R.H.R. NO. 1
Monday, July 23, 1990

OPENING OF SESSION

At 10:02 a.m., the Speaker, the Hon. Ramon V. Mitra, called the House to order.

THE SPEAKER. In accordance with Section 15, Article VI of the Constitution, the Fourth Regular Session of the House of Representatives is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Hon. Antonio Cuenco.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. Dear Lord:

Today we open the second to the last session of this Congress.

We resume our work at a time of tragedy and trial, when our anguished cries must go not only to each other but to heaven itself, for the magnitude of the crisis is such that only with Your help can we ease and assuage the sufferings of the victims and those who share their pains.

This is one devastation for which we cannot blame one another, but on which we can only cooperate and help each other.

This is one question that will not divide, but will unite us.

This is one occasion where we will not argue over issues, but share our common humanity.

So we open our session at a time when the collective resources and will of our people are directed at a common end. And we ask You, Lord, that we in this Chamber will bear manfully and nobly the burden which the whole nation has already assumed in the high and lofty spirit of charity and kindness.

Before the tragedy occurred, the leadership of this House led by Speaker Mitra has framed our agenda for this year. We pray before You that our deliberations will be guided in the light of this sad event, and that our guide will be Your wisdom and Your providence through which our people have always survived and flourished in times of crisis as well as calm.

This we do with complete faith in Your mercy, and therefore in our future. We cannot be defeated as a people because You hold us in the palm of Your mighty hand.

In our frailty You strengthen us. In our wrongs You right us. In our sins and shortcomings, You forgive us. There is nothing either in our past or in our present, either in our opportunities or perils, that You have failed or refused to bestow on us Your wisdom, assistance and infallible guiding hand.

Look at Your nation, the Filipino people, today in this hour of great tragedy. We are proving equal to our sorrows by bearing in mind and in conduct the teachings of Your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, that our neighbor's welfare is also our own. In media, in government agencies, in our embassies abroad, everywhere where Filipinos gather, their one thought is how to help out the victims of the tragedy.

We therefore offer to You today, Lord, not only our prayer, but also all our power and all our wisdom to join our countrymen in the effort to rise above the debris of devastation. Help us in this effort, for we know our limitations, and only in Your kindness and inspiration can we succeed in this House in the days ahead.

Amen.

OPENING REMARKS OF SPEAKER MITRA

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will make a statement.

We begin our Fourth Regular Session at a tragic time for our country. I know I express the sentiments of this whole Chamber when I say that we as a House sympathize deeply with all those who lost relatives, friends or property in last Monday's earthquake in Luzon Island.

I had suggested to the President that we agree on a supplementary budget of P10 billion to rebuild our devastated public works facilities in the affected regions.

I know you will want to deal urgently with this measure,

which Congressman Andaya has drafted and which the President has certified. I propose that after the President delivers her State-of-the-Nation Address and after the reception, we should go back and act on this measure so that if we can all agree and pass this measure which the President certified, then we can send it to the Senate tonight.

Over the recent past, I have said many times that perhaps the reason we have fallen so far behind our neighbors is that we have not been able to raise a sense of national crisis of the kind that Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore used to mobilize their peoples into achieving prodigies of development.

Lacking a life-and-death threat, we Filipinos have all too often been fragmented into factions, each chasing after its selfish interest, without regard for the common good.

Last week's tragedy will have served some purpose if we use it as the occasion for taking stock of where we are, where we have fallen short, and what we need to do better than what we have so far done.

There certainly is no need to blame anyone. But the earthquake showed how generally unprepared the government is to deal with disaster. We must make sure catastrophe never finds us so unready ever again.

Last week's tragedy should also strengthen the case we have for so long been trying to make -- for a little more sympathy and understanding -- from our creditor-banks whose debt papers we have religiously met up to this very moment. I think it is time for government to make the hard decisions which it has postponed for so long -- to heal the divisions in national society and restore our people's sense of unity.

