

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:33 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 Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Guingona.

Dear God in heaven,

In the wake of crisis, give us the strength to make good laws and relevant resolutions;

Give us the will to generate more jobs, secure more meaningful justice;

Give us the vision to gain more food, firmer freedoms;

Teach us that power is not dominion, not injustice, not oppression but service to one another;

Teach us, therefore, to serve the Nation above self;

Teach us humility;

Teach us faith.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	**
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Agapito A. Aquino	Present*
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Joseph Ejercito Estrada	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales	Present
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	**
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga	Absent
The President	Present

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

THE JOURNAL

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move to dis-pense with the reading of the *Journal* of yesterday's ses-sion and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*]. Hearing none, the same is approved.

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Secretary.

February 19, 1991

Hon. Jovito R. Salonga
President of the Senate
Congress of the Philippines
Manila

Sir:

We wish to withdraw the "Agreement between

Secretary of Education. Does that mean that in his more than 70 or 80 ex officio positions in state colleges and universities, he can no longer collect allowances? Will he be spending the P14,000 he earns a month as take-home pay? Abonado pa po iyan. Iyan na nga po ang sinasabi ko.

The law kept on saying that he can only be entitled to this but, to me, there is nothing wrong in giving him some additional amounts in going to these meetings all over the country. That is what should be clarified in the motion for clarification, Mr. President. If that is sustained against him, then the only remedy is to amend the Constitution.

Senator Laurel. I am in agreement with respect to our participation or the participation of anybody in seeking clarification of certain holdings or rulings on the part of the Supreme Court. I am all for that.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, the Privilege Hour has expired for the second time.

The President. The Privilege Hour is extended for a few minutes. Senator Romulo is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Thank you. Just two questions, Mr. President. We would not like to repeat the same questions.

Under this ruling of the Supreme Court, how about the membership in the Executive-Legislative Foreign Debt Council where we have Cabinet Members there and other officials? What would be the implication of this ruling on their membership in the Executive-Legislative Foreign Debt Council?

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President, in the first statement which we read right after the ruling was issued, the President said she was accepting the decision but would seek clarification and, precisely, mentioned such a Body. What does it mean? So, apparently, they are apprehensive that even that would not be allowed, and there are several such Councils. We hope that the Supreme Court

will be more tolerant of certain arrangements which can only be good for the country. I hope that will not be knocked out as invalid because so many laws will be swept away with a similar arrangement.

Senator Romulo. And what is the view of the distinguished Senator under the ruling of the Supreme Court and under the existing constitutional provision?

Senator Saguisag. In my own view, that is not disallowed. I am even willing to grant that subject to a salary cap, a certain modest allowance should be paid, although, if my memory is true, in that particular law we did not grant any per diem.

Senator Romulo. Yes. In that particular membership, Mr. President, there are no emoluments, there are no per diems. I think it is *gratis et amore*.

Senator Saguisag. That is why, I hope it will not be knocked out. Senator Paterno has just made a compelling case for encouraging such a setup. We hope that the Administration will be sustained in the motion for clarification in regard to that Body, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo. That is all, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

BILL ON THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 209 - Komisyon Ng Wikang Pambansa

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 209. Copies of the bill were distributed to all Members of the Senate on February 21, 1991.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 209 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. 209, entitled:

ISANG BATAS NA LUMILIKHA SA KOMISYON NG WIKANG PAMBANSA

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 - 17

Senator Angara*	Senator Osmeña*
Senator Aquino*	Senator Paterno
Senator Enrile*	Senator Pimentel
Senator Gonzales*	Senator Rasul*
Senator Guingona*	Senator Romulo
Senator Herrera	Senator Saguisag*
Senator Laurel*	Senator Salonga*
Senator Maceda	Senator Tañada*
Senator Mercado*	

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF VOTING

The President. With 17 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 209 is approved on Third Reading.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Mr. President, with your permission as well as the Body's, may I explain my vote.

The National Language Commission is a necessity at this juncture in the history of a nation of 7000 islands, five major religions, at least nine major languages and no less than 200 others spoken by a significant minority. It is to the credit of our people's tenacious, but often underrated, nationalism that our indigenous languages have remained alive and vibrant despite successive waves of colonization characterized by determined efforts of the conquering forces to leave a total and lasting imprint of their culture on the native consciousness, something which cannot be said of certain other countries with a similar past; something which cannot be said of other languages which are now mere relics of their former pre-eminence in world affairs.

*With explanation of vote

Our linguistic history runs many parallels with the history of the English language, which has remained one of the strongest and most widely used languages in the world today. The English that is now current, if we will recall, is the product of more than a millenium of cross-breeding between languages of conquest and that of the conquered. While the Roman and Norman invaders held court in their Latin and French, the common folk went from day to day in the Anglo-Saxon tongue, which had evolved over years of tribal migration from Northern Europe--but, as we must point out--not without taking in from the language of the ruling class as much as would serve their ends and enrich their lives. This process of absorption went on for centuries, the result being this international *lingua franca* which we have now learned to use with such mastery that many of us--among whom are not a few of our Colleagues in both Houses of Congress--are loath to give it up.

