. The phrase "shall determine the administrative and support systems required to implement a new paradigm that will enhance the delivery of quality basic education" is so broad. It is a general statement that could be interpreted as a grant of authority to reorganize because the secretary of Education can say that under the present system, we cannot implement a new paradigm that will enhance the delivery of quality basic education.

The President. That is correct.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, we are looking at this as a new management order. We know that we cannot give the secretary the full authority to change the department. So, we are saying that with this, if he can just follow this new management order to the fullest, that will now be a departure from the present management order of the DECS.

Senator Drilon. The problem with this sentence, Mr. President, is that it talks about administrative and support systems which can be interpreted as bureaus, divisions, et cetera, in the structure of the Department of Education.

In any case, I might as well give a complete picture. I might as well put everything on record—my thoughts on page 14.

Is the next sentence in Section 9 that starts from line 6 up to line 10 any different from Section 14 found on page 16? Section 14 talks of rules and regulations and only the secretary of Education is authorized to promulgate those rules and

regulations. In the case of Section 9, it talks about the secretary of Education and the secretary of Budget and Management jointly promulgating the guidelines. Are these two different issuances, Mr. President?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No. Actually, the reality now is that the secretary of Education constantly confers with the Department of Budget simply because there are times that the Department of Budget and Management determines, for example, the number of teachers that the Department of Education can hire.

Senator Drilon. No, Mr. President, if I may interrupt. This talks about guidelines to implement fully the principle of shared governance, et cetera.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Precisely.

Senator Drilon. What I am just asking is: What is the difference between Section 14 and the second line of Section 9? They appear to be covering the same subject and yet the implementors are different.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No. Actually, there is a difference, Mr. President, because in the Department of Budget, it is the release of funds. It is the Department of Budget that tells the Department of Education about the availability of funds and how the funds will be released. Now, we are saying in Section 14 that the secretary of Education will implement because the secretary of Education cannot act alone when it comes to the resources. So, this is the only reason we thought of this.

Senator Drilon. So, there are two issuances here, Mr. President. Is that what is contemplated? One, jointly by the secretary of Education and the secretary of Budget, and the other one exclusively by the secretary of Education.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually on page 14, it is an agreement of the two secretaries on how funds will be released. Now in Section 14, it is already the implementation of these funds.

Senator Drilon. Anyway, Mr. President, I hope that the sponsor can consider these comments that this representation is making for the record.

Also in Section 10 specifically line 21, and if I may read the same for the record, Mr. President, it says:

Henceforth, the Secretary of Department of Education shall ensure that the personnel policies, rules and regulations issued and implemented by the Civil Service Commission are relevant, responsive and supportive of the teaching service.

Suppose the secretary of Education does not find the rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission as relevant, as responsive and as supportive of the teaching service, can the secretary of Education reverse the Civil Service Commission?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. No, Mr. President.

Senator Drilon. That appears to be the import of the provision because the secretary of Education is mandated to ensure—

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes.

Senator Drilon.—that the rules and regulations issued and implemented by the CSC are relevant, responsive and supportive of the teaching service.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, if we go to Section 11, it says that “The Department of Education shall collaborate...”, meaning that the secretary of Education should look for ways and means, for example, on how teachers can answer or how the Civil Service Commission can be relevant and supportive of the teachers. I will give an example.

The teaching service is so distinct and peculiar that the work schedule is not an eight-hour job. Because of this, we are saying that we would like the secretary of Education to sit down with the officials of the Civil Service Commission and collaborate with them on how best the Civil Service Commission can help our teachers.

Senator Drilon. I guess that is not the import of the provision as found in line 21 because it uses a very specific term “ensure”. “...the Secretary of the Department of Education shall ensure that... rules... by the Civil Service Commission are relevant...”

Also in Section 11, it says that the Department of Education shall collaborate with the Commission on Audit for the issuance of appropriate audit rules, et cetera. If the Commission on Audit would refuse such collaboration, I am afraid that it can invoke its constitutional duty under the Constitution and simply ignore the secretary of Education.

