

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:10 p.m., the Honorable Sotero H. Laurel, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President Pro Tempore. 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,

Give us the strength to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Teach us the lessons to learn self-reliance, so that we no longer lean back on loans and aids and undue dependence in order to grow as a nation.

Infuse us with the wisdom to resolutely resolve the problems that beset the nation.

Bless us with the courage to do what we believe is right, to spurn what we think is wrong, to build what we deem is just.

Help us to help ourselves.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President Pro Tempore. The Secretary will please call the roll.

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

*Arrived after the roll call

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. Saguigag	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 Pro Tempore. With 20 members present, there is a quorum.

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 Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

The Secretary will now proceed with the reading of the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 27, 1990

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on February 27, 1990 passed House Bill No. 26648, entitled

ACT ACTING GRANTING CEBU AIR, INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS, MAIL, GOODS AND PROPERTY BY AIR BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL WITH CEBU AS ITS MAJOR HUB,

in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

There are some reservations. Therefore, we ask that clean copies be distributed. Before we close the period of amendments, I withdraw that motion.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF
SENATE BILL NO. 1369**

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

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

Senator Guingona. We ask that clean copies be distributed tomorrow, Mr. President.

**BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 1430 — National Women's Day
(Continuation)**

The Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 987, on Senate Bill No. 1430. I move that we recognize Senator Rasul.

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

Senator Rasul. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, with the permission of the distinguished Lady, we are already through with the period of debates. We have closed the period of interpellations. We are now in the period of amendments.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR RASUL
(Acknowledgment of Supporters of Senate Bill No. 1430)**

Senator Rasul. Thank you, Mr. President. May I be allowed to make a manifestation and acknowledge our gratitude to the distinguished Chairman who sponsored this bill yesterday.

It was unfortunate that I was not here. Neither was Senator Shahani here. We were on official mission. I was in Thailand as head of the Philippine Delegation to the World Conference on Education for All, sponsored by four international agencies and the government of Thailand. But from all accounts, this bill had a very able and passionate defender in the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Laws. So, I would like to thank and congratulate Senator Joey Lina, the Benjamin of this Chamber, and all the other Senators who have

expressed unstinting support for this one, ineluctable demonstration of the Filipino women's contributions to the growth and sustenance of our nation.

Some questions remain on various aspects of the bill, and these had been ventilated in the discussions yesterday.

There is no question that the history and direction of the women's struggle is different for each country, and developments in this area are influenced by the specific cultural and socio-political contexts in which they occur. But there is no doubt either that the Filipina's struggle for equality through time is a continuing process that shall reflect, draw strength from, and even contribute to the general progress and development of the struggle as a concern of momentous proportions for every other women in the world.

We can argue all we want about the wisdom of a virtual "day-off" for women. Let me say, however, that so much has been said about the need to honor the Filipina, to ease her society-imposed double burden, and to ensure genuine equality between men and women in all important spheres and aspects of life. I say, let the power of our rhetoric and the intensity of our intellectual commitment be backed by deeds. The articulation of these and similar sentiments must now be met by clear efforts and measures to actualize the same.

I urge my distinguished Colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 1430, which has been unanimously sponsored. Therefore, I think the Rules can be...

Senator Guingona. No, we are now in the period of amendments, Mr. President. If the distinguished Sponsor has no committee amendments, we will go to the...

Senator Rasul. There are a few amendments, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, we will now go to the committee amendments.

Senator Rasul. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, may I ask that copies of the bill be distributed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Rasul. The committee amendments, as embodied in the Committee Report, are:

On line 2, after the word "holiday", insert the words "FOR WOMEN", to read as follows: "SECTION 1. The eighth day of March of every year is hereby declared as an official holiday FOR WOMEN to be known as National Women's Day".

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

Senator Paterno. Mr. President.

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

Senator Paterno. May I ask that the amendment be reconsidered, Mr. President, so that it will be a holiday for all. We would like also to celebrate the day and to mark the day with the women. So why should we exclude the men from celebrating this holiday?

Senator Rasul. If that is the pleasure of this Chamber, it can be a National Women's Day, but in the celebration, the men can be included.

Senator Paterno. Oh, thank you very much, Mr. President. [Laughter]

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So what is the proposed amendment to the amendment?

Senator Paterno. To delete the words "FOR WOMEN", Mr. President, and before giving up the Floor, may I request clarification that "official holiday" does not necessarily mean that it will be a nonworking holiday.

Senator Rasul. We would like to find out the pleasure of this distinguished Body.

Senator Paterno. Senator Butz Aquino was making a survey yesterday, and if we believe in the survey of Senator Aquino, he says that the majority are for it to be a working holiday.

Senator Rasul. Accepted, Mr. President.

PATERNO AMENDMENT

Senator Paterno. So, the proposal is to delete the phrase "FOR WOMEN," and to make it clear that official holiday means a working holiday.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Does the Sponsor accept the proposed amendment of Senator Paterno?

