



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 13

Tuesday, August 28, 2007

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 13
Tuesday, August 28, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:03 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson led the prayer, to wit:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, the greatest
Provider of all,
As we implore the aid of Your divine power,
Please hear this short and simple prayer:

Please give us wisdom
So we can distinguish between right
and wrong.

Please make us learn to place honor
above all else,
Even when loyalty gets in the way.

Please give us genuine integrity,
Not the kind that we interpret for ourselves
But one that others interpret for us.

Most of all, dear Lord,

Please build in us character that is whole
and clear,
Character that is not blurred or vague,
Or subject to the winds of compromise,
Not the kind that is neither here nor there
But one that is steadfast and strong.

All these we ask through Your Son,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

Angara, E. J.	Lacson, P. M.
Aquino III, B. S. C.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Arroyo, J. P.	Legarda, L.
Biazon, R. G.	Madrigal, M. A.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Roxas, M.
Enrile, J. P.	Villar, M.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Honasan, G. B.	

With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Gordon arrived after the roll call.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of Mayor Tong Paglas and Vice Mayor Ahmed Paglas of the Municipality of Paglas, Maguindanao; Mayor Bonifacio Clemente Jr. with the vice mayor and the councilors; Mayor Alex Binghay of Balamban, Cebu; and Mayor Leovic Dioneda of Sorsogon City.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 12 and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 601, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY DECRIMINALIZING CERTAIN FELONIES UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES SHORT OF DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY AND FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 602, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 603, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A LOCAL PRINT MEDIA MONITORING BOARD IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES, TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF OBSCENE PUBLICATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 604, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 605, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE (PIMRO) IN ALL BRANCHES, SUBDIVISIONS, INSTRUMENTALITIES AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 606, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE POWER OF ASSUMPTION OR CERTIFICATION OF LABOR DISPUTES BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ACTIVITIES OR UNDERTAKING WHICH INVOLVE ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 263 (G) OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 607, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRESENT-
ATION TO THE PRESS OR PUBLIC
OF SUSPECTS IN CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIONS BEFORE CASES
ARE FORMALLY FILED AGAINST
THE SUSPECTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs**

Senate Bill No. 608, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH STRUCTURAL
REFORMS IN THE INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR
TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT,
DELIVERY AND USE OF CON-
VERGENT SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 609, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING ONE-STOP
SHOP (BOSS) CENTERS FOR SMALL
AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN
ALL REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL
CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Trade and
Commerce; Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 610, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED 6939, CREATING THE
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Cooperatives; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 611, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CIVIL
SERVICE CODE OF THE PHILIP-
PINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 612, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BARANGAY
DAY CARE AND WOMEN'S
SUPPORT CENTER IN EVERY
BARANGAY AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare
and Rural Development; Local Government;
Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 613, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A P125.00
DAILY ACROSS-THE-BOARD
INCREASE IN THE SALARY RATES
OF EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS
IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources**

Senate Bill No. 614, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND BATAS PAMBANSA
BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE *dr*

OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amend-
ments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 615, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND
CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIP-
PINES, AS AMENDED, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 616, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING SECURITY OF
TENURE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM
BENEFICIARIES OVER LANDS
AWARDED TO THEM UNDER THE
COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN
REFORM PROGRAM, PROVIDING
GUIDELINES FOR THE CANCELLA-
TION OF EMANCIPATION PATENTS
AND CERTIFICATES OF LAND
OWNERSHIP AWARDS, PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 617, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BICOL
POWER GRID TO ENSURE THE
GRANT OF EQUITABLE PREFER-
ENTIAL BENEFITS TO REGIONS
HOSTING RELIABLE AND CHEAP
GEOTHERMAL POWER AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Energy; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 618, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTER
FOR AUTISM AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 619, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL
BOOK DEVELOPMENT TRUST
FUND TO SUPPORT FILIPINO
AUTHORSHIP

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 620, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE BUREAU
OF INTERNAL REVENUE FROM
THE COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 6758, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE SALARY STANDARD-
IZATION LAW, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Finance; and Civil
Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 621, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRIV-
ATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS *15*

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 622, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 623, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA CARE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 624, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 625, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 626, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM CENSUS OF FILIPINOS RESIDING ABROAD AND TO REQUIRE THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS BE INCLUDED IN REGULAR CENSUSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 627, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEACHER CORPS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 628, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO EARMARK A PORTION OF THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS FOR FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT PATIENTS IN THEIR LOCALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; Health and Demography; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 629, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT PYRAMID PROMOTIONAL SCHEMES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 630, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE NEW CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES (REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386 AS AMENDED) ARTICLES 804, 805, 810 AND 811, PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF VIDEO TAPES OR OTHER SIMILAR VISUAL RECORDING DEVICE FOR TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 631, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS MOTHER'S DAY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 632, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 633, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MATURE OR OLDER WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 634, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MINERAL, CARBONATED AND OTHER BOTTLED WATER

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 635, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE MEDICAL CARE OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FREE MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM OF 2007" AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 636, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING SHIPPING VESSELS COASTING PHILIPPINE WATERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHORES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 637, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A STUDY AND FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING CASES OF HEPATITIS C AMONG FIRE-FIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

AND OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONSE
EMPLOYEES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 638, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO ALL TYPES OF FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 639, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 ALSO KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE III

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 640, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING PUBLIC OFFICERS FOR RELEASING PRISONERS IN ORDER TO COMMIT A CRIME AND ALLOWING THEM TO RETURN TO PRISON, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE AMENDING ARTICLE 223 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 641, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 642, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AVIATION NOISE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 643, entitled

AN ACT IDENTIFYING AND PROMOTING RESEARCH ON HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF BREAST IMPLANTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 644, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING B.P. 881, ALSO KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE, SECTION 6, ON FAILURE OF ELECTION

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada *AK*

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To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 645, entitled

AN ACT UPHOLDING THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL AND PROVIDING GROUNDS FOR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 646, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, BOOK 3, TITLE 5, ARTICLE 13, SECTION 483, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 647, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 648, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PROTECTION AND CERTAIN INCENTIVES TO AMBULANT VENDORS OR PEDDLERS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 649, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING RETIRED AND INCUMBENT OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT FROM ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CREDITORS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 650, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE 952

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 74, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE LEGALITY OF REVENUE REGULATION NO. 9-2007 ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE ON 04 JULY 2007 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 75, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED FAILURE AND INEFFECTIVENESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7305, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 76, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED RAPE OF FILIPINA OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS SUCH AS "MELISSA," TO PREVENT SUCH CASES IN THE FUTURE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 77, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN INDANAN, SULU CONSTITUTES UNLAWFUL COMBAT OPERATIONS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 78, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUING PREVALENCE OF FLOODS IN METRO MANILA ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY GARBAGE THAT CLOGS DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, TO DETERMINE THE LIABILITY OF THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS INVOLVED, AND TO REFER THEM TO THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND POSSIBLE SUSPENSION AND EVENTUAL REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Local Government; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 79, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DECLINING COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 80, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVENTION OF ENDEMIC CAR SMUGGLING IN FREE PORTS BY:

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- ♦ AMENDING FREE PORT CHARTERS TO PLACE THEM UNDER CUSTOMS JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN CARS;
- ♦ LEGISLATING STANDARDS FOR TRANSPARENCY IN SETTING FLOOR PRICES AT AUCTION OF SMUGGLED CARS, TO PREVENT SMUGGLERS FROM BUYING THE CARS; AND
- ♦ EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF CAR SMUGGLING CANNOT BE SOLVED BY ESTABLISHING AN EXTRANEIOUS TASK FORCE, BUT BY LIMITING THE PRESENT DISCRETION ENJOYED BY CUSTOMS, TASK FORCE, AND FREE PORT OFFICIALS TO PICK AND CHOOSE THE SMUGGLING CASES THAT THEY WILL EXPOSE, WHILE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO OTHER SMUGGLING CASES PROTECTED BY VERY HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 81, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY; AND PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS TO INQUIRE, LOOK INTO AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AS WELL AS THE PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION IN MINDANAO AMID THE CONTINUING HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY AND THE ABU SAYYAF RENEGADES IN THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN, WHERE A CONTINUING WAR MIGHT SPREAD THE TENSION NOT ONLY IN THE WHOLE REGION

OF MINDANAO BUT WORSE IN THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO

Introduced by Senator Honasan

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 84, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NON-PAYMENT OF OR DELAYED REMITTANCES OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOAN REPAYMENTS OF EMPLOYEES TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Education, Arts and Culture

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 85, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GAMES, AMUSEMENT AND SPORTS TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS OF THE PHILIPPINE TEAM TO COMPETE IN THE UPCOMING 24TH SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES AND 4TH ASEAN PARAGAMES

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

To the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 86, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED FACTUAL, CONCEPTUAL AND

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GRAMMATICAL ERRORS, AND
INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
APPEARING IN TEXTBOOKS USED
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S.
Cayetano

To the Committee on Education, Arts and
Culture

PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator
Defensor Santiago delivered the following speech:

CHARTER PLACES ABSOLUTE BAN
ON USE OF ILLEGAL WIRETAP

Constitutional ban is absolute

The Bill of Rights, Article III, Sec. 3
provides:

Sec. 3(1) The privacy of communic-
ation and correspondence shall be in-
violable, except upon order of the court,
or when public safety or order requires
otherwise as prescribed by law.

(2) Any evidence obtained in viola-
tion of this or the preceding section
shall be *inadmissible for any purpose
in any proceeding*.

This is not the law talking; this is the
Constitution talking. In emphasis, the Constitu-
tion provides "shall be inadmissible for any
purpose in any proceedings."

This provision came down to us from the
1935 Constitution. It has no counterpart in
the Constitution of the United States. Thus, in
that sense, the Philippine Constitution is more
advanced and sophisticated than the U.S.
Constitution. However, in the 1967 case of *Katz
v United States*,^[1] the U.S. Supreme Court ruled
that wiretapping is banned, under the search and
seizure clause of the U.S. Constitution. That is
why we cannot indiscriminately cite American
cases on illegal wiretapping. They have no
provision in their Constitution, unlike ours.

In the Philippine Constitution, there are only
two exceptions to this constitutionally protected
right of privacy of communication:

1. When there is a court order authorizing
the wiretap;

2. Where there is a law which allows the
wiretap, on the ground of public safety or order,
for example, the Human Security Act of 2007
which is a law which specifically allows a wiretap
for a certain purpose. But neither exception is
applicable in the present case confronting the
Senate. There is no relevant court order, and
there is no relevant law authorizing wiretapping
on grounds of public safety or order.

We are talking, in effect, about the 2004
elections, so we should look at the Election Code
to see if there is a law that authorizes wiretapping
in connection with elections, but there is none.
Now, what is the meaning of the Constitution
when it says that we, in Congress, can pass a
law which authorizes a wiretap on ground of
public safety or public order?

The 1971 Constitutional Convention^[2] in its
deliberations defined the phrase "public order
and safety" as "the security of human lives,
liberty, and property against the activities of in-
vaders, insurrectionists, and rebels." The parties
to the illegally wiretapped conversation sought
to be investigated do not belong to any of
these groups.

Reconcile ban with parliamentary immunity

The constitutionally protected right to
privacy of communication could arguably trench,
that is to say, impact on other constitutional pro-
visions. One relevant constitutional provision
concerns the parliamentary immunity enjoyed by
senators and representatives, thus:^[3]

No Member [of the Congress] shall
be questioned nor be held liable in
any other place for any speech or
debate in the Congress or in any
committee thereof.

So, no matter what we do or say during a
privilege hour, we cannot be held to answer in a
criminal charge or a civil charge or any proceed-
ing outside of Congress, but we can be held
responsible to our colleagues, possibly through
the Committee on Ethics. That is the meaning of
our parliamentary immunity.

Another constitutional provision authorizes
congressional committees to conduct hearings,
thus:^[4]

^[2] Session of 25 November 1972.

^[3] Article 6 Legislative Department Sec. 11.

^[4] Article 6 Legislative Department Sec. 21.

^[1] 38 U.S. 347 (1967).

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The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation, in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or *affected by such inquiries shall be respected*. To emphasize, "the rights of persons affected by such inquiries shall be respected."

These provisions do not, even if only implicitly, allow use of wiretaps. For these two provisions on the Legislative Department should be reconciled with the antecedent provision in the Bill of Rights, under the rule of constitutional construction that, apparently, conflicting provisions should be reconciled. Parliamentary immunity does not trump or, in other words, does not serve to render nugatory privacy of communication.

The rule on constitutional construction is that all sections and provisions of the Constitution must be construed *in pari materia*, particularly where the provisions were adopted at the same time. As early as the 1957 case of *People v Uy Jui Pio*,^[5] the court ruled that "the statute must be so construed as to prevent a conflict between parties to it. For it is only by construing a statute that the statute will be given effect as a whole."

Further, the rules of statutory construction mandate harmonization. One rule upholds a particular provision over a general provision. The Bill of Rights provision is a particular provision with respect to privacy of communication; while the Legislative Department provisions on parliamentary immunity and on congressional hearings are general provisions. The rule on statutory construction provides that in case of apparent conflict between a general provision and a specific or particular provision, the particular provision shall prevail.

Another applicable rule of statutory construction is that a law should be interpreted, with a view to upholding, rather than destroying it. *Interpretatio fienda est ut res magis valeat quam pereat*. The constitutional provision on parliamentary immunity should not be construed so as to render ineffective the constitutional provision protecting privacy of communication. The provisions should be harmonized and reconciled, if possible.

Hence, under the rule that constitutional provisions should be harmonized, parliamentary immunity means only that a Congress member incurs no liability, outside of Congress, for violating the ban on communicating the contents of an illegal wiretap. But the doctrine of parliamentary immunity does not allow any other person, particularly a non-Congress member who is merely testifying in a Senate hearing, to make such communication on the contents of an illegal wiretap. If we allow such a witness to talk about the contents of the wiretap, this would result in outright violation of the absolute constitutional prohibition against admissibility.

The absolute constitutional language creates an invincible legal fortress against eavesdroppers and spies. Do you want to be spied on? Do you want to be eavesdropped on, notwithstanding that Congress has passed a law declaring that act to be a crime? We have to put ourselves in the place of the persons affected by the law and its interpretation, otherwise, we will tend to take a casual non-chalant attitude.

The Constitution sternly and strictly provides that an illegal wiretap "shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding." This is one of the most categorical constitutional provisions anywhere in the world.

