

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:21 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 Rene Saguisag.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Saguisag.

Mahal na Panginoon:

Magtatatlong linggo na po ang giyera sa Gulpo ngunit lagi pa ring laman ng aming isipan ito.

Sana po ay pakinggan ang Santo Papa sa kanyang panawagan na huwag mangambang mag-usap ang kinauukulan.

May we never waver in the conviction that You allow evil, to have the good emerge triumphant in the end. Night makes us appreciate the day just past and the inevitable morrow. You see the truth but wait: Do guide our world leaders to see it and have them follow the conventions of decency governing violent conflicts between nations.

Of *amicicide* (or death by friendly fire), homicide, or worst, genocide, we have enough of.

Kindly make the war brief that the sun will shine again, as if to follow some sudden summer rain.

Near Basra, Iraq is supposed to be the Garden of Eden.

Para bagang wala pong natutuhan ang Inyong nilalang, na kung magmahalan ay parang magkapatid--na si Cain at si Abel.

Pagpalain po Ninyo ang Inyong marurupok na mga anak at tulungan po Ninyo kaming magbago.

Siya nawa.

ROLL CALL

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

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present
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	Absent
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.....	**
Senator Santanina T. Rasul	Absent
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. Labing-walong 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 approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*]

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

much less the leadership of this Body. What we talked about were matters of public interest which is the concern of every Member of this Body. It went on to the countrywide development program, which is of common interest among the Members of this Body, and of which we have taken up in caucus several times. We have urged the Senate President to urge the President to authorize the release. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with that.

As far as the list of our projects is concerned, we already submitted our projects. According to the President, she has already authorized the second release.

Insofar as the designation of Senator Aquino as so-called liaison, at least, he is for those present *sapagkat sila lamang naman ang nagbigay ng pahintulot*. It is not a Senate action, but only of those present. It refers to other personal matters which the Members of Congress present there may want individually to bring to the attention of the President.

So it was thought that it would be more convenient if only one was designated for the purpose. It was a unanimous agreement. *Hindi naman nagprisinta si Senator Aquino*. He was the unanimous choice. It is not necessary for the countrywide project. It might be the countrywide development project. We might want some changes in the list which we previously submitted. We--at least, those present--are not binding those who are not present. We are not binding anyone who is not a part of that agreement. I also refuse to apologize or make any explanation to them, *sapagkat hindi naman sila part of our agreement*.

Kaya, iyon po lamang. Pero, medyo masama ang dating ng salitang "I think Senator Aquino is to supplement the Malacañang liaison officer." That will be very demeaning to Senator Aquino. *Hindi po iyon ang intention. Masyado po naman nating pinabababa ang kalagayan ng isang kasamahang Senador kung iyon ay ipapasok natin sa ating isipan*. So that was it.

I found it very helpful to me, at least. *Medyo mahina ang ulo ko*. So I found it very, very helpful; *marami akong natutuhan*. Like Senator Shahani and the others who spoke before me, I hope there will be more. *At kung maaari*, all of us will be taken into such intimate talks where we can come out candidly.

I will tell the Senate President *na marami kaming candid expressions--na hindi natin maaaring sabihin--na sinabi sa ating Pangulo* at that time. We do not have any wish to clutter our records with those; *ngunit ang lahat ng iyon ay may kinalaman sa ating mga tungkulin bilang mga Senador*, either individually or collectively.

Kaya, uulitin ko po: Wala kaming napag-usapan doon na sukat nagtarak ng ano mang balaraw o kutsilyo sa likod ng sinuman dito sa buong Senado, much less the Senate leadership. We made that plain to the Press when we made a briefing of what had taken place during the hearing.

Iyon po lamang. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Any more? [Silence] Since there is no more, the Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 209 - Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 209 as reported out under Committee Report No. 329.

The President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 209 is now in order.

Senator Guingona. We are now in the period of Committee amendments, Mr. President. I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado.

The President. Senator Mercado is recognized.

What is the status now, Senator Mercado?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, during the last session when we took up this measure, we were able to approve Committee amendments. However, we have additional Committee amendments which we would like to propose.

The President. All right. We are working on the basis of the January 30 version, I suppose?

Senator Mercado. Yes, Mr. President. It is a new

draft that was circulated to the Members of the Senate.

The following additional Committee amendments are in line with the amendments adopted previously where we changed the number of commissioners from 17 to nine.

The President. What page is that?

Senator Mercado. I would like to propose on page 3, line 3, the deletion of the word "six" and the number "(6)" inside the open and close parenthesis, and in lieu thereof, put the word THREE and the number 3.

The President. All right. The version in the national language should also be changed correspondingly.

Senator Mercado. Yes, Mr. President.

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

Senator Mercado. Still on the same page, Mr. President, on line 4, I move for the deletion of the word "six" and the number "6" inside the open and close parenthesis, and in lieu thereof, the word "FOUR" and the number "4" to be substituted.

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

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, for additional Committee amendments, I would like to ask that we recognize Senator Angara, the Chairman of the Committee on Education, Culture and Sports, who will explain the additional Committee amendments.

The President. Senator Angara is recognized.