This bit of history is recalled to underscore the immense potential of the Filipino language if it were only allowed to grow and flourish from its present state without strictures that inhibit. But our country does not have the luxury of a thousand years. We are in great and urgent need of forces that will unite, rather than divide. And a national language is one of these forces.

The bill creating the National Language Commission is an enlightened piece of lawmaking in a number of ways. First, Senate Bill No. 209 acknowledges the distinct contribution of more than one language in the development of a national *lingua franca*. Second, where before there was only a general mandate, Senate Bill No. 209 outlines at least the first concrete steps towards the blending of this rich variety of tongues into a powerful voice for the expression of the Nation's soul. Third, while it takes the path of standardization as one way of hastening the process of language development, Senate Bill No. 209, by limiting the purview of this standardization, allows for a free and dynamic interplay between the creative imagination and the more practical demands of daily living. Fourth, but not the least important, Senate Bill No. 209, by strengthening the national effort at translation, will pave the way towards the full empowerment of our people. Today, half of our countrymen who are schooled in a foreign tongue hold a decisive edge over the other half that are not. Translation will make accessible to these broad masses the knowledge--not to mention the

wisdom of the world--that will help equalize opportunities for the good life. More significantly, perhaps, translation will give the rest of the world more than a glimpse of the lore and the wisdom of the Filipino. For all these reasons, Mr. President, I vote *Yes*.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR AQUINO

Senator Aquino. G. Pangulo, nakasaad sa ating kasalukuyang Saligang-Batas ang pagtatatag ng isang Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa para sa pagpapa-unlad, pagpapalaganap, at pagpapanatili sa Filipino at iba pang mga wikain sa Pilipinas. Ang Panukalang-Batas Blg. 209 ang siyang magbibigay katuparan sa kautusang ito ng ating Saligang-Batas. Kaya ako po ay sang-ayon sa panukalang-batas na ito.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ENRILE

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, I vote in favor of this measure because, like the others, I believe that our nationhood would be incomplete without a tongue, which is indigenous and identified to us as a collective group in the family of nations. On the other hand, given the numbers of tribes in the country, I hope that the Commission will exercise its vision by applying an eclectic way of developing a National Language that would cut across all the various dialects, if possible, in the entire nation so that let it not be said that one dominant group would control this element of our nationhood.

In addition I would like to believe that the Commission should not only think in terms of our parochial national condition, but it must realize that we, after all, are a part of a world that must interact with other political units, sovereign units. In fact, in modern world, the interaction of nations has become so rapid and close because of the emerging modernization of human mobility on our planet. And that it would be in the interest of the Nation for our people to maintain their familiarity with some languages that we have assimilated as a Nation because of our historical past. I think that to continue with our knowledge of Spanish or English, for that matter, would not be to the detriment of the Nation but, on the other hand, it would enhance our growth as a Nation and as a people. If possible, our people should be multilingual, rather than just a monolingual or a bilingual people.

So, with that I pray that we can really devise a national language, and, in addition, relate this national language to the rest of the world, without abandoning our skills in the English language and in the other foreign languages that we have, by accident of history, learned in the course of time.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR GONZALES

Senator Gonzales. May I briefly explain my vote, Mr. President?

Sa pagboto ko po ng sang-ayon sa panukalang-batas na ito, nais kong ipahayag ang aking pag-asa na sa pamamagitan nito, kung ito ay maging batas na at kung ito ay ipatutupad na, darating ang araw na magkakaroon na tayo ng isang tunay na Wikang Pambansa. At naalaala ko tuloy ang isang kasabihang nag-ugat mula kay Gat Jose Rizal, ang pangunahing bayani ng ating bayan, nang kaniyang sabihin na: "Ang hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika ay higit pa sa hayop at malansang isda."

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR GUINGONA

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I sincerely hope that this measure will help us formulate one national language. I hope that it will rectify the wrongs--the wrong procedure, the wrong measure, and the wrong manner of formulating a national language which started in 1935. I hope that this Commission will not unduly concentrate in one national language, not try to purify the same, not try to monopolize words that would make it the national language of only one sector or segment of the Nation.

In so doing, I hope that the Commission will also take into account the media exposure, so that the concentration of media in formulating a national language will be truly national in scope. And I hope that the medium of instruction will also be taken into account in the formulation of the national language. Despite all of these reservations, I, however, vote *Yes*.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR LAUREL

Senator Laurel. Mr. President, I have always been in favor of developing a national language because the national language is and has been called as the soul of the people.

In the 1971-72 Constitutional Convention, I took the lead in espousing and advocating the adoption of Pilipino as the National Language of the country. We lost, because there was that feeling... I think Senator Guingona, Senator Angara, Senator Pimentel, and Senator Alvarez were Members of that Constitutional Convention; they know what happened there. We lost, but there was no bitterness on our part, we, who espoused a National Language, Pilipino, because we had the highest respect and admiration for our brothers who spoke and were endemic to another equally beautiful and rich dialect or language, like Cebuano, Ilonggo, Ilocano, et cetera.

