

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1994

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:54 p.m., the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President: The 35th session of the Senate is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Let us all stand for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem to be led by the Blessed Elena Academy Magnificat Choir, and another song, entitled *Pilipinas Kong Mahal*.

Afterwards, Senator Ople will lead us in prayer.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem.

After the singing, everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Ople:

Ama naming makapangyarihan, alalayan Mo po ang aming mga kababayang sinalanta na naman ng mga bagong sakuna, tulad ng magkasunod na bagyong nagdaan dito sa Luzon, at lalo nang kalingain Mo po ang mga kababayan namin sa Gitnang Luzon na sa tuwina ay sinasalanta ng lahar na umuuho mula sa kabundukan patungo sa kapatagan. At ipahintulot Mo pong mailigtas ang mga bayan sa Pampanga, Tarlac, at Zambales na nasa daan ng rumaragasang lahar.

Maraming salamat po, Panginoon.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension.

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

It was 4:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

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 R. Shahani	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto	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*] There being none, the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session is dispensed with and the same is considered approved.

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

And correspondingly, when the sponsoring Senator submits the data, I would suggest that aside from sending a copy of the documents or the data to the interpellating Senator, that a separate set of the same documents be sent to the Secretariat so that in the future, generations who want to follow and examine the *Record of the Senate* can also have access to the data that have been submitted because without them, our records would be incomplete.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: The Chair takes note of the observation and suggestion, and the Secretariat is so directed to comply with the request.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 740

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we suspend, in the meantime, consideration of Senate Bill No. 740.

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

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, pursuant to our Rules, we have already printed copies of Senate Bill No. 1632, An Act to Prevent, Deter, and Proscribe Sexual Harassment in the Employment and Nonemployment Environment Providing Penalties Therefor and for Other Purposes.

This bill was passed on Second Reading, with the printed copies — pursuant to the Rules — submitted today. We shall take up this bill for Third Reading on Thursday, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: So noted.

BILL ON SECOND READING House Bill No. 1248 - Repatriation of Filipino Women

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask the consent of this Chamber that we consider House Bill No. 1248 as reported out under Committee Report No. 563.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Consideration of House Bill No. 1248 is now in order.

With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the full text thereof.

The Secretary: House Bill No. 1248, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REPATRIATION OF FILIPINO WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP BY MARRIAGE TO ALIENS AND OF NATURAL- BORN FILIPINOS.

The following is the full text of House Bill No. 1248:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill NO. 1248

Introduced by Honorable Escudero III, Romero, Ecleo, Cabilao, Domingo, Dragon, Plaza, Soon-Ruiz, Gullas, Acuna, Apostol, Cappleman, Chiongbian, Datumanong, Del Mar, Ermita, Figueroa, Fua, Garcia (P.), Garin, Guanzon, Javier (E.), Liban, Lingad, Lopez (E.), Montemayor, Sarmiento (A.), Sibug, Tagle, Tajon, Tuazon, Verceles (E.), Villaviza, Zamora, Acosta, Antonino, Fuentes, Gordon, Henson, and Ocampo.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REPATRIATION OF FILIPINO WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP BY MARRIAGE TO ALIENS AND OF NATURAL- BORN FILIPINOS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Filipino women who have lost their Philippine citizenship by marriage to aliens and natural-born Filipinos who have lost their Philippine citizenship, including their minor children, on account of political or economic necessity, may reacquire Philippine citizenship through repatriation in the manner provided in Section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 63, as amended: *Provided, That* the applicant is not a:

- (1) Person opposed to organized government or affiliated with any association or group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines opposing organized government;
- (2) Person defending or teaching the necessity or propriety of violence, personal assault, or association for the predominance of their ideas;

(3) Person convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude; or

(4) Person suffering from mental alienation or incurable contagious diseases.

SEC. 2. Repatriation shall be effected by taking the necessary oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and registration in the proper civil registry and in the Bureau of Immigration. The Bureau of Immigration shall thereupon cancel the pertinent alien certificate of registration and issue the certificate of identification as Filipino citizen to the repatriated citizen.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, for the sponsorship remarks, I ask that the Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Senator Roco, be recognized.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Senator Roco is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ROCO

Senator Roco: Mr. President, on behalf of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, may we just correct and add to the Report that a similar bill has been filed by Senator Tatad, and that by omission, he was not put here. So the bill of Senator Tatad is being included in the Report.

