

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:32 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 Agapito Aquino sa pamamagitan ng Majority Floor Leader.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Guingona.

Lord,

In the parable of the talents, You taught us that those to whom much is given, much is expected in return.

In this period of economic hardship, we pray for the rich, the powerful, the highly educated and talented amongst us. Move their hearts to compassion for the suffering majority. Awaken their social conscience and their sense of responsibility to the community. Make them realize the beauty of sharing and the infinite gain in giving unconditionally.

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	***
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.	Present

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

*** On official mission but 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	**
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	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 as approved.

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

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Secretary.

November 10, 1990

Hon. Jovito R. Salonga
Senate President
Manila

Dear Senat President Salonga,

I have the honor to certify the attached bill entitled

AN ACT REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1853 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES,

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

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 209--Komisyon Ng Wikang Pambansa

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

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Consideration of Senate Bill No. 209 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. 209, entitled

**ISANG BATAS NA LUMILIKHA SA KOMISYON
NG WIKANG PAMBANSA.**

The following is the full text of Senate Bill No. 209:

PALIWANAG

Ang programang pangwika ay noon pang 1935 sinimulan, ngunit sa kabila ng paglipas ng mahigit na 52 taon, hindi pa rin masasabing matagumpay ang pagpapatupad nito. Maaaring maalala na ang Commonwealth Act No. 184, na sinusugan ng CA333 ang nagtayo ng Surian ng Wikang Pambansa at ngayon ay kilala sa ngalang Linangan ng mga Wika sa Pilipinas sang-ayon sa Executive Order 117.

Ang kasalukuyang Saligang Batas ay may probisyong nagsasaad ng ganito: "Dapat magtatag ang Kongreso ng isang Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa na binubuo ng mga kinatawan ng iba't-ibang rehiyon at mga disiplina na magsasagawa, mag-uugnay at magtataguyod ng mga pananaliksik sa Filipino at iba pang mga wika para sa kanilang pagpapaunlad, pagpapalaganap at pagpapanatili."

(Seksyon 9, Artikulo XIV).

Kailangang magkaroon na agad ng Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa upang masimulan sa lalong madaling panahon ang mga hakbangin tungo sa pambansang pagkakaisa bunga ng Pambansang Wika, at mapag-ibayo ang bisa ng konsultasyon, rekonsilasyon, at ang liderato sa pamamagitan ng magandang halimbawa.

Ang pagpapatibay ng panukalang batas na ito ay taos-puso naming hinihiling.

(Lagda) ORLANDO S. MERCADO
Senador

English Translation:

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The program on the national language started way back in 1935, but despite its more than 52 years of experience, its implementation cannot really be described as successful. It will be recalled that Commonwealth Act 184 as amended by CA 333, created the Institute of National Language which was renamed Institute of Philippine Languages, under Executive Order 117.

The present Constitution has a provision on the establishment of a National Language Commission, to wit: "Congress shall establish a National Language Commission composed of representatives from different regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote re-searches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages." (Sec. 9, Art. XIV).

There is an immediate need for a National Language Commission in order to implement the programs as soon as possible to achieve national unity that may be

derived therefrom and to intensify the effects of consultation, reconciliation, and effective leadership by example.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO S. MERCADO**
Senator

Pinagtitibay ng Senado at ng Kapulungan ng mga Kinatawan ng Pilipinas sa Kongresong nagkakatipon:

SEKSIYON 1. Patakaran. Batay sa Konstitusyong 1987, tinitingnan ng Kongreso na angkat at kagyat ang pagpapatupad sa kautusan na nagtatakda sa pagtatayo ng isang Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa na binubuo ng mga kinatawan ng iba't-ibang rehiyon at disiplina, na siyang magsasagawa, mag-uugnay, at magtataguyod ng pananaliksik sa pagpapaunlad, pagpapalaganap at pagpapanatili ng Filipino at iba pang wika sa Pilipinas.

SEKSIYON 2. Pagbabagong-pangalan. Ang kasalukuyang Linangan ng mga Wika sa Pilipinas ay babaguhin ang pangalan at magiging Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa at ang kapangyarihan at tungkulin nito ay palalawakin ayon sa itinatadhana sa Seksyon 7 ng Batas na ito. Ang Komisyon ay may kapangyarihang humirang ng mga tauhan nito, kung kinakailangan, nang naaayon sa batas.

SEKSIYON 3. Komposisyon. Ang Komisyon ay bubuin ng isang Tagapangulo at labimpitong (17) Kasamang Komisyonado; Labintatlo (13) ang kakatawan sa labintatlong pampulitikang rehiyon -- mga rehiyong 1-12 at National Capital Region; isa (1) ang kakatawan sa likas na sining; isa (1) ang kakatawan sa mga panlipunang siyensiya; isa (1) ang

kakatawan sa sining pampanitikan; at isa (1) ang kakatawan sa sining pantanghalan, audio at biswal. Ang Tagapangulo at mga Kasamang Komisyonado ay kailangang di bababa sa tatlumpu't limang (35) taong gulang, mga likas na Pilipino at kilala sa kanilang kaalaman at kasanayan sa lingguwistika at panitikan ng wika ng mga rehiyong kinakatawan nila, dagdag pa sa kanilang malasakit sa pag-unlad at ikayayaman ng Filipino bilang pambansang wika. Ang Tagapangulo at Kasamang Komisyonado ay hihirangin ng Pangulo ng Republika na may pagsang-ayon ang Komisyon sa Paghirang.

SEKSIYON 4. Taning ng Panunungkulan. Ang Tagapangulo at unang limang (5) Kasamang Komisyonado ay manunungkulan sa taning na pitong (7) taon, ang sumusunod na anim (6) na kasamang Komisyonado sa taning na anim (6) na taon, at ang nalalabing anim (6) sa taning na limang (5) taon. Ang paghirang para sa isang bakanteng puwesto ay para lamang sa di-natapos na bahagi ng taning ng hahalinhan o hinalinhan.

SEKSIYON 5. Kabayaran. Ang Tagapangulo at mga Kasamang Komisyonado ay dapat may katulad na ranggo, karapatan, sahod, gugol na ipinahihintulot at iba pang kabayaran ng direktor ng kawanihan at katulong na direktor, ayon sa pagkasunud-sunod.

SEKSIYON 6. Alintunin ng Kaparaanan. Ang Komisyon ay magtatakda ng sarili nitong alintuntunin ng kaparaanan at magpupulong nang minsan sa isang linggo o mas madalas pa kung kinakailangan.

SEKSIYON 7. Tungkulin at Gawain. Ang Komisyon ay gagawa ng mga hakbang upang mapaunlad at mapayaman pa ang Filipino batay sa mga umiiral na wikang

Pilipino at iba pang wika. Tungo rito, ito ay magmumungkahi at magbabalangkang ng mga programa sa pananlikasik at pag-aaral ng mga umiiral na wikang Pilipino, kabilang na ang pagsasanib o paghihiram ng mga salitang banyaga. Para sa layuning ito, ang mga tungkulin ng Komisyon, bukod sa iba pa, ay:

(1) Ang pagpapasimula at pagmumungkahi ng mga hakbang para gawing nangingibabaw na wikang opisyal ang Filipino sa pangkalahatang komunikasyon at edukasyon pagdating ng taong 2000;

(2) Ang pagpili mula sa mga umiiral na wikang Pilipino at pag-aayos sa magkakahiwalay na grupo ng:

a) mga salita at pariralang ginagamit sa lahat o mayorya ng mga nabanggit na wika na may magkatulad na tunog at kahulugan;

b) mga salita na ginagamit sa lahat o mayorya ng mga nabanggit na wika na may magkatulad na tunog ngunit magkaibang kahulugan;

k) mga salitang ginagamit sa lahat o mayorya ng mga nabanggit na wika na may magkakatulad na tunog ngunit magkatulad o magkaibang kahulugan.

(3) Ang gumagawa ng komparatibong pag-aaral ng mga unlapi, gitlapi at hulapi ng mga umiiral na wikang Pilipino;

(4) Ang pag-aralan at itakda ang ponetika at ortograpiyang Filipino;

(5) Ang pagsikapang isalin sa Filipino ang lahat ng mga "textbook" sa Ingles na ginagamit sa primarya, sekundarya at terseryang antas.

SEKSYON 8. Talasalitaan at Balarilang Gagamitin. Magiging tungkulin

ng Komisyon na maghanda ng isang talasalitaan at Balarilang Filipino. Datapwat ang Komisyon ay hindi dapat maging purista at gumawa ng mga dikanaishais na pagsasalin ng mga hiram na salitang banyaga.

SEKSYON 9. Lingguwistikang Usapin. Ang disis-yon ng Komisyon sa lahat ng lingguwistikang usapin, kapag pinagtibay ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas, ay ituturing na pamantayang pampanitikan sa lahat ng opisyal na lathalain o limbagin at teksto sa mga paaralan.

SEKSYON 10. Awtoridad. Ang Komisyon, batay sa pagsang-ayon ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas, ay may karapatan na iwasto, palitan, o baguhin ang lingguwistikang anyo at ekspresyon ng lahat ng mga aklat na nasusulat sa wikang pambansa na nauukol gamitin ng mga paaralan. Dahil dito, ang Komisyon ay may karapatang balangkasin ang mga naayong alituntunin na maaaring kailanganin upang mabisang maipatupad ang mga probisyon ng batas na ito.

SEKSYON 11. Libreng Koreo. Ang mga lathalain ng Komisyon katulad ng mga talasalitaan, bokabularyo, balarila, polyeto at iba pang mga limbagin ay bibigyan ng karapatang gumamit ng koreong walang bayad.

SEKSYON 12. Taning ng Pag-iral. Ang pag-iral ng Komisyon ay walang taning bukod sa kung itatakda ng batas.

SEKSYON 13. Apropiasyon. Ang dagdag na halagang isang daan at limampung milyong piso (P150,000,000.00) ay inilalaan mula sa kabang-yaman ng bansa para ipatupad ang mga itinatadhana ng Batas na ito. Pagkatapos nito, ang anumang halagang kakailanganin ng Komisyon ay isasama sa taunang badyet.

SEKSYON 14. *Maga Tadhanang Lilipas.* Ang mga nanunungkulan Direktor, Kagawad, Kalihim at Punong Tagapagpaganap ng kasalukuyang Linangan ng mga Wika sa Pilipinas ay magtutuloy sa panunungkulan sa loob ng anin (6) na buwan hanggang sila ay mapalitan o muling mahirang sang-ayon sa bagong taning, alinsunod sa Batas na ito: NGUNIT ang panunungkulan, ranggo, mga suweldo at karapatan ng mga ibang empleyado ay hindi maaapektuhan.

SEKSYON 15. *Saknong na Nagtatangi.* Kung may anumang probisyon sa batas na ito o ang paggamit ng nasabing probisyon ay idedeklarang walang bisa, ang mga nalalabing probisyon o ang paggamit ng nasabing probisyon ay hindi maaapektuhan.

SEKSYON 16. *Saknong na Nagpapawalang Bisa.* Lahat ng Batas, dekreto ng presidensyal, pampanguluhan ng utos o mga bahagi nito na di kaugma sa probisyon ng Batas na ito ay ipinawawalambisa o inaamyendahan ng naaayon.

SEKSYON 17. *Pagkakabisa.* Ang Batas na ito ay magkakabisa labinlimang (15) araw matapos ang buong pagkalathala nito sa *Official Gazette* o sa dalawang (2) pahayagan na may pangkalahatang sirkulasyon.

English Translation:

Be it enacted in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Policy.* Pursuant to the 1987 Constitution, Congress deems it proper and imperative to implement the mandate which calls for the establishment of a National Language Commission composed of representatives of the various

regions and disciplines, which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches for the development, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other languages.

SECTION 2. *Renaming.* The existing Institute of Philippine Languages is hereby renamed the National Language Commission and its power and functions are hereby expanded as provided in Section 7 hereof. The Commission shall have the power to appoint personnel as may be necessary in accordance with law.

SECTION 3. *Composition.* The Commission shall be composed of a Chairman and seventeen (17) Associate Commissioners: Thirteen (13) to represent the thirteen (13) political regions, namely region 1-12 and the National Capital Region; one (1) representing the natural arts; one (1) representing the social sciences; one (1) representing the literary arts; and one (1) representing the theater arts; audio and visual. The Chairman and the Associate Commissioners shall at least be thirty five (35) years of age, natural-born Filipino citizens and noted for their knowledge and expertise in linguistics and the literature and languages of the regions they represent, in addition to their concern for the development and enrichment of Filipino as the national language. The Chairman and Associate Commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

SECTION 4. *Term of Office.* The Chairman and the first five (5) Associate Commissioners shall serve for a term of seven (7) years, the next six (6) Associate Commissioners for a term of six (6) years, and the remaining six (6) for a term of five (5) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

SECTION 5. Compensation. *The Chairman and the Associate Commissioners shall have the same rank, privileges, salary, allowances and other emoluments of a regular bureau director and assistant director, respectively.*

SECTION 6. Rules of Procedure. *The Commission shall adopt its own rules and procedures and shall hold sessions at least once a week or as often as the Commission deems necessary.*

SECTION 7. Duties and Functions. *The Commission shall take steps to further develop and enrich Filipino on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages. To this end, it shall propose and formulate programs for the research and study of existing Philippine languages, including the incorporation or adoption of foreign words which have already gained local acceptance. For this purpose, it shall be the duty of the Commission, among others:*

(1) To initiate and propose measures that will make Filipino the dominant official language in general communication and education by the year 2000;

(2) To select from existing Philippine languages and arrange in separate groups:
a) Words and phrases used in all or majority of said languages with common sound and meaning; b) Words used in all or majority of said languages with the same sound but different meanings; c) Words used in all or majority of said languages with similar sound but with the same or different meanings.

(3) To make a comparative study of existing Philippine languages, prefixes, infixes and suffixes;

(4) To study and determine Filipino phonetics and orthography;

(5) To endeavor to translate in Filipino all English textbooks in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

SECTION 8. Dictionary and Grammar to be Used. *It shall be the duty of the Commission to prepare a dictionary and a grammar of Filipino. The Commissioner, however, shall not attempt to be purist and make atrocious translations of adopted and accepted foreign words.*

SECTION 9. Linguistic Matter. *The decision of the Commission on all linguistic matters, when approved by the President of the Philippines, shall be adopted as literary standard in all official publications and school texts.*

SECTION 10. Authority. *The Commission, shall, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, have authority to correct, alter, or amend the linguistic form and expression in all and any textbooks written in the national language which are intended for adoption as text in all schools. For this purpose, the Commission shall have the authority to formulate the appropriate rules and regulations and such other acts as may be necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.*

SECTION 11. Free Postage. *The publication of the Commission such as dictionaries, vocabularies, grammars, pamphlets, circulars, diplomas, leaflets and all printed matters shall enjoy the use of mails free of postage.*

SECTION 12. Duration of Existence. *The existence of the Commission shall be of indefinite duration unless otherwise provided by law.*

SECTION 13. Appropriation. *An additional sum of one hundred fifty million pesos (P150,000,000.00) is hereby*

appropriated out of any funds in the national treasury to carry out the provisions of this Act. Thereafter, the necessary amount needed by the Commission shall be included in the annual budget.

SECTION 14. Transitory Provision. *The incumbent Director, Members, Secretary and Executive Officer of the present Institute of Philippine Languages shall continue in office for six months until replaced or re-appointed to a new term under this Act: PROVIDED That the tenure, rank, salaries and privileges of the other employees are not hereby affected.*

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. *In the event any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or the application of the said provision shall not be affected thereby.*

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. *All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.*

SECTION 17. Effectivity. *This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.*

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado to sponsor the bill.

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. G. Pangulo, ipahintulot ninyong

sariwain ko sa ating mga isip na ang pagtatatag ng isang programa ukol sa Wikang Pambansa ay nagsimula noon pang 1935, kung kailan binuo ng Batasan noon ang kauna-unahang Surian ng Wikang Pambansa. Mayroon nang kalahating siglo ang nakararaan, ngunit marahil ay hindi pa natin masasabing ang programang iyan ay naging matagumpay.

The legislative records will show that Commonwealth Act No. 184, as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 333, created the Institute of National Language, which was later renamed Institute of Philippine Languages under Executive Order No. 117.

Ang ating Saligang-Batas ay nagsasaad na: "Ang Kongreso ay magtatatag ng isang Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa na binubuo ng mga kinatawan ng iba't-ibang rehiyon at mga disiplina na magsasagawa, mag-uugnay, at magtataguyod ng mga pananaliksik sa Filipino at iba pang mga wika para sa kanilang pagpapaunlad, pagpapalaganap at pagpapanatili.

Minarapat ng inyong abang lingkod na ihain ang panukalang ito bilang pagtugon sa ipinag-uutos ng ating Saligang-Batas.

I filed this bill, Mr. President, in November 1987. It was referred to the Committee on Education, Culture and Sports, which conducted public hearings thereon, and thereafter submitted Committee Report No. 329.

This Report contains proposed amendments, with which I fully concur, since they are the results of the Committee deliberations, under the leadership of Senator Angara, and these deliberations were enlightened by the inputs from the various authorities during the public hearings, and thus they served to improve the structure of the proposed Commission. I shall, however, leave the explanation and sponsorship of the Committee amendments to the Committee Chairman, as this is, of course, his prerogative.

Allow me, Mr. President, in this brief remarks, to take cognizance of the fact that the issue of a national

language is highly controversial, and even quite emotional. I do not wish, at this time and on this occasion to raise that issue, with all its myriad and emotionally charged ramifications.

By this, I do not mean that I am skirting the issue, or, in a manner of speaking, sweeping it under the rug. Rather, I would like to respectfully suggest that the establishment of the Commission, which this measure proposes as mandated by the Constitution, is the first proper approach to the rational resolution of the issue.

Umaasa ako, G. Pangulo, na ang Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa na iminumungkahi sa panukalang ito ang siyang magpapasimula sa lalong madaling panahon ng mga kinakailangang hakbangin tungo sa pambansang pagkakaisa na harinawa ay magbunga ng isang Wikang Pambansa na taos-pusong tinatanggap ng bawat Pilipino sapagkat ito ay nagtataglay ng mga salitang nagmumula sa budhi at diwa ng iba't iba nating mga kababayan mula sa lahat ng dako ng Pilipinas.

Marahil ay napapanahon nang talaga na tayong mga Pilipino ay magkaroon ng isang tunay na Wikang Pambansa, na mayroong mga salitang galing sa iba't ibang lugar ng ating kapuluan. Ang ating mga kabalat sa lahi, ang Indonesia, ay mayroon nang isang wika, na binansang Bahasa, bagamat sila ay nagsimula lamang noong 1949, kung kailan sila naging malayang bansa sa mga dayuhang Olandes. Naging matagumpay din sila. Samakatwid, sa loob lamang ng humigit-kumulang na tatlong taon ay nakuha nilang magkaisa-isa at makapagtaguyod ng isang pambansang wika, kahit na mas marami silang mga dialekto at panrehiyong wika kaysa sa atin. Ito ay nagpapatunay na kung talagang gugustuhin ng isang bansa at magkabuklod-buklod ang mga mamamayan nito ay masusunod at magtatagumpay ito sa mithing magkaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansa, sapagkat ito ay isa sa mga institusyong nagpapatibay ng pagkakaisa ng isang sambayanan.

Marahil ay hindi ko dapat ipagdiin pa kung gaano kahalaga para sa ating mga Pilipino ang pagkaroon ng isang pambansang wika, at ito ay magiging isang katuparan lamang sa pamamagitan ng Komisyon na dapat

itatag sang-ayon sa iniaatas ng ating Saligang-Batas. Sa aking palagay, kapag naitatag na ang Komisyong ito at nagsimula na sila sa kanilang mga dapat gawin, hindi magtatagal ay magkakaroon na tayo ng tunay na Wikang Pambansa na hahanguin sa iba't ibang mga salita na kasalukuyang ginagamit natin. Inaasahan natin na sa kanilang pag-aaral at pananaliksik ay mapagyayaman nila ang ating wika sa pamamagitan ng paggamit hindi lamang ng mga wika sa ating bayan, kundi pati ng mga salitang banyaga katulad ng Ingles, Kastila, Hapon, Intsik, na talagang ginagamit na rin ng ating mga kababayan.

Bilang pagtatapos, ay ipinakikiusap ko sa ating mga kasama dito sa Senado na sana ay ating mapag-usapan at mapagpasiyahan ang bagay na ito sa lalong madaling panahon upang maipakita natin sa ating bayan ang ating masugid na pagnanais na tugunan ang isyu ng Wikang Pambansa, katulad ng itinatadhana ng Saligang-Batas.

Maraming salamat po, G. Pangulo.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 209

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move for the suspension of consideration of Senate Bill No. 209.

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

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, tomorrow, we will take up the Price Stabilization, the Overseas Workers Fund, the franchise to Cebu Air to Francisco Cervantes, the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan, and changing the Board of Governors of the Board of Investments.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1990

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:36 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 Ernesto M. Maceda.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Maceda.

Let us put ourselves in the presence of the Lord.

God our Father, as we celebrate this joyous season of Christ's birth, let us also reflect on the reason for His coming. He is our Lord yet He came down from heaven to walk among us as man, share our joys and sorrows and ultimately suffer and die for the sins of the world on the Cross.

What better inspiration than this could we ask for in these troubled times? We speak eloquently of selflessness and the nobility of courage in the face of numerous odds. Yet we stray too often.

Guide us, Lord, in the path of the One who showed us by His supreme sacrifice that the world can be a better place if each of us lives in accordance with Your word. Let Your word be the lamp to our feet and the light to our path that we may joyously proclaim, "Thanks be unto God who always causes us to triumph in Christ."

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	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Agapito A. Aquino	Absent
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
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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	Absent
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 as approved.

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

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1686, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVE BENEFITS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Guingona. ...suspend consideration of this matter.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 209 - National Language Commission
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. I move that we resumed 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 in the period of interpellations. I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado.

The President. Senator Mercado is recognized.

Senator Mercado. As we had previously pointed out in our Sponsorship Speech, the program on national language started actually in 1935, but in spite of these years, we have not been successful in implementing the program to achieve national unity through a national language.

Mr. President, we are now ready to answer some questions, if there are any.

The President. The Chair would like to ask some questions. There are two versions of this same bill, one in English, and the other one in the National Language. For purposes of discussions and amendments, what shall be the basis?

Senator Mercado. I leave that to the Body. We have filed a bill using both our National Language and the English version.

The President. Bakit hindi natin gawin na ang English ang magiging saligan ng ating amendments, pati na ang ating pagtatalo, and then a corresponding translation can be made authorized by the Body?

Senator Mercado. That would be acceptable to this

Representation, Mr. President.

The President. So, let us make the English version as the working basis of the amendments and the discussion.

Are all the Committee Amendments already here?

Senator Mercado. Not yet.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to a few questions?

Senator Mercado. Gladly.

Senator Guingona. As we understand it, the formulation of the National Language was started in 1935, under the constitutional mandate of the 1935 Constitution. May we know from the distinguished Sponsor what are the basic causes for the failure of the evolution and implementation into a national language of that constitutional mandate?

Senator Mercado. I believe, one of the reasons why a truly national language has not evolved through the years is the rather limited interpretation of the mandate, as implemented by the *Surian*, where Tagalog was almost exclusively the basis of the National Language. I believe, too, that there was a drift towards what could be called "purism" in efforts to purge Filipino of foreign terms. I guess, this redirection of the National Language Commission may, hopefully, correct what I feel was one of the flaws in the past implementation of this measure.

Senator Guingona. The Constitution now says that the National Language of the Philippines is "Filipino" as distinguished from the previous 1973 Constitution which said "Pilipino". Is there a marked difference between the "P" and the "F"?

Senator Mercado. The Constitution is silent on the definition of the word "Filipino". I reviewed the proceedings of the Constitutional Commission on the topic and my impression is that, "Filipino" was the

name given to whatever National Language the country would evolve in the coming years. My impression is that the charge from "P" to "F" is a silent statement that pure Tagalog is not the sole basis of a national language, because in Tagalog there is no letter "F". We only have the letter "P".

Senator Guingona. Yes. As a matter of fact, it is followed by the mandate that it shall evolve or develop and enrich on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages. May we know how many languages the Philippines has?

Senator Mercado. We have about 103 dialects of which eight are major dialects.

Senator Guingona. The Constitution speaks of languages. Is there any distinction or marked distinction between languages and dialects?

Senator Mercado. In linguistic terms, I am informed, they are considered languages already.

Senator Guingona. Therefore, it would be the mandate of the Commission to get as many words from as many dialects and languages as possible.

Senator Mercado. I would presume too that that would mean that our national language shall embody even English or Spanish terms, after all, Mr. President, there is hardly any pure language today. Even English borrows from the French, the Anglo-Saxon, and the German. I guess, language is a matter of evolution and of usage. Attempts in the direction of purism was the linguists undoing.

Senator Guingona. Now, may we know what is the medium of instruction presently being used in the schools?

Senator Mercado. My understanding, is that we have bilingual policy. As a method of instruction, we use Filipino and English and other regional languages as supplementary means of communication.

Senator Guingona. For example, in the Muslim areas, is the Muslim the medium of instruction?

Senator Mercado. I am informed that English and their local language is used as media of instruction.

Senator Guingona. So, is Filipino only used in the higher grades or in the secondary and tertiary level?

Senator Mercado. We have required Filipino subjects, in elementary or high school, and social studies subjects like *Araling Panlipunan* are taught purely in Filipino.

Senator Guingona. In some areas, the auxiliary languages become the principal languages. Is it the intent of the proposed Commission now to reverse this?

Senator Mercado. The major intent of the Commission is to come up with the national language that will be enriched by the major languages. We cannot also close our eyes to the nonformal influences on the development of language. We all know that radio, television, the movies are basically in English and Filipino. Thus, it has already developed into a *lingua franca* by evolution.

I guess, it is not a matter of foisting a language on any minority group. The Language Commission will serve as a catalyst in developing the same. And if a dialect can contribute to the development of the language, meaning, in terms of words and phrases, then that would be welcome as long as it has the possibility of being integrated into the national language.

Senator Guingona. Now, what would be the base of this Filipino? Would it still be Tagalog?

Senator Mercado. The base would be Pilipino, the *lingua franca* which may draw from all major languages; but as of the moment, I think, the major portion comes from Tagalog.

Senator Guingona. May we know the reason why Tagalog is made the base of the Filipino language, when I understand there are more Visayans, speaking different Visayan dialects, and, as a whole, there is more populace in number than Tagalogs? Can we not make, based on numbers, the Visayan, as the base of the evolving National Language?

