



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 34
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 34
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:52 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 3:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada presiding.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Arroyo, J. P.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Drilon, F. M.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Recto, R. G.
Enrile, J. P.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Guingona III, T. D.	Villar, M.
Honasan, G. B.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Marcos was on official mission abroad.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senators Angara and Lacson were absent.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session as he was under detention.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 33 (October 11, 2010) and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2561, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A
MANDATORY NATIONWIDE
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM IN
ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS AND BARANGAY DAY
CARE CENTERS, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Health and Demography; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 230, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY IN STRATEGIC AREAS OF PHILIPPINE FOREIGN RELATIONS, TOWARDS AN ENHANCED DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER NATIONS AND EFFECTIVE ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 232, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF ALMOST REAL-LIFE TOY GUNS OR REPLICAS AND SIMILAR GOODS IN THE LOCAL MARKET WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF TIGHTENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT LAWS AND FORMULATING REMEDIAL MEASURES GEARED AT PROTECTING FILIPINO CONSUMERS AGAINST HAZARDS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Trade and Commerce

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 233, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS; JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS; AND YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASING NUMBER OF RAPE AND ABUSE CASES PERPETRATED AGAINST OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW THAT THE PROPER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROMULGATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL MEANINGFULLY ADDRESS THE SORROWFUL PLIGHT OF OUR WORKERS ABROAD

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 234, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COUNTRY'S TEXTILE AND GARMENTS SECTOR VIS-À-VIS THE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ACCORDED TO PHILIPPINE-MADE APPARELS AS PROVIDED IN THE SAVE OUR INDUSTRIES (SAVE) ACT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF INCREASING TRADE, ENHANCING JOB GENERATION AND MAXIMIZING THE FULL POTENTIALS OF THE INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 235, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND CHANGES IN THE WATER DISCHARGE PROTOCOL OF DAMS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Works; and Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 236, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON ENSURING THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SECURITY AND SUFFICIENCY IN LIGHT OF THE NEGATIVE FOOD PRODUCTION OUTPUT FOR 2009 DUE TO SEVERE DAMAGES INFLICTED BY TROPICAL STORMS ONDOY AND PEPENG

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES SUFFERED BY FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS IN KUWAIT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Foreign Relations

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the Institute for Labor Studies, DOLE, dated 27 September 2010, submitting to the

Senate a copy of the Institute's 2009 Performance and Accountability Report.

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION

Letter from Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr. of the Office of the President of the Philippines, dated 12 October 2010, transmitting to the Senate a certified true copy of Proclamation No. 50, entitled

GRANTING AMNESTY TO ACTIVE AND FORMER PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WHO MAY HAVE COMMITTED ACTS OR OMISSIONS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, THE ARTICLES OF WAR OR OTHER SPECIAL LAWS COMMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH OAKWOOD MUTINY, THE MARINES STAND-OFF AND THE MANILA PEN INCIDENT AND RELATED INCIDENTS,

for its concurrence, pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 19(2) of the Constitution.

To the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair also referred the letter from Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa to the Committee on Rules.

RESOLUTION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONCURREN IN PROCLAMATION NO. 50 OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DATED 11 OCTOBER 2010 ENTITLED: GRANTING AMNESTY TO ACTIVE AND FORMER PERSONNEL OF THE

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ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WHO MAY HAVE COMMITTED ACTS OR OMISSIONS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, THE ARTICLES OF WAR OR OTHER SPECIAL LAWS COMMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH OAKWOOD MUTINY, THE MARINES STAND-OFF AND THE MANILA PEN INCIDENT AND RELATED INCIDENTS

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

ADDITIONAL REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair also referred Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 to the Committee on Rules.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan asked which of the two committees has primary jurisdiction or whether it was a joint referral and, if so, which aspects of the concurrent resolution would fall under the purview of the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation and the Committee on Rules.

Senator Sotto replied that the primary committee would be the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered a speech underscoring the importance of breast cancer awareness and prevention.

The full text of her speech follows:

RAISING AWARENESS ON BREAST CANCER

Other than the celebration of the Philippine Senate's anniversary, this October is also known as Children's Month, Ocean Month, and World

Vegetarian Awareness Month. But it is also in October that people all over the world observe the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is dedicated to increase awareness on prevention of breast cancer through information and educational campaigns that reach out to all women throughout the world, emphasizing the importance of early detection and treatment.