The rule is that where the law does not distinguish, we should not distinguish. *Ubi lex non distinguit, nec nos distinguere debemos*. The Philippine Supreme Court has applied this rule of statutory construction for decades. As early as the 1948 case of *Tolentino v Catoy*, the Supreme Court ruled that where the law does not make any exception, the courts may not make an exception.^[6] This rule was most recently reiterated in the 1992 case of *Ramirez v Court of Appeals*.^[7]

Hence, there is simply no constitutional basis for claiming an exception in favor of the Senate.

Statutory ban covers Senate hearing

The constitutional right to privacy of communication is self-executing, meaning to say, one can apply it immediately and he does not need the mediation of a law passed by Congress, for the rule is that in case of doubt, the Constitution should be considered self-executing. As we know, we cannot sit and say, "I cannot apply the Constitution because Congress has not yet

^[5] 102 Phil. 679 (1957).

^[6] 82 Phil. 300 (1948).

^[7] 248 SCRA 590 (1995).

passed a law implementing it." The general rule is that the constitutional provision is self-executing. However, in an abundance of caution, or *ex abundanti cautela*, Congress in 1965 passed R.A. No. 4200, "An Act to prohibit and penalize wiretapping and other repeated violations of the privacy of communication." In effect, Section 4 provides that any illegal wiretap "*shall not be admissible in evidence in any legislative hearing or investigation.*"

It has to be emphasized that the Anti-Wiretapping Law penalizes a variety of prohibited acts, namely:

1. The act of **wiretapping** itself.
2. **Knowing possession** of the tape or record. So, just mere possession, just holding it in our hands knowing that it is a product of an illegal wiretap, is already a crime.
3. **Replaying** the tape for other persons.
4. **Communicating the contents** of the tape, either verbally or in writing, or giving its transcriptions to any other persons.
5. The act itself, or efforts **to act, prevent, or cause to be done** any of the prohibited acts.

This exclusionary rule was applied against these prohibited acts by the Supreme Court in the 1994 case of *Salcedo-Ortanez v Court of Appeals*.^[8] In that case, the illegal wiretap sought to be introduced in evidence was taped, when a person allowed his military friends to tap his house telephone. *Pumayag na nga*. Predictably, the Supreme Court threw it out, and ruled that "*the inadmissibility of the subject tapes is mandatory under R.A. No. 4200.*" That law will not apply only if there is consent of both parties. In that case, there was only consent of one party and that did not satisfy the Supreme Court.

That the exclusionary rule applies to legislative proceedings was implied by the Supreme Court in the 1998 case of *People v Olivares*.^[9] The Court ruled: "The constitutional provision on the inadmissibility of evidence, known as the exclusionary rule, applies not only to criminal cases but even extends to civil, administrative, and *any other forms of proceedings.*" For emphasis, "and any other forms of proceedings."

Furthermore, the Rules on Electronic Evidence, which in 2001 became part of the Rules

of Court, provides in Section 3 that "pertinent provisions on statutes containing rules on evidence shall apply." Assuming hypothetically that the illegal wiretap has been reduced to an electronic document which is now admissible, still Section 2 provides that the electronic document should comply with the rules on admissibility prescribed by related laws.

U.S. Constitution has no similar ban

American jurisprudence is considered influential, but not authoritative, in our country. The U.S. Code,^[10] which is a compilation of all the laws passed by the U.S. Congress, – we do not have a similar practice – in effect provides that no evidence derived from an illegal wiretap may be received in evidence in any hearing or other proceeding *before any legislative committee*. So even in America, where the Constitution does not have a specific provision on the inviolability of privacy of communication, at least, the law provides that an illegal wiretap may not be received before any legislative committee.

In the highly controversial 2001 case of *Bartnicki v Vopper*^[11], the U.S. Supreme Court by a split decision ruled that a stranger's illegal conduct does not suffice to remove the constitutional shield from speech about a matter of public concern; so, in effect, in layman's language, by a majority decision, which means that the authoritative nature of the decision is very, very weak because the decision was split. The majority said that even if the tape was illegally obtained, still it can be used if public concern satisfies the standards provided by the U.S. Code. But even this unpopular majority decision noted that "the fear of public disclosure of private conversations might well have a chilling effect on private speech."

This U.S. case is particularly instructive, only because it implies that an illegal wiretap does not even need the facilities of a service provider, since a mere scanner will do. A scanner, we can buy it off a shelf in any store.

In Footnote 6, the Court called attention to the fact that "calls placed on cellular and cordless telephones can be intercepted more easily than those placed on traditional phones. ... and *at one set of congressional hearings in 1997, – this was in America – a scanner, purchased off the shelf and minimally modified,*

^[8] 235 SCRA 111 (1994).

^[9] 299 SCRA 635 (1998).

^[10] Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 119 Section 2515.

^[11] Nos. 99 – 1687 and 99 – 1728. *AP*

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was used to intercept phone calls of Members of Congress."

Iyon palang Members of Congress ang wina-wiretap nila. Dito ang uso ay ang Members of Congress denounce but use illegal wiretaps. Doon sa Amerika, 1977 pa wina-wiretap na sila, kaya malamang tayong lahat ay wina-wiretap na rin.

And in Footnote 19, the Court quoted from the 1972 case of *Branzburg v Hayes*,^[12] which ruled in effect: "Although private wiretapping could provide newsworthy information, neither reporter nor source is immune from conviction for such conduct, whatever the impact on the flow of news."

In their dissent, three Justices, including no less than Chief Justice Rehnquist, agreed with the majority opinion that, in effect, illegal wiretaps are "chilling the speech of the millions of Americans who rely upon electronic technology to communicate each day." The dissent went on to say:

The Court correctly observes that there are "content-neutral laws of general applicability" which serve recognized interests of the "highest order": "the interest in individual privacy and... in fostering private speech.... It nonetheless subjects these laws to the strict scrutiny normally reserved for governmental attempts to *censor* different viewpoints or ideas.... There is scant support, either in precedent or in reason, for the Court's tacit application of strict scrutiny...."

This is gobbledygook because in America, when the Supreme Court conducts a judicial review of the constitutionality of any law, it applies three standards of scrutiny: one is reasonable scrutiny which is what we apply in the Philippines; two is intermediate scrutiny; and three is strict scrutiny which virtually ensures that the law will be declared unconstitutional. And here, the Minority are saying, "Why did the Majority apply strict scrutiny since in a long line of cases we have held that strict scrutiny should be applied only to censorship?" And here we are not talking of the censorship of the contents. We are simply talking of the procedure for obtaining evidence.

And the dissenting opinion went on to say:

Congress and the overwhelming majority of States reasonably have

^[12] 408 U.S. 665, 691 (1972).

concluded that sanctioning the knowing disclosure of illegally intercepted communications will deter the initial interception itself, a crime which is extremely difficult to detect. It is estimated *that over 20 million scanners capable of intercepting cellular transmissions directly are in operation.*

Remember that this case was decided in 2001. So by 2001, in the U.S., they already had that figure of scanners. So, within the space of six years, I am sure that the population of scanners in America must have more or less doubled.

The chilling effect of the Court's decision upon these private conversations will surely be great: *An estimated 49.1 million analog cellular telephones are currently in operation.*

So, in 2001, *mga 50 million na ang cell phones in America.*

Although public persons may have foregone the right to live their lives screened from public scrutiny in some areas, it does not and should not follow that they have also abandoned their right to have a private conversation without fear of it being intentionally intercepted and knowingly disclosed.