Senator Mercado. That is possible but not probable

considering how Pilipino, with Tagalog as basis is widely occupied. This is a reality we have to accept. I would agree that it should not be exclusively Tagalog, and that it should draw from other languages, and truth to tell, there are a number of words, Visayan, Bicolano, and others, that have already been incorporated in our language. I guess, this is just how it evolves; but that I want to say is, put to a test of what is the *lingua franca*. If one speaks Filipino, which is, as the Gentleman mentioned, based more on Tagalog, and goes around the country, his chances of being understood is higher than one who speaks Cebuano. This, I think, is a product of the use of the language in mass media. I hate to be anecdotal on the matter, but I remember when we were campaigning for our Senate seats. I think, I was fairly understood in the Visayas and Mindanao even if I spoke, almost exclusively, in Filipino and English.

Senator Guingona. This is because of the media, radio, and television, and not because of the work of the Commission.

Senator Mercado. That is very true. Actually, the attempt to develop a language that was "pure" tagalog hit a snag, because it did not take into consideration the vibrant process of evolution of a language, and it was overtaken actually by the movies and other forms of mass media which helped in a great way to make what Filipino is now, the *lingua franca* we speak.

Senator Guingona. And it would be the purpose of the Commission to try to synchronize or harmonize the different words in the different dialects. For example, the word *buli* in Ilonggo means "the ass in the back"; but in Bicol, it means "in front". So, what would the Commission do in such a case?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. I guess it would be time to have our usual break, if there is no objection? [*There was none.*]

It was 5:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The interpellation will resume if there are any more questions.

Senator Mercado. If there are none, Mr. President, maybe, we can close the period of interpellations and proceed to the Committee amendments.

The President. The Chair would like to know if there is any difference between the term "official language" and the term "national language." The Constitution seems to differentiate between the two.

Senator Mercado. The national language is broader term than official language. A national language is that means of communication widely used that embodies a nation's identity and can help foster greater integration and cohesion. The official language, as we understand it, is what is adopted by the Government as the language that it uses in its transactions.

Senator Herrera. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Herrera.

Senator Herrera. I just would like to know whether there is really an urgency to create this Commission now. Because, I understand, based on the bill, that there will be about 17 Commissioners and they are given a certain period to make a study and recommendation. So, I can surmise that this will entail several millions of pesos. At this time, I do not think we can afford it especially since we are in a crisis, not to mention the fact that by creating this Commission, this will only provoke objections coming from other regions, especially from non-Tagalog regions.

Personally, I do not see the urgency of creating this Commission now. While I agree and understand that there is this constitutional mandate, but whether there is that urgency, I doubt, I personally feel that, maybe, this can wait until we have a better time. Maybe, after 1992, we can create this Commission.

Senator Mercado. It is precisely at this time that we need to create a Commission to veer away from the

failures of the past. This time, we will have to redirect the National Language Commission, to serve as a catalyst in the development of a true language not drawing from Tagalog alone.

The strict interpretation of the Commonwealth Act in the past has been the source of our problem. If we do not start now, when will we have a national language? Indonesia, in 30 years, was able to develop the Bahasa, Indonesia. Unfortunately we started on the wrong road--but we have corrected our course. Once and for all, we must tackle this question.

With regard to the budget, the current budget of the Institute is P10 million. But if we do not redirect its mandate, I think the P10 million that is already allocated may not be well spent. I think, it is for Congress to define what we should do to develop a truly national language.

Senator Herrera. Wala akong duda, that the budget appropriated for that purpose is properly spent, but when there are other urgent matters that need the immediate attention of the Government, especially there are very recent incidents na kahit na iyong mga tseke natin ay tumatalbog na, maybe we should give more preference to problems like the typhoon and earthquake damages rather than using our limited resources to activities like this which may not really be that urgent as of now.

In fact, I feel that we must let time evolve a national language. I am very sure that even if the Commission will come out tomorrow or a year from now with a recommendation or study on this, still that cannot be immediately accepted by our people. It is always the evolution that is more, to me, advisable or a more effective way of evolving a national language rather than imposing it.

Senator Mercado. We are in complete agreement with Senator Herrera that we cannot legislate language, that language is a matter of evolution. There is no doubt about that. That is precisely what we are doing here. We are not legislating language, but we are creating the Body that will be the catalyst towards developing a language that draws from the major languages that are in existence in the Philippines.

There may be validity and logic in the argument that

a language bill may not be the most urgent thing that we need now. Why should we bother about language? We have typhoons, we have the recent earthquake. That is true. But we cannot put a value on national identity, on things that would help make our country more cohesive. I think it is high time that we face this problem. Let us try to help spur the development of an acceptable national language and not postpone the matter for tomorrow. This is not going to be a year's work on the part of the National Language Commission. This is going to be something that will be done over time.

We would like to see this as a measure that goes even beyond our term when it ends in 1992.

Senator Herrera. In fact, this is not my only concern. I think this is the concern of many Filipinos that activities like this will only create more division, especially at this time that there are several issues which tend to divide the country. We have the U.S. Bases issue; and now, we have the language issue. Because the perception of the non-Tagalog-speaking Filipinos is that when we talk of Pilipino, it will be Tagalog-based. Very recently, we learned about the rejection of Tagalog by the people in Central Visayas, or in Cebu, in particular. And so, I feel that at this time, especially that soon we will have election, and then we have that bases issue, we should not make this bill a priority. We are only creating additional reasons to divide our people. So, I feel, that there is no urgency to approve or pass this bill.

The truth of the matter is that, if we go all over the Philippines, people now speak Tagalog; they understand Tagalog. And it is not because of the Commission; it is because of the media. I feel that even without this Commission, we will be able to evolve a common language. Maybe, the cost that will be involved in creating this Commission can be used for better projects and programs of the Government.

Personally, I feel, that maghintay muna ito, we will delay this. This is not very urgent. In fact, ang mangyayari rito, maybe some of those who will be supporting the Tagalog-based Pilipino language, some of us might deny our support during election in 1992 when we will be campaigning in the Visayas. So, we might be only making a mockery out of this. I would rather suggest that let us wait after the election in 1992. Let us

settle first the issue on the US Bases, let us settle the election, and use whatever limited resources we have to pay the cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction in damaged areas because of the natural calamities.

Senator Mercado. Senator Herrera proceeds from a wrong premise. The National Language in the past was largely based on Tagalog. We want to correct this with a new mandate that we are going to give the National Language Commission. This move should be welcomed by the non-Tagalog-speaking provinces. I think, it will make our language a lot richer, more acceptable, and more vibrant.

The language question is an emotional issue only when we make it a choice between Tagalog and Cebuano or other languages. But that is not the case. We refuse to accept that this is a choice between languages. But we cannot shirk from our responsibility of developing a national language. If we postpone this bill until after 1992, then we would have lost valuable time.

Senator Herrera. I am not against the idea of having this Commission and to conduct a serious study in order to, as the Gentleman said, correct the misconception now of what is a Filipino language. But it is a question of timing.

The other point is that right now, even without this study, there is now gradually evolving a Filipino language. Sometimes it pricks me being a Cebuano. I have always my bias for a Cebuano language. But wherever we go now, it is not only that we can be understood if you speak in Tagalog; they communicate with you in Tagalog.

Before the session, I was in the ground floor and I met some public school teachers from Cebu. They talked to me in Tagalog. And it is not because of the Commission, it is because of media. The contribution of media. In that, without necessarily imposing it; but because of media's work... Now, if you evolve the language without imposing it then the tendency is that it will be accepted. But once we start imposing, this can be misunderstood, especially that this is now an emotional issue not just in Cebu but in some areas, the Cebuano-speaking areas, where the majority of the population comes from Cebu.

So, I would rather delay this; there is no urgency on this, Mr. President. I feel that because of media's contribution in less than 20 years, I am very confident that wherever one goes, people will be speaking in Tagalog or what one calls "Pilipino" even without this commission.

I do not see any point why we have to insist on this and then be misunderstood because of this problem now in the Central Visayas. We have so many problems now. Why do we not concentrate on the economic problems? Why do we not concentrate on this U.S. Bases problem, rather than waste our resources at this time on this activity which, anyway, can be achieved by what media is doing now?

As I said, this afternoon, when I arrived here at the Senate I met these teachers coming from Cebu. I was happy that here in Manila they were talking to me in Tagalog.

The President. They probably thought that you were already a Tagalog.

Senator Herrera. Frankly, I am trying my best to learn Tagalog; I am just being practical. If one goes to Mindanao, to the Muslim areas, he can be understood better in Tagalog than in Cebuano. Or if one goes to Waray-Waray Leyte or in Western Visayas, they would rather talk in Tagalog than in Cebuano. But once we start giving the semblance that we are imposing this, then there will be rejection. Then, those purist Cebuanos in the Cebuano-speaking provinces will not only reject a Filipino language based on Tagalog, they insist that we should be using Cebuano. Then we will be putting an obstacle to the acceptance of a tagalog based national language.

Senator Mercado. We filed this measure because we believe that it is our responsibility to comply with the mandate of the Constitution as stated in Article XIV, Section 9 which reads:

The Congress shall establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages.

This is the reason for the existence of this particular measure, Mr. President.

Now, if Congress feels that we can forego this particular mandate of the Constitution for the moment, I leave it up to our Colleagues. I agree, having recently gone to Cebu, that, we should attend to the problems of the calamity-stricken areas. But it is not a matter of choosing a language over another; it is a matter of research; it is a matter of study, we should have done that yesterday; we should have done that 53 years ago. We are late; we are just trying to play a catch up game.

Senator Herrera. I recognize the fact that there is this constitutional mandate; but, the Constitution does not say that we have to do it now. Besides, if it is happening now that gradually all Filipinos are using the tagalog based Pilipino. I do not see now why do we have to insist on the government's spending for this Commission? I would not be surprised next year when the election is about to come when Senator Osmeña will start talking in Tagalog; because, it is a matter of necessity. One cannot escape from it. If I go to the Muslim areas, I speak either in Tagalog or in English. So, why spend government resources for the Commission and create problem later when we can achieve the same purpose by gradual evolution of the Pilipino language which the media is very effective in hastening this evolution?

Senator Mercado. Whether we like it or not, the Filipino language that will be evolving will be Tagalog-based because that is the language now that is understood by most Filipinos. It can never be Waray-based. It can never be Hiligaynon-based. It can never be Cebuano-based. It will be Tagalog-based. So, let us not kid ourselves. Let us confront that reality. But when we start imposing it, then we develop resentment in certain area. They would just like to learn. Whether they like it or not, the traders of Cebu, when they come to Manila and make business here, have to speak in Tagalog. Ninety percent of the movie houses in Cebu are showing Tagalog movies.

As I said, in less than 20 years, I think, Tagalog will be spoken in all places in the Philippines.

I was in Davao last Saturday. I had a meeting with the Cebuano public officials in Davao: Mayor Duterte, Ca-

ballero and all of them, and we talked about this matter because I always bring this issue. Do you know what they told me? "You have to be practical. You can be understood anywhere when you speak in Tagalog."

And so, the National Language, the Filipino language, will definitely be Tagalog-based. So, why legislate this and only create problems? Why unnecessarily use the limited resources of the Government when we can use these for more needed programs in the Government?

That is all, Mr. President.

Senator Mercado. I think, the so-called resentment will be generated only because of the mistaken belief that we are going to choose among the existing languages in the country today. That is not mandated in this particular measure. We just want to create a commission to study and start the work towards developing our National Language.

The President. All right, Senator Paterno.

Senator Mercado. Before Senator Paterno asks his question, I just would like to make a short comment with regard to the word "imposition" as used by Senator Herrera.

We are cognizant of the danger mentioned thus we have included safeguards that would cause the imposition of a language upon our nation. This will be done through the representation of the various ethnolinguistic groups in the country in the commission.

So, let them come together. Let the Tagalogs, Cebuanos, Ilocanos, Pangalatok, Kapampangans, Bicolanos, Hiligaynons, Waray representatives come together.

The President. Senator Paterno.

Senator Paterno. Will my Colleague yield to a few questions?

Senator Mercado. Gladly.

Senator Paterno. I tend to be in the Herrera school in this question, although, from a different perspective, since, unfortunately, I am not fluent at all in Cebuano. It

is my sense that, in the last 20 years, since 1970, there has been a very free and unanticipated flowering of the Filipino language. A number of terms used at the present time are quite new, I mean in the perspective of 20 years. Whereas, from 1950 to 1970, the progress of the language was, it seems to me constricted by the *salipaopao*, and *salumpuwit* terminologies of Lope K. Santos.

In other words, is not Senator Herrera, perhaps, also correct from the point of view of having a development of Filipino language which is more spontaneous, and integrates by usage the phrases and words from other languages of this country other than Tagalog? What would the distinguished Senator say to this?

Senator Mercado. No doubt, under Commonwealth Act No. 333, which amended Commonwealth Act No. 184, the mandate then was towards a more puristic approach in the development of language. In fact, if I remember right, there were provisions to purge the national language of foreign terms. That, I believe, was the Achilles heel of the effort to establish a national language; hence, as the distinguished Senator has mentioned, the move towards purism and the almost ludicrous result which became the butt of jokes amongst our people. But, precisely, it is that mistake that is being corrected here.

While I do admit that the *lingua franca* is a product largely of the electronic revolution, we must have a body that will put this together, of scholars who will be able to analyze, study, and, propagate by serving as the catalyst in implementing our mandate. If we leave it totally to media, then, I believe, we may not be doing justice to that discipline of linguistics.

