

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1995

ROLL CALL

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:51 p.m., the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, called the session to order.

The President. The 28th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Senator Marcelo B. Fernan.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Fernan.

Almighty Father,

We bring ourselves into the light of Your presence at this hour as we attend, once more, to the tasks You have given us in the service of our people.

Take away from us, O Lord, minds that can see only our needs and not the needs of others; hearts that can feel only our comforts and joys and not the miseries of so many; hands that can labor only for our individual aspirations and not for the upliftment of the plight of our fellowmen; and spirits that cannot embrace causes and creeds much larger than ourselves and those we have chosen to love as brothers.

Help us to forgive, even as not to forget sins, that have hurt us and our people;

Help us to find strength in memories so that we will not do the same mistakes again;

But help us most in moving on to build and reconstruct the spirit of our nation long ravaged by hatred, bitterness and division, and a poverty much worse, because it is a poverty in spirit and oneness—that we may heal and truly be healed in Your mercy and in Your love.

Make us Your lawmakers, Your peacemakers, Your healers, Your builders—laboring alone for our people and Your greater glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary.

- Senator Heherson T. Alvarez ..... Present\*\*
Senator Edgardo J. Angara ..... Present
Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng .. Present\*\*
Senator Franklin M. Drilon ..... Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile ..... Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan ..... Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier ..... Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera ..... Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan ..... Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal ..... Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda ..... Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. .... \*
Senator Orlando S. Mercado ..... Present
Senator Blas F. Ople ..... Present\*\*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III ..... Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla ..... Present
Senator Raul S. Roco ..... Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo ..... Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago ..... Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani ..... \*
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III ..... Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad ..... Present\*\*
Senator Freddie N. Webb ..... Present\*\*
The President ..... Present

The President. With 16 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the reading of the Journal of the previous session is dispensed with and the same is considered approved.

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

\* On official mission
\*\* On official mission but arrived after the roll call

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. We shall now vote on the bill, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of the bill, as amended, please say *Aye*. [*Several Senators: Aye.*] As many as are against, please say *Nay*. [*Silence*]

Senate Bill No. 979, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

**Senator Romulo**. Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 6:10 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 6:27 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. The session is resumed.

**Senator Maceda**. Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. Senator Maceda is recognized.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR MACEDA (Senator Honasan as Coauthor of S. No. 995)

**Senator Maceda**. Mr. President, may I just manifest that Senator Honasan is a coauthor of Senate Bill No. 995.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. It is so noted.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

**Senator Romulo**. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 6:27 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 6:27 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. The session is resumed.

**Senator Roco**. Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. Senator Roco is recognized.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ROCO (All Senators Present Except Senator Macapagal as Coauthors of S. No. 979)

**Senator Roco**. Mr. President, with the consent of the Chamber, may I manifest that all the Senators present be made coauthors of Senate Bill No. 979, unless they specifically withdraw.

**Senator Romulo**. I accept, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. Is there anyone who wishes to manifest his or her reservation?

**Senator Macapagal**. [*Raising her hand.*]

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. With the exception of Senator Macapagal, all those present are considered coauthors of Senate Bill No. 979.

#### MOTION OF SENATOR ROMULO (Referral of S. No. 950 to the Committee on Women and Family Relations)

**Senator Romulo**. Mr. President, may I move that Senate Bill No. 950 be referred also to the Committee on Women and Family Relations.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

**Senator Romulo**. Mr. President, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, I move that the Committee on Women and Family Relations be the primary committee to which Senate Bill No. 950 is referred.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

**Senator Romulo**. Mr. President, there is an additional Reference of Business. May I ask the Secretary to read the same.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Mercado]. The Secretary will do so.