As we enter the last two years of the 11th Congress, I believe this House can justly claim it has set some landmarks for future Congresses to follow -- for instance, in our Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, in our Organic Acts for the Cordilleras and Muslim Mindanao; in our efforts to free the spirit of enterprise in our countryside; and in the quality of our social legislation. We have also started something new in our oversight subcommittees, where most of you had participated in, which see to it that government uses public money efficiently and sparingly. In this work, we have gained the cooperation of the Commission on Audit. It has agreed to team up with our new Planning and Budget Office in a joint technical task force that will backstop our oversight groups in their annual budget review, in cooperation, working together in tandem, with the Committee on Appropriations or under the direction of the Committee on Appropriations.

In early June, just before we closed our Third Regular Session, I proposed to the Senate leadership that we get together on our legislative priorities over the time that remains to us.

Subsequently, Senate President Salonga agreed our two Houses should act cooperatively -- on the Local Government Code, civil service reform, deregulation, and a legislative package to alleviate mass poverty and stimulate agricultural productivity.

I am confident this House will have no major problems fulfilling its share of the work needed to translate this agenda into legislation.

I am particularly anxious that we make up our minds on the Local Government Code, since I am sure that every one of us here regards the devolution of power to local government units as the key element in countryside development.

We need to grant our provinces, cities and municipalities real authority so that they can get local economies moving; so that they can deal forcefully with their specific problems of peace and order, education, social services and protection of the environment. We should also be concerned about the condition of our civil service, for the quality of government ultimately comes down to the efficiency of its machinery.

I do not think it fair for us, for the public, to expect government to be efficient and still be the employer of last resort which it is at present. Neither should we continue to make appointments to the civil service the major prize of the political spoils system. And I think every Member of this House agrees with this.

On the question of new taxes, I think we are agreed. We have urged the executive department again and again to prove its seriousness in collecting existing taxes and in prosecuting tax evaders before we even impose new taxes. Otherwise, we might just be penalizing conscientious taxpayers and encouraging more tax evaders.

The leadership of this House has also expressed to the President our concern about urgent and important bills she has signed into law which have not yet been fully implemented by the Cabinet. How many of these bills have been passed by the House upon certification of urgency of the President -- and we set aside our agenda to be able to pass these measures -- only to be ignored and set aside? The Kalakalan 20 is one such law which was signed seven months ago and up to now it has not been implemented. How many of these bills, how many of the laws that have gathered dust, have not been implemented? I keep saying that there are 16,000 laws in our statute books, all passed by the Congress of the Philippines, that have not been implemented. All that the executive has to do is to implement all these laws and this country will be better than what it is now.

In our desire to make this 11th Congress memorable, we in this House are one with our colleagues in the Senate, not merely because Congress has been made a whipping boy, the scapegoat of all the sins of government, for so many of our political ills but because we share the belief that democracy cannot function without the mediation of a free and responsible legislature.

The worldwide crisis of communism might confirm us in our belief that democracy is in fact the wave of the future but we still must make it work in our country. It is not working well now and this is the reason why our enemies have pointed to disarray in this government, and have thought of new ways of running this Republic. And the truth is that authoritarian rule, dictatorship continues to be an attractive alternative in our country. One reason is that many Filipinos still associate representative institutions with political irresponsibility and it is true that to a poor and impatient people, a democracy which cannot rise above the self-interested struggle for wealth and power cannot always be preferable to a dictatorship which makes the trains run on time.

We lawmakers by definition have a vested interest in the survival of representative institutions. It is up to us to prove

that democratic government can also be effective government. This is the challenge we must face up to during the time that remains for us in this Congress.

Let us get started. (*Applause*)

ROLL CALL

THE SPEAKER. The Secretary will call the roll by provinces.

THE SECRETARY, *reading*:

ABRA

First District
Rudolfo A.F. Bernardez .....Present*

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (with the City of Butuan)

First District
Charito B. Plaza.....Present*
Second District
Edelmiro A. Amante.....Present

AGUSAN DEL SUR

First District
Democrito O. Plaza.....Present*

AKLAN

Ramon B. Legaspi.....Present

ALBAY (with Legaspi City)

First District
Edcel C. Lagman.....Present
Second District
Carlos R. Imperial.....