All, if not most of us, know someone – a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter, a relative, a friend or a colleague, all of different ages, social status, and race – who has been fighting breast cancer. Women who have breast cancer are everywhere and are, sad to say, increasing. In fact, even if breast cancer is rare among men, breast cancer has now overtaken lung cancer for both sexes in the Philippines according to the latest report by the Philippine Cancer Society, the University of the Philippines-Manila and the Department of Health. Furthermore, breast cancer remains the number one cancer killer among Filipino women, accounting for 28% of the total cases.

What is more alarming is that according to a report from the Philippine Breast Cancer Network, the Philippines now has the highest incidence rate of breast cancer in Asia and is also considered to have the 9th highest incidence rate in the world. One out of four who are diagnosed with breast cancer die within the first five years and no less than 40% die within ten years. This is because breast cancer is often detected in its late stages due to low public awareness and lack of information about the disease.

Education must play a key factor if we are to win the battle against breast cancer. The importance of breast health and self-breast examination cannot be overemphasized as these are the keys to surviving this disease. For this reason, women starting at age 20 are advised to undergo a monthly self-breast examination one week after her menstrual period, including a clinical breast examination or mammogram at least every three years.

As a preventive measure, mammogram is also recommended for women over 40 years of age. This is also recommended for women who have detected a lump on their breast. Medical experts claim that when breast cancer is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the probability that it can be cured is up to 85%. But sadly, early diagnosis is the exception. Many women do not know about basic breast examination. Furthermore, when women do detect a suspicious lump, diagnosis and treatment are not always accessible.

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After detecting a lump on one's breast, there are two procedures that a patient undergoes — a mammography or ultrasound. The goal of mammography is the early detection of breast cancer, typically through detection of characteristic masses and/or microcalcifications. Mammography is believed to reduce mortality from breast cancer and normally costs around P2,000.00.

The other procedure is breast biopsy. This procedure removes a sample of breast tissue that is examined under a microscope to check for breast cancer. This costs an additional P2,000.00. In government hospitals, payment of such procedures depends on the patient's capability to pay.

Diagnostic tests are more affordable than breast cancer treatment. For stage 1 and stage 2 breast cancer patients, treatment includes surgery which costs about P10,000.00 to P100,000.00 and chemotherapy which costs P5,000.00 per session or P30,000.00 for six cycles. For stage 3 breast cancer patients, surgery costs from P10,000.00, to P100,000.00 but chemotherapy would cost a patient P100,000.00 per session or P600,000.00 for six cycles. Lastly, stage 4 patients would also spend for surgery and chemotherapy. However, patients at this stage normally spend more as their medicines are more expensive because the cancer cells may have spread to the other parts of the body.

Indeed, early detection is the best prevention for breast cancer. It is not only cheaper but also has a higher possibility of producing better treatment results.

Preventive health care is cheaper but it still has costs involved. We, in the Senate, can do our part in saving the lives of women by supplementing the budget of health for disease prevention and awareness.

Women need not necessarily die of breast cancer. Early detection and treatment can save lives.

We should not waste time.

Let us start now for we want our women to live their lives to the fullest free from this deadly disease called breast cancer.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Preliminarily, Senator Legarda lauded Senator Cayetano (P) for her timely intervention on such an important issue even as she noted that breast cancer has overtaken other illnesses as the killer disease for Filipino women due to factors like pollution, diet and

the changing lifestyles. As such, she urged Senator Cayetano (P), as well as the other members, to prioritize a measure — pending before the Committee on Health and Demography — which institutionalizes the setting up of mammogram machines in every regional hospital in the country. She also asked Senator Drilon, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, to appropriate the necessary budget so that mammogram machines could be supplied in areas where the disease is prevalent.

Relative thereto, Senator Legarda asked whether breast cancer affects all regions of the country or whether the disease is only prevalent in Metro Manila. Senator Cayetano (P) replied that studies have shown that there is a high incidence of breast cancer in urban areas.

Senator Legarda expressed her intention to attend the hearings of the Committee on Health and Demography on the issue of breast cancer to elicit the assistance of the Department of Health and other active nongovernment organizations in determining priority areas for the installation of mammogram machines and other breast cancer detection equipment. She hoped that she and Senator Cayetano (P) could help convince Senator Drilon to allocate a portion of the budget for this effort. Senator Cayetano (P) agreed, noting that since this concern is covered under tertiary health care, the national government ought to fund it as most local government units could not afford to do so. She stated that local government units could conduct an initial screening for breast cancer via barangay health centers in their area. She informed the Body that she has launched an information campaign on breast cancer awareness by providing an instructional DVD on the proper method of conducting a breast examination.