Again, I would ask the committee to take a second look at the way these Sections 9, 10 and 11 are phrased because there could be some constitutional questions.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We will do that, Mr. President. The reason we wrote this down is that these are the problems facing the Department of Education, Culture and Sports at the moment. Sometimes, even if we want to be very aggressive about things, it cannot be done because the Civil Service rules, the Commission on Audit rules or the DBM rules somehow hinder

the approach to that aggressiveness. So we wrote down this collaboration with these departments so that we can get a perfect environment for the Department of Education, Culture and Sports solely for the upliftment of the learning of our children.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. I move that we suspend the session for one minute, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:07 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. Senator Drilon is recognized.

DRILON AMENDMENTS

Senator Drilon. The Majority Leader has proposed amendments which will meet the points that this representation earlier raised and so, Mr. President, we propose the following amendments: In Section 9, starting with line 4, first, we delete the first sentence.

The President. We delete the first sentence?

Senator Drilon. That is correct, Mr. President. And in line 6, we also delete the phrase "For this purpose,". In other words, the section would start with line 6. "The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Budget and Management shall, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, jointly promulgate the guidelines ON the allocation, distribution and utilization of resources provided by the national government for the field offices."

So, the first paragraph of Section 9 will read, and I will repeat for the record:

"The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Budget and Management shall, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, jointly promulgate the guidelines on the allocation, distribution and utilization of resources provided by the national government for the field offices."

The President. Is that acceptable to the sponsor?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. In line 11, we delete the word, "Henceforth," and the comma (,) and start the sentence with "The Secretary of the Department of Education..."

The President. Is that the only amendment for this particular paragraph?

Senator Drilon. No, there are other amendments, Mr. President.

Subject to better recollection of the Majority Leader, we delete in line 14 the phrase starting with "not contained in any lump sum appropriations in the budget" up to line 15 until the word "are". I may be wrong.

TATAD-DRILON AMENDMENT

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, maybe we can begin the deletion in line 13—

Senator Drilon. All right.

Senator Tatad.—of the words "allocated to" and all words in line 14 up to the word "transferred" in line 15. And in lieu thereof, we say INTENDED FOR SUCH FIELD OFFICES ARE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY and after that, we insert the words AND RELEASED IMMEDIATELY by the Department of Budget and Management to SAID offices.

That is the Drilon amendment. I just offered some editorial comment.

The President. Will the Majority Leader kindly repeat that? In line 13...

Senator Tatad. The sentence will now read, Mr. President, as follows...

The President. Yes, please, that will be better.

Senator Tatad. The Secretary of the Department of Education shall ensure that: (1) resources appropriated for the field offices are adequate; (2) that resources for school personnel, school desks and textbooks and other instructional materials INTENDED FOR SUCH FIELD OFFICES ARE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY AND RELEASED IMMEDIATELY by the Department of Budget and Management to SAID offices.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, it is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. So Section 9 will now read, as amended, if I may read the whole Section 9, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, please. Senator Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Section 9 will read as follows:

The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Budget and Management shall, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, jointly promulgate the guidelines ON the allocation, distribution and utilization of resources provided by the national government for the field offices.

The Secretary of the Department of Education shall ensure that: (1) resources appropriated for the field offices are adequate; (2) that resources for school personnel, school desks and textbooks and other instructional materials INTENDED FOR SUCH FIELD OFFICES ARE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY AND RELEASED IMMEDIATELY by the Department of Budget and Management to SAID offices.

If that meets the approval of the sponsor, may we ask that this be approved by the Body, Mr. President.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, it is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. We move that we delete lines 21 to 23 on page 14, Mr. President, to avoid any constitutional question.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. We accept, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. Just a point of inquiry, Mr. President.

I notice that the title of the bill contains bracketed words and phrases.

The President. Kindly excuse the Chair, Senator Drilon. What about the gentleman's observation on the Commission on Audit?

