

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:07 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang pulong ng Senado.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The President. Aawitin ng Musikappelle ng Seventh Day Adventist Church ang Pambansang Awit at *May Bukas Pa*, at pagkatapos pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Sotero H. Laurel.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem and for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Laurel.

All powerful and living God:

Besieged on all sides by the forces of evil, we are in our country in mortal danger of perishing. Come to our rescue now and tarry not.

Save us from our enemies of all types — robbers, murderers, crooks and grafters;

Save us from cartels and monopolies, from tax evaders and smugglers, rebels, coup plotters, terrorists, dissidents and traitors;

Save us from nuclear weapons, from human rights violators, pedophiles, spoilers and polluters of nature, drug abusers and illicit traffickers and gambling syndicates;

Save us from the back-breaking load of a mounting foreign debt, from unmitigated budgetary deficits, and from a continuing population explosion;

Against all these enemies of our people, we implore the Lord, stay by our side, yes, but only if we are ourselves on your side.

Above all, Lord, save us from ourselves!

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
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	**
Senator Alberto G. Romulo	Present
Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag	Present
Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani	**
Senator Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano	Present
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga	Present
The President	Present

The President. Dalawampu't isang Senador ang dumalo sa ating pulong; mayroon tayong korum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of last Friday's session and consider the same as approved.

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

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary. Joint Resolution No. 9, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (CRS) TO PROVIDE THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO RELEVANT DATA AND INFORMATION AND

**On official mission

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR SAGUISAG

Senator Saguisag. After listening to Senators Maceda and Osmefia and looking at the records, I do not believe that I have an informed or intelligent basis for voting either way. I, therefore, maintain my abstention during the Second Reading.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BILL ON THIRD READING

Senate Bill No. 1430 — National Women's Day

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading, on Senate Bill No. 1430. Printed copies of the bill were distributed to all Members of the Senate last March 8, 1990.

The President Pro Tempore. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1430 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. 1430, entitled

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

The President Pro Tempore. 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 - 20

Senator Alvarez
Senator Angara
Senator Aquino*
Senator Enrile
Senator Estrada
Senator Gonzales
Senator Guingona
Senator Herrera
Senator Laurel
Senator Lina*

Senator Maceda*
Senator Mercado
Senator Osmefia
Senator Paterno
Senator Pimentel
Senator Romulo
Senator Saguisag
Senator Tamano
Senator Tafiada
Senator Ziga

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

*With explanation of vote

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The President Pro Tempore. With 20 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1430 is approved on Third Reading.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR AQUINO

Senator Aquino. In view of my love for women, Mr. President, I vote Yes.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR LINA

Senator Lina. I vote Yes, Mr. President. In fact, I did sponsor this particular measure when the Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family Relations was on official business and she requested me to sponsor this bill. Maybe, this is not yet the time to make this day a nonworking holiday for that is the original intention of the principal author. But just the same, I vote yes, with the hope that in the years to come, we will come to realize that there is need to set aside a date for a celebration of the women's struggle for their rights and make the celebration a nonworking holiday, so that we can really give the necessary focus on the vital role that women play in our society.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MACEDA

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, I hope that the Chamber, in demonstrating its concern for women, will give a little more substance to its concern by giving priority to about two dozens or so women's bills that are pending in the Chamber. I refer, among other things, to the bill for the establishment of day care centers; the bill which increases the maternity leave period to about 10 or 12 weeks; the anti-wife beating bill, the Roco bill on the emancipation of women, and so many other bills pending in this Chamber. I think, to my mind, we were a little tongue-in-cheek, with due apologies to everybody that on a noncontroversial bill like this, we were able to rush it in a few days. But, I think, the other pro-women bills are also noncontroversial and should be given a little more priority. If we really believe in the sentiments expressed in this bill, let us also call in and approve all the other bills.

With that, Mr. President, of course, I vote Yes.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President Pro Tempore. Shall we have our usual mid-session break? Let us suspend the session, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 5:57 p.m.