Senator Rasul. Accepted, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. All right. Is there any objection to the committee amendment as amended by Senator Paterno? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Rasul. In lines 3 and 4, insert a new section two (2) to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE OF THE "HOLIDAY" AS HEREIN DECLARED, ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHALL ENCOURAGE AND AFFORD SUFFICIENT TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ENGAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN CELEBRATION OF THE "NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY."

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

Senator Rasul. And the succeeding sections, Mr. President, should be numbered accordingly.

In line 4, delete the phrase "upon its approval", and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase "TWO (2) DAYS FOLLOWING ITS PUBLICATION IN AT LEAST TWO (2) NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION".

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

Senator Rasul. The last amendment here is to change the title, but in view of the fact that there has been that amendment of Senator Paterno, I will not read this amendment anymore. Those are the amendments, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña. With the indulgence of the Sponsor. The title has to be amended, because the amendment of Senator Paterno deleted the words "FOR WOMEN." So the title also has to be amended.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, is Senator Osmeña proposing an amendment to the title?

Senator Osmeña. This should be a committee amendment.

Senator Rasul. Mr. President, that is precisely the reason I have not read the fourth amendment, because the title originally is "AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY." There is no holiday here for women. That is why I have not read the fourth amendment.

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President.

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

Senator Osmeña. Yes. I read the Committee Report. I am sorry, I withdraw my remarks.

Senator Herrera. Mr. President.

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

Senator Herrera. If I understood Senator Paterno correctly, he also proposed an amendment to make it instead an official holiday, it should be a working holiday. Am I correct?

Senator Rasul. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera. Because official holiday, means nonworking holiday. That is the interpretation of the law.

Senator Paterno. If that is the case then I yield to Senator Herrera.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, what is the pleasure of the Sponsor?

HERRERA AMENDMENTS

Senator Herrera. Both in the title and in Section 1.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, how will Section 1 read?

Senator Herrera. "The eighth day of March of every year is hereby declared as an official WORKING holiday to be known as the National Women's Day."

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

Senator Herrera. Then the title also will have to be amended, Mr. President. "TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF

EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL 'WORKING' HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY".

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is there any objection to the proposed amendment of Senator Herrera, regarding the title of this bill?

Senator Ziga. Mr. President.

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

Senator Ziga. Thank you, Mr. President. May I propose that instead of "official" we make it as "SPECIAL" holiday, "SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY."

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is this with respect to the title of the bill?

Senator Ziga. With respect to the title of the bill and in line 2, "SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY."

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, the Gentleman is in effect moving for a reconsideration of the approval of the amendments already approved in Section 1 and on the title of the bill?

Senator Ziga. Yes, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. All right. Is there any objection to the motion for reconsideration of Senator Ziga? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Will Senator Ziga please propose his amendment?

Senator Ziga. I propose that the word "OFFICIAL" in the title and in line 2 of Section 1 be changed from "official" to "SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY."

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is that acceptable to Senator Herrera and to Senator Rasul?

Senator Rasul. I would just like to find what could be the reason for changing the amendment from "official" to "SPECIAL"?

Senator Ziga. For "working holidays", I believe that it is the standard wording for a working holiday, that the name should be "special working holiday" instead of "official."

Senator Rasul. If using the word "special" means it is a working holiday, therefore, there is no need to place in the title the word "working", because if it is "special" it is understood to mean that it is a "working" holiday.

Senator Ziga. I believe that for clarity, so as not to be misunderstood, the word "working" should precede the word "holiday", "special working holiday."

Senator Rasul. Besides, if I may add, under Section 2, it is possible for the employees and employers to come together and agree on how the day can be celebrated. If the employers will agree for the women to go on a holiday, it is all right. If they do not, it is a working holiday. As it has been explained during the Committee meeting, some workers, even the women, they may opt to work because they are wage earners. But there are those who may be allowed by their employers to go on a holiday. So that could be an arrangement between the employees and the employers.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Is the principal Sponsor of the bill accepting the proposed amendment of Senator Ziga?

Senator Rasul. I still maintain that it has been amended enough as an "OFFICIAL WORKING HOLIDAY."

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. What does Senator Ziga say?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Ziga. May I ask for a suspension, Mr. President?

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

It was 7:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 7:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Senator Rasul. Mr. President.

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

Senator Rasul. After clarifying the meaning of the words "special" and "official" the distinguished Senator from Bicol has agreed that it should remain as "OFFICIAL WORKING HOLIDAY".

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, how will Section 1 read?

Senator Rasul. Section 1 as well as the title will read as: "AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY."

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

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

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.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1430 ON SECOND READING, AS AMENDED

Senator Guingona. I move that we vote on Senate Bill No. 1430, as amended, on Second Reading.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. We shall now vote on the bill, as amended, on Second Reading. As many as are in favor of the bill will please say *Aye*. *[Several Senators: Aye]* As many as are against will please say *Nay*. *[Silence]* Senate Bill No. 1430 is approved on Second Reading.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, tomorrow we will consider Senate Bill No. 1404-Logging Ban; Senate Bill No. 1441-Sugar Industry; Senate Bill No. 1142-Increasing the Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals; Senate Bill No. 1369-Magna Carta of Public Health Workers, and the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 159.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

It was 7:08 p.m.