Just because senator *ako*, *ibig sabihin niyan kailangan hindi ako masyadong sensitibo*. I should not be onion-skinned *sa mga balita tungkol sa akin, pati na rin sa buhay kong pribado. Pero hindi naman ibig sabihin na just because senador ako*, public official *ako, pati ang cell phone ko puwede nang i-tap ngayon*. It is correct to say that public office normally entails a certain degree of loss of privacy. But it is certainly an extravagance to claim that even the right of private conversation on a private cell phone has already been lost by a public official.

The Court's decision to hold inviolable our right to broadcast conversations of "public importance" enjoys little support in our precedents.

So, the Minority's opinion is, in effect, admonishing the Majority.

By no stretch of the imagination can the statutes at issue here be dubbed "prior restraints."

Sa Amerika, ang pinagtatalunan nila ay ang mga batas tungkol sa censorship or prior

restraint. *Diyan dapat mahigpit ang pagsusuri ng Supreme Court dahil wala nang free speech nga naman kung lahat na lang ng batas na pinairal ng Kongreso tungkol sa free speech o ang laya para magsalita ay papayagan ng korte. Pero tungkol lang iyan sa censorship. Iba naman ang paraan na makinig ka sa usapan.*

Surely "the interest in individual privacy" at its narrowest must embrace the right to be free from surreptitious eavesdropping on, and involuntary broadcast of, our cellular telephone conversations.

In any event, the *Bartnicki* majority opinion does not apply in the Philippines because of the following reasons:

1. It was a split decision; and in law, a split decision has less weight than a unanimous one, and even less when it comes from a foreign court.

Galing sa Amerika ito. Kaiba naman ang kanilang saligang batas sa atin. Bakit tayo sunud-sunuran sa kanila? At ang ating Korte Suprema mismo ang nagsabi na hindi iyan binding sa atin. Puwedeng gamitin nating pangpayo o guideline pero hindi iyan binding sa atin. Matagal na tayong hindi naging colony ng Amerika.

2. The U.S. Constitution, unlike the Philippine Constitution, does not contain a provision that not only protects privacy of communication but also expressly declares a wiretap as "inadmissible for any purpose in any proceedings." The constitutional language is absolute and permits no exception in our country.

Hence, for any of our colleagues to argue before media that so-called "public interest" authorizes use in a congressional hearing of an illegal wiretap, is to exhibit doctrinal confusion. *Iyang "public interest" point na iyan was made by the Supreme Court in the case last year of Senate vs. Ermita, where the Philippine Supreme Court said: "President Arroyo cannot invoke executive privilege against public interest, for example, public interest in the fair administration of criminal justice, et cetera."*

Ito naman iba. Hindi naman executive privilege ang pinag-uusapan kung hindi illegal wiretapping. This is to exhibit doctrinal confusion and jurisprudential colonial mentality in constitutional law, even if they do not know about the Bartnicki case.

Hindi naman lahat ng ginagawa ng Amerika ay maganda. Maraming mga Pilipino ang mas marunong kaysa sa Amerikano.

Recommendation

We should probe the persons liable for illegal wiretaps but exclude Garci tape and any testimony on its contents.

I understand this morning that the decision of the Committee on Rules was to refer the privilege speech to the Committee of the Whole.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations to the Committee on Rules, in particular and to the Senate, in general:

1. The proper Senate committee or the entire Senate as a Committee of the Whole may proceed to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on alleged illegal wiretapping against public officials conducted by the Intelligence Service of the AFP, the PNP, or any other entity concerned;

Aba, sino ba sila na napakaliwanag sa ating Saligang Batas at sa ating batas na pinairal ng Kongreso na hindi puwedeng mag-wiretap maliban lamang kung may order ka ng korte o may utos ka ng batas na pinairal ng ating Kongreso? Sino itong mga makapangyarihan na ito, na walang budhi, na tuluy-tuloy ang pagwa-wiretap nila? At ang winawiretap pa nila ay ang Pangulo natin o ang Commissioner ng Comelec? Baka winawiretap tayong lahat sa Kongreso kamukha ng ginawa sa Amerika noong 1977. Sino itong mga taong ito, who have taken a position that they are above the law? Who are these dark forces behind the veil that screens them from our scrutiny?

Tayo sa Kongreso, lahat ng ginagawa natin ay bukas sa publiko because of the constitutionally protected right of the public to information on matters of public concern. Pero sino itong mga taong ito na binabalewala nila ang Saligang Batas, ang batas na pinairal ng Kongreso, at kung anuman ang gusto ng Kongreso?

Hindi natin alam sa ngayon kaya kina-kailangan talagang imbestigahan kung sino itong mga ito dahil mga naghari-harian sila. Dito sa ating bansa, ang hari ay ang Saligang Batas. Pero itong mga taong ito ay mas mataas pa sa hari. Kaya kina-kailangan talagang imbestigahan nang masusi ito hanggang sa abutin at matukoy sino talaga ang nag-o-order nitong mga wire-taps na ito.

2. During the hearings, we have to obey the absolute constitutional prohibition, and we have to apply the corresponding statutory prohibition. Hence, in the language of the

Anti-Wiretapping Law, we have to prohibit possession, replay, or communication of the contents of the illegal wiretap. Otherwise, the Senate would be an unwitting accessory of a crime.

3. If my humble view is rejected by the majority vote of our colleagues, then those who, like me, are devoted to constitutional law, may feel free to file the proper petition in the Supreme Court. However, that should be a last option, because we in the legislative branch should turn to the judicial branch, only when we dispute the construction of the Constitution by the executive branch.

Kung kalaban natin ang Executive branch dahil Legislative branch tayo, di tumakbo tayo sa Judicial branch. But when there is an internal dispute among ourselves in the Senate, we should settle it here, and avoid going to court. Di para bang palagi na lamang tayong under sa Supreme Court na hindi tayo marunong kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng batas at kailangang takbo tayo nang takbo sa Supreme Court, nag-aaway-away lamang tayo. Kailangan makiisa tayo kung mayroon tayong hindi pagkaka-intindihan sa Executive branch tungkol sa interpretation or construction of the Constitution. But when there is a dispute internal only to ourselves, it is really better to settle it among ourselves.

4. The record of this illegal wiretap was played and replayed to the point of surfeit during the aborted impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives and in the media.

Narinig na ito ng 85 million Filipinos. Mayroon pa ngang ring tone ng "Hello Garci." Kaya bakit na naman tayo babalik doon? In fact, it has even already been played here in the very halls of our Senate by the Minority Leader, Senator Pimentel. He has a pamphlet of his privilege speech on 7 December 2005, entitled: "The 2005 Elections, the Truth Behind 'Hello Garci.'"

And this afternoon, when he handed me this pamphlet – which is always welcome when it comes from the Minority Leader because it is always thoroughly studied and conscientious – on page 34, I quote, "Let us go back to May 29, 2004, 19 days after the elections, Gloria calls Garci, and this is the conversation. And Senator Pimentel says: 'Can we have the voice clip?' At this juncture, a voice conversation was played."