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

There are additional Committee amendments which we want to include.

On page 4, delete lines 9-16, from the phrase "to this end" ending with the word "instruction" on line 16.

The President. In this version, all those lines appear in capital letters.

Senator Angara. That is right, Mr. President.

The President. Apparently they were former Committee amendments.

Senator Angara. Yes, we are withdrawing that amendment, and we are going to introduce a new one.

The President. Should we not reconsider them first?

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President, we ask that it be reconsidered.

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

Senator Angara. On page 5, Mr. President...

The President. Is the amendment just the deletion?

Senator Angara. Yes, Mr. President. Later on, at the end of this section, we will introduce the new amendment.

The President. So the amendment is to delete lines 9 to 16.

Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Angara. On page 5, Mr. President, delete lines 9 to 11, beginning with the phrase "to endeavor" ending with the word "levels."

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

Senator Angara. I am going to introduce, the substitute amendment to what we have deleted.

Immediately after line 8, the word "orthography", insert the following amendments. A copy of this amendment which is rather lengthy has been circulated, and I will read it for the record.

(5) TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE BY PROVIDING THEM EASY ACCESS TO WELL-STUDIED AND ACCURATE TRANSLATIONS OF BILLS, LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS, EXECUTIVE ISSUANCES, OFFICIAL RECORDS, PRIVATE DOCUMENTS, CREATIVE WORKS, TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS. TO THIS END, THE COMMISSION SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN, WITHIN ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, A DIVISION ON TRANSLATION WHICH SHALL COORDINATE A NETWORK OF TRANSLATION PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER ACCREDITED AGENCIES, COVERING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, BUSINESS OR INDUSTRIAL WORKS, SOCIO-POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND MAJOR CREATIVE WORKS.

The President. Let us stop there and approve that. Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Angara. Then, the amendment continues:

The President. Yes.

Senator Angara.

THE DIVISION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS, AMONG OTHERS:

(a) RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON ALL ASPECTS OF TRANSLATION.

(b) ACCREDITATION OF OFFICIAL TRANSLATORS.

(c) DETERMINE THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES IN TRANSLATION PROGRAMS.

(d) INITIATE, UNDERTAKE, AND CONTRACT WITH QUALIFIED PERSONS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, FOR THE TRANSLATION OF WORKS AND THEIR PUBLICATION AND DISPOSITION.

(e) ACT AS THE REPOSITORY AND

CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL TRANSLATED WORKS.

(f) COORDINATE WITH APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, FOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND ARCHIVING OF TRANSLATED WORKS.

(3) TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE WRITING AND PUBLICATION OF ORIGINAL WORKS, INCLUDING TEXTBOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS, IN FILIPINO AND OTHER MAJOR PHILIPPINE LANGUAGES.

The President. All right. Just a little question: Under letter (d) INITIATE, UNDERTAKE, AND CONTRACT WITH... Is that to enter into contracts with?

Senator Angara. You are correct, Mr. President, that is a more elegant phrasing of this.

The President. All right. Is there any objection as amended? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Angara. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, at this juncture, I would like to make a motion that Senators Herrera, Angara as well as Senator Estrada be named as co-authors of this measure.

The President. All right.

Senator Herrera. Mr. President, I would just like to thank Senator Mercado for making me a co-sponsor of this bill.

The President. The Chair would like to volunteer also, if it is agreeable to the Sponsor.

Senator Mercado. It will be an honor, Mr. President. In fact, if there is no objection, we would like to make a motion that all the other Senators who are here be made co-authors.

The President. I think that might be better; more appropriate unless there is any objection. Is there any

objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, those are our committee amendments.

The President. Are there any individual amendments? [Silence]

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, Senator Osmeña is requesting, and I think rightly so, for a clean copy.

The President. All right. Let us have a clean copy first.

Senator Mercado. We are amenable, Mr. President.

The President. All right.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 209

Senator Guingona. So with all the amendments already in, we ask for the suspension of the consideration of this measure.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 1492 - Creating the National
Commission for Culture and the Arts
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1492 as reported out under Committee Report No. 1007. We are in the period of interpellations, I ask that we recognize Senator Alvarez.

The President. Senator Alvarez is recognized.

Senator Alvarez. Yes, Mr. President.

I would like to request, Mr. President, the participation of Senator Shahani who is a co-author of this measure.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. Shall we suspend the session for a minute, if there is no objection? [There was none.]

It was 4:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

So the principal Sponsor, Senator Alvarez can continue.

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, may I ask the distinguished Lady from Pangasinan to share the burden with me in responding to the vexing problems that may be encountered in threshing out this measure?

The President. Not only the burden, but also the glory.

All right. Any further interpellations on this measure? Is there any interpellation?

Senator Maceda. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, we indorse the general purposes of the bill. I was just wondering if this is a National Commission of Culture and the Arts which is really in the nature of--as far as membership in the Commission and honorary and honorific appointment, recognition of their accomplishment, why does it seem that substantial per diems and travel expenses are provided for the members of the Commission?

Senator Shahani. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Shahani is recognized.

Senator Shahani. It is envisaged that some members of the Commission will come from other parts of the