ANTIQUE

First District
Exequiel B. Javier.....Present

AURORA

Benedicto G. Miran.....Present

BACOLOD CITY

First District
Romeo G. Guanzon.....Present

BASILAN

Alvin G. Dans.....Present*

BATAAN

First District
Felicito C. Payumo.....Present
Second District
Enrique T. Garcia.....Present

BATANGAS (with the cities of Batangas and Lipa)

First District
Conrado V. Apacible.....Present*
Second District
Hernando B. Perez.....Present*
Third District
Lally Laurel-Trinidad.....Present
Fourth District
Jose E. Calingasan.....Present

BENGUET (with Baguio City)

First District
Honorato Y. Aquino.....Present
Second District
Samuel M. Dangwa.....Present*

BOHOL (with Tagbilaran City)

First District
Venice Borja-Agana.....Present
Second District
David B. Tirol.....Present
Third District
Isidro C. Zarraga.....Present

BUKIDNON

First District
Socorro O. Acosta.....Present
Second District
Violeta T. Labaria.....Present
Third District
Jose Ma. R. Zubiri, Jr. .....Present*

BULACAN

First District
Francisco B. Aniag, Jr. .....Present
Second District
Vicente C. Rivera, Jr. .....Present
Third District
Jose L. Cabochan.....Present

CAGAYAN

First District
Domingo A. Tuzon.....Present*
Second District
Leoncio M. Puzon.....Present

*Appeared after the roll call

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Benedicta B. Roa.....Present

CALOOCAN CITY

First District
Virgilio P. Robles..... Present
Second District
Gerardo P. Cabochan..... Present

CAMARINES NORTE

Renato M. Unico.....Present

CAMARINES SUR (with the Cities of Naga and Iriga)

First District
Rolando R. Andaya.....Present
Second District
Raul S. Roco.....
Third District
Eduardo P. Pilapil..... Present
Fourth District
Ciriaco R. Alfelor.....Present

CAMIGUIN

Pedro P. Romualdo.....Present

CAPIZ (with Roxas City)

First District
Gerardo A. Roxas, Jr. .....Present*
Second District
Cornelio T. Villareal, Sr. ..... Present*

CAVITE (with the Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite and Trece Martires)

First District
Leonardo L. Guerrero..... Present
Second District
Renato P. Dragon.....Present*
Third District
Jorge A. Nuñez..... Present*

CEBU (with the Cities of Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Toledo)

First District
Antonio T. Bacaltos..... Present
Second District
Crisologo A. Abines.....Absent
Third District
Pablo P. Garcia.....Present
Fourth District
Celestino E. Martinez, Jr. .....Present
Fifth District
Ramon D. Durano III .....Present*
Sixth District
Vicente L. de la Serna.....Absent

CEBU CITY

First District
Raul V. del Mar.....Present
Second District
Antonio V. Cuenco..... Present

DAVAO CITY

First District
Prospero C. Nograles.....Present
Second District
Cornelio P. Maskariño..... Present*

DAVAO DEL NORTE

First District
Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr.....Present
Second District
Baltazar A. Sator..... Present
Third District
Rodolfo P. del Rosario..... Present

DAVAO DEL SUR

First District
Juanito G. Camasura, Jr. .....Present
Second District
Benjamin V. Bautista, Sr. .....Present

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District
Enrico G. Dayanghirang.....Present
Second District
Thelma Z. Almario..... Present*

EASTERN SAMAR

Jose T. Ramirez.....Present

IFUGAO

Gualberto B. Lumauig.....Present

ILOCOS NORTE

First District
Roque R. Ablan, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Mariano R. Nalupta, Jr. .....Present*

ILOCOS SUR

First District
Luis C. Singson..... Present*
Second District
Eric D. Singson..... Present

ILOILO

First District
Oscar G. Garin..... Present*
Second District
Alberto J. Lopez..... Present*
Third District
Licurgo P. Tirador..... Present*
Fourth District
Narciso D. Monfort..... Present
Fifth District
Niel D. Tupas..... Present

ILOILO CITY

Rafael J. Lopez-Vito..... Present

ISABELA

First District
Rodolfo B. Albano..... Present
Second District
Simplicio B. Domingo, Jr. ..... Present
Third District
Santiago P. Respicio..... Present
Fourth District
Antonio M. Abaya..... Present

