

# RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1999

NATIONAL ANTHEM

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

*At 4:02 p.m., the Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. John H. Osmeña, called the session to order.*

**The President Pro Tempore.** The 33rd session of the Second Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan.

After the prayer, the Senate Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render another song, entitled *Lupang Sarili*.

*Everybody rose for the prayer.*

## PRAYER

**Senator Honasan.**

Once more, Heavenly Father, we humbly stand before You to ask for divine guidance and strength.

We, who by Your grace bear upon our shoulders the duty of choosing the path our nation must take.

We, who in our mortal frailties must raise the beacon of hope to guide a people besieged by seemingly insurmountable challenges in the face of economic crisis, unstable peace, unrest and conflict.

Today, Father, and in all the days that we bear this responsibility, make us instruments of Your will.

Make us leaders of virtue, slow to anger, clear in vision and fair in judgment.

Make us men and women of wisdom, peace, and love.

So that through us, amidst the chaos and uncertainties, our people may still believe in the triumph of the human spirit and in the truth that peace, prosperity, and joy are every person's birthright.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

*Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.*

## ROLL CALL

**The President Pro Tempore.** The Secretary will please call the roll.

**The Secretary, reading:**

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta .....	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers .....	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon .....	Present
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano ..	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon .....	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile .....	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavie .....	*
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. ....	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan .....	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski .....	*
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste .....	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. ....	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña .....	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III .....	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. ....	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla .....	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco .....	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago .....	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III .....	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad .....	Present
The President .....	Absent**

**The President Pro Tempore.** With 19 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## THE JOURNAL

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of session Nos. 31 and 32 covering the sessions on October 5 and 6 and consider it approved.

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

\* On official mission

\*\* On account of illness

Reference of Business to a later hour in order to enable us to take up other business in the calendar, and avail ourselves of the presence of a number of our colleagues.

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

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President.

**The President Pro Tempore.** The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON THIRD READING  
S. No. 1271--Professional Regulation  
Commission Act

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1271 as reported out under Committee Report No. 25.

Printed copies were distributed on October 21, 1999 in compliance with the three-day requirement.

**The President Pro Tempore.** Is there any objection?  
[Silence] There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1271 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

**The Acting Secretary [Mr. Pineda].** Senate Bill No. 1271, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL  
DECREE NO. 223 AS AMENDED ENTITLED  
"CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULA-  
TION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING  
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND OTHER  
PURPOSES"

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

**The President Pro Tempore.** Is there any objection?  
[Silence] There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

*It was 4:14 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:15 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President Pro Tempore.** The session is resumed.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President.

**The President Pro Tempore.** The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1271.

**The President Pro Tempore.** We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

**The Secretary.** Senators

Aquino-Oreta .....	Yes
Barbers .....	Yes
Biazon .....	Yes
Cayetano .....	Yes
Coseteng .....	Yes
Drilon .....	Yes
Enrile .....	Yes
Flavier .....	
Guingona .....	Yes
Honasan .....	Yes
Jaworski .....	
Legarda-Leviste .....	Yes
Magsaysay Jr. ....	Yes
Osmeña (J.) .....	Yes
Osmeña III .....	Yes
Pimentel .....	Yes
Revilla .....	Yes
Roco .....	Yes

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, if I may explain.

**The President Pro Tempore.** Senator Roco is recognized.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ROCO

**Senator Roco.** Mr. President, I have always been wary of too much power from the center. That is why, originally, I was very concerned about the PRC powers, especially as regards the relicensing of teachers, of our professional teachers.

This has been crafted out of the bill with the special help from the Majority Leader. So, at least, that area of concern has been relieved, Mr. President.

We vote *yes* therefore for this with the caution to PRC that even as it now starts grading the universities and colleges based

on the test results, it should also exert every effort to ensure fairness and the level application of the law. We have every expectation, Mr. President, that that will be done.

With those, Mr. President, I vote *yes*.

**The Secretary.** Senators

Santiago ..... Yes  
Sotto III ..... Yes  
Tatad ..... Yes  
The President .....

#### APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1271 ON THIRD READING

**The President Pro Tempore.** With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1271 is approved on Third Reading.

#### BILL ON THIRD READING

##### S. No. 1621--Amending Section 5 of the Energy Act of 1992

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1621. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on October 5, 1999.

**The President Pro Tempore.** Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1621 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

**The Secretary.** Senate Bill No. 1621, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7638 ENTITLED "THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACT OF 1992" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**The President Pro Tempore.** We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

**The Secretary.** Senators

Aquino-Oreta ..... Yes  
Barbers ..... Yes  
Biazon ..... Yes  
Cayetano ..... Yes  
Coseteng ..... Yes  
Drilon ..... Yes  
Enrile ..... Yes  
Flavier .....  
Guingona ..... Yes

Honasan ..... Yes  
Jaworski .....  
Legarda-Leviste ..... Yes  
Magsaysay Jr. .... Yes  
Osmeña (J.) ..... Yes  
Osmeña III ..... Yes  
Pimentel ..... Yes  
Revilla ..... Yes  
Roco ..... Yes  
Santiago ..... Yes  
Sotto III ..... Yes  
Tatad ..... Yes  
The President .....

#### APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1621 ON THIRD READING

**The President Pro Tempore.** With 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1621 is approved on Third Reading.

#### BILL ON THIRD READING

##### S. No. 468--Public Employment Service Office Act of 1999

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 468. Copies of the bill were distributed to the members on October 18, 1999.

**The President Pro Tempore.** Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 468 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill.

**The Secretary.** Senate Bill No. 468, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FACILITATION SERVICE NETWORK THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE, KEY CITY AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

**The President Pro Tempore.** We shall now vote on the bill and the Secretary will call the roll.

**The Secretary.** Senators

Aquino-Oreta ..... Yes  
Barbers ..... Yes  
Biazon ..... Yes  
Cayetano ..... Yes