

## RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 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 Vicente T. Paterno.

*Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.*

### PRAYER

**Senator Paterno.** God our Father,

We pray for the peoples of the Middle East, that they may again experience the absence of war at the earliest possible time. We especially ask Your protection on our countrymen who are there.

We pray for the rulers of all Middle Eastern nations, without any exception. Enlighten them to seek the true long run interests of their countries and peoples even at the sacrifice of the ruler's personal or family ambitions.

Grant Your special blessings on the men and women in the forces of the United Nations coalition, as they defend the safety of our country's vital supplies of oil from the Arabian Gulf, and of the territory of Saudi Arabia, in which hundreds of thousands of our countrymen live and work.

Amen.

### ROLL CALL

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

**The Secretary.**

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez..... Present  
Senator Edgardo J. Angara ..... Present

\*Arrived after the roll call

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 .....	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. Saguigay .....	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-siyam na 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 Journal is approved.

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**The Secretary.**

January 23, 1991

**Mr. President:**

I have been directed to inform the Senate that on January 22, 1991, the House of Representatives agreed to a conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 32696, entitled

tives. Because that amendment of Senator Enrile is more profitable and profit-oriented, and it also exploits and develops major species, not minor products only, such as *gubas*. And if that is approved, I will press for the amendment. Otherwise, if that is the consistent restriction that there should be no profits, very strict, et cetera, it is logical that I will not push for the amendment.

**Senator Mercado.** We will leave the matter, Mr. President, to our Colleagues, to their individual decisions.

**Senator Guingona.** So I reserve the right, Mr. President, to present the amendment at the right time.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** All right. Is Senator Mercado finished with his individual amendments? Any other individual amendments?

**Senator Alvarez.** Mr. President.

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

**Senator Alvarez.** Mr. President, since there are no more proposed amendments, may we ask for a clean copy of the bill, which we can take into consideration next time, incorporating the amendments.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** All right. So, we will have a clean copy of the bill which will incorporate all the individual amendments already accepted.

The Majority Floor Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1404

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of this measure.

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

#### 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 Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 209 is now in order.

**Senator Guingona.** We are in the period of interpellations. I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado.

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

**Senator Herrera.** Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is it not that we are in the period of amendments?

**Senator Mercado.** Unless there are no other interpellations, we can proceed to the period of amendments, Mr. President.

**Senator Guingona.** We are still in the period of interpellations, but if there are no other interpellations, Mr. President, ...

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President.

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

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, will the distinguished Sponsor yield to a few questions?

**Senator Mercado.** Gladly, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, my questions will mainly focus on Section 3. I do not know if what we have here is a clean copy, or do I understand that there has been a proposed amendment to this Section 3?

**Senator Mercado.** To what Section is the Gentleman referring?

**Senator Osmeña.** Section 3, Mr. President: "The Commission shall be composed of the chairman and seventeen (17) associate commissioners, thirteen (13) to represent the thirteen (13) political regions."

If I remember right, I was told the composition of the commission was going to be changed.

**Senator Mercado.** That is correct, Mr. President. In the interpellation, we have manifested our willingness to accept an amendment, scaling down the number of members of the Commission to eleven, and I think Senator Herrera wants to propose another amendment to the same. We still maintain an open mind on the number of commissioners.

The reason we have been articulating that eight could be a minimum number, was to protect the eight major languages that will be represented in the Commission with one chairman.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, I have no problem with the number of commissioners, but my interest here is that the composition of the Commission must reflect the ethnic distribution in the country, so that this Commission does not again become a vehicle of Tagalog imperialism.

**Senator Mercado.** I agree, Mr. President, that nine would be the irreducible limit, because there would be already, among the nine members, a chairman and eight representatives of the major languages in the country.

**Senator Osmeña.** Anyway, Mr. President, what I will do is, I will wait for the amendment, and I will enter the debate on the specific amendment.

**Senator Mercado.** We would welcome the questions, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Are there any other interpellations?

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

**Senator Guingona.** I move that we close the period of interpellations.

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

**Senator Guingona.** We are in the period of Committee Amendments, Mr. President.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, there are other Committee Amendments that are going to be distributed, but in the meantime, we would ...

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Can we call for a suspension of the session?

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 4:43 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 4:55 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The session is resumed.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, we would like to read the Committee amendments. The first committee amendment is on Section 3, page 2, line 4. We move for the deletion of the word "labimpitong" and in lieu thereof, insert the word "SIYAM (9)".

