

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1999

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

*At 3:29 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Marcelo B. Fernan, called the session to order.*

**The President.** The 63rd session of the Senate of the First Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.

After the prayer, the Senate Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem, and thereafter will render another song entitled, *Pilipinas*.

*Everybody rose for the prayer.*

## PRAYER

**Senator Pimentel.**

Lord, bless Your senators so that they will make laws for the good of our people.

Amen.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

## ROLL CALL

**The President.** 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. Flavies .....	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr .....	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan .....	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski .....	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste .....	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr .....	Present

Senator Blas F. Ople .....	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña .....	Absent
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 .....	*
Senator Francisco S. Tatad .....	Present
The President .....	Present

**The President.** With 21 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, before we take up the business for the day, may I move that we suspend our session to enable our colleagues to officially greet Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile a very happy birthday.

**The President.** On behalf of the senators, happy birthday, Senator Enrile. *[Applause]*

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

*It was 3:37 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:39 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

## THE JOURNAL

**Senator Drilon.** Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider it approved.

**The President.** Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session is dispensed with and the same is considered approved.

\* On official mission but arrived after the roll call

**Senator Drilon.** I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will now read the Reference of Business.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

##### BILLS ON FIRST READING

**The Secretary.** Senate Bill No. 1464, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING AFFORDABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND MEDICINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DRUG POLICY SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda-Leviste

**The President.** Referred to the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

**The Secretary.** Senate Bill No. 1465, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER ENSURING THE USE OF GENERIC NAMES IN THE MANUFACTURE, PRESCRIPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6675, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GENERIC ACT OF 1988," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda-Leviste

**The President.** Referred to the Committee on Health and Demography

#### RESOLUTION

**The Secretary.** Proposed Senate Resolution No. 363, entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**The President.** Referred to the Committee on Rules

#### COMMITTEE REPORT

**The Secretary.** Committee Report No. 25, submitted by the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization on Senate Bill No. 1271, introduced by Senators Drilon and Coseteng, 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 OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Coseteng

**The President.** To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

##### COMMUNICATIONS

**The Secretary.** Minority Report submitted by Senators Guingona Jr., Renato L. *Compañero* Cayetano, Barbers, Flavio and Legarda-Leviste on Initial Committee Report No. 17, submitted by the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations re

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52 - Inquiry, in aid of legislation, to probe the questionable deals and loans of the past Ramos administration;

Privilege Speech of Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng on August 5, 1998, entitled, "First Clark Centennial Corporation";

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 231 - Inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the alleged questionable leasing of "VIP" houses inside the Clark Air Base at rates disadvantageous to the government; and

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 235 - Inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reported irregularities in the leasing of housing units located at the Clark Field, Pampanga, under the control and supervision of the Clark Development Corporation

**The President.** Referred to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

**The Secretary.** Letters from Deputy Governor and General