

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1993

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:07 p.m., the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. The 48th session of the Senate is hereby called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Let us all stand for the singing of the National Anthem to be led by the Philippine Normal University Chorale, and one patriotic song entitled *Sa Mahal Kong Bayan*.

Later on, we shall be led in prayer by Senator Agapito A. Aquino.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem and remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Aquino.

Almighty God,

We ask for Your blessing, as we usher in a new chapter in the annals of our Chamber.

We pray that You enlighten our new leadership, led by our Senate President Edgardo Angara, in its task of overseeing the legislation of the national agenda.

Bestow upon us the grace to forge a viable working consensus within this Body and its counterpart in the Bigger House.

Give it the strength to uphold Congress' constitutionally mandated independence and yet cooperation with the Executive Branch. Grant it the wisdom to put the people's welfare above all other considerations.

We also pray that the honorable Members of this Senate will acquire the needed discernment and stamina to deliberate and act upon the vital, day-to-day matters that make up our current legislative program.

May we always bear in mind that the apportioning of committees is not a division of spoils but a division of labor — the labor of legislation and policy-making entrusted to us by the Filipino people.

May we always remember that we exist to serve rather than be served;

That we are here to help the many who are helpless rather than to help ourselves;

And that we are accountable, not to any favored group or vested interest, but to the people in general and, ultimately, to You, Lord, in particular.

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

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

It was 3:14 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 3:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary will now please call the roll.

The Secretary.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Senator Heherson T. Alvarez | Present* |
| Senator Edgardo J. Angara | Present |
| Senator Agapito A. Aquino | Present |
| Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon | Present |
| Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ... | Present |
| Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr. | Present |
| Senator Ernesto F. Herrera | Present |
| Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr. | Present |
| Senator Gloria Macapagal | Present |
| Senator Ernesto M. Maceda | Present |
| Senator Orlando S. Mercado | Present |
| Senator Blas F. Ople | Present |
| Senator John H. Osmefia | ** |
| Senator Santanina T. Rasul | Present* |
| Senator Ramon B. Revilla | Present |
| Senator Raul S. Roco | Present |
| Senator Alberto G. Romulo | Present |
| Senator Leticia R. Shahani | Present |
| Senator Vicente C. Sotto | Present |

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

BILL ON THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 578 — Women Below 18 as Models
for Advertisement

Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 578. Printed copies of the bill were distributed to all the Members of the Senate on November 18, 1992.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 578 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 578, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING A WOMAN BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE FROM DIRECTLY ENGAGING AND/OR BEING USED AS A MODEL FOR ADVERTISEMENT OR PROMOTION OF LIQUOR, INTOXICATING DRINKS AND CIGARETTES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 21

Senator Alvarez
Senator Angara
Senator Aquino
Senator Biazon
Senator Coseteng
Senator Guingona, Jr.
Senator Herrera
Senator Lina, Jr.
Senator Macapagal
Senator Maceda
Senator Mercado

Senator Ople
Senator Rasul
Senator Revilla
Senator Roco
Senator Romulo
Senator Shahani
Senator Sotto III
Senator Tañada
Senator Tolentino
Senator Webb

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 1

Senator Tatad*

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The President. With 21 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and one abstention, Senate Bill No. 578 is approved on Third Reading.

* With explanation of vote

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EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR TATAD

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, may I explain my vote.

I have been fully in support of the proposal of the distinguished Author of this bill to enact a law that would make it unlawful for people to exploit minors, specifically women minors who are, as of now, being used as models for advertising liquor, intoxicating drinks and cigarettes.

I was hoping I would be able to support this bill, but on deeper analysis, I have my very serious doubts that there should be a law that would punish persons below 18 years of age with fine of P20,000 or imprisonment for 60 days. So, I regret I will have to abstain.

Thank you very much.

Senator Coseteng. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Coseteng is recognized.

Senator Coseteng. May I know how my vote was recorded?

The Secretary. It is recorded as *Yes*.

Senator Coseteng. Thank you, Mr. President.

BILL ON THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 925 —Municipal Libraries and Barangay
Reading Centers

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 925. Copies of the bill were distributed to all the Members of the Senate on December 18, 1992.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 925 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 925, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 22

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Senator Alvarez | Senator Ople |
| Senator Angara | Senator Rasul |
| Senator Aquino | Senator Revilla |
| Senator Biazon | Senator Roco |
| Senator Coseteng | Senator Romulo |
| Senator Guingona | Senator Shahani |
| Senator Herrera | Senator Sotto |
| Senator Lina | Senator Tañada |
| Senator Macapagal | Senator Tatad |
| Senator Maceda | Senator Tolentino |
| Senator Mercado | Senator Webb* |

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The President. With 22 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 925 is approved on Third Reading.

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal. Mr. President, I was not in the room at the moment when my name was called, so I would just like to be on record as voting Yes.

The President. So noted.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR WEBB

Senator Webb. May I explain my vote, Mr. President.

Scientific and technological innovations bring about use and disuse. Take for example, calculators. While they make it easy for accountants, housewives and others to make calculations, such contraptions have encouraged pupils and students to forego mental exercise in favor of the more convenient finger exercise of pushing buttons or keys to get the correct answer.

Another example is television, Mr. President. While it has brought easy access to worldwide information, it has made a lot of people passive watchers or listeners, even easy believers. Television is not called an idiot box for nothing.

* With explanation of vote

While personal computers have brought about possibilities unheard of before, like composing poetry and making speeches at the push of a key, they could make human minds atrophy for lack of use. While I wholly support and hope for more scientific and technological innovations, I humbly submit that we should go back to the time proven fundamental methods of training young minds. The three R's may no longer be in vogue in this era of sophisticated gadgetry. But they still are necessary if we are to make our future citizens great minds and greater leaders.

For this reason, I fully support Senate Bill No. 925, which seeks to establish Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers for it clearly intends to improve the reading habits of Filipinos, especially the young, by providing them with accessible reading materials and consequently expand their intellectual horizon.

I am voting Yes to Senate Bill No. 925.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, before we ask for the suspension of the session, may I just remind our Colleagues that when we resume the session, we shall resume consideration of the heinous crimes bill. When we suspended consideration of that bill last Thursday, Senator Lina, the Sponsor was on the Floor and Senator Herrera was interpellating him.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

With that, may I move that we suspend the session.

The President. The session is suspended for a 30-minute break, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 5:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:09 p.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr., President Pro Tempore, presiding.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 891 — Death Penalty/
Defining Heinous Crimes
(Continuation)