KALINGA-APAYAO

William F. Claver..... Present

LAGUNA (with San Pablo City)

First District
Nereo R. Joaquin..... Present
Second District
Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr. ..... Present*
Third District
Florante L. Aquino..... Present
Fourth District
Magdaleno M. Palacol..... Present

LANAO DEL NORTE (with Iligan City)

First District
Mariano Ll. Badelles, Sr. ..... Present
Second District
Abdullah D. Dimaporo..... Present

LAS PIÑAS AND MUNTINLUPA

Filemon C. Aguilar..... Absent

LA UNION

First District
Victor F. Ortega..... Present
Second District
Jose D. Aspiras..... Present

LEYTE (with the Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc)

First District
Cirilo Roy G. Montejo..... Present
Second District
Manuel L. Horca, Jr. ..... Present
Third District
Alberto S. Veloso..... Present*
Fourth District
Carmelo J. Locsin..... Present
Fifth District
Eriberto V. Loreto..... Present*

MAGUINDANAO

First District
Michael O. Mastura..... Present*
Second District
Guimid P. Matalam..... Present

MAKATI

Ma. Consuelo Puyat-Reyes..... Present

MALABON AND NAVOTAS

Teresa Aquino-Oreta..... Present*

MANILA

First District
Martin B. Isidro..... Present
Second District
Jaime C. Lopez..... Present
Third District
Leonardo B. Fugoso..... Present
Fourth District
Ramon S. Bagatsing, Jr. ..... Present
Fifth District
Amado S. Bagatsing..... Present
Sixth District
Pablo V. Ocampo..... Present

MARIKINA

Democlito J. Angeles..... Present

*Appeared after the roll call

MARINDUQUE

Carmencita O. Reyes.....Absent

MASBATE

First District
Tito R. Espinosa.....Present*
Second District
Luz Cleta R. Bakunawa.....Present

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamiz and Tangub)

First District
Julio H. Ozamiz.....Present
Second District
Hilarion J. Ramiro, Jr. .....Present

MISAMIS ORIENTAL (with Gingoog City)

First District
Isacio A. Pelaez..... Present
Second District
Victorico L. Chaves.....Present

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Victor S. Dominguez.....Absent

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, Bago, La Carlota and Silay)

First District
Salvador S. Laguda.....Present
Second District
Manuel H. Puey.....Present*
Third District
Jose Carlos V. Lacson.....Present
Fourth District
Edward M. Matti.....Present
Fifth District
Mariano M. Yulo.....
Sixth District
Hortensia L. Starke.....Present

NEGROS ORIENTAL (with the Cities of Bais, Canlaon and Dumaguete)

First District
Jerome V. Paras..... Present
Second District
Miguel L. Romero.....Present
Third District
Margarito B. Teves.....Present

NORTH COTABATO

First District
Rodrigo B. Gutang.....Present*
Second District
Gregorio A. Andolana..... Present

NORTHERN SAMAR

First District
Raul A. Daza.....
Second District
Jose L. Ong, Jr. .....Present

NUEVA ECIJA (with the Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan and San Jose)

First District
Eduardo Nonato N. Joson, Jr. .....Present
Second District
Simeon E. Garcia, Jr. .....Present*
Third District
Hermogenes D. Concepcion, Jr. ..... Present
Fourth District
Nicanor G. de Guzman, Jr. .....

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Carlos M. Padilla.....Present

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Mario Gene J. Mendiola ..... Present*

ORIENTAL MINDORO

First District
Rodolfo G. Valencia ..... Present*
Second District
Jesus M. Punzalan..... Present*

PALAWAN

First District
David A. Ponce de Leon.....Present
Second District
Ramon V. Mitra..... Present

PAMPANGA (with Angeles City)

First District
Carmelo F. Lazatin..... Present*
Second District
Emigdio L. Lingad.....Present*
Third District
Oscar S. Rodriguez..... Present
Fourth District
Marciano M. Pineda..... Present

*Appeared after the roll call

PANGASINAN (with the Cities of Dagupan and San Carlos)

Second District
Antonio E. Bengson III ..... Present*
Third District
Fabian S. Sison..... Present
Fourth District
Jose C. de Venecia, Jr. ..... Present*
Fifth District
Conrado B. Estrella, Jr. ..... Absent
Sixth District
Conrado M. Estrella III..... Present

PARAÑAQUE

Freddie N. Webb..... Present*

PASAY CITY

Lorna L. Verano-Yap..... Present

PASIG

Rufino S. Javier..... Present

PATEROS AND TAGUIG

Dante O. Tinga..... Present

QUEZON (with Lucena City)

First District
Wilfrido L. Enverga..... Present
Third District
Bienvenido O. Marquez, Jr. ..... Present*
Fourth District
Oscar F. Santos..... Present

QUEZON CITY

First District
Renato A. Yap..... Present
Second District
Antonio L. Aquino..... Present
Third District
Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng..... Present
Fourth District
Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. ..... Present

QUIRINO

Junie E. Cua..... Present

RIZAL

First District
Francisco S. Sumulong, Sr. ..... Present
Second District
Emigdio S. Tanjuatco, Jr. ..... Present*

ROMBLON

Natalio M. Beltran, Jr. ..... Present

SAMAR (with Calbayog City)

First District
Jose A. Roño..... Present*
Second District
Venancio T. Garduce..... Present

SAN JUAN AND MANDALUYONG

Ronaldo B. Zamora..... Present

SIQUIJOR

Orlando B. Fua..... Present*

SORSOGON

First District
Salvador H. Escudero III..... Present
Second District
Bonifacio H. Gillego..... Present

SOUTH COTABATO (with General Santos City)

First District
Adelbert W. Antonino..... Present
Second District
Hilario L. de Pedro III..... Present
Third District
James L. Chiongbian..... Present

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Roger G. Mercado..... Present

SULU

First District
Abdusakur M. Tan..... Present*
Second District
Arden S. Anni..... Present

SULTAN KUDARAT

Estanislao V. Valdez..... Present

SURIGAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Surigao)

First District
Glenda B. Ecleo..... Present*
Second District
Constantino C. Navarro, Sr. ..... Present

SURIGAO DEL SUR

First District
Mario S. Ty.....Present
Second District
Ernesto T. Estrella.....Absent

TARLAC

First District
Jose S. Cojuangco, Jr. .....Present*
Second District
Jose V. Yap.....Present
Third District
Herminio S. Aquino.....Present*

TAWI-TAWI

Alawadin T. Bandon, Jr. .....Present

VALENZUELA

Antonio M. Serapio.....Present

ZAMBALES (with Olongapo City)

First District
Katherine H. Gordon.....
Second District
Pacita T. Gonzalez.....Present

ZAMBOANGA CITY

Maria Clara L. Lobregat.....Present

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Dapitan and Dipolog)

First District
Artemio A. Adasa, Jr. .....Present
Second District
Ernesto S. Amatong.....Present
Third District
Angel M. Carloto.....Present

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (with Pagadian City)

First District
Isidoro E. Real, Jr. .....Absent
Second District
Antonio H. Cerilles.....
Third District
Wilfredo G. Cainglet.....Present

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

Peasant Sector
Romeo S. Angeles.....Present
Bartolome D. Arteche.....Present*

Labor Sector
Ramon J. Jabar.....Present
Adelisa Almario-Raymundo .....Present
Veterans and Elderly Sector
Dionisio S. Ojeda.....Present
Youth Sector
Al Ignatius G. Lopez.....Present

The House is in receipt of official advice of absence of the following Members: Honorable Daza, de Guzman, Imperial, Roco and Yulo.

Honorable Bernardez, Cerilles and Gordon are on official mission.

The Speaker is present.