I agree, we cannot legislate language. The purpose of language is to communicate and if it does communicate its message, then, I believe, the battle between the correct "interpretation" of the meaning of the term will lose out to the existing usage. But, that has to be documented; that has to be put in a structure. There must be paradigms under which we can study this development in language.

Senator Paterno. I beg to differ, because the greatest deterrent to speaking a language is somebody who tells you and smiles at you when you say something wrong.

Try to speak French in France, and say something with a wrong accent. The people smile at you and you just stop speaking French. If you speak Pilipino and somebody says that is not grammatical, et cetera, you will stop speaking Pilipino. That is what I am saying. Perhaps, the reason for the flowering of the language in unexpected ways in the last 20 years has been, precisely, the absence of an institute of national language so that Pilipino has been able to develop freely. Different people have different ways of saying things, but as long as communication is effected, then it is valid.

I wonder whether we would be militating against the more widespread adoption of Pilipino, and the more widespread usage of Pilipino by, at this time, putting up a National Language Commission, because it would inhibit the flowering of the language in a way that would be more widely used.

Senator Mercado. There would be a need, for putting some structures in the language, considering that our objective is to develop the language, not only to be able to communicate with each other; but, hopefully, as time goes on, to be able to use that language as our medium of instruction, as a means of documenting our thoughts, of developing our own literature which, to a great extent, embodies the ideals and the yearnings of our people. This is, actually, the soul of a nation.

Leaving it totally, I believe, to the forces of time, through the electronic media may be putting a lot of it in the informal structure and losing our opportunity of documenting, and studying, its development as time goes on.

I would like to believe that whatever language we may adopt, whatever mixture it may be, we submit that it will be basically Tagalog; but, only because it is the most developed, documented and widely used.

The President. Nais ko po lamang sundan iyong sinabi ni Senador Paterno kanina. Kailan po ba tayo nagkaroon ng Institute of National Language? Parang narinig ko kaninang...

Senator Mercado. Noong 1937 po yata, G. Pangulo.

The President. Noong 1937 pa. Noong araw pa po iyan, hindi ba?

Senator Mercado. Opo.

The President. Mayroon po bang saligan iyong paniniwala na namulaklak lamang itong Tagalog o iyong National Language during the last 20 years, from 1970 to 1990?

Senator Paterno. I am referring to the free-form development of the language. It used to be a very structured and dictated development. Kung ano ang sinabi ng Institute of National Language, kung ano ang nakalagay doon sa Balarila, iyon ang itinuturo sa mga eskuwelahan.

The President. Alam po ninyo, iyong Balarila ay noong panahon pa ni Lope K. Santos, noong mga 1935, 1936 hanggang 1940. Kaya ko hinabol iyong sinabi ninyo ay dahil noong kami ay nangangampanya noong 1965, limang taon bago dumating iyong sinasabi ninyong "flowering" o "pamumulaklak," napuna kong saan man kami magpunta ay naiintindihan kami sa wikang Tagalog. Sa katotohanan, noong kami ay nasa Jolo, habang nagsasalita ako sa wikang Ingles sa ibabaw ng plataporma, ang hinihingi ng madla ay: "Magsalita kayo sa Tagalog." And that was Sulu in 1965.

Senator Paterno. Opo, kayo po ay nagsasalita sa Tagalog, ngunit ilan sa mga nakikinig sa inyo ang nakapagsasalita ng Tagalog kahambing ng proportion ng nagsasalita ng Tagalog sa ngayon sa Sulu?

The President. Tiyak na marami ngayon. Pero ang ibig ko pong sabihin, noon pang panahong iyon ay talagang laganap na laganap na ang pagsasalita at ang pagkakaunawa sa salitang Tagalog.

Senator Paterno. I beg to differ. Laganap na po ang pag-uunawa ng salita, but I doubt whether laganap na ang pagsasalita ng Tagalog.

The President. Of course, it is very hard to quantify all this.

Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera. With the permission of the two Gentlemen, I agree with Senator Paterno's assessment that for the past 20 years, it was really a fast flowering of the Tagalog language. Because, I can still remember when I was a student during the '60s, iyong mga classmates namin na nanonood ng sineng Tagalog would be ridiculed by us. That was the feeling in Cebu at that time. Pag nanood ka ng movie na Tagalog, low class ka. Ngunit ngayon ay hindi na. For the past 20 years, there is now acceptance. But before that, iyong mga Tagalog na nagpupunta doon sa Cebu para magbenta lamang ng mga kumot, they were ridiculed. But, it is different now. The feeling all over the country is that there is acceptance of Tagalog-based Pilipino language.

The President. Senator Gonzales wanted to say something.

Senator Paterno. Tatapusin ko po lamang ang aking mga pananalita, if I may.

The President. Please proceed.

Senator Paterno. In other words, what I am suggesting that we look at is: What is the way to develop the language so that it will truly become a National Language, spoken and understood by as many people as possible? Ang isa ko pong puna rito ay para bang kulang ng statement of policy and direction of how that National Language should develop, so that the enactment of legislation will contain thrusts and directions for the development of the language instead of leaving it up to academicians who may have their own ideas which may be contrary to the interests that we seek to promote?

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Senator Gonzales is recognized.

Senator Gonzales. G. Pangulo, maaari po bang makagpagtanong sa mabunying Isponsor ng panukalang-batas na ito?

Senator Mercado. Sisikapin ko pong makasagot sa inyong mga katanungan, G. Pangulo.

Senator Gonzales. Napag-aralan po ba ng inyong

Komite kung ano ang ginawa at kung ano ang naging karanasan ng Indonesia sa pagkakaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansa? Alam po ninyo, tinukoy ko ang Indonesia dahil ito ngayon ay may sariling wikang tinatawag na *Bahasa Indonesia*, at kinuha ko ito bilang halimbawa sapagkat ang Indonesia ay isang bansang higit na malaki kaysa atin. Ang bilang ng kanilang mga mamamayan ay 185 milyon. Sila ay isang archipelago katulad ng Pilipinas at higit na malaki kaysa atin, at marami rin silang wika at dialektong ginagamit doon. Pero ang ipinagtataka ko, sa loob ng napakaiksing panahon sila ay nagkaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansang tinatawag na *Bahasa Indonesia*.

Ngayon, ibig ko pong malaman kung paano nila ginawa iyon nang hindi naman nahati ang kanilang mga mamamayan. Sa katunayan, ito ay isang bansang nagsasarili at nagkakaisa ang mga mamamayan, na taliwas naman doon sa ating paniniwala na kung sisikapin ng ating Pamahalaan na magkaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansa ay baka lalong mahati ang ating mga mamamayan.

Senator Mercado. Ngunit sa aking kaunting nalalaman tungkol sa Indonesia, malaki po ang contribution ni G. Sukarno sa development ng *Bahasa Indonesia*. It has only been some 30 years or three decades and yet the language has been fully developed. Indonesian territory is a lot larger than the Philippines, yet they have been able to overcome the difficulties. But, I feel, my impression is that it was because there was the political will and desire to really develop and catalyze the development of a national language on the part of the national leadership. To that, we give a lot of credit to Sukarno.

Senator Gonzales. Samakatwid, nauuwi na namang lahat doon sa katarungan ng pangunguna o leadership, political will, sang-ayon sa inyo, kung talagang gusto ng isang bansang magkaroon ng isang sariling wika.

Senator Mercado. Tama po iyon. At dito po sa ating panukala, maaaring sa gagawing pag-aaral ng Komisyon ay doon magsimula ang tinatawag nating pangunguna, at tuloy ay mahimay na maigi ang mga isyung napapaloob sa problema tungo sa aking pagkakaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansa.

Senator Gonzales. Pero kung iyon lamang ang

intensiyon ng batas na ito, baka hindi po ako bumoto rito. Ang gusto ko po ay isang kongkretong hakbang, na sa pagtatatag natin nitong tinatawag ninyong Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa ay maging isa itong tunay at matibay na hakbang na gagawin ng Pamahalaan tungo sa isang dakilang layunin, at iyon nga ay ang pagkakaroon ng isang Wikang Pambansa, na ang ibinigay na pangalan ng ating Saligang-Batas ay "Filipino". Hindi kami komportable doon sa salitang "Filipino", pero iyon ang tadhanang nakasaad sa ating Saligang-Batas.

Alam po ninyo, mahal na Pangulo, kaming mga Tagalog, matagal nang panahong isinaksak namin sa dingding ng ating kasaysayan iyong sundang ng rehiyunalismo. Matagal na po iyon. Siguro ay nauna ho kami. Tanging kami lamang mga Tagalog ang nag-alis noon. Kaya masasabi ninyo sa lahat ng grupo na hindi nagkakaisa rito ang mga Pilipino. Sapagkat ang tingin namin sa aming sarili ay hindi na Tagalog. Ang tingin namin sa aming sarili ay Pilipino. Kung paanong ang mga Bisaya, ang mga Bikolano at ang iba nating mga kababayan ay Pilipino. Hindi namin sila tinitingnan bilang Bisaya o bilang Ilokano o bilang Pampanggo kundi bilang Pilipino.

Mangyari ay may mga salitang ginamit noon, na masasabi nating isang pagkakamali sa ating kasaysayan, at iyon ang ibig kong pag-aralan nating mabuti. Tama kaya ang mga salitang iyon? Because it is a harsh judgment, Mr. President. Ang tadhanang nakasaad sa ilalim ng 1935 Constitution tungkol sa bagay na ito ay "shall develop a national language based on one of the existing languages in the Philippines."

At may kasaysayan at may dahilan po ang tadhanang iyon, sapagkat may dalawang approaches in the development of a language. First, we have to base it on one of the existing languages in a country. Ikalawa, iyong helter-skelter, o iyong pagdampot ng ilang mga salita, o pagpulo ng mga salita mula sa iba, at pagkatapos ay pagsasama-samahin ito, kaya ang labas ay halu-halo system. Pero ang mga linguists ay naniniwala na ang una ang siyang pinakamagaling na paraan to develop a language. Kaya may base po. It is not accidental. It is neither, shall we say, na ang Constitutional Convention of 1934 ay may katwiran nang kanilang sabihin na "To develop a national language based on one of the existing languages of the Philippines." Samakatwid, it was a

policy choice--how to develop a National Language.

At dahil dito ay itinatag iyong tinatawag na Institute of National Language, iyong naging forerunner nitong tinatawag natin ngayong Surian ng Wikang Pambansa. And it might interest the Members of this Body to know that the first Chairman of the Institute of National Language was a Visayan--si Jaime de Veyra. Siya ay isang Visayan. At gumawa ng pag-aaral itong Institute of National Language sa lahat ng mga umiiral na languages at diyalekto sa Pilipinas. And they reached the conclusion that Tagalog is the most adequate language to serve as basis. It is not the national language, kundi batayan lamang ng isang itatalagang national language. So, I think, the Philippine Legislature enacted a law designating Tagalog as merely the basis--hindi siyang national language--of the national language. Kaya po nandoroon nga. Doon nagsimula iyong tinatawag nating "Tagalog-based national language", at pagkatapos ay binigyan ng pangalang "Filipino." Hindi po ba?

Ngayon, ang tanong ko po ay, sa ngayon, ano po ba ang katayuan nitong "Tagalog-based Filipino?" Sa panahong ito, wala na po ba iyan?

Senator Mercado. When we made some statements which has been interpreted by Senator Gonzales as a harsh judgment on the work of the Institute of National Language, we were speaking of its efforts as mandated by Commonwealth Act No. 184, and amended by 333 which to our mind included provisions that sought to purge the language of foreign words and influences. While we agree with Senator Gonzales that, indeed, a policy choice must be taken, we cannot also readily dismiss the fact that language is a matter of evolution. It cannot be solely imposed as has been the experience of the Institute of National Language where, as I mentioned earlier, there were translations and words that were even strange to those who spoke Tagalog extensively, which is the basis of the language.

With regard to Indonesia, they made a decision as regards Bahasa Indonesia, and they based it on Malay which is broadly accepted in Indonesia. They put up their counterpart of a National Center for Language Development equivalent to our *Surian*, which we are now trying to rename as "The National Language Commission." There was a political decision.

Senator Gonzales. Opo, wala po tayong pagtatalo

roon. Ang ibig ko po lamang malaman, when we use the word "evolve" and then pagkatapos "develop", ano ho iyon, mula sa wala? We evolve from nothing? Develop from nothing? Ano po ang maayos: iyong "evolve" o iyong "develop from something that is already in existence"? Because, I would like to believe that when the 1986 Constitutional Commission approved the 1987 Constitution, they were aware of the history and the developments in our national effort to have a national language. They were aware. So when they used the word "evolve", they used the word "develop" then, it is not really from thin air or from nothing but something, the existence of which is known and recognized. Hindi po kaya?

Senator Mercado. Ang totoo nito, dalawang katotohanan ang maaari nating tanggapin: na ang Pilipino base sa Tagalog ay tanggap na sa buong Bansa, at mismo ang ating mga kasamahang taga-Bisaya ang nagsasabi na ito ay malawak nang nauunawaan ng ating mga kababayan. We cannot deny that as a language, there have been some great strides that have been made, even as we acknowledge failure. In literature, in the development of the language as a medium of instruction, we have made some gains not as much as we hope we should have, but we are on the way.

The University of the Philippines, for example, now, at the tertiary level, is making great efforts to use Filipino as the medium of instruction with some difficulty but with some success in some areas. We cannot close our eyes to this. And we cannot just, I think, skirt the issue and say, "let us just postpone discussion on the matter."

