

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1994

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 10:41 a.m., the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President: The third session of the Senate is hereby called to order.

Senator Agapito A. Aquino will lead us in the opening prayer.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I have been asked by Senator Aquino to read his prayers.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Romulo:

Almighty God, as we begin the daily business of the last session of this Ninth Congress, we pray for the light of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for President Ramos that he may be discerning, effective, and transparent in defining, presenting and implementing the executive agenda for legislation.

We pray for our leaders in both Houses of Congress that they may be judicious in expediting the more urgent matters within our legislative agenda.

We pray that we legislators may be constantly guided, informed, and inspired by both a farsighted vision and a near-sighted pragmatism, as well as a high sense of responsibility toward the people, who have entrusted us with the awesome mandate of lawmaking.

We pray that this concluding phase of the Ninth Congress will produce tangible and lasting benefits to our people, beyond and in spite of the compromises, *quid pro quo* and horse-trading that invariably complement the legislative process.

We pray that, in the overall equation of motives, intentions, and effects, the expedience of politics will ultimately be subordinated to the national welfare.

To You, O Lord, whose unfathomable wisdom often conjures good to come out of something evil, we pray that, out of the necessary evil of politics, we, Your servants, must, to some extent, yield to, the common good of the entire Filipino Nation may result in the end.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President: The Secretary will please call the roll.

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	Present
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 Ramos 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 19 Senators 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 motion is approved.

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

*Arrived after the roll call

Senator Aquino	Senator Rasul
Senator Biazon	Senator Revilla
Senator Coseteng	Senator Roco
Senator Herrera	Senator Romulo
Senator Lina	Senator Shahani
Senator Macapagal	Senator Tañada
Senator Maceda	Senator Tatad
Senator Mercado	Senator Webb

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF VOTING

The President: With 20 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 463 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON THIRD READING Senate Bill No. 1452 - Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1452. Copies of the bill were distributed to all the Members of the Senate last June 1, 1994.

The President: Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1452 is now in order.

The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

The Secretary: Senate Bill No. 1452, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF TEACHING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PRESCRIBING A LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS, REVISING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1006, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The President: The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 20

Senator Alvarez

Senator Osmeña

* With explanation of vote

Senator Angara	Senator Ople
Senator Aquino	Senator Rasul
Senator Biazon	Senator Revilla
Senator Coseteng	Senator Roco
Senator Herrera	Senator Romulo
Senator Lina*	Senator Shahani
Senator Macapagal	Senator Tañada
Senator Maceda	Senator Tatad
Senator Mercado*	Senator Webb

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Senator Mercado: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

Senator Mercado: May I just make a reservation to submit a written explanation of my vote on this measure and on Senate Bill No. 466.

The President: Reservation is noted.

The following is the written explanation of vote submitted by Senator Mercado:

EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY SENATOR MERCADO

The lengthening of the school calendar has become necessary because of empirical data which shows that the present number of school days is made shorter by various interruptions, natural as well as man-made.

In the elementary level, teachers are only able to devote 25.1 minutes or less to actual teaching in a 40-minute class.

The increase in the number of school days by 20 (or 10%) would result, among others, in assurance of maximum coverage of the learning units, motivation to study intensively, and internalization of learning.

Under this bill, teachers will continue to enjoy the thirteenth month pay, and pupils their Christmas and summer vacations.

I vote "Yes."

Senator Lina: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Lina is recognized.

Senator Lina: I have my written explanation of vote on both Senate Bill No. 463 and Senate Bill No. 1452. But to save on time, let me just enter my explanation of vote into the *Record*.

The President: The Secretary will enter the written remarks of Senator Lina on Senate Bill No. 1452 and Senate Bill No. 463.

The following is the written explanation of vote submitted by Senator Lina:

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR LINA

I vote YES on this measure.

The Constitution provides that the "State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." (Article XIV, Section 1).

Senate Bill No. 463, now before us final reading, lends fealty to this constitutional mandate of providing "quality education" to our youth.

Lengthening the school calendar from 185 days to 220 class days shall ensure that our school youth will have sufficient time spent on actual teaching-learning activities in addition to other tasks and extra-curricular activities of teachers and students, and to cover up for class interruptions brought about by natural calamities, regular holidays, athletic events, scouting and other school affairs.

I thus register my affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 463.

RESULT OF VOTING

The President: With 20 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1452 is approved on Third Reading.

BILL ON SECOND READING

Senate Bill No. 1738 - National Health Care Program (Continuation)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, yesterday we continued the interpellation and debate on the National Health Care Program bill, Senate Bill No. 1738. I move that we resume consideration of said bill as reported out under Committee Report No. 447.

Mr. President, we are still in the period of interpellations. I ask that the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Health and Sponsor of the bill, Senator Freddie Webb, be recognized and Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani to interpellate.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1738 is now in order.

Senator Webb and Senator Shahani are recognized.

Senator Shahani: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I wonder if the distinguished Sponsor would entertain some questions from this Representation.

Senator Webb: With pleasure, Mr. President.

Senator Shahani: Mr. President, I would like to concentrate in this period of interpellations on the definition of terms which is found in Section 4. The word "emergency" which is in subsection (h) is defined as the unforeseen combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action to preserve the life of a person. Who determines the existence of a state of emergency? Does the distinguished Sponsor think that only a physician can determine a state of emergency?

Senator Webb: I would say so, Mr. President, that a doctor or a physician who is qualified on that particular case will determine whether such a case is indeed an emergency or not.

At this juncture, the President relinquished the Chair to Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr.

Senator Shahani: I suppose in the period of amendments, an indication to this effect would make it more specific. Would the distinguished Sponsor be in agreement?

Senator Webb: An appreciation would be made during the period of amendments.

Senator Shahani: Again, in subsection (h) of Section 11, cost-ineffective procedures as defined by the corporation are also excluded from health benefits. Would the participation of doctors or physicians be necessary in determining what are to be considered as cost-ineffective procedures since they, indeed, have familiarity with these procedures?

Senator Webb: Yes, of course, knowing very well that such procedures when done by physicians and doctors, if it is indeed cost saving, should be implemented. In the program, the distinguished Lady Senator will notice that there are two types