Yet, I said that the time would come, just like in all the other countries, when a national language would be developed, and by force of geography, the language that usually develops is the language of the Metropolitan City of the nation, and that is the capital city. And so, I said in closing, making a few remarks at the end of the debate on the adoption of a national language, "Probably, we had espoused the cause of a national language too soon (1971), and maybe after another 20 years we could decide, setting aside all prejudices and biases, parochial or otherwise, to espouse, in common and together, this bill that has now been presented to us."

And so, the time has come. Let us hasten the adoption of a national language, the development of a national language, based not on one single language or dialect, but on all the other dialects of the country. I vote Yes, Mr. President.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. G. Pangulo, ang panukalang batas na ito ay may isang mensahe. Ito ay ang mensahe ng pagkakaisa, pagbubuklod-buklod, saan mang rehiyon tayo nabibilang at ano mang wika ang ating kinagisnan. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit natin pinahahalagahan ang gintong diwa ng Panukalang Batas Blg. 219.

Ang nilalayan nating itatag na Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa, tulad ng alam na natin, ay bubuuin ng siyam na Komisyonado na siyang kakatawan sa siyam na etnolinggwistikang grupo sa buong kapuluan. Iyan po ay isa lamang pagkilala ng Kapulungang ito sa katotohanan na ang bawat umiiral na wikain sa Pilipinas ay may kaniyang likas o bukal at mayayamang diwa, talinghaga

at salita na siyang didilig sa ating pinaunlad at pinag-yamang Pilipino--ang ating Pambansang Wika.

Ako po ay bumoboto ng isang umaalingawngaw na Oo.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, I vote Yes with serious misgivings. It is almost 55 years since the Institute of National Language was formed, and we still have the same problem. It only proves that we cannot really legislate a National Language. We cannot really force people to speak an alien tongue.

I am voting Yes because I share the hope that, perhaps, the Commission will now realize that each region of the country should be allowed to develop its own tongue and that there should be no linguistic imperialism in this country.

Thank you.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR RASUL

Senator Rasul. May I explain my vote, Mr. President. I have always believed that a sovereign nation should have its own National Language. But a National Language that is to reflect the culture and history of a country such as ours which has 87 ethno-linguistic groups should also incorporate in that National Language the vocabulary from the different ethno-linguistic groups.

While we have that many ethnic groups all over the country, I feel sad to find out that, while the Commission has ten members—one Chairman and nine Associate Commissioners—nine of them come from Luzon and Visayas, and only one represents Mindanao. The composition of this institute reflects the usual bias against Mindanao.

While I vote Yes with a heavy heart, I hope that the Conference Committee will rectify this historic and usual anomaly when it comes to representation for Mindanao, and include in the composition, at least, the two dominant dialects of Mindanao which are Tausug and Maranaw.

Thank you, Mr. President.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR SAGUISAG

Senator Saguisag. *Oo ang aking boto.* Nais ko lamang pong humingi ng kaunting panahon para ipaliwanag sa isang kasulatan ang aking boto.

Salamat po.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR TAÑADA

Senator Tañada. Sang-ayon po ako sa panukalang-batas na ito. Hihingi lamang po ako ng pagkakataon na maisulat ang ilang mga dahilan kung bakit sang-ayon ako sa panukalang-batas na ito.

Maraming salamat po.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

The President. Matagal ko na pong pinangarap na magkaroon ng isang wika ang buong bansang Pilipino, batay sa mga wikang umiral sa ibat-ibang dako ng ating Republika.

Sa pamamagitan ng Komisyon ng Wikang Pam-bansa, malaki ang aking paniniwala na unti-unting magkakaroon ng kaganapan ang pangarap na ito. Ang ating marubdob na pagnahais ay ang magkaroon tayo ng higit na pagkakaisa sa pamamagitan ng isang wika at nang tayo ay makabangon naman bilang isang lahi, isang bansa, at umunlad ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Ako ay bumubuto ng sang-ayon sa panukalang-batas na ito.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that Senate Committee Report No. 1205 on House Bill No. 31178, authorizing the restitution of losses suffered by the sugar producers from crop years 1974-1975 to 1984-1985 due to the actions of government-owned and controlled agencies, be transferred to the Calendar for Special Orders.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the same is approved.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 1152 on Senate Bill No. 1663 entitled, "AN ACT TO PROMOTE COUNTRYSIDE INDUSTRIALIZATION..."

The President. Does not the Gentleman think it is time now to declare a brief break?

Senator Guingona. Yes, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. All right. Let us have a brief break, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 5:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 1663 - Countryside Industrialization

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1663 as reported out under Committee Report No. 1152.

The President. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1663 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 whole text thereof.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1663, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE COUNTRYSIDE INDUSTRIALIZATION THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT THEREIN OF SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SCALE MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The following is the full text of the proposed Senate Bill No. 1663: