

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1996

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 76th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Ramon B. Revilla.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Revilla. Mr. President, Senator Macapagal has requested me to read her prayer, and with the indulgence of my Colleagues, I am going to read it.

Come, Holy Spirit, we need You;
Come, Holy Spirit, we pray;
Come with Your strength and Your power;
Come in Your own special way.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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 Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal **
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present*
Senator Sergio Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

- Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago Absent***
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb Absent***
The President Present

The President. With 19 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

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 hereby dispensed with and the same is considered approved.

The Secretary will now proceed with the reading of the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Secretary.

April 26, 1996

Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Manila

Dear Senate President Gonzales:

I hereby endorse as a priority Administration measure, Senate Bill No. 847, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE IN THE PROVISION AND OBTAINING OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The measure seeks to establish the necessary policies and procedures on treaties or international

*** On account of illness

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Tolentino]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 405, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THE ESCAPE OF CONVICTED FELON ROLITO GO FROM THE PASIG PROVINCIAL JAIL REPORTEDLY WITH THE HELP OF BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL AND THE FUGITIVE'S SUBSEQUENT CODDLING BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN WHILE IN HIDING THAT ENABLED HIM TO ELUDE THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW FOR 30 LONG MONTHS WHICH MADE A MOCKERY OF THE COUNTRY'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW/AMENDATORY LEGISLATIONS TO STRENGTHEN AND PLUG LOOPHOLES IN OUR PENAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Alvarez.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Tolentino]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 406, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS; GOVERNMENT CORPORATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTIONABLE SHORTLISTING OF BANKS SERVICING THE PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY (PRA) AND OTHER REPORTED ANOMALIES AT THE AGENCY

Introduced by Senator Flavier.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ROMULO
(Senator Flavier as Coauthor of
Senate Bill Nos. 1420 and 1422)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, at the request of the distinguished Gentleman from Sorsogon, Senator Honasan, Senator Flavier is made coauthor of the following bills: Senate Bill No. 1420 and Senate Bill No. 1422.

The President. Let that be entered in the *Journal*.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 950, under Committee Report No. 78, the Special Law on Rape, be transferred from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

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

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, last Monday was the election of the members of Sangguniang Kabataan in every barangay in the Philippines. Today, we are honored with the visit and presence of 80 Sangguniang Kabataan Chairmen elected from the City of Caloocan, and they are here led by Mayor Rey Malonzo of Caloocan City. [*Applause*]

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

To enable us to greet the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairmen of Kalookan City and his Honor, Mayor Rey Malonzo, may I ask for a short suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended for a few minutes, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:08 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Shahani, President Pro Tempore, presiding.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ROMULO
(Senator Revilla as Coauthor in S. Nos. 1420 and 1422)

Senator Romulo. Madam President, it is the request of the