

## RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1999

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:28 p.m., the session was resumed with the Senate President, Blas F. Ople presiding.*

**The President.** The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 4:28 p.m.*

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:29 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The President.** The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, may I ask that Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. be recognized on a point of personal privilege.

**The President.** Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. is recognized.

### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR MAGSAYSAY (On the State of Senate Premises After the Earthquake)

**Senator Magsaysay.** Thank you, Mr. President.

I just want to take a couple of minutes to make a report on the state of our Senate building which is part of the GSIS Complex.

In brief, Mr. President, we have a report from Atty. Arnel Bañas, our Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, to wit:

This morning, Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, or PHILVOCS, and Engr. Benito M. Pacheco, past president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, came in with their engineers to inspect our building as to safety and structure.

The following are the reports of Dr. Punongbayan and Dr. Pacheco:

Most of the damages are cosmetic in nature. Meaning, plasters. Even the cracks which are mostly located at the end of the building are plasters, having been cracked by the intensity of the earthquake. These cores, being two of the cores of the seven-core building of the GSIS Complex, are designed primarily with seismic joints. This means that there is a safety tolerance wherein if there is a movement of the earth beneath us as what happened last Sunday, the seismic joints will allow for a play so that the whole building will not be affected structurally on their supporting columns and beams.

So, the following were recommended:

First, the architectural finish should respect the seismic joints. These are the lines that separate the cores from each other. It might be a good idea not to cover them with paint and wall paper so as to allow free play.

Second, the Senate personnel should be aware and be prepared for any emergency. The fear that people feel is the result of not knowing what to do and where to go in case of emergency when they are in the building.

So, in effect, Mr. President, the building is safe for occupancy, and I am certain that we will be able to finish our seven-year lease—two years have already passed—up to 2004 and we still have full use of this part of the GSIS Complex.

**Senator Biazon.** Mr. President.

**The President.** Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon is recognized.

**Senator Biazon.** Thank you, Mr. President.

Will the distinguished gentleman yield for some clarificatory questions?

**Senator Magsaysay.** Certainly, Mr. President.

**Senator Biazon.** Mr. President, who is Dr. Pacheco?

**Senator Magsaysay.** Dr. Benito M. Pacheco is the immediate past president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines.

**Senator Biazon.** Is he willing to submit this report in written form officially?



The Secretary will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

December 9, 1999

The Honorable  
BLAS F. OPLE  
President of the Senate  
Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308  
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on December 8, 1999 agreed to a Conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7572, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE, ENTITLED "CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

passed by the House of Representatives on June 3, 1999 and Senate Bill No. 1271, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was passed by the Senate on November 8, 1999 and has accordingly designated Congressmen Hilarion J. Ramiro Jr., Harlin Cast. Abayon, Manuel A. Roxas II, Romualdo T. Vicencio, Eladio M. Jala, Ernesto F. Herrera, Carlos M. Padilla, Eduardo R. Gullas, James J. Gordon Jr., and J. Apolinario L. Lozada Jr. as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Flavio]. To the Archives

The Secretary.

December 9, 1999

The Honorable  
BLAS F. OPLE  
President of the Senate  
Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308  
Metropolitan Manila

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on December 8, 1999 elected Congressman Constantino H. Navarro Jr. as additional member of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the part of the House on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7848, entitled

AN ACT CONSOLIDATING AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 580, 1557, 5448 AND 7835 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 535 AND 90, AS THEY APPLY TO THE HOME INSURANCE AND GUARANTY CORPORATION WHICH SHALL BE RENAMED AS HOUSING GUARANTY CORPORATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

and Senate Bill No. 1568, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 580, AS AMENDED, EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE HOME INSURANCE AND GUARANTY CORPORATION, EXPANDING ITS POWERS, INCREASING ITS AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK AND OTHER PURPOSES.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Presiding Officer [Sen. Flavio]. To the Archives