Senator Gonzales. Iyon nga po ang aking punto rito. Ito po ang tanong ko: Sa ngayon, is there an officially declared national language? If so, what is it?

The President. Ito po ang nakalagay sa Saligang-Batas:

The national language of the Philippines is Filipino.

It is already there.

Senator Gonzales. G. Pangulo, ang sinasabi ko, bago po itong tadhanang ito ng Konstitusyon, mayroon nang umiiral. According to the law, officially and le-

gally, mayroon pong isang national language dito, although ang spelling ay hindi "Filipino" kundi "Pilipino." And in the opinion of the Secretary of Justice, basing upon this Article XVII, Section 3, it states and I quote:

All existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instructions, and other executive issuances not inconsistent with the Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked.

Ang sabi sa batas that designates or points to Pilipino, which is Tagalog-based, that continues to remain as the statute and, therefore, until that is changed, repealed or amended, then that continues to remain, bagaman ang pangalan ay "Pilipino." Kaya sa mga public schools natin, at maski na sa private schools, ginagamit pa rin, as a language of instruction under the bilingual system of education, ang Tagalog-based Pilipino. Hindi po ba?

Senator Gonzales. Sa diskusyon po ng Constitutional Commission, mayroon pong sinabi ang Chairman ng Komite noon, si G. Villacorta, na nauukol sa bagay na iyan. I would just like to quote one of his sentences:

MR. VILLACORTA. The position of the Committee, Madam President, is that there is a living *lingua franca* which is called Filipino. It is not *lingua franca* that is used by citizens of the Philippines who use different native languages or dialects. So, if a Cebuano and an Ilocano meet each other in any place in the Philippines, they would use this *lingua franca* which we call "Filipino." We call it "Filipino" and not "Pilipino" because it is not exactly Tagalog because Tagalog is a pure form. In fact, "Pilipino," according to linguists who attended our hearings, is even purer than Tagalog because it tries to coin words which are not really used.

Senator Gonzales. That does not answer the question, kung mayroon po tayo ngayong isang official national language as provided for by law.

Senator Mercado. Binanggit po ng ating Pangulo ang Section 6, Article XIV ng ating Konstitusyon, iyong probisyong na nagsasaad na "The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be

further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages." Iyan po, sa aking paniwala, ang batayan o ang kasagutan doon sa katanungan ninyo, kung mayroong basehan ang national language.

Senator Gonzales. Mangyari po, sa palagay ko, doon sa language development, I do not agree that there is a sharp division or interruption in point of development between the Tagalog-based national language and the Filipino, now provided for by the Constitution. Somehow, may koneksiyon. Otherwise, paano natin maipaliwanag itong expenditure of public funds na hanggang sa ngayon ay ginagawa sa pagtuturo nitong Tagalog-based Filipino as one of the medium of instructions. Ang ibig ba nating sabihin ay natapon at nawalan na ng kabuluhan ang lahat ng ito, until we shall have really developed Filipino. Terrible ang pag-aaksaya ng panahon, ang pag-aaksaya ng salapi ng bayan, ang pag-aaksaya ng kasaysayan.

Sinisenyasan na po ako ng Majority Floor Leader. Ako ay mabait na kawal, tango lamang ako ng tango basta sinabi ng ating lider. Kaya, siguro, kung maaari isuspendi muna natin ito. Ayaw ko namang huminto dahil may punto pa po ako. Umaasa ako na hindi ipagkakait sa akin ang pagkakataong makapagtanong muli. So, I request that the interpellations be suspended for the next session.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SENATE BILL NO. 209

Senator Guingona. With that reservation, Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 209.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we transfer to the Calendar for Special Orders Committee Report No. 5646 on Senate Bill No. 1063.

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

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:18 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang pulong ng Senado.

Aawitin ng UP Concert Chorus ang Pambansang Awit at ang "Payapang Daigdig." Pagkatapos, pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Teofisto Guingona.

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

PRAYER

Senator Guingona.

Dear God in heaven,

We pray for peace in the wake of war. We pray for change arising from war--for a new economic order where poor nations do not have to unjustly bend to the conditions of the rich--where the poor shall progress and the strong shall share--where great issues are settled with hearts and minds and not by guns or weapons of death and destruction.

We pray for change in our own land--that this crisis draw us from distorted dependence on outside forces to self-reliance and self-sustenance of our own destinies.

That we change from revolutions of blood to a revolution of the heart from within.

That we learn to really love others before self, to place the nation's welfare above our own.

Amen.

*Arrived after the roll call
**On official mission

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

ROLL CALL

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.	Absent
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator John H. Osmeña	Absent
Senator Vicente T. Paterno	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.	Present
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-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 the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]
The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

draft, inquire from the distinguished proponent of the amendment ...

The President. But he will introduce an amendment in writing yet.

Senator Guingona. Ah, in writing.

The President. Yes.

Senator Guingona. We will just make a reservation.

The President. All right.

So I suppose we can suspend consideration of this measure in the meantime.

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 1678**

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

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

**BILL ON SECOND READING
Senate Bill No. 1003 - Overseas Workers
Development Fund
(Continuation)**

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1003 as reported out under Committee Report No. 1118. We are now in the period of individual amendments. I ask that we recognize Senator Romulo.

The President. Let us suspend the session for a while.

It was 4:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:40 p., the session was resumed..

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, may we recall our previous motion concerning Overseas Workers Development Fund.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]
Hearing none, the same 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 President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 209 is now in order.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, we are still in the period of interpellations.

I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado, and may I ask the Page to distribute the copies of the bill.

The President. Senator Mercado is recognized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, we are ready to answer questions.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Pimentel is recognized.

Senator Pimentel. Will the distinguished Gentleman yield to some questions?

Senator Mercado. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. Before I do, may I place on the record that this bill is long overdue; that really, we should have had a Commission to unify the various proposals for the evolution of a national language since the birth of a Republic. But for the sake of clarity, what is the composition of the Commission?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, in the meetings that we had, what was proposed would be a Commission with a Chairman and 12 Members. These minds would

represent the major ethnolinguistic groups: the Tagalogs, Cebuanos, Pangasinan, Bicolanos, Hiligaynon, Warays, and the other major languages that are being used in Mindanao will have a representative. We will have a representative from the academe, from the judiciary, and one from the executive, and one from the media; two deputy Commissioners will be nominated by the Chairman from the Commission, and two deputy Ministers will devote full time work to the effort of developing and helping a national language. The other Commissioners will attend meetings and perform the functions as designated by the Commission.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, according to Section 3 of the bill--I do not know if there has been an amendment, there are actually 17 members of the Commission. Is that correct, Mr. President?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, this was the original proposal. But, as reported out by the Committee, there are committee amendments that reduce the number of commissioners to 13, and will be divided, as I have mentioned.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, thank you for that information. In fact, I notice in the papers that were given to us only this afternoon that, indeed, there is such an amendment to the Section, so that, linguistically, the following regions will be represented: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano. By the way, the spelling of the word "Sebuano," would, probably, have to be revised. I think, by common usage, it is spelled with a C, rather than with an S. I do not know, but this is something, perhaps, that can be looked into.

Senator Mercado. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Pimentel. Ilocano, Pangasinan, Kapampangan, Bicol, Hiligaynon, Waray, at ang nangingibabaw na wika sa Mindanao.

In this regard, we, probably, should modify the word "Mindanao" by saying "Muslim Mindanao." Because if we talk of "*nangingibabaw na wika sa Mindanao*," I think statistics will show that there are more Visayan-speaking people of Mindanao; not necessarily of people who come from the Visayas, but who were simply influenced by the Cebuano language by our sheer proximity to

Cebu. Mr. President, the language used by so many people is actually Visayan, which is mainly Cebuano.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, that would be a welcome amendment during the period of amendments. We believe that it will be clarified in this particular provision of the measure.

Senator Pimentel. Mr. President, while we are now discussing the issue of composition of the Commission, I can see the rationality of the representation coming from the *Pamayanang Pang-Akademiko*, who will be entitled to one representative. But, I cannot see the reason for having one from the judiciary. Why should this be so, Mr. President?

Senator Mercado. Originally, it was aimed at having the broadest representation. Considering that that language, hopefully, will be used also even in court proceedings, it has been sought that, maybe, a representative from the judiciary will be able to help.

But if it is felt that this will raise some constitutional questions, then I believe that we would listen to the good advice of the members of the Senate, especially Senator Pimentel.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President. Because if we start singling out the judiciary, why not from other bureaus or departments also which may have their own kind of "language." The question will also apply to this *Kagawarang Tagapagpaganap*. Will the distinguished Gentleman kindly explain what this body is?

Senator Mercado. The Executive Department will be represented. The effort here was to make it as broad as possible. So, maybe, that is the rationale why a representative from the Judiciary and a representative from the Executive Branch were included. Of course, they complete the function because of the part that we play here in the drafting of this law. What is sought here is the broadest possible representation from the bureaucracy to be able to help propagate and develop a national language, and use it at its fullest, hopefully, by the year 2000.

Senator Pimentel. Yes, Mr. President. But if that were the rationale for this, if the Judiciary is entitled to

one, the Executive to one, then the Legislature apparently should be entitled to, perhaps, two; I mean, if that is the purpose. In other words, I am only trying to raise some issues here which the Committee or the Sponsor would perhaps kindly consider before making final amendments to this bill.

Mr. President, what is more important here is that the composition of the Commission should be fairly representative of the major linguistic groups of the country, *para mas madali siguro iyong integration ng iba't-ibang mga pangungusap at lengwahe ng ating bansa*, and thus make for easier acceptance also by the people.

Senator Mercado. I fully support that view and we are not pressing our case with regard to the representatives from the Judiciary or the Executive. We are even willing to have the number of commissioners further reduced. Where the original plan was 17, we reduced it to 13; I think we can further reduce it. As the Gentleman mentioned, there may not be the necessity to have the representative from the Judiciary, and the Executive Branches, as long as the major languages and ethnic languages groups are represented and we have representatives from the media and the academe—I guess we have a fairly good group that will be able to work and help develop a national language.

Senator Pimentel. Thank you very much, Mr. President. That will be all for the moment.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Guingona is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, would the distinguished Sponsor yield to some questions?

Senator Mercado. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. The objective of the creation of a National Language Commission does not intend to legislate a national Language.

Senator Mercado. That is correct, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. It only seeks for the Commis-

sion to undertake, coordinate, and propagate researches for the development of Filipino and other languages.

Senator Mercado. That is true, Mr. President. We believe that language development is not a matter of legislation. We can help set up the structure, but in such a dynamic social phenomenon like language, I think this is best left to its own evolution with some elements that will help catalyze such development with some pro-active actions as we are proposing in this measure.

Senator Guingona. In undertaking, coordinating, and propagating, should not the Legislature detail more standards or guidelines so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, where the institute purified the intended language to only one region?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, in fact as stated in Section 7, we are not legislating a language. The Commission is tasked to develop Filipino as a language and formulate and propose programs including the incorporation or adoption of foreign words which have already gained local acceptance.

The reason we did not spell out the guidelines is to leave to the Commission the prerogative of determining the parameters of its research. Some research is going to be done on language, and if we tell them the limits of research, we might be stifling their studies.

Let us set up the structure. It is clear that Filipino is not Tagalog alone. This is clearly stated in this measure and the intent of the Constitutional provision, I believe they can work from there.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, Section 7 says "existing Philippine languages." May we know if there are major Philippine languages, and if so, how many are there?

Senator Mercado. The major languages that have been identified, that will be also represented in this Commission, will be: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Pangasinan, Kapampangan, Bicol, Hiligaynon, and Waray. In terms of percentage of usage, the data that is available to us is the Census of 1980. In it Tagalog ranks first with 29.66%; followed by Cebuano, 24.4%; Ilocano, 10.30%;

Hiligaynon, 9.16%; Bicol, 5.57%; Waray, 3.98%; Kapampangan, 2.77%, and Pangasinan, 1.84%, of households polled in 1980.

Senator Guingona. If we do not have more specific guidelines, would the Commission have full discretion as to whether to concentrate on the major languages or to only three or four of the mentioned major languages? They would be at liberty to use their discretion however which way they would wish, in recommending the Filipino language.

Senator Mercado. But the mechanism that we have here to serve as a check and a balance against such practices would be the representation of all these major languages.

The inclusion of a media representative, the thrust seems to be for us to accept what is already in common usage--Filipino-- that has also incorporated a number of foreign and also local languages into Filipino; that is, the *lingua franca* of today.

Senator Guingona. Even if we do not create this Commission and enact this measure, the Institute of National Language is presently formulating or doing this task at present.

Senator Mercado. Yes, and the representation, I believe, is not as broad as we have now.

Senator Guingona. If we were to leave it as is, would the direction of the formulation of the language continue, considering that the main developer of National Language does not seem to be a formal Commission or Institute of National Language --not even the schools but media? Considering that, should we not, therefore, have the proposed Commission link up more with media in this bill?

Senator Mercado. Media plays a very important role, Mr. President. For a language to be of broadest use, a formal structure has to exist. The University of the Philippines is preparing a dictionary of scientific and technical terms, for concepts adopted, into Filipino. This is because of the realization that we cannot leave to mass media alone, the development of the language. There will

be a *lingua franca*. But, unfortunately, this will not enrich our own literature, as well as its usage in the sciences, mathematics, and other subjects. We are hoping that a national language that will be spoken by a great majority of our people will develop. At the same time, it will be used also in formal communications, not only in schools but even in the bureaucracy.

