

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:36 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 24th session of the Senate in 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. Francisco S. Tatad.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Tatad.

God our Father, our strength in adversity, our health in weakness, our comfort in sorrow, look kindly upon Your people.

As we sail through crisis and conflict from day to day, mark not our sins and our infidelities but suffer us to invoke Your protection and Your love from which we can neither hide nor flee.

As You have given us the punishments and pains we deserve, give us also new life and hope for ourselves and our country, on this feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the sweetest and most Christ-like among Your saints, kindle in our hearts the desire to follow in his path and to become true instruments of Your peace seeking not so much to be loved as to love, to be pardoned as to pardon, to be understood as to understand, to receive as to give, and seeking not Your consolations but You, but teach us in all this never to expect true peace until our restless hearts rest in Thee.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ Your only Son our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,

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 ..	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Absent***
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	**
Senator Juan M. Flavie	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	**
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	**
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña	Present*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present*
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present*
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
The President	Present

The President. With 15 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of Session No. 23 of Tuesday, October 3, 2000 and consider it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES (RCDS) 2000 COURSE HEADED BY REAR ADMIRAL PETER DUNT

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we are pleased to acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of members of the Royal College of Defense Studies (RCDS) 2000 Course. They are on an East Asia Tour. The delegation is headed by Rear Admiral Peter Dunt of the Royal British Navy, with the following members:

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

*** On account of illness

Bill No. 2172, with Senators Sotto III, Serge Osmeña III and Pimentel Jr. as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MUÑOZ IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIA INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF MUÑOZ SCIENCE,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1325 and 1813, taking into consideration House Bill No. 3338.

Sponsors: Senators Pimentel Jr., Sotto III and Serge Osmeña III

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 416, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Local Government on Senate Bill No. 2173, with Senators Drilon, Serge Osmeña III and Pimentel Jr. as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VALENCIA IN THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VALENCIA,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1664 and 1782, taking into consideration House Bill No. 8885.

Sponsors: Senators Pimentel Jr., Drilon and Serge Osmeña III

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 417, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Local Government on Senate Bill No. 2174, with Senators Serge Osmeña III and Pimentel Jr. as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT VALIDATING AND RECOGNIZING THE CREATION OF THE CITY OF VIGAN BY THE ROYAL DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1757 ISSUED BY FERNANDO VI, KING OF SPAIN,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1801, taking into consideration House Bill No. 8883.

Sponsors: Senators Pimentel Jr. and Serge Osmeña III

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 418, submitted by the Committee on Local Government on Senate Bill No. 2157, introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr., entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, BY INCREASING THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME REQUIREMENT FOR A MUNICIPALITY OR CLUSTER OF BARANGAYS TO BE CONVERTED INTO A COMPONENT CITY,

recommending its approval without amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Pimentel Jr.

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 419, submitted by the Committee on Public Services on House Bill No. 5493, introduced by Representative Tulagan, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FIRST GAS HOLDINGS CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OWN, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL GAS TO DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON,

recommending its approval with amendments by substitution.

Sponsor: Senator Sotto III

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 1545/H. NO. 5915 (Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1545 and House Bill No. 5915.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, consideration of the Joint Explanation of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1545 and House Bill No. 5915 is in order.

CONVERSATIONS IN THE OFFICES OF THE
SENATORS

Introduced by Senator Guingona Jr.

The President. Referred to the Committee on National Defense and Security, as the earlier statement on a personal privilege of Senator Guingona on the same subject was also referred to that committee.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we transfer from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders, the following local measures:

Committee Report No. 415 on Senate Bill No. 2172, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY
OF MUÑOZ IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA
ECIJA INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE
KNOWN AS THE CITY OF MUÑOZ SCIENCE

Committee Report No. 416 on Senate Bill No. 2173, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY
OF VALENCIA IN THE PROVINCE OF
BUKIDNON INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO
BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF VALENCIA

Committee Report No. 417 on Senate Bill No. 2174, entitled

AN ACT VALIDATING AND RECOGNIZING THE
CREATION OF THE CITY OF VIGAN BY THE
ROYAL DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1757
ISSUED BY FERNANDO VI, KING OF SPAIN

Committee Report No. 418 on Senate Bill No. 2157, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,
BY INCREASING THE AVERAGE ANNUAL
INCOME REQUIREMENT FOR A
MUNICIPALITY OR CLUSTER OF
BARANGAYS TO BE CONVERTED INTO A
COMPONENT CITY

Committee Report No. 419 on House Bill No. 5493, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FIRST GAS HOLDINGS
CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OWN, OPERATE AND
MAINTAIN A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FOR

THE TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION
OF NATURAL GAS TO DIFFERENT AREAS
IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON

Committee Report No. 381 on House Bill No. 7517, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE POLYTECHNIC
FOUNDATION OF COTABATO AND ASIA,
INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND
MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION
BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLANDS
OF MINDANAO

Committee Report No. 389 on House Bill No. 5805, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE PALAWAN COUNCIL
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE
RADIO AND/OR TELEVISION STATIONS IN
THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

Committee Report No. 390 on House Bill No. 6568, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE APO ASSOCIATED
RADIO ELECTRONICS AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, INC. A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL,
ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN
RADIO TELEPHONE AND RADIOTELEGRAPH
COASTAL STATIONS, AERONAUTICAL AND
PUBLIC FIXED AND PUBLIC BASED LAND-
MOBILE STATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION
AND TRANSMISSION OF RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE
PHILIPPINES

Committee Report No. 391 on House Bill No. 6571, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE CENTRAL MINDANAO
UNIVERSITY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND
MAINTAIN FOR EDUCATIONAL AND NON-
COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND
TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN
CENTRAL MINDANAO UNIVERSITY,
MUNICIPALITY OF MARAMAG, PROVINCE
OF BUKIDNON

Committee Report No. 403 on House Bill No. 8444, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE END TIME MISSION
BROADCASTING SERVICE, INC. A FRAN-