That is the Garci tape. It was played right here. What follows, he said in his privilege speech, is a transcription of the conversation as

recorded by somebody, whose exact identity up to this moment, is disputed. And then he discusses the contents of the tape. But, as I said earlier, Senator Pimentel did not incur any liability because he could avail of his parliamentary immunity under the Constitution unless the Senate itself wanted to discipline him in any way but we did not. So, by lapses, our failure to exercise the right, it has already lapsed. So, Senator Pimentel has no liability because he is a member of the Senate. But, if he had moved for an investigation and to summon a witness who would discuss the contents of the tape, then I probably would have stood up to make a constitutional objection. However, he did not do that.

So, we have already heard this wiretap. Independently of what the law prescribes or prohibits, there is no more value to be gained by replaying it over and over. Some can even recite it in their sleep already. But playing in the House of Representatives the tape – meaning to say, indulgence in an illegal act – has already been undertaken. If they were able to get away with that constitutional violation, it was because no one bothered to bring suit in court. *Hinayaan na lamang nila ang House of Representatives. Kaya wala tayong ruling sa Korte Suprema. Iyan ang dahilan kung bakit napatugtog nila nang paulit-ulit iyong tape doon. Pero kakaiba naman ang Senado.* But what the Lower House has wrongfully done cannot possibly be held up for emulation by this Upper House. *Magiging sunud-sunuran ba tayo sa House of Representatives? Kung ayaw nilang pag-usapan ang constitutional law doon, for reasons best known to themselves, wala kaming paki. Pero hindi ibig sabihin na iyong ginawa nila ay gagawin din namin dahil nagawa na nila. Ito ang Upper House, doon naman ay Lower House. If there is anything less than lower, they would belong to that category. For it is the duty of the Senate to educate the House on pressing points of constitutional law.*

5. During the hearings, full attention should be paid on whether the alleged illegal wiretap operations of the ISAFP and even the PNP may have included Congress members. *Maganda ito, titingnan natin ngayon kung sino ang wina-wiretap nila. Siguradong hindi lamang ang commissioner ng Comelec dahil sabi nga ni Sgt. Doble sa diyaryo – pero hindi natin maintindihan kung nag-sasabi ng totoo iyong tao na iyon. Masalimuot masyado ang lovelife niya kaya matindi ang pangangailangan sa pera – four teams, apparently in a continuing wire-tapping operation were engaged and he was a member if I remember correctly, of team 2. Aba,*

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tuluy-tuloy pala itong operation na ito. Kung operation iyan, hindi naman maaari na iisang tao lamang ang wina-wiretap. Sa palagay ko, pati tayo dito sa Kongreso, lalo na sa Senado dahil kaunti lamang tayo, ay wina-wiretap din Suwerte nila hindi tayo nag-imbetiga noon at kailangan mag-imbetiga na tayo ngayon, dapat suhetuhin man lamang natin iyong mga taong iyon. Biro ninyo, Senador ka ng Pilipinas, i-wa-wiretap ka ng karaniwang sundalo? Anong IQ niya?

In any case, the focus should be on pinpointing criminal liabilities. *Sino ang gumawa ng krimen at idemanda natin sa korte kriminal? It is a crime to wiretap and it is a crime to use a wiretap by talking about its contents, unless of course, we have the stature and the gravitas of a Senator, like Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.*

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ENRILE

At the onset, Senator Enrile stated for the record that while he was for the enforcement of laws against those who transgress them, he was not concerned about the interest or the welfare of the people involved in the wiretapping controversy but about the impact of the Senate's action on the freedom and liberties of the people.

Asked if Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Bill of Rights (Article III) of the Constitution are the so-called constitutional guarantees of liberty, Senator Defensor Santiago replied in the affirmative.

Senator Enrile stated that while the framers of the Constitution believed that it is the people themselves who would build a State which possesses all the powers that no one could possibly imagine, they provided, however, certain guarantees: 1) in Section 1 – "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law nor shall any person be denied equal protection of the laws," and; 2) in Section 2 – "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized." Therefore, he said that while

it possesses all the powers, the State must not transgress into the home of any citizen without due process and that any evidence taken in violation of such rights would be inadmissible evidence in court. Senator Defensor Santiago agreed.

Senator Enrile believed that in this modern age, the right of the people to communicate and to correspond could also be violated, thus, the framers also provided in Section 3 that, "The privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful orders of the court or when public safety or order requires otherwise as prescribed by law," in this case, the Anti-Wiretapping Law, and any evidence obtained in violation of the constitutional provisions shall be inadmissible for any purpose or proceeding.

Asked whether the injunction is both a protection for the victim of the interception of communication and correspondence and a proscription on the conduct of the authority that would receive the illegally obtained evidence, Senator Defensor Santiago also replied in the affirmative.

Upon further query, Senator Defensor Santiago affirmed that an illegally obtained wiretapped material on the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court cannot be used as evidence against anybody.

Asked if the wiretap materials that are now the concern of the Senate are admissible as evidence in the Supreme Court, Senator Defensor Santiago said that they are not.

Asked whether she would agree that RA 4200 is more of a prohibition rather than a grant of power to wiretap, Senator Defensor Santiago replied in the affirmative. She agreed that the only exception in the law is Section 3 which authorizes a wiretap in cases involving the crimes of treason, espionage, provoking war and disloyalty in case of war, piracy, mutiny in the high seas, rebellion, conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, inciting to rebellion, sedition, conspiracy to commit sedition, inciting to sedition, kidnapping as defined by the Revised Penal Code, and violations of Commonwealth Act No. 616, punishing espionage and other offenses against national security. She also affirmed that consistent with Section 4, any part of the "Garci tapes" or any information therein obtained by any person shall not be admissible in evidence in any hearing or investigation.

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Senator Enrile said that he raised the issues because the matter at hand involves the liberties of the people and the guarantees of these liberties, and he would like future legislators to be properly guided in case a similar situation arises in the future.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR BIAZON

Asked by Senator Biazon whether the wiretapped materials can be used as evidence against those who were involved in the ISAFP operations, Senator Defensor Santiago replied in the negative, pointing out that the language of the Constitution is absolute that an illegal wiretap shall not be admissible in evidence for any purpose in any proceeding.

Senator Biazon disclosed that a potential witness came to him and asked if he could submit a recorded tape to the Committee on National Defense and Security. He stated that as committee chair, he required that the tapes be: 1) marked accordingly to avoid being replaced with another recorded tape; 2) accompanied by an affidavit stating the circumstances of how the recorded tape was obtained and other such relevant statements; 3) transmitted through a letter explaining what the submitted evidence is all about. He said that one of the recorded tapes submitted to the Committee was the alleged wiretapped material gathered from the office of Senator Honasan during his previous term. He asked if the wiretapped materials can be used to establish that an act of illegal wiretapping has been committed.

Senator Defensor Santiago replied that R.A. 4200 provides that it shall be unlawful for any person, be he a participant or not, to knowingly possess copies in the manner prohibited by the law. She said that the law provides that 48 hours after the expiration of the court order, the recording shall be deposited to the proper court in a sealed envelope or package accompanied by an affidavit of the peace officer that was granted authority. She stressed that mere possession of the tape or any of its reproduced forms is already a criminal offense and Senators are not included in the list of persons authorized to receive recorded tapes even in the legal discharge of their official functions.

Asked how the investigation of the wiretappers in the AFP can be pursued by the proper Senate committee if the wiretapped materials cannot be used as evidence, Senator Defensor Santiago replied that information contained in the recorded tapes

cannot be used; only the prior testimonies of those who testified, particularly Sergeant Doble who testified in prior proceedings duly published in the media that ISAFP-MIG, of which he was at that time a member, was already conducting illegal wiretap operations without a court order, but this would boil down to the question of credibility.