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

**Senator Mercado.** From line 4 to line 10, Section 3, it should read as follows: "SIYAM (9) ang kakatawan sa MGA GRUPONG ETNOLINGGUWISTIKA TULAD NG: TAGALOG, SEBUANO, ILOKANO, PANGASINAN, KAPAMPANGAN, BIKOL, HILIGAYNON, WARAY AT ANG NANGINGIBABAW NA WIKA SA MINDANAO."

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Tañada]. Is there any objection?

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Tañada]. Senator Osmeña.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, will the distinguished Sponsor yield to a few questions?

**Senator Mercado.** Gladly, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña.** Are we to understand that the rest of this paragraph, which has other materials, is going to be deleted?

**Senator Mercado.** Yes, Mr. President, in lieu of the manifestation of other Senators, that the original number 17 was too large; even the 13 commissioners was found to be still too large.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, would the Gentleman have information as to what percent of the Philippine population speaks Tagalog as its mother tongue?

**Senator Mercado.** Yes, Mr. President. *Percentage of Language Generally Spoken in Private Households.* The census, Mr. President, is dated 1980, Volume II, *National Summary, Census of Population and Housing*, Philippine National Census and Statistics Office:

Tagalog, the percentage is 29.66% of households. Cebuano, 24.20%; Ilokano, 10.30%; Hiligaynon, 9.16%; Bikol, 5.57%; Waray, 3.98%; Kapampangan, 2.77%; and Pangasinan, 1.84%.

Mr. President, those are the percentages of the major languages spoken in the country according to the Statistics Office.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, given this distribution, would it be fair to say that there should, at least, be three Tagalogs in the Commission or about one third of the membership? And there should, at least, be two Cebuanos in the Commission and down the line so that Pangasinan which is spoken only by 1 percent, and Kapampangan which is spoken by 2 percent, have equal

representations with Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilokano, and even Hiligaynon which is spoken by 10 percent.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, the way we see this particular measure, the intent is for the languages to have representatives. I do not think what was meant here was proportional representation. Inasmuch as this is going to be a group that will study and do some researches and help find ways to advance the national language, we believe that the matter of proportional representation, in a Body like this, where, I presume, the voting will not be as prevalent as a collegial body like this, is safe enough already if we have the voices of the various major languages in the Philippines represented.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, conceivably, the Executive could appoint as an Ilocano, actually, a Tagalog who has Ilocano roots but who grew up in Manila, and, therefore, it would defeat that purpose. Down the line, we can conceivably have a Pangasinense who is--well, I do not want to mention personalities, but a lot of names come to my mind. I mean, Ilocanos would actually be more Tagalog than they would be Ilocanos.

So, in effect, given the track record of this Administration, especially Administrative Order No. 335, of which we, Cebuanos, are very allergic, we have no confidence in the lack of bias and fairness of the Executive. We might end up with a Commission again packed with Tagalog speakers.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, the original proposal of the measure was to have 17, and that would have a representative from the Judiciary, the Executive Branch, the academe, and the media. I think that would have provided a mix that would allow the development of a language without the domination of one particular language.

But we have to backtrack a bit because of reasons of economy. This has been the major objection in the period of interpellations. We have agreed to nine, as long as one representative comes from the major language. The fact that there might be appointed some representatives from the various regions and, yet, they may be more familiar with Tagalog, is already a matter in the area of the implementation of the law. We can craft a language that will admonish the Executive Branch to see to it that

the appointment is truly representative of the various languages. But then, again, that is something which is very difficult to determine because of the level of usage of Filipino, as it is now, as is admitted even, is Tagalog, the major base of Filipino, and as even admitted by Senator Herrera.

And so, these are very difficult things to quantify or to identify. It is more amorphous and nebulous than anything else. But we would welcome suggestions that would ensure a judicial representation of the regions.

**Senator Osmeña.** One suggestion, Mr. President, is that they should be residents of the regions they represent. Is there a qualification for the commissioner, wherein that commissioner will have to be a resident? So, if he is an Ilocano, he must reside in an Ilocano-speaking province, and not be an Ilocano who has been transported to Manila.

**Senator Mercado.** But then, Mr. President, after he is appointed, invariably, he will come home and attend...

**Senator Osmeña.** Yes, Mr. President. There is no way we can stop him from moving. But, at least, if a person who was born in Laoag grew up in Laoag--maybe, a lawyer practising in Laoag--we would know that person is an Ilocano by cultural instincts and environment.

But if we have an Ilocano who was born in Manila, grew up in Manila, and practising his profession in Manila, chances are, that person is not really attuned to the culture of that region. He may have his roots in that region. We have Cebuanos here, Mr. President. I will point out to the Secretary of Finance, who was born in Cebu, but has been, shall we say, seduced by imperial Manila. *[Laughter]*

So, there is no guarantee, Mr. President.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, we agree with that philosophy. If individual amendments in this particular area will be proposed, we would welcome such individual amendments. We do realize that we must have true representatives from the various regions speaking the real language. This has been our complaint about sectoral representatives.

For example, I remember during the time--I cannot forget the story--when one defeated politician came to me and asked that I help him get appointed as congressman representing the peasant sector. He was riding in a Mercedes Benz when he came to my home to visit me and asked for my endorsement. I do not know. He was not appointed.

**Senator Osmeña.** That is exactly what I am afraid of, Mr. President--the perversion or the distortion of this intent. I hold the view that this sectoral business of representation is really to accommodate the unelected and the unelectable. A sectoral representative is somebody who cannot win an election.

In any case, Mr. President, is there a provision here wherein the product of this Commission would be subjected to a plebiscite or some form of a popular vote?

**Senator Mercado.** We know of no provision under said condition, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña.** Is there a provision, Mr. President, where the Members of this Commission are subjected to the vote of the Commission on Appointments?

**Senator Mercado.** Yes, Mr. President, I think it would improve the appointment process if they would have to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, because then the questions that have been raised by Senator Osmeña can be settled at the confirmation process.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, another thing is: Is this bill a Senate bill or is there a companion measure approved in the House?

**Senator Mercado.** There is a similar measure in the House, Mr. President.

**Senator Osmeña.** Does the distinguished Gentleman know the status of that measure?

**Senator Mercado.** We will check, Mr. President. I think it has been passed already.

**Senator Osmeña.** I will support the amendment, as

worded here, on nine members, and then, I will later on introduce amendments to safeguard the interest of the Cebuano-speaking people.

**Senator Mercado.** We understand the Senator's zeal.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** So, with that reservation, is there any objection to the amendment? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

**Senator Mercado.** On line 11, page 2, Section 3, delete the phrase "di bababa sa tatlumpu't limang (35) taong gulang" and insert the following: TATLUMPU (30) HANGGANG tatlumpu't limang (35) taong gulang.

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

**Senator Mercado.** On line 12, page 2, Section 3, we move for the deletion of the word "kasanayan", and instead insert the word PAGKADALUBHASA.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is there any objection? Senator Osmeña.

**Senator Osmeña.** Here alone, Mr. President, we really have language problems. I understand what "kasanayan" is; which everybody knows what "sanay" is. What is this word "pagkadalubhasa"?

**Senator Mercado.** "Pagkadalubhasa" would mean expertise.

**Senator Osmeña.** How does it differentiate from kasanayan, Mr. President?

**Senator Mercado.** To my mind, that denotes a lower level of competence. Sanay lamang; training. Nasanay siya o sinanay siya. He was trained. So there is a difference between skill and expertise.

**Senator Osmeña.** Thank you, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Mercado.** On line 13, page 2, Section 3, delete the phrase "at panitikan ng wika ng mga rehiyong kinakatawan nila", and insert the phrase AT MGA WIKA SA PILIPINAS.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is there any objection? Senator Osmeña.

**Senator Osmeña.** Mr. President, again here, if I understand this right, the Gentleman is substituting the phrase which means knowledge of the language that they represent to a phrase, "languages of the Philippines." Is that correct? Mga wika sa Pilipinas. Because the original phrase meant familiarity with the language of the region that he represents.

**Senator Mercado.** Yes, Mr. President, because we are not speaking of regional representation anymore. We are speaking of eight major languages and one major language in Mindanao.

**Senator Osmeña.** Even here, Mr. President, the Gentleman is requiring that the Commissioner should have knowledge of all the languages--mga wika. So the Gentleman would require a Cebuano who speaks Ilocano, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bicol, Waray. In the same way, he would require a Pangasinense who would also have knowledge of Ilocano and Bicol, the way this is written, the way I understand it, Mr. President.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

**Senator Mercado.** We would ask for a suspension, Mr. President. I will clarify it with the Chairman of the Committee.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 5:10 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

*At 5:15 p.m., the session was resumed.*

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The session is resumed.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, there has been a question, and I think Senator Osmeña would like to propose an amendment to our amendment.

**Senator Osmeña.** Yes, Mr. President. I would like to propose that the amendment should state—I do not know how they are going to phrase this, but it should state that that person should be conversant, or knowledgeable, or has an expertise in the ethno-linguistic group that he represents. I will leave it to Senator Mercado.

**Senator Mercado.** Yes, Mr. President, instead of "MGA WIKA SA PILIPINAS". Because what will happen here is, we will require someone who would have expertise and knowledge of all languages. We agree with Senator Osmeña that such seems a very difficult qualification. So we accept the amendment with the statement that his expertise would be in the language, "at panitikan ng wika ng mga rehiyong kinakatawanan nila."

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Subject to refinement and style.

**Senator Mercado.** Anyway, subject to refinement as to style.

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

**Senator Lina.** Mr. President.

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

**Senator Lina.** Kung maaari pong bumalik tayo sa linya...

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** We are still in the period of Committee amendments.

**Senator Lina.** Pinagtibay na po natin, hindi na maaaring palitan.

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, I think Senator Lina would like to point out something that has to be corrected in one of the Committee amendments.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** All right.

**Senator Mercado.** On page 2.

**Senator Lina.** Doon po sa pahina 2, ang amendment na ating tinanggap ay alisin iyong nasa linya 11: "di bababa sa tatlumpu't limang (35) taong gulang", at pinalitan natin iyon ng TATLUMPU HANGGANG TATLUMPU'T LIMANG TAONG GULANG. Hindi po magiging maganda iyon sapagkat ang lalabas na maaaring maging miyembro lamang ng Komisyon ay iyong ang edad ay tatlumpu hanggang tatlumpu't limang taong gulang. Hindi naman po ganoon ang intensiyon natin, kundi ibaba lamang iyong pinakamababang edad maaaring maging miyembro, mula sa treinta'y singko, ay ibaba sa treinta o tatlumpu.

**Senator Mercado.** We agree, Mr. President, that this is a mistake when the Committee amendments were prepared, so we would like to move for the reconsideration of our decision approving that particular Committee amendment.

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

**Senator Lina.** Kaya ang amendment lamang po ay palitan iyong "tatlumpu't limang taon"; ng TATLUMPU TAONG GULANG, para ang minimum age ay treinta, o tatlumpu.

**Senator Mercado.** The Committee accepts that as its own amendment, Mr. President.

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

**Senator Mercado.** On page 2, Section 4, line 19, delete the phrase, "unang limang (5)" and then insert the phrase DALAWANG PANGALAWANG.

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

**Senator Mercado.** On page 2, Section 4, Line 21, delete the words "anim (6) na" and insert the word, LIMANG (5).

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

Senator Mercado. On page 2, Section 4, line 22, delete the word "limang (5)" and instead insert TATLONG (3). After the word "taon", add the following phrase: NANG WALANG MULING PAGTATALLAGA.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendments are approved.

Senator Mercado. On page 3, lines 2 to 3, delete the phrase "mga Kasamang" and insert the phrase ANG DALAWANG PANGALAWANG.

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

Senator Mercado. On page 3, line 5, Section 5, add a second sentence which reads as follows: ANG SAHOD NG IBA PANG MIYEMBRO NG KOMISYON NA HINDI BUONG-PANAHON ANG PAGLILINGKOD AY ITATAKDA NG KOMISYON.

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

Senator Mercado. On page 3, lines 11 to 13, Section 7, delete the phrase "Tungo rito, ito ay magmumungkahi at magbabalangkas ng mga programa sa pananaliksik at pag-aaral ng mga umiiral na wikang Pilipino,".

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

Senator Mercado. On page 3, line 20, Section 7, after the phrase "taong 2000", delete the semicolon and put a period, and add the following: PARA SA LAYUNING ITO, ANG KOMISYON AY MAGSASAGAWA NG PAGSASALIN NG MGA AKLAT-ARALIN, SANGGUNIANG-AKLAT AT IBA PANG KAGAMI-

TANG GINAGAMIT SA MGA PAARALAN SA PILIPINAS SA LAHAT NG ANTAS. MAGSISIMULA ANG KOMISYON SA MAAYOS NA PAGSASANAY NG MGA TAGASALING-WIKA AT MAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN ITO SA KAGAWARAN SA EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS AT IBA PANG INSTITUSYON SA MATAAS NA ANTAS NG PAG-AARAL, KAPWA PAMPUBLIKO O PRIBADO, SA PAGLINANG, PAG-AATAS, AT PAGPATUPAD NG FILIPINO BILANG WIKANG PANTURO.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is there any objection? [Silence] Hearing none, the amendments are approved.

