

## RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1990

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

*At 3:19 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.*

**The President.** Binubuksan ang pulong ng Senado.

Pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Agapito A. Aquino.

*Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.*

### PRAYER

Senator Aquino.

Soon we will be celebrating the mystery of Your passion, death and resurrection.

May Your passion teach us perseverance;

May Your death give us life everlasting;

And may Your resurrection make us rise from despair, disunity, and defeatism to the glory of a just, united, prosperous, and truly free nation.

Amen.

### ROLL CALL

**The President.** Babasahin ng Kalihim ang talaan ng mga Senador.

**The Secretary.**

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez .....	Present*
Senator Edgardo J. Angara .....	**
Senator Agapito A. Aquino .....	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile .....	Present
Senator Joseph Ejercito Estrada .....	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales .....	**
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr. ....	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera .....	Present
Senator Sotero H. Laurel .....	Present*
Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr. ....	Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda .....	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado .....	Present

Senator John H. Osmeña .....	Present
Senator Vicente T. Paterno .....	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. ....	Present
Senator Santanina T. Rasul .....	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo .....	Present
Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag .....	Present
Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani .....	Present
Senator Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano .....	Present*
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada .....	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga .....	Present
The President .....	Present

**The President.** Labingwalong Senador ang dumalo sa ating pagpupulong; mayroon tayong korum.

### THE JOURNAL

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of yesterday's 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.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

### MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

**The Secretary.**

29 March 1990

The Senate  
Congress of the Philippines  
Manila

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to forward herewith one (1) certified true copy and sixteen (16) additional copies of the Agreement on Tourism Between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel signed at Manila on 9 May 1988.

The Agreement, done in both the English and Hebrew languages, is the product of the reciprocal visits of Minister Sharir to the Philippines in June 1986 and that of Secretary Gonzales to Tel Aviv in April 1987.

The Agreement, with thirteen (13) Articles, basically covers broad subject matters on tourism in the following fields:

(1) facilitation of travel which includes standardization of practices in frontier formalities to enable subsequent increase in bilateral tourist trade;

\*Arrived after the roll call

\*\*On official mission

Any other amendments? Senator Rasul is recognized.

#### RASUL AMENDMENT

**Senator Rasul.** On page 4, line 2, I propose to introduce an amendment before the first "Provided" and this is the amendment: "Provided, however, That ONE SHOULD COME FROM LUZON, ONE FROM VISAYAS AND ONE FROM MINDANAO", the representation from the private sector.

**Senator Shahani.** May I request our Colleague from the South to please repeat her proposal?

**Senator Rasul.** Yes. This is in connection with the membership from the private sector. So, I think, I should give the antecedent sentence: "There shall also be three (3) members from the private sector, all Filipino citizens, one of whom shall be from the banking industry, who will be appointed by the Chairman of the Council, subject to confirmation by the ex officio members thereof," and this is my amendment: "Provided, however, That ONE SHOULD COME FROM LUZON, ONE FROM VISAYAS AND ONE FROM MINDANAO."

**Senator Shahani.** Accepted, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

**Senator Shahani.** If there are no more addition, if I may take the liberty of amending myself, by suggesting that the title of this bill be changed in view of the importance of the bill. The original title, I think, sounds more impressive. I would like to propose that this be called "A MAGNA CARTA FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY" or "FOR SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE."

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Any objection? How would the title read again?

**Senator Shahani.** "A MAGNA CARTA FOR SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISES."

**Senator Guingona.** This is not an objection, but there may be confusions because of the previous designation of the law as, Magna Carta for Small Business. There might be some confusions. We have had a "Magna Carta" approved recently.

**Senator Shahani.** In that case, we cannot have too many Magna Cartas. Magna means big and carta is small. So, I think, I will be happy with the present title. After all, what is important is the implementation.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** So, is the Sponsor withdrawing her amendment?

**Senator Shahani.** I am withdrawing my previous amendment.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** All right, the amendment is withdrawn.

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, I move that we close the period of amendments.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1258

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, tomorrow we hope to have clean copies so we can approve this measure on Second and Third Reading because this is a certified measure.

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 28329/SENATE BILL NO. 1430 (National Women's Day)

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, I move that we consider Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions between House Bill No. 28379 and Senate Bill No. 1430 on Women's Day.

I ask that we recognize Senator Lina.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Senator Lina is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LINA

**Senator Lina.** Thank you, Mr. President. I have the honor to report to this august Body the Report of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 28379, entitled

#### AN ACT TO DECLARE THE EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE INTER- NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

and Senate Bill No. 1430, entitled

#### AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL WORKING HOLIDAY FOR WOMEN TO BE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

The Members of the House and the Senate Panel met at lunch time; we have agreed to recommend to their respective Houses that said bills be reconciled and consolidated. I will just read the salient features.

In the consolidated bill, it will be a working special holiday. Meaning, it will be a holiday but it will be a working holiday. It will not only be for women but it will be for women and men.

To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations as well as government units, and employers in private sectors shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted in the premises of their respective offices or establishments to celebrate National Women's Day.

Those are the important points in this Conference Committee Report.

**APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 28379/HOUSE BILL NO. 1430**

I move that the Conference Committee Report be approved.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

*The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill No. 28379/House Bill No. 1430:*

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 28379, entitled

**AN ACT TO DECLARE THE EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.**

Introduced by Congresswoman Puyat-Reyes and Senate Bill No. 1430, entitled

**AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL WORKING HOLIDAY FOR WOMEN TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.**

Introduced by Senators Rasul, Salonga, Laurel, Guingona, Jr., Pimentel, Jr., Paterno, Lina, Jr., Shahani, Tañada, Saguisag, Enrile, Maceda, Alvarez, Angara, Aquino, Gonzales, Herrera, Mercado, Romulo, Osmeña, and Ziga,

having met after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend as they do hereby recommend to their respective Houses that said bills be reconciled and consolidated into the attached bill duly signed by the Conferees.

**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF  
THE SENATE**

(Sgd.) JOSE D. LINA, JR.

(Sgd.) SANTANINA T. RASUL

(Sgd.) ERNESTO M. MACEDA

(Sgd.) JUAN PONCE ENRILE

**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(Sgd.) PABLO P. GARCIA

(Sgd.) CIRILO ROY G. MONTEJO

(Sgd.) MA. CONSUELO PUYAT-REYES

(Sgd.) LORNA VERANO-YAP

KATHERINE H. GORDON

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 1450/HOUSE BILL NO. 25553  
(Veterans' Benefits)**

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we consider the Committee Report on House Bill No. 25553 and the Senate version on the same subject on the Veterans' bill. I ask that we recognize Senator Romulo.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Senator Romulo is recognized.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ROMULO**

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, we would like to report that the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 25553, entitled

**AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE  
BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND  
THEIR DEPENDENTS,**

and Senate Bill No. 1450, entitled

**AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING  
BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND  
THEIR DEPENDENTS,**

have met after a full and free conference has agreed to recommend and duly hereby recommend to their respective Houses that House Bill No. 25553 be approved in consolidation with Senate Bill No. 1450.

The consolidated bill is as presented to this Chamber. On the part of the Senate, your Conferees, Senators Maceda, Mercado, Romulo, Herrera, and Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and, on the part