For her part, Senator Legarda said that her own mother's demise due to breast cancer motivated her to assist indigent breast cancer victims through the Bessie B. Legarda Memorial Foundation which has been conducting free quarterly breast cancer medical missions around the country with the assistance of private hospitals and government medical centers including the East Avenue Medical Center and the Philippine General Hospital. She explained that aside from the "*Libreng Kapkap, Libreng Biopsy*" program which offers free biopsy services, the foundation has also been giving away *tamoxifen* and mammogram certificates to poor breast cancer victims. She said that the treatments received by

patients during these missions do away with the need for mastectomy which is often the case with patients who have been misdiagnosed or have not consulted a medical specialist.

She lamented the fact that many breast cancer victims who could have been saved in the early stages eventually had the disease metastasize to liver cancer or other forms of cancer because they neither had the capacity nor the resources to go to the right doctors.

She urged the Body, through the Finance Committee, to allocate the necessary funds to the DOH regional hospitals so that they can purchase mammogram machines and provide indigent women free mammography. She also called on the Body to enact into law at the soonest possible time the bill she filed in 2007 and refiled in the 15th Congress on the establishment of breast care centers in every region.

Responding thereto, Senator Cayetano (P) lauded Senator Legarda for her advocacy as she expressed hope that the Committee would be able to schedule a hearing on the issue during the October break, October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Senator Legarda believed that the enactment of the bill into law would be a Christmas gift to women. She acknowledged that its funding poses a problem, but she believed that it is doable, for instance, by putting up breast care centers in certain regions where breast cancer is prevalent, in areas with polluted surroundings and frenetic lifestyle. She stated that the Philippine Cancer Society, the DOH, the PGH and various women support groups have the data and can provide the Committee the necessary information. She noted that there are millions of pesos in trust funds that can be tapped and the Committee can also look into the PhilHealth coverage for breast check-ups.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Asked by Senator Sotto if breast cancer is limited only to women, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that it is not, but she added that breast cancer in men is rare.

On whether there is a certain male body type that is susceptible to the disease, Senator Cayetano (P)

reiterated that breast cancer is prevalent in urban areas where the lifestyle is more stressful and the surrounding is more polluted. She bared that the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. She stressed that breast cancer does not have to be life-threatening if detected early but the Philippines, she bemoaned, has a low budget for health care, so early detection is not possible.

Asked on the number of women who have the disease, Senator Cayetano (P) adverted to a study that showed a high incidence among sexually inactive women. She promised to look into the incidence of breast cancer among men and confirm the study during the hearing.

Senator Legarda stated that breast cancer can be prevented if women followed a healthy lifestyle, for instance, by eating more vegetables, exercising daily and living in a clean environment; and on the medical side, doing weekly self-examination and having annual medical check-ups. Also, she confirmed that men can also develop breast cancer, although women have greater susceptibility to the disease. With regard to sexual activity being a prevention against breast cancer, she said that it is something that could be discussed in the hearing.

Asked by Senator Sotto if breast cancer is prevalent among women who breastfeed, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that breastfeeding contributes to the prevention of breast cancer.

At this point, Senator Cayetano (P) informed the Body that she would next deliver a speech on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which includes topics on HIV and other sexually transmitted disease. She warned that having multiple partners and irresponsible sex expose people not only to HIV but also to other sexually transmitted diseases.

For her part, Senator Legarda reiterated the importance of the passage of the bill establishing breast care centers in regional hospitals.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Cayetano (P) and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Health and Demography.

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SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADDITIONAL REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Guingona, there being no objection, the Chair referred Proposed Senate Resolution No. 229, authored by Senator Trillanes, to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations as the primary committee and the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprise as secondary committee.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read Committee Report No. 4 on Senate Bill No. 2559 which the Chair assigned to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

Committee Report No. 4, prepared by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Senate Bill No. 2559, introduced by Senator Zubiri, entitled

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE
CITIZENSHIP TO MARCUS EUGENE
DOUTHIT,**

recommending its approval with amendment, taking into consideration House Bill No. 2307

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Zubiri

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 4 on Senate Bill No. 2559 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 4
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2559**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading,

Senate Bill No. 2559 (Committee Report No. 4), entitled

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE
CITIZENSHIP TO MARCUS EUGENE
DOUTHIT**

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Zubiri for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF SENATOR ZUBIRI**

Senator Zubiri presented for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 2559, and forthwith delivered the following speech:

Despite the fact that basketball is the acknowledged national pastime of the Philippines, the Philippines for the past few decades has been languishing under the cellar of the international basketball competition hierarchy.