On whether the annotators of the alleged wiretapped material would be equally guilty of the offense, Senator Defensor Santiago replied that the proper procedure would be to confront the alleged annotators with Ms. Marietta Santos, and there would be no need to listen to the tapes any more.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ESCUDERO

Relative to the U.S. case *Bartnicki et al. v. Vopper, aka Williams, et al.*, Senator Escudero stated that the dissenting opinion should not be used as an argument with respect to any legal proposition whether in the United States or Philippine jurisdiction. Senator Defensor Santiago disagreed as she pointed out that dissenting opinions are quoted in both the U.S. and Philippine courts.

To the contention that a majority opinion rendered by a divided court could be cited as an authority, Senator Defensor Santiago disagreed as she pointed out that the U.S. Constitution does not have a provision similar to that of the Philippine Constitution, hence, the Bartnicki decision cannot apply to the local situation. She said that she quoted the minority opinion only to show the defect in the majority opinion.

Senator Escudero expressed doubt that the Members would believe every declaration of Mr. Doble who had denied his participation in any wiretapping activity in his testimony before the House of Representatives. He also pointed out that since there has never been a definite finding that the "Garci tapes" were a product of wiretapping, the right to privacy in communication has not even been invoked by the parties concerned. He noted that former Commissioner Garcillano himself denied that it was his voice on the tapes and even Secretary Bunye said that the voice on the tape only sounded like President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. He added that Secretary Bunye, when he presented the two tapes to media, claimed that one was manufactured and that the other contained the original conversation

of President Arroyo; however, he did not allow the media to listen to either of the tapes.

Senator Escudero further stated that while Minority congressmen claimed that the tapes were wiretapped, the Majority congressmen and Palace officials who had been called to the House hearings denied that it was their voices on the tapes. He expressed concern that any person called to testify before the Senate hearings might raise the excuse that he would be discussing a matter that is a product of an illegal search and seizure or a wiretapping and, therefore, he cannot speak. In this case, he wondered how it could be established that the product is within the purview of the constitutional ban on wiretapping or whether the person could invoke his right against self-incrimination.

For her part, Senator Defensor Santiago explained that the person introducing the tape or is claiming to be the owner of the master tape has made an admission against interest and, as such, the admission carries a very strong weight. However, she said that since two others repudiated their identities in the tapes, it becomes a question of what is the threshold of presumption. She said that a wiretap is presumed to be illegal unless it is, in the first instance, accompanied by a court order or accompanied by the law that authorizes that specific wiretap on that specific topic. Therefore, she said that it is easy to establish the illegality of a wiretap since all that needs to be done is to attack the presenter from the standpoint of a court order or relevant law. For instance, she stated that a wiretap conducted against a terrorist is presumed to be legal as the conversation has to do with terrorism and is authorized by the law.

Senator Escudero clarified that at the time that the "Garci tapes" were presented to the House in 2005, Mr. Doble denied his participation in the wiretap. He added that the tape obtained by the House is the same as the one Secretary Bunye claimed to have been manufactured from recordings of conversations of both parties under totally different circumstances. He said that only when an assertion was made that the tape was not the product of wiretapping that it was played in the House. He underscored the importance of proceeding with the inquiry as it is only after the facts have been established that any presumption shall be made of record. He maintained that the objection to the presentation of the tapes should not detract from the Senate's authority to look into them.

Senator Defensor Santiago stressed that while she had neither the inclination, interest nor patience to replay the proceedings of the House of Representatives, Senator Escudero might want to do so at the appropriate time. She refused to yield the floor further to Senator Escudero as she did not agree with his premises.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Defensor Santiago and the interpellations thereon to the Committee of the Whole.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 5:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan informed the Body that as agreed upon, a caucus has been scheduled for the next day to discuss matters concerning the Committee of the Whole as well as other matters affecting the legislative agenda.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Pimentel delivered the following statement on the occasion of the 78th birth anniversary of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin:

CARDINAL SIN: WE OWE HIM ONE

On August 31, three days from today, the Catholic faithful of Manila and Aklan and his numerous friends all over the land will remember the 79th birth anniversary of one of the most politically involved clergymen of our times, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin.*

The Cardinal passed on to his Maker on June 21, 2005.*

* As corrected by Senator Pimentel on September 3, 2007

As a Cardinal, a prince of the Church, I remember him as the man who made no bones about his support for the presidential candidacy of a woman, Cory Aquino, who risked life and limb, fortune and family, to help restore the democratic space to the country in 1986. But the act is not what the country should remember him for as I will try to explain momentarily.

Contradiction

Sin was a contradiction in terms. His name alone contrasted with the rank of Cardinal that he held as a churchman, already posed problems of comedic proportions. Early on in his cardinalate, he would shock visiting innocent nuns with his tongue-in-cheek announcement that they were welcome "to the House of Sin!"

Indeed, his name was Sin. But he was actually a man of the cloth, an ordained priest in the order of Melchizedek, to borrow the words of the Good Book.

He was no politician. Yet, in his prime as the archbishop of Manila, he shook up the political firmament in the country in a manner that no other politician has done before or since.

More than any other person – politician or religious – in the country, it was Sin who mobilized people in 1986, to be exact on February 22, 1986 to "protect our brothers in Camp Crame" who had withdrawn their support from then President Ferdinand E. Marcos. Marcos, as everyone knows, had assumed dictatorial powers in 1972. He exercised powers that were not seriously challenged until in 1983, Ninoy Aquino, a leader of those who opposed Marcos, came home from the U.S. in an attempt to peacefully end the martial law regime. For his righteous efforts, Ninoy was assassinated upon arrival at the Manila International Airport that is now named after him.

No Richelieu or Fleury

To go back to Sin, let me say that he was a far cry from Cardinal Richelieu who became Louis XIV's prime minister or even of Cardinal Fleury who was Louis XV's chief adviser in the 17th century.

The two French cardinals were, to my mind, first and foremost political – not spiritual – advisers to their respective French sovereigns. In the case of Sin, he never occupied a political position, not during the Marcos years or the years after. And his political thinking was apparently more focused on the need to protect the right to life of people – really a religious

principle – than on what Cardinal Richelieu and Cardinal Fleury believed to be the divine right of kings or sovereigns to rule over others or to insist that the ends of the rulers justified the means that they resorted to.

Clueless in the desert

In any event, from 1972 and for three years after the Aquino murder in 1983, our people, like the Israelites, were traveling in the desert of nowhere, clueless as how to get rid of the Marcos dictatorship. In 1986, however, an event of Marcos own making provided a crack in the then impregnable Marcos machinery that kept him in total unaccountable power for 14 years.

Marcos had, upon pressure by our people both here and in the U.S., called for presidential election that he set for February 7, 1986.

Illegal arsenal

We, in the parliamentary opposition, put up Cory Aquino as our candidate against Marcos. We felt that we had the people's support throughout the nation. But Marcos did not play coy about his intention to stay in power by all means, fair or foul. He, thus, used all the legal and the illegal arsenal at his command – the Comelec, the military, the CAFGUs, the bureaucracy, government funds, the controlled media, the KBL – to keep Cory at bay in the presidential contest. What Marcos did reminds us, of course, of the 2004 presidential election and the 2007 senatorial elections where the administration also used all resources to win the elections at all costs.