Senator Guingona. How would we monitor the progress of this Commission? In other words, I am trying to ask the distinguished Sponsor how we can avoid the mistakes of the past. Since 1935, we have authorized the formulation of a National Language, but until now we are still faced basically with the same problem. How would we monitor the progress of this proposed Commission?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, the monitoring of this particular body that we are creating would not be any different from our monitoring of all other creations of the Senate. However, I would like to make a comment with regard to what is perceived as a failure in the work of the *Surian* in the past. This is largely due to the original mandate, which was to purge the language of foreign words, and that was the reason why there was so much purism. This is no longer the mandate of this Commission. In fact, the Commission will recognize new works that have been absorbed in the national language through practice. They have enriched our language.

The legislature, as usual, can do its monitoring through its oversight function through the budgetary process, and through public hearings, if it is so desired, we will not oppose a requirement for reports to be submitted to Congress.

Senator Guingona. On the other hand, this does not mean that we will institutionalize "Taglish" and adopt almost all the present English words that are now evolving in the "Taglish" language.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, foreign or non-Tagalog words find their way into the *lingua franca*. It is a matter of dynamics.

Senator Guingona. Because the Bahasa, I understand, has very little English or foreign words. It is mainly Malaysian, indigenous, and, I think, we should

learn from this lesson rather than revert to "Taglish."

Senator Mercado. That will bring up the question of purism.

Senator Guingona. At any rate, will the distinguished Sponsor not be adverse to having more specific guidelines?

Senator Mercado. No, Mr. President. I just would like to stress as I have stated previously that we are not legislating language. We are just creating a Commission that would spearhead and catalyze the development of a national language, especially on the technical aspects of language development. Maybe what we can do is ask for an annual report to be submitted to Congress.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, we would like to ask whether it is necessary to have the members of the Commission submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation, considering the fact that they have the rank of bureau director.

Senator Mercado. We can submit this to the best judgment of the body, Mr. President. I do not have any strong feelings for or against confirmation. Not being a member of the Commission on Appointments, I would like to throw this to our Colleagues and find out what their feelings are on this matter.

Senator Guingona. On the term of office, may we know the rationale behind these seven years, five years, three years, rather than have a smaller group of professionals, dedicated Commissioners, to really serve in the body, instead of rotating, because this takes the concept of a rotation, staggered?

Senator Mercado. Yes, staggered.

Senator Guingona. Would the distinguished Sponsor yield to having a permanent core of representatives of the major languages rather than, staggered basis?

Senator Mercado. Yes. For the representatives of the academe. For example, I think it would be better to have a Commissioner appointed on a permanent basis. After all research work in the field of linguistics may take some time. I think we can benefit from knowledge that is

gained from years of study by experts and academicians.

Senator Guingona. And, perhaps, from media, from the Tagalog, Visayan, Ilocano, Pangasinan, the major languages may be assured, because they have a more decisive influence in the shaping of a national language.

Senator Mercado. That is a truism, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. And, perhaps, also in the medium of instruction to the schools, because as long as the medium of instruction remains aligned to them, the less progress we will have on this matter.

Senator Mercado. We agree, Mr. President.

Senator Guingona. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Mercado. Thank you.

The President. Any other interpellation? Senator Aquino.

Senator Aquino. Can I ask just two questions, Mr. President?

The President. Please proceed.

Senator Aquino. Thank you, Mr. President.

Is it the intention of this bill to coordinate, promote researches for development, propagate, preserve, which I feel are being done by the present body?

Senator Mercado. Yes, that is the reason why we are converting it from the *Surian* to the Commission, and we are changing its character by including in the commission representatives of the major languages.

These functions are being done now, but in compliance with the constitutional requirement, we are making sure that it is not only Tagalog that is represented.

Senator Aquino. Is it the intention of this bill to make Filipino eventually the medium of instruction in schools?

Senator Mercado. By the year 2000, it is hoped that

it will be broad enough to be used as a medium of instruction.

Senator Aquino. Because at present, I understand that Cebuano is still being used as a medium of instruction in Cebu and Mindanao. So, are we planning to change that to Filipino?

Senator Mercado. Not necessarily, Mr. President. In fact, I think it is a truism in education that the medium of instruction must be one widely used and understood by the population. All major languages have their limitations. Thus, it is necessary to have a national language that is accepted and used broadly as possible.

Senator Aquino. What we have to decide is to be pro-active in propagating Filipino and convince every Filipino to use this language, including Congress, or are we going to allow this to evolve in a more natural way that might take generations? I suppose these are the two concepts. Which one are we adopting, a more pro-active way or natural evolution?

Senator Mercado. Yes, indeed we cannot just wait. The experience of Indonesia has been cited as an example. They had a strong President who was firm in making Bahasa the national language. They required its usage, and now it is not only widely accepted, it is broadly used especially in education. I believe that, to a certain extent, our lack of unity as a people is due to lack of a national language.

The President. Is this matter not already decided by the Constitution? Under the Constitution, "the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system."

Then again it says, "For purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English." These matters are already decided in the Constitution.

Senator Aquino. Yes, Mr. President. That means the Cebuanos are violating the Constitution because their medium of instruction is Cebuano.

The President. That is the conclusion of the Gentleman.

Senator Aquino. [Laughing] I have been informed that the medium of instruction in Cebu is Cebuano, that is why I am asking if it is part of the plan to eventually change that to Filipino. I think we all need one national language. It is a matter of how we intend to implement this: by active push or natural evolution. That is what I am asking.

Senator Mercado. The matter of implementation of law, Mr. President, as we all know, is vested on the Executive branch. Our function here is just to make a policy pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.

Senator Aquino. Then in that case maybe, we should require the Commission to meet regularly: not once a week, especially, if we are thinking of asking them to translate books. At the rate they are going, it will take several generations if they are going to meet once a week only.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, there will be researchers that will be doing continuous work, and a secretariat that will perform functions that are not going to be dependent on just a few projects. This is going to be a continuing effort.

Senator Aquino. Is the Senator objecting to a full time working Commission? Meaning to say, they meet regularly everyday from Monday to Friday.

Senator Mercado. The Chairman and the two Deputy Commissioners shall serve on a full time basis. The rest of the Commissioners shall serve upon call by the Chairman to attend meetings and to perform relevant functions. They can meet as often as they wish.

But, as I said, the core staff, who is going to be technical, shall be composed of experts in linguistics, and they will work full time.

Senator Aquino. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Mayroon po lamang akong gustong itanong: Iyong *Institute of Language* yata, ang tawag

doon ngayon, is it the Institute of...

Senator Mercado. Opo.

The President. Gaano ang *appropriation* na ibinibigay natin sa kanila?

Senator Mercado. Hindi ko po natatandaan. Siguro ang taga-Pangulo ng *Education Committee* ay makapagbibigay sa atin ng impormasyon.

Si Senator Angara po ang Chairman ng Education Committee.

Senator Angara. I do not know the exact amount, but it does not exceed P20 million a year.

The President. Let us assume that that is the figure. Under this law, how much appropriation are they providing for?

Senator Angara. If I am not mistaken, P150 million.

Senator Mercado. Yes, Mr. President, P50 million.

Senator Angara. Yes, we are appropriating P150 million for the work of the Commission, Mr. President.

The President. Considering our financial constraints...

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, may I interject. Originally, the proposal was for P150 million, but when it was reported out, the Committee amendments reduced the appropriation to P50 million as per the Committee recommendation.

Senator Angara. I stand corrected, Mr. President.

The President. How many personnel are there now in the institute?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, the resource person from the Department of Education is not here, but we can provide the same information later.

The President. I will indicate the thrust of my question. I am a little apprehensive that we are just expanding the present Institute, without improving the quality of the work being done. In other words, is it a source of patronage?

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, we can avoid this by seeing to it that the Commission will draw its personnel from the existing bureaucracy. The Department of Education, I believe, can provide some personnel. The academic community, the State University, and other academic institutions can also provide people. We do not have to employ new people. I have stated in previous instances, that what we can do when we organize new offices is to draw personnel from the existing bureaucracy. No new appointments.

Senator Herrera. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera. Thank you, Mr. President. My concern about this bill is that it has certain assumptions which, I think, are not in their correct perspective.

First, the bill assumes that we do not have a national language. I really disagree with that. If we go all over the country now, everybody is talking in Filipino, Tagalog-based. I think, we have to be realistic about that. And to say that the main intention is to develop and promote the Filipino language, to me, is something that is not realistic because what is happening, whether it is in Cebu or in the Muslim areas, people understand Tagalog or call it "Filipino," if he may, and that is our national language now. So, to me, that is a defective assumption.

The other point is, there is an assumption that if we will make it a commission with 17 commissioners, the work will improve. I do not think so. To me, it is unnecessary to bloat the bureaucracy. The present institute is sufficient enough. Maybe, let us add the budget. But come to think of it, we have 17 commissioners; that is as good as the full attendance of the Senate. Imagine having 17 commissioners.

To me, it is something that will not be received well

by our people. I do not think that we need 17 or 13 commissioners.

Senator Mercado. The Committee Report recommends 13 commissioners. There is a proposal from Senator Pimentel to remove the representative of the Judiciary and the Executive Branch; that will make it 11. That will be the number.

Precisely, what is being done here is to broaden the representation, to define how the commission will be composed, and to see to it that all major languages are represented. We are reorganizing what is in existence cognizant of the fact that there are other languages in the Philippines, and they should participate in the development of a national language. I agree that the Filipino language, Tagalog-based, is broadly spoken, it is a *lingua franca*; but as a language used for formal communication in the government and also for education, we still have to develop it fully. It is not enough that a language is spoken and used widely in conversations, in television, over the radio and in the movies. I think we must enrich it by having its formal structure defined and propagated.

Senator Herrera. Eventually, that will come even without necessarily imposing that. My feeling here is that, let us give an additional budget to the present institute. I think that is what is needed. But to create a new commission with 13 or 17 commissioners, and then next year, they will come back and say, "Look, I need an assistant. I need two clerks. I need my own budget. I need a new Pajero in my office," that will be taxing the government at this time. I think we should be very cautious on this. Since we are now in a sort of economic crisis, let us just give additional funds to the present institute, and let us re-examine this next year. To me, that is a practical approach. By giving P150 million for this Commission I expect next year, they will lobby for additional P50 million. We cannot afford that, and there are more urgent matters, I think that our government should take care of.

I go along with the idea of providing them, maybe, P50 million, as suggested here by the Sponsor. Let us give P50 million to the present institute. And then, let us see what will come out, with that additional budget. If it is really necessary later that we should have a commission, then we may consider it, but not now.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, we are amenable to the P50 million amendment of the Committee. In fact, I do not see any quarrel if Senator Herrera agrees to the appropriation of P50 million. Now, our only disagreement is on the question of whether we should restructure the commission or not.

Our contention is that we must see to it that we include, among the commissioners, representatives of the various languages, structure it in such a manner that we have a representative from the media, we have a representative from the academic community, and a formal core of linguists who will do research. After we give them the P50 million--as Senator Herrera agrees with this appropriation--we can monitor it on a year-to-year basis. We can ask for reports on a yearly basis and evaluate their performance.

Senator Herrera. My worry here is that we might be defeating the purpose of giving them P50 million by creating new positions, because that money will not be enough to pay for the commissioners, their assistants and their secretaries, the transportation costs, et cetera, especially that the commissioners will represent various regions. Every time they meet here in Manila, there will be travel costs. So, why not give the P50 million to the present institute and let them improve their activities, without necessarily adding more people, creating new positions?

Mr. President, we have created some positions recently. We have the Tripartite Wage Board; we did not provide funds for that. They are asking for funds. These are now existing offices.

Now, we will be appointing commissioners, 13 or 17 commissioners. Eventually also, they will come back and say: "Look, how can we perform? We do not have funds."

So if we give P50 million and we create 13 offices of commissioners, the P30 million will just go to salaries and wages and traveling expenses. To me, let us give the P50 million to the present institute and let them improve the quality of their activities there, and let us say: "Maybe, next year, it might be already the opportune time to decide whether we will have to create a position for 13 or 17 commissioners."

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, if we will just allow the present institute to go on without changing the structure, later on, we will have complaints from the Cebuanos, the Warays, those who speak Ilonggo or Hiligaynon, Pangalatok, that the language has been so developed to their prejudice and it did not draw from their languages.

There is a solution to the problem that Senator Herrera has raised. As I mentioned previously, I am sure there are Ilonggo-speaking, Cebuano-speaking experts in the bureaucracy, in the Department of Education, the academe, and in the state universities who can be transferred to this Commission without necessarily creating new positions. We can carve this office out of the existing bureaucracy in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and also the academic community.

Senator Herrera. That is precisely my point, Mr. President. We are the ones creating problems for the Cebuanos and the other areas by giving the impression that we are imposing. Right now, it is being accepted. As I said, it is unrealistic to say that we do not have a national language. We have a national language which is Tagalog-based. But if we keep on harping on this, then we will have the people in Cebu and other areas saying, "No, we would like Cebuano to be the national language." We should not provide them with any reason to resist.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, we cannot just sit back and passively allow a language to develop. The national language that we envision to be developed will be used in official communications, also in the educational institutions, so there must be some formal structure. We cannot depend on radio, television, and the media to do it. We cannot assume that it does not require guidance.

