

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:27 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 25th 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. Robert Z. Barbers.

After the prayer, the Philrice Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render another song, entitled *Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Barbers.

Ama naming makapangyarihan sa lahat, muli po naming hinihingi ang Inyong paggabay at basbas sa aming pagpupulong na ito upang ang lahat ng aming tatalakayin at pagpapasiyahan ay maayon sa Iyong kagustuhan.

Sa gitna ng mga nangyayaring iskandalo ngayon, bigyan po Ninyo kami ng katahimikan at pagkakasundo sa isa't isa at pairalin Ninyo ang katarungan at hustisiya sa aming bayan.

Maraming salamat, Panginoon, sa lahat ng mga biyayang patuloy Ninyong ipinagkakaloob sa amin, sampu ng aming buhay, gayundin sa pagkakaligtas ng mga bihag sa Mindanao.

Tulungan po Ninyo silang makapagsimula ng buhay na mapayapa at maligaya kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya. Samantala, dasal namin na matapos na ang paghihirap ng mga bihag ng Abu Sayyaf at sila ay makalaya na rin.

Hipuin sana Ninyo, Panginoon, ang mga kapatid naming hindi pa nagkakasundo sa Mindanao upang matunton nila ang landas tungo sa tunay na pagkakaisa at pag-ibig sa kapwa.

Amin ding hinihingi ang Inyong pamamagitan upang mahinto nang tuluyan ang patuloy na pagdanak

ng dugo sa Mindanao, dugong galing sa isang lahi at bansa, upang sa gayon ay maging tunay kaming karapat-dapat sa Iyong kaharian.

Ang aming bansa, Panginoon, ay kasalukuyang nahaharap sa suliraning pang-ekonomiya. Huwag po Ninyo kaming bitiwang, Ama, sa ganitong katayuan. Ituro po Ninyo sa amin ang tamang solusyon at paraan upang matagumpay naming maihahon ang bansang Pilipinas sa pagkakalugmok nito.

Muli ko pong hinihingi, Ama, ang Inyong patuloy na patnubay dito sa Senado upang kami ay manatili sa pagbalangkas ng mga batas na maka-Diyos tungo sa ikauunlad ng sambayanang Pilipino. Itinataas po namin ang kaligtasan ng aming mga kapatid sa Mindanao sa anumang kapahamakan.

Ang lahat ng ito ay isinasamo namin sa matamis na pangalan ni Jesus.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

The President. We thank the Philrice Choir for that beautiful rendition of the national anthem and a very nationalistic song, *Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi, Isang Musika*.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	**
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano ...	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	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

** On official mission

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

The Secretary. 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

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

The Secretary. Senators

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2173 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative
vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2173 is approved on
Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING S. No. 2174—City of Vigan

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on
Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2174. Copies of the bill
were distributed to the members on October 5, 2000.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There
being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2174
is now in order.

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

The Secretary. 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

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

The Secretary. Senators

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2174 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative
vote and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2174 is approved on
Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING S.No. 2157—Amending the Local Government Code of 1991

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we vote on
Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2157. Copies of the bill were
distributed to the members on October 5, 2000.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There
being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 2157
is now in order.

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

The Secretary. 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

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

The Secretary. Senators

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 2157 ON THIRD READING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 2157 is approved on Third Reading.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, on a question of personal and collective privilege, I ask that I be recognized.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized on a question of personal and collective privilege.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR TATAD (On the Integrity of the Rules of the Senate)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I rise on a question of personal and collective privilege. The reason for my rising this afternoon has to do with the integrity of our Rules of the Senate. It is a matter of the highest privilege.

In this morning's hearing of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, I called attention to Section 8 of our Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation and asked that the committee comply with it before proceeding to hear the substance of the charges made by the distinguished Senate Minority Leader on the floor of the Senate on October 5, 2000 against the President of the Philippines.

This section provides:

Sec. 8. *Preliminary Determination.* -- Except in cases of bills and resolutions (which do not call for an investigation or inquiry) filed for consideration, the Committee to which a speech, resolution, petition, or information has been referred by the President shall meet within five (5) days after such referral, with proper notice to all its members, in an executive meeting to determine the action it would take thereon.

A decision to conduct an inquiry shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members present provided there is a quorum.

The decision of a Committee, whether or not to conduct an inquiry, shall be reported to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules shall then regularly inform the Senate of such action taken by the Committee.

My reason for presenting this motion was to enable the committee to receive whatever documents the Senate Minority Leader may wish to present to the Body to support his serious but so far undocumented charges of wrongdoing against the President of the Philippines so that we, the committee, could decide how best to proceed.

As we all know, this is the first time in our legislative history that a senior member of the Opposition has accused the President of the Republic directly and by name of having committed impeachable offenses, in an open session of the Senate.

Since the Constitution says in Article VI, Section 21 that "The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its