Senator Drilon. Since it is only collaboration, we can probably...

The President. Can we live with that?

Senator Drilon. Probably we can live with that.

The President. All right.

Senator Drilon. Just on the point that the Chair raised, Mr. President.

In Section 11, who will issue the appropriate audit rules? Is it the Department of Education or is it the Commission on Audit? Because it says, "The Department of Education shall collaborate with the Commission on Audit for the issuance of appropriate rules..."

That is the same observation with Section 10. Section 10 is not so critical, but Section 11 is something else, Mr. President.

Senator Cayetano. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Cayetano is recognized.

Senator Cayetano. With the permission of Senator Drilon and the sponsor, may I just place an observation on Section 11.

Mr. President, the Commission on Audit is a constitutional body, independent of the executive department. So I think we have to consider that in connection with Section 11. Any word that may undermine, diminish or otherwise put into question that the executive department, through the Department of Education, interferes in any form or manner with the Commission on Audit's function as mandated by the Constitution may create a constitutional issue as far as that provision is concerned. I would just like to put that as an input, Mr. President.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you, Senator Cayetano.

Senator Drilon. Do we have a better way of putting it?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

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

It was 4:22 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Drilon. In consultation with the sponsor, Mr. President, may we propose the following amendments, starting from line 17.

The President. Line 17, page 14?

Senator Drilon. On page 14, the Section will now read: "THE SECRETARY OF the Department of Education," we delete the phrase "shall collaborate with the" and in lieu thereof, substitute the same with the words SUBJECT TO.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, are we in line 17 or line 24?

Senator Drilon. Line 17, Mr. President.

The President. "SUBJECT TO".

Senator Drilon. "SUBJECT TO". In line 18, we delete the phrase "Commission for the issuance of" and in lieu thereof, substitute the same with the phrase LAWS AND REGULATIONS, SHALL ISSUE.

So the phrase will now read: THE SECRETARY OF the Department of Education, SUBJECT TO Civil Service LAWS AND REGULATIONS, SHALL ISSUE appropriate personnel policy rules and regulations that will best meet the requirements of the teaching profession taking into consideration the uniqueness of the working conditions of the teaching service.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. We move to delete lines 21 to 23, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, that has already been acted upon earlier.

Senator Drilon. In Section 11, line 24, we delete the phrase, "The Department of Education shall collaborate with". The sentence will therefore start with "The Commission on Audit".

In line 25, we place a comma (,) after the word "Audit"; delete the word "for" and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase IN.

The President. "IN the issuance."

Senator Drilon. "IN", I am sorry. There is already a word "the". Replace the word "for" with IN and delete the word "appropriate".

In line 26, insert a comma (,) after the word "thereof" and insert the word SHALL.

In line 27, instead of the word "taking", it should be TAKE, and the word "agency's" should be changed to DEPARTMENT'S in the same line.

So, Section 11 will now read: The Commission on Audit IN the issuance of audit rules and regulations that will guide the utilization of all resources as well as the liquidation, recording and reporting thereof, SHALL TAKE into account the different characteristics and distinct features of the DEPARTMENT'S field offices, its organizational set-up as well as the nature of the operations of schools and learning centers.

The President. When we talk of the DEPARTMENT'S, the gentleman is referring to the Department of Education?

Senator Drilon. That is correct, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

TATAD AMENDMENT

Senator Tatad. Before we act on the motion, will the proponent care to consider a possible amendment in line 25? In lieu of the phrase "that will guide", could we simply say GOVERNING?

The President. "...that will GOVERN the utilization."

Senator Drilon. Yes, no objection, Mr. President.

The President. Is that acceptable to the sponsor also?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. Just a point of clarification. On page 1, we noticed that in the title, the word NATIONALISTIC and the words APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR were bracketed. Were these formally introduced?

Senator Tatad. This happened because we thought that we had come to the final individual amendment earlier. So, we propose these amendments to the title.

I do not believe there are any further amendments.