Senator Herrera. As I said, it will come later. In fact, if the Gentleman will remember, in 1987, when somebody here spoke in Tagalog, there was a resistance from the Cebuano Senators. Right now, the Cebuano Senators are themselves speaking in Tagalog. We do not have to impose this thing. In many offices now, they are using Tagalog or Filipino as the medium of communication. In my own union, our memorandum now is in Tagalog. It is unthinkable a year ago, but that is what we

are doing now. There is gradual acceptance of a Tagalog-based national language.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, I would like to invite my good friend, Senator Herrera, to show me where in this particular measure in Senate Bill No. 209 is there anything that even hints at imposition of a language on the Cebuanos? In fact, it is the reverse.

In the measure, we are creating a body that ensures that a representative of the Cebuanos sits as a Commissioner.

The President. By the way, it seems to me that the debate is a little academic, because there is a provision already in the Constitution--Section 9, Article XIV--that "Congress shall establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches, for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages." Nandiyan na iyan.

Senator Herrera. I am aware of that, but the Constitution does not say that we do it now. Maybe, we should attend to other important problems. We can delay that. That is not very urgent; that will only divide the country.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, sometimes when there are other pressing problems, we feel that matters like culture, language are not that important. But I would like to dare say that, to my mind, language is one of the main pillars for our own unity and development. It is precisely at this time that we need the commission; first, to guide and systematize the evolution and the development of our national language. This function cannot be just delegated to mass media. We have to accelerate the formal development of Filipino as a language. This is our identity --our very soul.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President. The Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I ask that we have our usual break.

The President. The session is suspended for our

usual break, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:51 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 209

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

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

Senator Guingona. Tomorrow, Mr. President, we are scheduled to take up the Overseas Workers' Development Fund, and continue with the bill regulating foreign investments. We will also take up the bill creating the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and, if we have time, the National Language Commission.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

I move that we adjourn the session until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The President. The session is adjourned until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:52 p.m.

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. 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-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.

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

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1991

ROLL CALL

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:15 p.m., the Honorable Ernesto M. Maceda, acting as Presiding Officer, called the session to order.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. The Valentine's Day session of the Philippine Senate is hereby called to order. Senator Alvarez will lead us in the opening prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Alvarez.

Panginoon, kami ay nananawagan sa inyo upang ipaalala sa amin na kung minsan, higit na makapangyarihan ang puso kaysa isip.

Lalo na sa kasalukuyang panahong nahaharap ang Bayan sa malalalim na suliranin at matitinding krisis--krisis sa ekonomiya, krisis sa enerhiya, krisis na dulot ng patuloy na digmaan sa Gitnang Silangan, pagmamalabis sa kalikasan, at ngayon, sa napipintong aklatan ng mga manggagawa bunga ng matinding kahirapan.

Sa gitna ng mga suliranin at krisis na ito, Panginoon, kaming bahagi ng namumuno sa Bayang ito, ay sumasamo sa Inyo na bigyan kami ng sapat na karunungan sa araw na ito at pahintulatang mamayani ang tunay na pagmamalasakit at pagmamahalan sa isa't isa.

Tulutan po Ninyong mangibabaw ang aming mga puso, at maiwaksi ang ano mang makasariling kaisipan, alang-alang sa kapakanan at kagalingan ng nakararaming mahihirap.

Pakinggan sana Ninyo, Panginoong aming Manunubos na bukal ng wagas na pag-ibig, ang aming dalangin.

Siya Nawa.

*Arrived after the roll call
**On official mission

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. The Secretary will 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	**
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	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	Present
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga	Present
The President	**

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. With 17 Senators present in the Senate, 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 Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] Hearing none, the Journal is approved.

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1743, entitled

orable Wigberto E. Tañada presiding.

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

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.

We are in the period of individual amendments.

I ask that we recognize Senator Mercado.

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

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, in compliance with the request of our Colleagues that a clean copy of the bill be made available to them, we have the same, dated February 5, 1991.

I would like to make a motion that we adopt this copy as our working draft.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Will the Secretary see to it that the copies are distributed.

Senator Mercado. Can I ask for a short suspension of the session, Mr. President?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

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

It was 5:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Senator Saguisag. Mr. President.

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

Senator Saguisag. Thank you, Mr. President.

On page 2, lines 20 to 22, where it says: "The Chairman and Associate Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments."

On page 3, lines 9 to 11, it says: "The Chairman and the two (2) Associate Commissioners shall have the same rank, privileges, salary, allowances and other emoluments of a regular bureau director."

I wonder, Mr. President, in the face of the rulings of the Supreme Court in the Mison case, and also in the Bautista case, involving the Commission on Human Rights, whether it is permissible for us to require even an Associate Commissioner to have to go through the Commission on Appointments. It is really a legal, technical point. Assuming that I have not misunderstood the thrust of those rulings, we have to show some respect for settled jurisprudence.

I do not know whether I would like to move now that such a requirement be removed or some technical study be made, whether even higher officials do not have to go through the Commission on Appointments.

Kung ang Chairman po ay isang Bureau Director, at mas mababa pa sa Bureau Director ang Associate Commissioners, in a sense, do we feel bound at all by the Supreme Court pronouncements? Or is this Chamber insulated from authoritative doctrinal pronouncements of the Supreme Court?

I am not sure whether enough technical studies have been made. I do not mean to be pejorative--but we know that the distinguished Sponsor is not a lawyer--maybe, his staff may have advised him that this is all right? I really have my doubts.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, in the original proposal of this Representation, the requirement that the Commissioner and the Associate Commissioners' ap-

pointment go through the Commission on Appointment was not included. The inclusion is a product of an amendment that was proposed on the Floor during interpellation. If the Body would reconsider the same, in view of the information that we have obtained from our legal luminary, then I would accede to the same, as long as there are no serious objections. .

Senator Saguisag. I am not really insisting, Mr. President; I do not want to interfere with the policy choice of this Body. But I would really be concerned if, again, the Supreme Court will teach us a lesson on how to apply the Constitution. Maybe, those behind the amendment may have felt sure that this is something that they can defend. I take the contrary view. Kung mapapaturunan po na kaya namang ipagtanggol iyon, ayaw ko pong...

In other words, I am not going to the prudence or wisdom of the amendment that was accepted by the Chairman or the Body. I do not know whether there is such a thing as a conditional approval on Second Reading. Pero kung hindi naman po tayo nagmamadali, pag-aralan po natin ito at nang hindi tayo sunud-sunod na tinuturuan ng Korte Suprema kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng Saligang-Batas?

Ano ang ibig sabihin ng Mison ruling? Ano ang ibig sabihin ng Bautista ruling? Sapagkat kung atin pong pag-aaralan iyong Bautista case, the Commission on Human Rights is even treated with more attention and with more respect in the Constitution. We are aware that this Language Commission was also mentioned, but, relatively, only in passing. Para pong mas malaki ang importansiya doon sa Commission on Human Rights and yet, Chairperson Mary Concepcion Bautista prevailed. But there may have been some reasons that may not be applicable here.

So, to me, I will not even move to delete this. If the Legal Staff of the Senate will say that it is all right, I will not move for its deletion. But if we are advised by our Legal Staff in the Senate that their understanding of the ruling is that this is going to be knocked out as unconstitutional, then we would want to save this Body from embarrassment.

Senator Lina. Mr. President.

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

Senator Lina. Mr. President, I share the views expressed by Senator Saguisag. This issue has been brought up on several occasions when we heard in the Committee on Constitutional Amendments similar proposals. The result of our study shows that except for those offices and officers that are specifically mentioned in the Constitution, no other officers are required to be submitted to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation. That is the impact of the Mison ruling, Mr. President. Maybe, in the 1973 Constitution and the 1935 Constitution, it was construed that even Bureau Directors can be submitted to the Commission on Appointments up to a certain level. But, the present Constitution is very specific as to who are the officers to be submitted to the Commission on Appointments. Kaya, ito po ay medyo ako sumasang-ayon sa "tinutumbok" na pananaw ni Senator Saguisag.

Senator Saguisag. Ang akin pong pagkakatanda doon sa debate sa Constitutional Commission, the Commission specifically identified Bureau Directors as representing a level that was too low to merit review by the Commission on Appointments. Kaya, kung wala po namang mahigpit na tumututol, kung sino man ang nagpanukala noon, I would like now, emboldened by the support of the Chairman of--the Constitutional Amendments Committee--and there is really no opposition as I understand it, from the distinguished Sponsor--to formally move that that requirement be deleted.

Senator Mercado. Enlightened as I am now, by the wisdom of the proposition, I accept, Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. So, the principal Sponsor has accepted the amendment. Is there any opposition from the Floor? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Saguisag. The other points I have in mind refer to style. Sana po ay maripaso natin ito, katulad nitong page 7, line 7. Small things like, I suppose, "publication" should be pluralized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, inasmuch as this is a clean copy, maybe, we would welcome the ...

Senator Saguisag. May we move that it be so corrected. If I understood it correctly, it should be in the plural form.

Senator Mercado. Yes, Mr. President, we agree. That would be line 7 on page 7.

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

Senator Saguisag. Finally, if we may step back to page 4, I do not really know what to suggest in relation to line 5. Subject to correction, my own impression is that when we say "among others," we refer to people. I do not know whether it should be "among other things" here or "among other powers" but we leave it to the stylist. I can live with this, in fact; but, as long as we are polishing, then, maybe, we can have the change, unless today, it is acceptable to use "among others" referring to inanimate things. But as I have said, all the while, when I hear "among others," I expect people to be identified.

Senator Mercado. We agree, Mr. President. Maybe, there should be a better way to...

Senator Saguisag. Anyway, Mr. President, it is just a matter of style. I am just expressing that concern. I am not ready to propose anything myself, because "among other things" sounds not too parliamentary.

Salamat po.

Senator Mercado. We can say: "IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSION" or "THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO".

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

Any other amendments? The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, if there are no other amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 209
ON SECOND READING

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Senate Bill No. 209, 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, as amended, will please say Aye. [Several Senators: Aye] As many as are against will please say Nay. [Silence] Senate Bill No: 209 is approved on Second Reading.

BILL ON SECOND READING
House Bill No. 26648--Franchise to Cebu Air, Inc.
(Continuation)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 26648, as reported out under Committee Report No. 1021. We are in the period of interpellations. I ask that we recognize Senator Osmeña.

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

Senator Osmeña. Mr. President, the status of this bill is that, the last time I was sponsoring it, we were in the period of interpellations. We would have closed the period of interpellations had it not been for the fact that we had a caucus among the Members of the Senate. I remember that the consideration was suspended at five o'clock.

So, if there are no other questions, Mr. President, I

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 nilalayon 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:

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:27 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.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The President Pro Tempore. Sa pagsasara ng sesyong ito ay inaanyayahan tayong makinig sa Pambansang Awit, na pangungunahan nina G. Padilla at Bb. Manalese. Ito ay susundan ng dalawang awit, ang "Kalapating Bughaw" at "Doon po sa Amin" na kakantahin ni G. Jess Manuel Santiago at pagkatapos ay pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Wigberto E. Tañada.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem and other songs and remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Tañada.

Dear Lord, God Almighty of History and Hope:

On this last day of the Fourth Session of this First Congress elected under a new Constitution, we offer this prayer:

We implore You, Lord, to keep our Government and the People united by adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, which reflects our historic struggles and aspirations for freedom and sovereignty, for our survival and security.

We thank You, Lord, for the good news You have inspired us to propose into laws. However few they are for the many problems of our people, may their enforcement help bring a better life for the many who are poor.

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission, also arrived after the roll call

We ask You, Lord, to keep us enlightened with reason and realism as we seek to end soonest the stay of foreign military bases and their stores of nuclear weapons on our soil. May the trend to reject a new military treaty become clearer so that the Senate may be well-remembered for having said "NO to war and YES to peace".

We beseech You, Lord, to strengthen our principles with pragmatism and our pragmatism with principles as we ask the soldiers of our people to humanize their armed conflict and cease their hostilities. Let them know that the violence of arms and the violation of human rights hang heavy in the hearts and minds of our people who aspire to their individual and collective rights to peace with justice.

Finally, Lord, remind our Leaders within and outside of this Senate, whatever their partisan political affiliations, that when our people ask each and every one of us to account for what we have done, we shall also be judged for what we have not done.

Lord, unworthy as we may be, make us the instruments of Your Will that in the hearts of our people peace now may ever abide.

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	**
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

SEC. 13. *Official Development Assistance.* - The provision of Executive Order No. 230 of 1986, on the power of the NEDA Board, and the rules and regulations governing the evaluation and authorization for the availment of Official Development Assistance notwithstanding, the privatization of the mini-hydroelectric power plants as provided for in this Act shall be eligible for foreign loans and grants without further evaluation by the NEDA Board, subject to Section 21, Article XII of the Constitution.

SEC. 13. *Reporting Requirements.* - The OEA shall submit an Annual Report to Congress of the Philippines with respect to the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SENATE BILL NO. 209/HOUSE BILL NO. 21280
(National Language Commission)
(Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I ask that we consider the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions on the National Language Commission bill. I ask that we recognize Senator Angara.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. The distinguished Gentleman from Aurora; the unofficial Chairman of the PREFER, the Preparatory Committee for Fernan is recognized. [Laughter]

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Mr. President, I cannot disagree with that description.

Mr. President, the Committee on Education is pleased to submit to this Body the Conference Committee Report regarding the bill creating the National Lan-

guage Commission. The Conferees have reconciled the differences between the House and Senate versions. For the sake of brevity, we would like to ask that the full text of the Conference Committee Report be inserted into the record.

About this same time, the House Panel is submitting the same Conference Committee Report to the House.

With this Conference Committee Report, we have fulfilled one of the constitutional mandates, the creation of a National Language Commission, that will now try to develop and evolve a common National Language.

