


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 69

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR A STUDY ON THE ABOLITION OR REDUCTION OF ALL
"PORK BARREL" FOR ALL THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT;
AND A STUDY ON OVERSIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE FUNDS

WHEREAS, the dictionary defines "pork barrel" as a government appropriation that supplies funds for local improvements designed to ingratiate legislators with their constituents, thus implying that pork barrel is limited to Congress;

WHEREAS, the dictionary defines "discretionary funds" as funds not earmarked for a particular purpose, but subject to the discretion of the public officers, thus implying that discretionary funds can be enjoyed by any branch of government, including the executive and legislative branches;

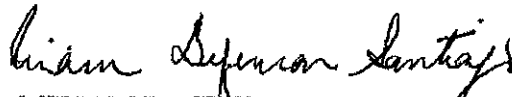
WHEREAS, in any annual budget, a pork barrel item for any branch of government can be identified by at least three characteristics: (1) it is a lump sum fund; (2) its release is discretionary on the part of the responsible public officer; and (3) it is usually subjected to token auditing procedures;

WHEREAS, all pork barrel items for all three branches of government are equally susceptible to abuse, in the sense that such funds could serve personal interest, rather than public interest;

WHEREAS, to prevent the deepening of the present fiscal crisis, it is imperative to rationalize pork barrel items in all three branches of government, and to rationalize so-called "non-budgetary accounts and off-book items;"

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as is hereby resolved, to direct the Committee on Finance to conduct a study on the reduction or abolition of all pork barrel funds, meaning discretionary funds, for all three branches of government; and a study on an oversight procedure for all intelligence funds of the military and other law enforcement agencies.

Approved.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO