

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:09 a.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Agapito A. Aquino, presiding.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: The session is resumed.

Senator Webb: Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Webb: Mr. President, just for the record. This Representation took the Chair's advice when we suspended the session yesterday. If I may reiterate, the Chair said that the session will resume at ten o'clock sharp, and I arrived because he mentioned it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Thank you, Senator Webb. Maybe, we will also communicate with our Colleagues about the necessity of our punctuality.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Mercado: May I ask the Secretary to read the Second Additional Reference of Business.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: The Secretary will please read the Second Additional Reference of Business.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Committee Report No. 864 prepared and submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on Senate Bill No. 2051 with Senators Biazon, Mercado, Angara, Shahani, Rasul, and the Members of the Committee as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN MINDANAO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 992, 1881, 1956, and taking into consideration House Bill No. 13382.

Sponsors: Senator Shahani and the Members of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Acting Secretary: Committee Report No. 865 submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on House Bill No. 562, introduced by Congressman Abaya, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SANTIAGO VOCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOL TO SOUTHERN ISABELA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES, AND AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval without amendments.

Sponsors: Senator Shahani and the Members of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Acting Secretary: Committee Report No. 866 submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on the following:

House Bill No. 10436, introduced by Congressman Zarraga, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE BOHOL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN TAGBILARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, TO DR. CECILIO PUTONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL;

House Bill No. 11892, introduced by Congressman Tajon, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE PUG-OS (SINAIT) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED AT BARANGAY PUG-OS, MUNICIPALITY OF SINAIT, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, TO DEAN LEOPOLDO YABES MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL;

and House Bill No. 12466, introduced by Congressman Lacson, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE TALISAY SCHOOL OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF

Senator Mercado: Are there any existing TLAs in the area?

Senator Sotto: I was informed there was one in San Mariano.

Senator Mercado: Would the Sponsor know what is the coverage of the Timber License Agreement? What is the extent of the coverage of the same?

Senator Sotto: I am sorry, Mr. President, I do not know. I am not aware of that.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, as I said, it has been my policy not to interfere on matters that are purely local bills. But on this particular issue, I believe, considering that the forest resources of Isabela are part of our patrimony and our natural resources, the data that I am asking should be provided for us to be able to make a decision on how we would view this effort to divide the Isabela province into two areas. Actually, the way I look at it, it will be divided into three areas.

In the meantime I will suspend my questions, Mr. President, until the same information I am asking is provided to this Representation.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 13983

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of House Bill No. 13983.

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

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 7:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 7:24 p.m., the session was resumed

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: The session is resumed.

BILL ON SECOND READING Senate Bill No. 1998 - Regulating the Practice of Optometry *(Continuation)*

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1998 as reported out under Committee Report No. 764. This is the bill regulating the practice of optometry.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1998 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I ask that the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb, be recognized.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, we have had extensive interpellations on this bill. Therefore, I move that we close the period of interpellations.

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Senator Osmeña is recognized.

Senator Osmeña: I would like to ask the Majority Leader to allow me to just ask one question.

Senator Romulo: I withdraw the motion to close the period of interpellations.

Senator Osmeña: If I am satisfied with the answer, then I will desist from further interpellations.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Aquino]: Senator Osmeña is recognized.

Senator Osmeña: Do we understand from the distinguished Sponsor that the archaic, selfish, outmoded provision of the bill which restricts access to the practice of the profession by young persons who may seek employment in corporations or partnerships that would provide services in this field, will be deleted from the bill?

Senator Webb: It will be, Mr. President. That is on Section 6 of the particular bill. During the period of amendments, this Representation, after consultation with our Colleagues and finding such a provision as highly controversial, had agreed to