Perhaps, our colleagues from Cebu would no longer oppose the use of a National Language.

With that, Mr. President, we respectfully submit, in behalf of the Senate Panel, Senators Herrera, Rasul, Mercado, Enrile, Guingona, Laurel, Maceda, Pimentel, Tamano, and Tañada, this Report of the Conference Committee.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. Is there any objection to the approval of the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill No. 209, na lilikha sa Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa?

The Gentle Lady from Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Saudi Arabia is recognized. [Laughter]

Senator Rasul. Thank you, Mr. President.

I register an affirmative vote but with reservation. The reason being, that this bill shows a bias against Mindanao. Because, while it enumerates the ethnolinguistic groups from Luzon and Visayas, it did not mention a single ethnolinguistic group from Mindanao. This is a pattern, Mr. President, I wish it would not be reflected in this bill.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. With that reservation, the same... The Gentleman from Cebu is recognized.

Senator Osmeña. This is just to put in the record, Mr. President, that objections arising from certain sectors in Cebu mainly centered around Administrative

Order No. 335 and their perception that what was called the National Language or Filipino was actually Tagalog. But we are happy that Senator Angara has come forward with this bill. As a matter of fact, both Senator Herrera and I, and Senator Pimentel, all voted for this bill because we are really looking forward to the development of a truly national language.

Thank you, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
REPORT ON SENATE BILL NO. 209/
HOUSE BILL NO. 21280

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

The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report:

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 209, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL
LANGUAGE COMMISSION

and House Bill No. 21280, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE COMMISSION ON
FILIPINO LANGUAGE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF
THE CONSTITUTION, PRESCRIBING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do hereby recommend to their respective Houses that the following compromise bill entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE COMMISSION ON
THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE, PRESCRIBING
ITS POWERS, DUTIES AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

be approved.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Commission on the Filipino Language Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration Of Policy.* - Pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution, it is hereby declared to be a policy of the government to ensure and promote the evolution, development and further enrichment of Filipino as the national language of the Philippines, on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages. To this end, the government shall take the necessary steps to carry out the said policy.

SEC. 3. *Definition Of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

(a) Commission - refers to the Commission on the Filipino Language.

(b) Chairman - refers to the chairman of the Commission.

(c) Filipino - refers to the national language of the Philippines.

(d) Philippine languages - refers to the indigenous languages of the Philippines, including the national language and the regional and local languages.

(e) Regional language - refers to the lingua franca or the commonly spoken language of a region.

(f) Major language - refers to a language spoken and used by at least one-fiftieth (1/50) or two percent (2%) of all Filipinos, based on the most recent available data of the National Census Office.

(g) Auxiliary language - refers to a particular language, spoken in certain places, which supports or helps the national and/or official languages in their assigned functions.

(h) Other languages - refers to foreign languages, whether official or not, as long as they have influenced the indigenous languages and cultures to a certain degree.

(i) Ethnolinguistic regions - refers to certain geographical areas where particular groups of people speak a common language

(j) Disciplines - refers to various fields of learning.

SEC. 4. *Creation Of The Commission On The Filipino Language.* - There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Commission on the Filipino language, composed of representatives of various ethnolinguistic groups and different disciplines, which shall undertake, coordinate and promote researches for the development, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages and which shall be directly under the Office of the President.

SEC. 5. *Composition Of The Commission.* - The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) commissioners, one of whom shall serve as chairman. The commissioners shall represent the major Philippine languages, as defined in Section Three of this Act: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon and the major language of Muslim Mindanao; the Northern Cultural Communities; the Southern Cultural Communities; and such other Philippine languages or ethnolinguistic regions as the Commission may decide upon; Provided, That [these] at least four of these commissioners shall also represent various disciplines.

The chairman and two (2) of the commissioners shall serve on a full-time basis; the remaining eight (8) shall serve on a part-time basis and shall attend the regular and special meetings of the Commission.

SEC. 6. *Appointment And Qualifications Of Commissioners.* - The commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, from the list of nominees to be submitted by the different ethnolinguistic regions in the country. The President shall appoint from the eleven (11) commissioners the chairman and the two fulltime commissioners. The President shall likewise appoint from the remaining eight (8) commissioners, four (4) commissioners who shall serve for a term of five (5) years and four (4) who shall serve for a term of three (3) years. In the absence of the chairman, the commissioners shall choose a temporary or acting chairman from the two full-time commissioners.

No one shall be appointed as commissioner unless he/she is a natural-born Filipino citizen, at least thirty (30) years old, morally upright and noted for his/her expertise in linguistics, the culture and the language of the ethnolinguistic region and the discipline he/she represents.

SEC. 7. *Term Of Office.* - The chairman and the two (2) full-time commissioners shall serve for a term of seven (7) years. Four (4) of the remaining commissioners shall serve for a term of five (5) years and the four other (4) commissioners, for a term of three (3) years. The commissioners may be reappointed for a maximum of one term by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 8. *Vacancy.* - In case a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of the term of office of a commissioner, the replacement shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term of office that was vacated. The Commission shall, within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurs, recommend to the President of the Philippines a replacement from the list of nominees submitted by the particular ethnolinguistic region affected by the vacancy, subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments: Provided that, in the event the Commission fails to make such a recommendation, the vacancy shall be filled up by the President of the Philippines, also from the said list of nominees and with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 9. *Compensation.* - The chairman and the two (2) full-time commissioners shall have the same rank, privileges, salary, allowances and other emoluments as the chairman and members, respectively, of other constitutional commissions, which shall not be decreased during their term of office. Each of the part-time commissioners shall receive his/her compensation in the form of an honorarium for every meeting he/she attends, at a rate to be determined by the Commission.

SEC. 10. *Rules Of Procedures And Meetings.* - The Commission shall adopt its own rules and procedures and shall hold sessions at least once a month or as often as the Commission deems necessary. A majority of the eleven (11) commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 11. *Organizational Structure.* - The Commission shall determine its organizational structure: Provided, That the technical personnel of the Commission shall be exempt from the rules and regulations of the Office of Compensation and/or the eligibility requirements of the Civil Service Commission.

SEC. 12. *Director-General.* - There shall be a director-general who shall be appointed by the Commission for a term of seven (7) years and who may be reappointed for a maximum of one (1) term. The Commission shall determine the powers, functions, duties and compensation of the director-general.

SEC. 13. *The Secretariat.* - There shall be a secretariat to be headed by the director-general. The functions, duties and compensation of its personnel shall be determined by the Commission, upon the recommendation of the director-general.

SEC. 14. *Powers, Functions And Duties Of The Commission.* - The Commission, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the Constitution, shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

(a) Formulate policies, plans and programs to ensure the further development, enrichment, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages:

(b) Promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines to implement its policies, plans and programs:

(c) Undertake or contract research and other studies to promote the evolution, development, enrichment and eventual standardization of Filipino and other Philippine languages. This will include the collation of works for possible incorporation into a multi-lingual dictionary of words, phrases, idioms, quotations, sayings and other expressions, including words and phrases from other languages now commonly used or included in the lingua franca.

(d) Propose guidelines and standards for linguistic forms and expressions in all official communications, publications, textbooks and other reading and teaching materials;

(e) Encourage and promote, through a system of

incentives, grants and awards, the writing and publication, in Filipino and other Philippine languages, of original works, including textbooks and reference materials in various disciplines;

(f) Create and maintain within the Commission a division of translation which shall encourage through incentives, undertake and vigorously support the translation into Filipino and other Philippine languages of important historical works and cultural traditions of ethnolinguistic groups, laws, resolutions and other legislative enactments, executive issuances, government policy statements and official documents, textbooks and reference materials in various disciplines and other foreign materials which it may deem necessary for education and other purposes;

(g) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency or any instrumentality of government or on any private entity, institution or organization for cooperation and assistance in the performance of its functions, duties and responsibilities:

(h) Conduct, at the national, regional and local levels, public hearings, conferences, seminars and other group discussions to identify and help resolve problems and issues involving the development, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages;

(i) Formulate and adopt guidelines, standards and systems for monitoring and reporting on its performance at the national, regional and local levels; and submit to the Office of the President of the Philippines and to the Congress of the Philippines an annual progress report on the implementation of its policies, plans and programs;

(j) Appoint, subject to the provisions of existing laws, its officials and employees and such other personnel as are necessary for the effective performance of its functions, duties and responsibilities; and dismiss them for cause;

(k) Organize and reorganize the structure of the Commission, create or abolish positions, or change the designation of existing positions to meet the changing conditions or as the need therefor arises: Provided, That such changes shall not affect the employment status of the incumbents, reduce their ranks, decrease their salaries or result in their

separation from the service; and

(1) Perform such other activities which are necessary for the effective exercise of the above-mentioned powers, functions, duties and responsibilities.

SEC. 15. *Franking Privilege.* - The publications of the Commission, such as dictionaries, vocabularies, grammars, pamphlets, circulars, leaflets and all other similar printed matter shall enjoy the use of the mails free of postage.

SEC. 16. *Transfer Of Existing Agency.* - All personnel, records, assets, equipment, funds and properties belonging to the Institute of Philippine Languages under Executive Order No. 117 are hereby transferred to the Commission, which shall execute, administer, handle and dispose of such assets, properties and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of this Act. All research, dictionaries, publications and other intellectual outputs of the Institute are likewise deemed transferred to the Commission.

The Commission shall effect the transfer herein provided in a manner that will ensure the least disruption of on-going programs of the Institute. The qualified and necessary personnel of the Institute shall be transferred to and be absorbed by the Commission: Provided, That the tenure, rank, salaries and privileges of such personnel are not reduced or adversely affected; Provided, further, That, in the period prior to the actual assumption of duties by the Commission and its functioning as such, all officers and employees of the Institute shall continue to exercise all their functions and discharge all their duties and responsibilities; Provided, finally, that the existing Institute of Philippine Languages shall be deemed abolished upon the organization of the Commission, its actual assumption of its duties and its functioning as such.

SEC. 17. *Appropriations.* - The funding requirements necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the current fiscal year appropriations of the Institute of Philippine Languages. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 18. *Promulgation.* - This Act shall be promulgated in Filipino and in English and shall be translated into the regional languages of the Philippines. In case of doubt, the Filipino version shall be binding.

SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* - In the event any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or the application of the said provision shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.

CONFEREES ON THE PART
OF THE HOUSE

(Sgd.) HON. CARLOS M. PADILLA

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO E. ANIAG, JR.

(Sgd.) HON. PABLO P. GARCIA

(Sgd.) HON. MARTIN B. ISIDRO

HON. JAIME C. LOPEZ

(Sgd.) HON. MICHAEL O. MASTURA

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO S. SUMULONG

(Sgd.) HON. DAVID B. TIROL

CONFEREES ON THE PART
OF THE SENATE

(Sgd.) HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA

(Sgd.) HON. ERNESTO F. HERRERA

(Sgd.) HON. SANTANINA T. RASUL

(Sgd.) HON. ORLANDO S. MERCADO

JON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE

(Sgd.) HON. TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA

HON. SOTERO H. LAUREL

(Sgd.) HON. ERNESTO M. MACEDA

(Sgd.) HON. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL

(Sgd.) HON. WIGBERTO E. TAÑADA

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1777/HOUSE BILL NO. 19313
(Election Synchronization)

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, I ask that we now consider the Conference Committee Report on the synchronization of elections. I ask that we recognize Senator Gonzales.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Maceda]. The distinguished Gentleman from Mandaluyong, the President of the LDP, who is neutral between Speaker Mitra and Secretary Ramos, is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GONZALES

Senator Gonzales. Not neutral for Senator Maceda. [Laughter]

Mr. President, the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 19313, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DATES OF THE
NATIONAL AND THE LOCALELECTIONS
IN 1992 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

and Senate Bill No. 1777, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE NATIONAL
AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1992, PAVE
THE WAY FOR SYNCHRONIZED AND
SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS BEGINNING
1995 AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFOR

had met, and after extensive discussions have signed a Conference Committee Report. Copies of the report, as well as the consolidated bill, had been furnished every Member of this Chamber. One will only have a perusal of this bill to show that this is indeed the Senate bill, and the Senate bill being principally the basic bill that was used in the Conference Committee.

The whole of our bill has been approved with very minor amendments. The amendments are as follows:

On the election of provincial, city and municipal members of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, *Sangguniang Panglungsod*, and *Sangguniang Bayan*, there is an amendment that beginning with the 1992 elections, the Municipalities of Malabon, Navotas, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Taguig shall have 12 councilors; and Pateros, which is a small town, 10 councilors.

Another amendment is that the Commission on Elections shall apportion the number of elective councilors or members of the *Sangguniang Bayan* among the duly constituted barangays and sitios, as in the manner herein provided.

In the Senate version, we approved that each councilor district shall elect only one councilor. However, in the bicameral Conference Committee, it was agreed that a *manu-mano fight*, a *one-on-one fight*, for councilor might actually be too partisan. That is why, we agreed that each councilor district shall elect two councilors, Mr. President. In the event that there be any extra member, he shall be elected in the district with the greater number of population.

Another minor amendment, Mr. President, is the change in the campaign periods. For presidential and vice-presidential elections, it was increased to 120 days before the day of the election. For senatorial election, it remains at 90 days before the day of the election. For the Members of the House of Representatives and local elective, provincial, city and municipal officials, it shall be 45 days before the day of the election. However, in view of the differences in the campaign periods, we have made an additional provision that:

Any provision of law to the contrary