The Filipino people have witnessed the abrupt fall from grace of the once mighty Philippine national basketball team which has been shrugged off in international competitions by our Asian neighbors who were able to adapt to the demands of international competition by naturalizing foreign athletes who were able to contribute to the cause of their respective national teams.

The International Basketball Federation or FIBA, the governing body of international basketball competitions, allows naturalized players to play for the national team of the country which naturalized him/her. Taking cue of this development, our Asian neighbors lost no time in naturalizing American-born basketball players to boost their stock in international competitions, some of which include Jordan, who naturalized Rasheim Wright, J.R. Sakuragi for Japan, and Jackson Vroman for Lebanon. Said teams performed well in the FIBA Asia Basketball Championships Cup held last May 22 to May 30, 2010, where the Philippines finished a dismal 7th place despite fielding a team composed of the best professional players in the country.

Following the prescribed rules of competition by the FIBA and as part of a sports development program to help bring basketball in the Philippines to greater heights, the *Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas* has done a rigorous search for a player who would aid the country to reclaim its rightful place in international basketball competitions. It is in this purpose that this bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Marcus Eugene Douthit.

Marcus Eugene Douthit was born on April 15, 1980, in Syracuse, New York. Having played collegiately for the Providence College, Marcus Douthit was later on selected by the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round, 6th overall, of the 2004 National Basketball Association Draft. Although Douthit never played for the NBA, he played an impressive stint for the Albuquerque Thunderbirds in the NBA Development League during the season 2005-2006. He also played for competitive leagues in Europe as well.

He has as well proven in the past his desire and his love for our nation and our colors. He is a man who has stepped up the plate and has fought in many competitions wearing our national colors proudly.

During the recent 2010 Smart-Philippines Invitational Cup, Mr. Douthit proved to be a valuable member of the Smart Gilas Pilipinas team after averaging 18 points and 10 rebounds that led to the victory over World Championship-bound and Asia's third strongest team, Jordan National Team. A player who stands 6'11" and plays the center position, Marcus Douthit no doubt can hold his own against other behemoths in Asia including those from Iran and China who are the top two teams in Asia. Furthermore, his experience and work ethic will contribute immensely to the training and development of Filipino basketball players.

In the past, naturalized athletes have brought honor to our country in various international sports events. An example of this is Gillian Akiko Thomson, a gold medalist for the Philippine swimming competitions in the 14th Southeast Asian games in Jakarta, Indonesia and the 15th SEA Games in the Philippines in 1991. Another example is Christine Jacob-Sandejas, a champion swimmer, a former member of the Philippine swimming team, and a medalist in the Southeast Asian Games.

Recently, the grant of citizenship by specific decree or legislation has benefited other countries. An example is Russia, whose stature in European basketball skyrocketed from 8th place

in the year 2005 to champions in 2007 in large part due to the contributions of American-born athletes Jon Robert Holden and Kelly McCarthy – who were both naturalized by issuance of a direct decree by President Vladimir Putin. Other countries that have naturalized players in national teams are Montenegro, Bosnia, Germany, Bulgaria, Macedonia and other Asian countries.

Douthit exhibits a life in sports that can be achieved only with self-discipline and self-control throughout the years. His life is also a proof of his reputation of being a true gentleman as seen by his adherence to the code of conduct and sportsmanship in and out of the court. Douthit, likewise, has accomplished much for himself in the academic field with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, major in Social Science at the Providence College in the United States of America. He can measure up to the high standards that any country could require of its natural-born citizens.

Marcus Eugene Douthit is in a position to make a significant contribution to Philippine basketball and Philippines sports and is accordingly eligible for conferment of the honor of being a Philippine citizen.

