

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1994

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 10:15 a.m., the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President: The 84th session of the Second Regular Session of Congress is hereby called to order.

Senator Arturo M. Tolentino will lead us in prayer.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Tolentino:

Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth;

We thank You for all the blessings You have showered upon our country and our people, and upon us Your children.

May we beseech You to continue to guide us in our deliberations in this assembly of the people, so that our actions and decisions may always be in accordance with Your divine will. We ask You this, Father, in the name of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The President: The Secretary will please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary:

- Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present\*
Senator Agapito A. Aquino Present\*
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon Present\*
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng Present\*
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales 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 Absent
Senator John H. Osmeña Present
Senator Santanina T. Rasul Present

\* Arrived after the roll call
\*\* On official mission

- Senator Ramon B. Revilla \*\*
Senator Raul S. Roco Present\*
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present\*
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
Senator Arturo M. Tolentino Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present
The President Present

The President: With 14 Senators being 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] The Chair hears none; the same is approved.

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary: Senate Bill No. 1752, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7716 BY EXCLUDING THEREFROM THE PRINTING, PUBLICATION, IMPORTATION OR SALE OF BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, PERIODICALS OR BULLETINS, AS WELL AS SALES AND IMPORTATIONS OF COOPERATIVES.

Introduced by Senator Macapagal.

The President: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR MACEDA (Re: Origin of Filing of Tax or Revenue Measures)

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, in the light of recent reexaminations of our procedures, while we have been quite lenient in the matter of appropriation bills and revenue measures which are supposed to originate from the House of Representa-

**Senator Tañada:** One thousand four hundred municipalities, more or less, if I remember right.

**Senator Webb:** Yes, Mr. President, and I figure the Corporation might lose a lot in payments of employees that they have to hire. That is why, pragmatically, we are looking at a better situation than Medicare health, as I mentioned.

Now, we go to 75 provinces and 60 plus cities compared to what they have right now in the SSS where they have only 33 offices while the GSIS has only one office. But with this, the Corporation will be servicing both SSS and GSIS members under one roof, under the National Health Insurance Corporation. For organizational facilities, the provincial office must cover those in the municipalities. In short, if the municipality falls most probably under the provincial level, they will just go to the provincial level to report and to enroll themselves as far as the National Health Insurance Corporation is concerned.

**Senator Tañada:** Alam naman natin na marami tayong problema sa transportasyon, kaya itong accessibility ang magiging malaking problema ng panukalang-batas na ito. At dahil diyan, baka hindi na naman ito umabot doon sa mga taong dapat na mabigyan ng mga benepisyo at biyaya.

**Senator Webb:** Totoo po iyon. Kaya lamang, ang advance o bentaha naman, kahit saan sila magkasakit ay may ospital silang mapupuntahan at mga doktor na mag-aasikaso sa kanila.

Magkakaroon po ito ng health passport, na kung saan ire-record kung saan kayo nagparehistro. At marahil, sa nakikita ko, isusulat din diyan, sooner or later, that we should be computerized. Sapagkat mahalaga ito. Marahil ay iniisip din natin na baka may gumawa ng masama, na kung saan ay maniningil sa isang munisipyo at pagkatapos ay lilipat sa kabila at doon maniningil, kakutsaba ang hospital at ang mga doktor. Hanggang hindi natin inilalagay ito sa computer, hindi natin malalaman kung nabayaran na o ilang beses nang nabayaran ang isang taong nagkasakit.

**Senator Tañada:** Maraming salamat po sa inyong mga kasagutan.

**Senator Webb:** Thank you, Mr. President.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1738

**Senator Romulo:** Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1738 until this afternoon.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Mercado]:** Is there any

objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

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

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

*It was 12:18 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 12:19 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL NO. 925/HOUSE BILL NO. 12837 (The Municipal Library Bill)

**Senator Romulo:** Mr. President, I move that the following Senators be named to the Senate panel on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 925 and House Bill No. 12837, the Municipal Library Bill: Senators Shahani, Romulo, Rasul, Osmeña, Herrera and Tañada.

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

**Senator Romulo:** Mr. President, we will continue with our Calendar: the Health Insurance Program, the Amnesty Proclamation, and the Education Bills with Senate Bill No. 1452, in this afternoon's session.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

I move that we suspend this session until four o'clock this afternoon.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Mercado]:** The session is suspended until four o'clock this afternoon, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 12:21 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 4:41 p.m., the session was resumed with the Senate President, Edgardo J. Angara, presiding.*