Demonstrations

As a consequence, by all government accounts, Marcos had won the election in February of 1986. We did not think so. And we manifested our position contradicting the Marcos government posture by holding public demonstrations and public rallies denouncing the massive cheating that characterized the election.

Our stand was vindicated by two subsequent events: 1) The Catholic Bishops Conference issued a pastoral letter that was read in the churches that indeed "unparalleled" and blatant manipulation of the electoral will had taken place, and, 2) The rather stiff hint from the U.S. government that Marcos should not use force to quell the demonstrations or his government would lose American economic aid and military support. This was a most unwelcome development to Marcos because he considered U.S. President Ronald Reagan as his faithful friend and close ally. *AB*

Withdrawal of support

And so it came to pass that on February 22, the then Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and the Chief of the Philippine Constabulary Fidel V. Ramos withdrew their support from Marcos. The two erstwhile fervent Marcos backers decided to hole up with their supporters in Camp Crame which Marcos, through his Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Fabian Ver, threatened to level with cannons.

It was at this point that Sin urged the people through *Radio Veritas* to come to the defense of the beleaguered troops in Camp Crame. Although he asked the cloistered nuns to pray for the troops under siege, Sin did not ask the people to just pray for the troops' deliverance. He categorically asked the people to go out of their homes and surround the camp to prevent Marcos' forces from annihilating the insurgents.

And as the cliché goes, the rest is history.

We owe Sin one

I suggest that our people owe more to Sin than many of our domestic political observers including a number of our politicians have been willing to concede even if today they, along with us, enjoy some of the basic freedoms that were denied to us during the martial law years.

As a sign of our appreciation for what he had done specifically to restore our fundamental freedoms, I propose that we rename Shaw Boulevard that starts from Kalentong in Mandaluyong City all the way to Barangay Bagong Ilog in Pasig City as the Jaime Cardinal Sin Avenue. For the record, Shaw Boulevard is named after William J. Shaw, an American businessman, who came to Manila in 1901 first as a clerk, but who later became the president of the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Company. His main claim to fame was that he donated the land where the Wack Wack Golf Club now stands.

Symbolic

It is really only a symbolic honor that we seek to bestow belatedly on the man who did not allow his high religious office to deter him from getting his feet wet in the murky waters of political dispute in the country in defense of the fundamental and human rights of the people. We can leave it to future generations to conceive of more appropriate ways to give Sin the honor that is due him. The passage of a suitable number of years could give them a better perspective of the proper place in the story of the nation that the man should occupy.

As I end this brief statement, let me say that the stint of Cardinal Sin as a prince of the Church ended on his 75th birthday in 2005. His resignation was accepted by the Vatican on the day itself.

Since we are so far away from the sacrosanct enclaves of Rome, we do not know what standards the Vatican uses to retain or retire cardinals and bishops. But it certainly looks like getting involved in the political affairs of a nation – no matter how noble the motives or how beneficial the results might be – is not one of the criteria.

Recognition deserved

But if Sin is no saint to the Vatican, let it be said that a grateful nation knows how to pay due honor and proper respect to the man who had stood by the people in the hour of our need. For it was he who had successfully pushed the people to take the calculated risk that toppled the authoritarian regime of Marcos and restored the values of freedom, justice and peace to our land in the aftermath of what is now the world-renowned People Power Revolution of 1986.

The man more than deserves the simple recognition that is suggested in this statement for he was the humble prelate from New Washington, Aklan, who became the Archbishop of Manila and, subsequently, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, prince of the Church, man of God and of his people.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 5:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADDITIONAL REFERRAL

At the instance of Senator Legarda, upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 77 was referred secondarily to the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the

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following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon)

Members :

Arroyo	Lapid
Revilla	

Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Members :

Lapid	Defensor Santiago
Enrile	Honasan

Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Members :

Cayetano (P)	Enrile
Defensor Santiago	Arroyo
Angara	Zubiri

Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Members :

Arroyo	Lapid
Enrile	Zubiri
Revilla	

Committee on Tourism

Members :

Revilla	Lapid
Cayetano (P)	Zubiri

Committee on Economic Affairs

Members :

Enrile	Cayetano (A)
Gordon	Honasan
Escudero	Zubiri

Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Members :

Honasan	Lapid
Zubiri	Revilla
Enrile	

Committee on Trade and Commerce

Members :

Cayetano (P)	Escudero
Lapid	Enrile
Revilla	Gordon

Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Members :

Cayetano (P)	Zubiri
Honasan	Lapid
Gordon	

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 651, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE 941

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 652, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE 737, MAKING IT CONSISTENT WITH THE OTHER PROVISIONS UNDER THE TITLE ON DONATIONS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 653, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE USE OF COMPUTERS TO COMMIT, FACILITATE OR CONCEAL THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 654, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PRIORITY TO HONOR GRADUATES OF STATE COLLEGES AND STATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE APPOINTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 655, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF IMITATION FIREARMS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 656, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING WORKERS THE RIGHT TO OWN AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO BUY A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF AUTHORIZED SHARES OF STOCKS OF ANY COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AS WELL AS RELIGIOUS, MEDICAL OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OPERATED FOR PROFIT AND TO ENSURE WORKERS' REPRESENTATION IN NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS AND ENTERPRISES, AND TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTIVITY, PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 657, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF PHILIPPINE MADE MATERIALS IN CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROVIDING FOR THE BLACKLISTING OF CONTRACTORS VIOLATING SUCH REQUIREMENT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 658, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT SEVENTY NINE FORTY-ONE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM ACT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 659, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 660, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6713, ALSO KNOWN AS AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, TO UPHOLD THE TIME-HONORED

PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEING A PUBLIC TRUST, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENUMERATING PROHIBITED ACTS AND TRANSACTIONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 661, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PROSTATE CANCER

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 662, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF POLICE AGENCIES AND THE ARMED FORCES AND PENALIZING "PLANTING" OF EVIDENCE, INCORPORATING SECTION 7-A INTO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1866, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED CODIFYING THE LAWS ON ILLEGAL/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, DEALING IN, ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES OR INSTRUMENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES AND IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR RELEVANT PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and National Defense and Security

Senate Bill No. 663, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, ALSO KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW, SECTION 3 (C)

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 664, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE RIGHTS TO BE ACCORDED VICTIMS OF CRIMES, DEFINING THE DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 665, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISALS TO EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS FOR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION OF LAW RELATED TO PUBLIC CONTRACTS INCLUDING THE COMPETITION FOR OR NEGOTIATION OF A CONTRACT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 666, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE, DELIVERY OR DISPOSITION OF ANY KIND OF FIREARM, AMMUNITION, OR EXPLOSIVES TO

CERTAIN TYPES OF PERSONS AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE
VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs**

Senate Bill No. 667, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING WOMEN THE
RIGHT TO KNOW WORK CONDI-
TIONS AFFECTING THEIR HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development; and
Youth, Women and Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 668, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM
STANDARDS REGARDING THE
QUALITY OF WIRELESS TELEPHONE
SERVICE AND TO MONITOR
COMPLAINTS REGARDING SUCH
SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Trade and Commerce**

Senate Bill No. 669, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL
INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARA-
NGAY CAPTAINS, PROVIDING
FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS
PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Government
Corporations and Public Enterprises; Local
Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 670, entitled

AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE TEACHING
OF COMPUTER AS PART OF THE
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULA BOTH IN PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and
Culture**