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Magsaysay is recognized.

Senator Magsaysay. This is a query, Mr. President, to the distinguished sponsor. Because we are now in a cyber economy, cyber times, the definition of "school" is based on physical structure, bricks and mortars. Education is going to the path of cyber, meaning, nothing physical.

The President. It is borderless.

MAGSAYSAY AMENDMENT

Senator Magsaysay. Yes, it is borderless. May the sponsor accept an amendment on the definition of "school" on the basis that a lot of educational institutions, even those that are as old as Harvard University and Stanford University, are now conducting their education through electronic means.

The President. It is distance learning.

Senator Magsaysay. Distance learning, yes. It might limit our capacity to really innovate our way of delivering better quality education. That is one point, Mr. President.

The other point is that, I understand, Senator Cayetano...

The President. Before the gentleman goes to the other point, we are discussing the definition of "school" found on page 5, line 20 up to line 23.

Senator Magsaysay. That is correct, Mr. President.

PIMENTEL-MAGSAYSAY AMENDMENT

The President. Would it help if we put an additional phrase after the word "site" in line 23, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO CYBER EDUCATION, whatever?

Senator Magsaysay. I was thinking, Mr. President, in line 20, after the phrase "is an educational institution", insert the phrase EITHER LOCATED WITHIN A PHYSICAL SPACE OR CYBER SPACE, since physical space has been used earlier in line 11, on learning center. So, WITHIN A PHYSICAL OR CYBER SPACE.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. I fully appreciate the point about this cyber space, but will our distinguished proponent care to elaborate a little bit more on this point because it seems to me that the bill seeks to address itself to a particular structure, existing facilities? It is talking of school heads, superintendents, supervisors, regional directors, et cetera. We require certain qualifications for regional directors up to the head of a particular level. We are requiring CESO qualification. So how would all these apply to cyber education?

Senator Magsaysay. For that matter, Mr. President, the question is well-intended—this matter of even increasing the educational or mastery of the level of school heads, division superintendents, regional directors, et cetera.

I understand that this bill is based on an executive order which also removed the culture part of DECS and the Sports Commission. These are all physical but these impact on the overall role of educators.

When we say "school", this same educators' body might be using innovations later on in electronic education so that the definition of a "school" will have to be expanded, not just on physical space.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, if the distinguished senator will read line 22, after the word "teachers", it says "usually located in a building or a group of buildings in a particular site." Can that already give him an idea?

Senator Magsaysay. What page is this, Mr. President?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Page 5, the definition of "school."

The President. The sponsor is trying to emphasize the words "usually located". In other words...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes—"usually located in a building or a group of buildings in a particular site." Can that already in a way talk of the alternative learning that the distinguished senator is proposing, a cyber learning?

Senator Magsaysay. I do not mind that, Mr. President, except that this might be held against the other way of education. If we emphasize cyber, then we have encompassed the new way of delivering education.

The President. I suppose what we are trying to do now is look for an appropriate phraseology that will capture the

suggestion of Senator Magsaysay which recognizes the wording here.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, can we just look at page 4, line 21? May we look at this also as a start of the learning that the distinguished senator is trying to tell us?

Senator Magsaysay. As long as it is clear that it encompasses other ways, including cyber education, I do not mind. May I also remind that this is based on an EO of the previous administration. We have now a new secretary of Education, Culture and Sports. I am wondering whether we have already taken the steps to ask Secretary Raul S. Roco, our former colleague, if he has any input on this very serious and far-reaching reorganization of the DECS, removing the culture part and the sports part, whether the new secretary of Education's point of view has been taken up.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, we have not sat down with the new secretary of Education. Besides, these offices were just attached to the DECS and we are returning them to their mother unit, which is the National Commission on Culture and Arts.

Now, if the gentleman is afraid that we might be losing lessons in culture, et cetera, no, it is not the case. It is just that all other activities which can be done by the National Commission on Culture and Arts will be done by it and these activities will not be under the auspices of the DECS. That also relieves the DECS of some expenses that it feels it should not spend for anymore. Because it has its own culture presentations, et cetera, and these are already also embedded in its curriculum.

Senator Magsaysay. Mr. President, I ask this because this is a very important part of legislation since this involves people. As for those who are now working in the DECS, maybe, without being heard that they are now being shifted to the Sports Commission, which is a very small agency, and then from the DECS into the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA), were there meetings held with these affected personnel? How do they feel about it? Because the Executive is the one that should give the input, and this is a new administration. I am sure, Secretary Roco...

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Tatad. With the indulgence of the two distinguished colleagues on the floor, since Senator Ramon Magsaysay is now raising a number of points that should have been raised during the period of interpellations, may I ask that we suspend the session for one minute.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

AQUINO-ORETA-PIMENTEL-MAGSAYSAY AMENDMENT

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Mr. President, in answer to Senator Magsaysay's query about the cyber sites also becoming schools of the future, in the definition of the term "school", we will just expand this, and it is acceptable to him.

In line 20, it reads: "School - is an educational institution, private and public, undertaking educational operation with a specific age-group of pupils or students pursuing defined studies at defined levels, receiving instruction from teachers, usually located in a building or a group of buildings in a particular PHYSICAL OR CYBER site."

The President. PHYSICAL OR CYBER site. I suppose that is the product of a consensus. Is there any objection from the floor? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

DRILON AMENDMENT

Senator Drilon. On page 6, lines 23 and 24, I propose to delete the phrase "the Secretary shall determine in the best interest of the service" and in lieu thereof, we say SHALL BE GOVERNED BY EXISTING LAWS.

The import of the amendment, Mr. President, is that the assignments, duties and responsibilities of the undersecretaries and assistant secretaries are defined by the Revised Administrative Code.

PIMENTEL-DRILON AMENDMENT

The President. Why do we not just say BY LAW?

Senator Drilon. All right. SHALL BE GOVERNED BY LAW. Fine. Yes, Mr. President, SHALL BE GOVERNED BY LAW.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President. The amendment has been accepted by the sponsor. Is there any objection from the floor? *[Silence]* There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Drilon. Before we propose an amendment in line 21 on the same page, we specified four undersecretaries.

The President. Yes.

Senator Drilon. We note that under the Revised Administrative Code, there are five undersecretaries. Is the intention really to reduce the five to four? And if there are five, what will happen to the fifth?

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually, what we are envisioning, Mr. President, is only four undersecretaries.

Senator Drilon. So in reply to my query, Mr. President, we propose to reduce the five as specified in Section 6, Chapter 2, Title VI of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 to only four.

The President. But before we act on it, may we ask the sponsor what are the five present assistant secretaries?

Senator Drilon. No, undersecretaries, Mr. President.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Actually, there are only four undersecretaries.

The President. Five undersecretaries. According to Senator Drilon, there are five undersecretaries.

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Yes, Mr. President. But right now, we only have four in the department because the undersecretary for Higher Education, Cultural Agencies, and Foreign-Assisted Projects, there is no undersecretary for that anymore because of the existence of CHED. We have the CHED, so they took out the fifth undersecretary.

The President. That is right. So we can really dispense with one undersecretary without prejudice...

Senator Aquino-Oreta. Right now, the department has only four undersecretaries.

Senator Drilon. All right. In that case, we are proposing no amendment.

The President. So lines 21, 22 up to 23 shall remain as it is, except the phrase SHALL BE GOVERNED BY LAW.

Senator Tatad. I believe that was the last amendment, Mr. President.

I move that we now close the period of amendments.

The President. There is a motion to close the period of individual amendments. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2191 ON SECOND READING

Senator Tatad. I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2191, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 2191, 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. 2191, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 2191

Senator Tatad. I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 2191.

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

Senator Tatad. I move that we proceed to the Seventh Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Seventh Additional Reference of Business.

SEVENTH ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

May 29, 2001

The Honorable
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
President of the Senate
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