In consideration of all the above, we request the approval of this measure.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

At the outset, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that she would not question the qualifications of Mr. Douthit. Instead, she asked which agency was lobbying for Mr. Douthit's citizenship. Senator Zubiri mentioned the Philippine Sports Commission, which supervises the national sports association (NSA) for basketball, the *Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas* (SBP) and the Philippine Olympic Committee, which recognizes and accredits the NSA's choice athletes.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed concern that the Philippines has grown accustomed to the practice of naturalizing foreign players. She inquired if the bill was an exception to the rule or if it would become the general policy of local sports agencies.

Senator Zubiri replied that such proposals would be made on a case-to-case basis. He stated that the SBP has given assurance that Mr. Douthit was committed to play for the country and would not leave or stop playing for the national team.

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Senator Cayetano (P) stressed that she merely wanted consistency in the application of the law. She acknowledged the merits and problems that could arise from the passage of the measure, and in such situations, she expressed concern that it could lead to political patronage insofar as the grantee of the citizenship is concerned.

Being an athlete herself, Senator Cayetano (P) observed that in international events, competing countries were represented by athletes who were formerly citizens of another country. She supposed that this has become a prevailing practice even in other nations. She expressed hope that the policy would be applied consistently, and would not be abused.

For his part, Senator Zubiri noted that African athletes have been naturalized in other European countries so that they could participate in sports like triathlon or running.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA

Initially, Senator Estrada Ejercito asked how long Mr. Douthit has been in the Philippines. Senator Zubiri pointed out that although Mr. Douthit has been in the country for only five months, he has already played for the Philippines in several international competitions and has blended well with the national team. He explained that Philippine citizenship could be acquired through judicial, administrative or legislative means.

Senator Zubiri stated that in Spain, Filipinos living in Spain are given one-year residency in order to be granted citizenship. He stressed that in the case of Mr. Douthit, he had been playing for the national team in several international competitions, and that he was not only dedicated to bringing the country all the way to the Olympics but was willing to stay in the Philippines permanently and renounce his American citizenship to become a Filipino.

Asked if Mr. Douthit was ever charged of any criminal offense in the United States, Senator Zubiri replied in the negative.

On whether Mr. Douthit could guarantee to make the Philippines basketball champion again in Asia, Senator Zubiri pointed out that Mr. Douthit could contribute a lot, being a former LA Lakers

draftee and one of the tallest men on the national team; in fact, he is the leading scorer of the team averaging 18 to 20 points a game. He believed that along with team preparations and strong qualifications of all the players, Mr. Douthit could definitely be a positive addition to the team. He gave the assurance that local players like Chris Tiu and JV Casio would not get sidelined.

Senator Zubiri further explained that of the 15 members in the Philippine Team, 12 are regular players and three are on the reserve list. He said that Mr. Douthit was the only foreigner applying for Philippine citizenship.

To the observation that it would be embarrassing for the Philippines to have a foreign player in its national team, Senator Zubiri recalled that during the time of President Marcos, Ambassador Danding Cojuangco had a development program for basketball that led to the recruitment of three American players who became naturalized Filipinos.

Asked if the Philippines was allowed to have three naturalized players in its team, Senator Zubiri replied that FIBA allows only one naturalized player.

Upon further queries, Senator Zubiri stated that Coach Toroman, who was at the gallery that time, was the discoverer of Marcus Douthit.

On whether the SBP receives support from the PSC, Senator Zubiri stated that it is privately funded since it was not getting enough support from the commission.

As regards the number of foreign leagues that the Philippines would participate in, Senator Zubiri said that the Philippines would join the Asian games scheduled on November 12, 2010, and the Asian Championships on August 2011. He said that the country has a strong chance to qualify for the Olympics based on the team's victory during the last MVP tournament and the fact that it finished second to Korea in a recent tournament in China.

Thereafter, Senator Ejercito Estrada expressed his support for the bill.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no further interpellation, upon motion

of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 5:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Mayor Rey Uy of Tagum City.

Senate Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada welcomed the guest to the Senate.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no committee or individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of amendments.

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2307 ON SECOND READING

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body concurred in House Bill No. 2307

and consequently approved it on Second Reading, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2559.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2307

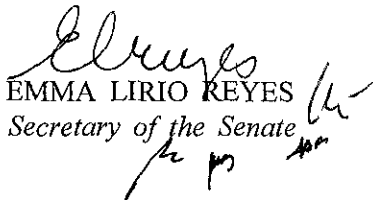
Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 5:12 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on October 13, 2010