

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1994

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 10:14 a.m., the Honorable Leticia Ramos Shahani, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President Pro Tempore: The 88th Session of the Senate in the Second Regular Session of the Ninth Congress is hereby called to order.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez will lead us in the opening prayer.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Alvarez:

Lord Almighty, as we stand close to the adjournment of the Second Regular Session, we take this opportunity to look back to a period of intense legislative action. We have adopted bold measures aimed at alleviating our economic difficulties. Our deliberations had been intense. But through Your guidance, we got through this period, sometimes in emotional clash of conflicting opinions.

As we take our break, let this moment be devoted to reflection and deeper thought in search for new insights so that we come back in this Chamber with renewed strength and vision in our pursuit for measures that could save our country from the apocalypse of economic stagnation.

Make us united under Your supreme will so that we may join in common effort, amid conflicting views and clashing convictions, in seeing to it that justice is always achieved.

Bless us, Lord, and make us share in Your grace, be suffused with Your heavenly light and wisdom that we may singly and collectively do our work with certainty that we shall do our work along the righteous path.

And guide us in the sessions yet to come. All these we beg of You, O Lord.

Amen.

* Arrived after the roll call

The President Pro Tempore: The Secretary will now 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
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present*
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 Pro Tempore: With 14 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

Senator Romulo: Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

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

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the reading of the Journal of the previous session is dispensed with and the same is considered as approved.

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

participating.

Senator Tañada: And once the plan of action is accepted in the Conference, Mr. President, it will ...

Senator Roco: And then it goes to Beijing. These are still the regional conferences preparatory to the Beijing Conference in September. If the International Conference in Beijing, therefore, adopts it, it will result in something like a Convention on Women's Rights or Equalizing Opportunities for Women in an international level. Then it gets back to us, presumably, if we want to implement the different parcels or adopt it as part of the law of the land.

Senator Tañada: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Roco: Thank you, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, there are no more interpellations, I move that we close the period of interpellations.

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

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, there are no Committee amendments, no individual amendments. I move that we close the period of Committee and individual amendments.

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

ADOPTION OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 876

Senator Romulo: I move that we adopt Senate Resolution No. 876 under Committee Report No. 466.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Is there any objection to the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 876 under Committee Report No. 466? [Silence] Hearing none, Senate Resolution No. 876 is adopted.

MOTION OF SENATOR ROCO (All Senators as Coauthors of Senate Bill No. 876)

Senator Roco: May we request also, Mr. President, if it is acceptable to our Colleagues, that all Senators be coauthors of the Resolution so that the Philippine Delegation may be guided accordingly.

Senator Romulo: We have no objection, Mr. President. In fact, we endorse the motion.

Senator Roco: Thank you, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Is there any objection to the motion to make every Senator an author and sponsor of this Senate Resolution No. 876? [Silence] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON SENATE BILL NO. 925/HOUSE BILL NO. 12387 (Establishment of Municipal Libraries)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, one more Bicameral Conference Committee Report submitted to the Office of the Secretary on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 925 and House Bill No. 12387 on the Public Library in Congressional Districts and Municipalities. Both Senate and House panel members have signed the Bicameral Conference Committee Report with the recommendation that the Report be approved.

I ask that the distinguished Senate President Pro Tempore, Chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, be recognized to make the report.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Senator Shahani is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR SHAHANI

Senator Shahani: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I should like to make a report to this Chamber on the Bicameral Conference Committee Report. The Members of the Senate panel were this humble Representation, Senators Rasul, Tañada, Herrera, Osmeña, and Romulo.

Mr. President, this refers to the establishment of public libraries in barangays, municipalities, and cities. The Conference Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 925 and House Bill No. 12387 submits the following joint statement to the Senate in explanation of the amendments agreed upon by the Conferees and recommended in the accompanying Conference Committee Report:

1. The Senate version was adopted as the working draft;
2. Section 1 of the consolidated bill was taken from Section 1 of both versions;

3. On Section 2, a proviso was added which states: "that, where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof."

In addition, paragraph 2 of Section 3 of the House version was adopted as paragraph 2;

4. Mr. President, Section 3 of the House version was adopted as Section 3 of the bill;

5. Section 3 of the House version was adopted as Section 4;

6. Section 4 of the Senate version which corresponds to Section 5 of the House version was adopted with modifications as reflected in the consolidated version;

7. Section 5 of the Senate version on functions of the public libraries and barangay reading centers was adopted as Section 6 with modifications;

8. Section 6 of the House version was adopted as Section 7 with modifications stated thus: "and for the next five (5) years: thereafter, the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading centers;"

9. Section 7 of the Senate version on submission of reports was adopted as Section 8;

10. Section 8 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 9; and

11. The following title of the consolidated bill was adopted and it reads now as follows:

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

Mr. President, we hope that with the approval of this Conference Committee Report, we shall indeed help to make our people a more literate people who will love the joy of reading and contribute enormously to our overall progress.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: The Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON SENATE BILL NO. 925/HOUSE BILL NO. 12387

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I ask that we approve the Bicameral Conference Committee Report.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Is there any objection to the approval of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 925 and House Bill No. 12387? [Silence] Hearing none, the Conference Committee Report is approved.

The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the national policy to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people; elevate the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is eradicated by the end of the country; and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation building by establishing public libraries in every congressional district, city and municipality, and reading centers in every barangay throughout the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers. - The National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: *Provided,* That the establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library, in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: *Provided, further,* That where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof.

The National Library shall continue to coordinate and organize seminars, workshops and other trainings for the professional benefit of librarians.

SEC. 3. Role of the National Library. - The

National Library shall provide the standard set of reference books and other materials such as, but not limited to, encyclopedias, dictionaries, maps and globes upon the establishment of the libraries. The National Library shall continue to supply the public libraries with other books, non-book materials, equipment, supplies and other appropriate and relevant reference and reading materials, taking into consideration the needs of the community concerned.

SEC. 4. *Site.* - The establishment of the public libraries and reading centers shall be an integral part of the development plan of each local government unit: Provided, That barangays shall provide the site for barangay reading centers.

SEC. 5. *Period of Implementation.* - The overall national plan of implementation shall cover initially a period of five (5) years: *Provided*, That those congressional districts, cities and municipalities with no existing public libraries as well as barangays situated in remote, isolated and rural areas, shall have priority in the allocation of resources.

Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Library, in consultation with the DILG, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the different local government units, shall come out with the list of priority areas, taking into account the commitment of the local government units in the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and barangay reading centers.

SEC. 6. *Functions of the Public Libraries and Barangays Reading Centers.* - The public libraries and barangay reading centers shall have the following functions:

a) to make available to the members of the community reading materials of wide array, including reading materials prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and national newspapers of general circulation and others:

b) to be used as a venue for audio-visual presentation in the community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at increasing the literacy rate by government agencies, non-governmental organizations or private entities in the dissemination of information of general interest; and

c) to offer such other related services in furtherance of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and for the next five (5) years: thereafter, the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading centers.

SEC. 8. *Submission of Reports.* - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, and at the end of every calendar year thereafter, the Director of the National Library shall submit progress reports to each House of Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the National Library, in coordination with the DILG and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All acts, presidential decrees, executive orders and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.

This Act which is a consolidation of Senate Bill No. 925 and House Bill No. 12387, was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on June 1, 1994.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I suggest that the Secretary instruct his personnel to know how to write the numbers.