Senator Mercado. On page 4, Section 7, we move for the deletion of subparagraph (5).

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

Senator Mercado. On page 4, Section 8, line 16, delete the phrase "maghanda ng isang" and insert the following: NA GAWING NAPAPANAHON O AMYENDAAN KUNG KINAKAILANGAN ANG MGA UMIIRAL NA.

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

Senator Mercado. On page 4, Section 8, lines 17 to 19, we move for the deletion of the sentence.

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

Senator Mercado. On page 4, lines 21 to 22, Section 9, delete the phrase "kapag pinagtibay ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas".

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

Senator Mercado. On page 5, lines 2 to 3, Section



10, delete the phrase "batay sa pagsang-ayon ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas".

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

**Senator Mercado.** On page 5, line 15, Section 13; delete the phrase, "isandaan at limampung milyong piso (P150,000,000.00)", and insert the phrase LIMAMPUNG MILYONG PISO (P50,000,000).

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

**Senator Mercado.** On page 6, line 16, Section 17, delete the word "dalawang (2)" and instead insert the word ISANG.

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

**Senator Mercado.** Those, so far, Mr. President, are the Committee amendments.

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The Majority Floor Leader.

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

**Senator Mercado.** Mr. President, I believe that the Chairman of the Committee would like to add or to propose additional Committee amendments. So I suggest that we keep the Committee amendments.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF SENATE BILL NO. 209

**Senator Guingona.** I withdraw that, Mr. President. I move that we suspend consideration of the measure.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is there

any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the motion is approved.

**Senator Mercado.** We would like also to request the Secretariat to provide us with clean copies so that we will have a working draft and to translate.... I believe, Mr. President and Mr. Majority Leader, that we have accepted that we are going to use the English version as our basis for the discussion.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** The Secretary is so directed.

**Senator Aquino.** Mr. President.

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

**Senator Aquino.** Mr. President, in the old form, we have English and Filipino versions. I suggest that we keep that so that we can start practising in Filipino.

**Senator Mercado.** I have no objection, personally. It is just that there was a suggestion from the Chair--if I remember right--that we have only one draft that we will use and have the same translated later.

It is not a big matter as far as I am concerned. To my mind, it would be better if we have both. But if the Body decides in using English or Tagalog only, it would not pose a serious problem as far as this Representation is concerned.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** So the suggestion of Senator Aquino is accepted.

**Senator Aquino.** I was suggesting that we keep the same form. It is in Filipino with English translation below for those who cannot understand Filipino very well, or Tagalog as the case may be.

**Senator Guingona.** But no Kapampangan, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada].** Is the suggestion acceptable to the principal Sponsor?

**Senator Mercado.** We have no objection to that

procedural suggestion, Mr. President.

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Tañada]. Mr. Majority Floor Leader.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF SENATE BILL NO. 209**

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, we move for the suspension of the consideration of this measure.

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

**SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION**

The session is suspended for our usual break, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

*It was 5:26 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION**

*At 5:46 p.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Ernesto M. Maceda, presiding.*

**The Presiding Officer** [Senator Maceda]. The session is resumed.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

**Senator Guingona.** Mr. President, I move that the following Committee Reports be transferred to the Calendar for Special Orders:

Committee Report No. 1068 on House Bill No. 5763, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALASIAO, MUNICIPALITY OF KIBLAWAN, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNOR NONITO D. LLANOS, SR. HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

Committee Report No. 55 on Senate Bill No. 19,

entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PRIVATIZATION OF MINI-HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES; AND

Committee Report No. 1196 on Senate Bill No. 1709, entitled

AN ACT TO UNIFY GOVERNMENT PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ENERGY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ENERGY CONSERVATION, THROUGH THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD INTO AN ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION.

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

We have an Additional Reference of Business.

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**The Secretary.**

January 29, 1991

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on January 28, 1991, passed House Bill No. 32939, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.