Senate Bill No. 671, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BASIC
EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR
REHABILITATION AND IMPROVE-
MENT, CREATING A BASIC EDUC-
ATION REHABILITATION AND
IMPROVEMENT FUND, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 672, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HOUSING
PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Urban Planning,
Housing and Resettlement; Education, Arts
and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 673, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS
DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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To the Committees on Cultural Communities; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 674, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TEACHER ACADEMIES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE ENTRY INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 675, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER SYSTEM IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 676, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE SERVICES, THROUGH THE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS, REGULATING THEIR OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 677, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION DATABASE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Senate Bill No. 678, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE AND EDUCATION ON THE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO MERCURY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH ADVISORIES AND BY REQUIRING THAT SUCH APPROPRIATE ADVISORIES BE POSTED, OR MADE READILY AVAILABLE, AT ALL BUSINESSES THAT SELL FRESH, FROZEN, AND CANNED FISH AND SEAFOOD WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR MERCURY EXPOSURE EXISTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 679, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COUNSELING AND TESTING OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND NEWBORN INFANTS FOR INFECTION WITH HUMAN IMMUNO DEFICIENCY VIRUS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 680, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN METHODS OF DETECTING THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS BY ATHLETES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Games, Amusement
and Sports; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 681, entitled

AN ACT ALLOCATING TO THE AFP
MODERNIZATION ACT TRUST
FUND THE COLLECTION FROM
CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND VALUE-
ADDED TAX ON THE SALE OF
REAL PROPERTY AND THE SHARE
OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
ON ALL TAXES, ROYALTIES AND
CHARGES COLLECTED FROM THE
MALAMPAYA NATURAL GAS
PROJECT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 682, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN
AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASE TO
ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED
FORCES WHO IS DEPLOYED
AWAY FROM THE MEMBER'S
PERMANENT STATION OR, IN THE
CASE OF A MEMBER OF A
RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE
ARMED FORCES, THE MEMBER'S
HOME OF RECORD, ONCE THE
DEPLOYMENT PERIOD EXCEEDS
180 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS DUTY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on National Defense
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 683, entitled

AN ACT DETERRING AND PUNISHING
ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF CRIMINAL STREET GANGS,
RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS

TO PARTICIPATE THEREIN, COM-
MISSION OF VIOLENT GANG CRIMES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs**

Senate Bill No. 684, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
OWNERSHIP PARTICULARLY
COPYRIGHT LAW AS PART OF THE
CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY,
SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Trade and Commerce; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 685, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815,
ALSO KNOWN AS THE REVISED
PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED,
ARTICLE 39, 1ST PARAGRAPH, ON
SUBSIDIARY PENALTY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committee on Justice and Human
Rights**

Senate Bill No. 686, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL INDEPEN-
DENT POWER PRODUCERS, GENE-
RATION COMPANIES OR ENERGY
RESOURCE DEVELOPERS TO
REMIT THE AMOUNT THEY ARE
REQUIRED TO SET ASIDE AS
FINANCIAL BENEFIT DIRECTLY
TO THE HOST COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Energy; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 687, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MECHANISMS FOR THE CREATION, OPERATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND COORDINATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BOOK CITY," CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE BOOK PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (BPEZA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 688, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL DISABILITY PENSION TO SENIOR VETERANS OF WARS AND MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 689, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING A RETAIL PRICE MAINTENANCE AND UNIFORM DISCOUNTING SCHEME IN BOOK TRADE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND QUALITY-LADEN TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO BE USED BY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; Education, Arts and Culture; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 690, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONDUCTING A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON HORMONE DISRUPTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 691, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 692, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AS UNLAWFUL THE REPRODUCTION OF COPYRIGHTED BOOKS AND PRINTED MATERIALS THROUGH PHOTOCOPYING, DUPLICATING, PRINTING MACHINES OR SIMILAR MEANS WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER, WHETHER THE PUBLISHER OR THE AUTHOR OR BOTH

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Justice and Human Rights

ks

Senate Bill No. 693, entitled

AN ACT SEEKING TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN GARBAGE COLLECTION, WORKING IN DUMPSITES OR ASSIGNED IN DISASTER AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 694, entitled

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE SYSTEM OF PROSTITUTION, IMPOSING PENALTIES ON ITS PERPETRATORS, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ITS VICTIMS, AND DECRIMINALIZING VAGRANCY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 202 AND 341 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND AMENDING R.A. 9208, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 695, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL RESEARCH FACILITY TO SEARCH FOR VACCINES FOR DENGUE, MALARIA, YELLOW FEVER AND OTHER LOCAL VIRUS OR BACTERIA-BASED DISEASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 696, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FOLIC ACID EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 697, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND PROPAGATE FOSTER CARE FOR ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND OTHER CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 698, entitled

AN ACT TO REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS BY REQUIRING TERTIARY AND SPECIALIZED HOSPITALS TO SHARE CERTAIN SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 699, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 700, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF THE FILIPINO FAMILY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAM, CREATION OF THE NATIONAL FAMILY WELFARE COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 87, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; AND HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SPREAD OF HOG CHOLERA VIRUS (HCV), OTHER-WISE KNOWN AS THE CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER (CSF), IN THE PROVINCES OF BULACAN AND NUEVA ECIJA, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD ADDRESS FUTURE PROBLEMS OF HOG CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 88, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TULLAHAN BRIDGE IN VALENZUELA CITY AND 22 OTHER BRIDGES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 89, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE CPP-NPA-NDFP BLOC TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AREAS AND TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRING BOTH PARTIES BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND RESUSCITATE THE ROADMAP TO PEACE

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

To the Committees on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 90, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING ON PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO TO FULFILL HER CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO TRANSMIT TO THE PHILIPPINE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION THE 1998 ROME STATUTE CREATING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THE GRAVEST CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

To the Committee on Foreign Relations ^{MS}

MS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 91, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF PEACE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) AND THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) IN VIEW OF THE ESCALATING ARMED CONFLICT IN MINDANAO AND THE NEED TO DETERMINE WHAT IS THE PEACE POLICY OF THE MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senators M. A. Madrigal and Antonio "Sommy" Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 92, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9211 OR THE TOBACCO REGULATIONS ACT OF 2003

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade and Commerce

MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, Senators Arroyo, Defensor Santiago, Enrile, Gordon,

Lapid, Cayetano (A), Ejercito Estrada, and Pangilinan were elected members of the Commission on Appointments.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, Senators Angara, Revilla, Cayetano (P) and Escudero were elected members of the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 6:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., the session was approved.

REMARKS OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan expressed hope that the committee chairs would be able to complete the memberships of the following committees by tomorrow:

1. Committee on Agrarian Reform
2. Committee on Agriculture and Food
3. Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies
4. Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization
5. Committee on Cultural Communities
6. Committee on Energy
7. Committee on Foreign Relations
8. Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports
9. Committee on National Defense and Security
10. Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation
11. Committee on Science and Technology
12. Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations *PS*

PS


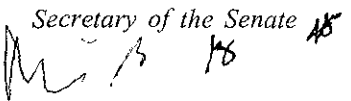
Senator Pangilinan reminded the Members that the session would be suspended tomorrow to give way to a caucus as he appealed to them to make themselves available.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 6:12 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate 

Approved on August 29, 2007