The Report seeks the approval of the Chamber for House Bill No. 1248, "An Act Providing for the Repatriation of Filipino Women who have lost their Philippine Citizenship by Marriage to Alien and Natural-Born Filipinos."

In the interest of time, we will ask that my Sponsorship Speech, composed of three pages, single-spaced, be inserted into the *Record*. But I will just touch on the highlights.

This bill has been reported out by the Committee, and it is one of the rare Reports where there is no reservation and no proposed amendments. The Committee and all the Members of the Committee, even the *ex officio* Members, have signed in favor, except for Senator Shahani, the President Pro Tempore,

only because we were not able to catch her at the time of the signing, and the Senate President who, as a matter of practice, has not been signing the Report.

The need to act on this bill emanated from an interpellation of Senator Herrera when we were discussing the legalization of residence. There was an effort by Senator Herrera to include repatriation because, as he pointed out, first, it seems unfair that we are liberalizing legalization of residence, but the problem of Filipino women and other natural-born Filipinos who have lost their citizenship by marriage or other causes and for other reasons are not being addressed. That is why we thought it should be reported accordingly.

Second, we also want to give an opportunity to all our compatriots who are abroad to be able to come home in an easier manner. Under the present procedures to reacquire citizenship for Filipino women, the procedures are very cumbersome. There must be a petition filed before the Regional Trial Court, and they must have their marriages dissolved. So it becomes almost prohibitive, one has to go through the eye of the needle to get her citizenship back.

A third reason is, we want to reintegrate into the mainstream of Filipino life those who may have temporarily lost their Filipino citizenship. As we know, there are more Filipino doctors in the U.S. than there are in the Philippines.

The list of Filipino doctors or former Filipinos who are practicing medicine in the United States is twice as many as the Filipino doctors who are still here. Because of certain provisions of law where we favor restricting the practice of the profession to Filipinos, some of our doctors abroad are hesitant to come back and work for their repatriation. This bill will address and simplify that problem.

The bill is fairly simple. Those who have lost their citizenship in one way or the other — and this may include the veterans in due course, although this is covered by a separate report — shall take the necessary oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and register in the proper civil registry and in the Bureau of Immigration. The Bureau of Immigration shall thereupon cancel the pertinent Alien Certificate of Registration and issue the certificate of identification as Filipino citizen to the repatriated citizen. It becomes fairly straightforward, Mr. President, and simplifies procedures for reacquiring lost citizenship.

Those are the reasons that have prompted the Committee, Mr. President, to seek the unanimous support of the Chamber.

Senator Romulo: We have no objection, Mr. President.

Senator Roco: That will be all for our sponsorship, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: The Chair declares a one-minute suspension of the session, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 6:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:56 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1248

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, after consultation with the Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Roco, and upon the request of our Colleagues, I move that we suspend, in the meantime, consideration of Committee Report No. 563 on

House Bill No. 1248 and the corresponding Senate Bill.

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

Mr. President, tomorrow we shall consider the following bills: Senate Bill No. 1913, the Party List Bill for individual amendments; Senate Bill No. 740, Exempting Fishponds and Prawns from CARL, for the final interpellation provided that the documents requested are available; House Bill No. 10844 and the related Senate Bill, Granting Permanent Status to Aliens — we are still in the period of interpellation; Senate Bill No. 1311, the High Value Crops Bill; House Bill No. 9288; Senate Bill No. 1898 under Committee Report No. 564, Granting Permanent Resident Status to Filipino Veterans; and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 462 under Committee Report No. 159; the Proposed Six Year Medium Term Philippine Development Plan; and Senate Bill No. 1867 under Committee Report No. 535, the AFP Modernization.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

I move that we suspend the session until ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Thereafter, we shall also have afternoon session at four o'clock, at which time, we will have the Roll Call.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Lina]: Is there any objection? *[Silence]* Hearing none, the session is suspended until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

It was 6:58 p.m.