The roll call shows that 133 Members responded to the call.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary read the following House Bills on First Reading and Message from the President, and the Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 31448, entitled:

"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990"

By Congressman Andaya

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 31449, entitled:

"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF FIVE BILLION PESOS FOR THE RELIEF, REHABIL-

*Appeared after the roll call

ITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CALAMITY AREAS RESULTING FROM THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH STRUCK ON JULY 16, 1990

By Congressmen Ortega and Aspiras

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 23, 1990

Hon. Ramon V. Mitra
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Speaker Mitra:

I have the honor to certify to the necessity for the immediate enactment into law of House Bill No. 31448, entitled:

"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/ AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990"

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 1803
(Quorum in the House)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1803.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Resolution No. 1803 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY. House Resolution No. 1803, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM IS PRESENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THAT THE HOUSE IS READY TO ENTER UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

The following is the whole text of the resolution.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1803

RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM IS PRESENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THAT THE HOUSE IS READY TO ENTER UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That a message be sent to the Senate informing said body that there is a quorum present in the House of Representatives and that the House is ready to enter upon the exercise of its functions.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 1803
(Quorum in the House)

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1803.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1803 is adopted.

MR. OCAMPO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 45
(House and Senate joint session)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1803.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Concurrent No. 45 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY. House Concurrent No. 45, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The following is the whole text of the resolution.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

Introduced by the Members of the Committee on Rules

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That both Houses of Congress of the Philippines hold a joint session on July twenty-three, nineteen hundred and ninety, at four o'clock in the afternoon in the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, to hear the message of the President of the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 45
(House and Senate joint session)

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 45.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the concurrent resolution is adopted.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. OCAMPO. I move for a suspension of the session for one minute, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 10:34 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:35 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.
The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 44
(Congress' support of Intl. Literacy Year/Day)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 44.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY. House Concurrent Resolution No. 44, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR AND INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY.

The following is the whole text of the resolution.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

Introduced by Hon. Carlos M. Padilla

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR AND INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY.

WHEREAS, literacy is a basic factor which enables man to function effectively as a citizen and as a useful member of society, it opens up avenues which are necessary tools for the acquisition of rational attitudes and basic skills that are essential for personal and national development;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the significance and importance of literacy in the economic development of a nation, the UN General Assembly has designated 1990 as the International Literacy Year to usher in a new decade that is hoped to put stronger emphasis on human resources;

WHEREAS, in relation thereto, the celebration of the 1990 International Literacy Day on the 8th day of September 1990 aims to create awareness of the urgent need to eradicate illiteracy as a matter of national priority;

WHEREAS, in line with the above objectives, Her Excellency, President Corazon C. Aquino, declared the period 1990 to 1999 as the "Decade of Education For All" through Proclamation No. 480 with the primary purpose of minimizing if not erdicating, illiteracy in the country; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, To express its support for the observance of International Literacy Year and International Literacy Day.

RESOLVED, Further, That in pursuance to the purpose of this Resolution, a certain amount shall be set aside from the respective appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be made available to the body designated to take charge of the observance and celebration of the International

Literacy Year and International Literacy Day through the Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports, disbursements from which shall be subject to auditing rules and regulations.

ADOPTION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 44
(Congress' support of Intl. Literacy Year/Day)

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 44.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the resolution is adopted.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Secretary read the Messages from the Senate.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary will read the Messages from the Senate.

THE SECRETARY, *reading*:

July 23, 1990

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate on July 23, 1990 passed Resolution No. 107 entitled:

"RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM IS PRESENT IN THE SENATE AND THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS."

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

July 23, 1990

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate on July 23, 1990 passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE ON BOTH HOUSES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOW CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, IS READY TO RECEIVE HER MESSAGE IN A JOINT SESSION IN WHICH IT REQUESTS THE CONCURRENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

THE SECRETARY, *reading*:

July 23, 1990

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 45 without amendment, entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

MR. OCAMPO. Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 10:38 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:39 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. In pursuance of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 44 which we have just adopted, I propose the appointment of the following Members of the House to the joint committee to notify the President of the joint session at four o'clock in the afternoon today, namely: Hon. Antonio L. Aquino, Hon. Junie E. Cua, Hon. Celestino E. Martinez, Jr., Hon. Prospero C. Nograles for the majority, and the Hon. Abdullah Dimaporo for the minority.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Members so named will constitute the committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension

of the session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 10:39 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:46 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. I move that the Hon. Antonio L. Aquino, Chairman of the House committee to notify the President of the joint session this afternoon, be recognized to render the report of the committee to the House.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Hon. Antonio Aquino of Quezon City.

MR. AQUINO (A.) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker and honorable Members of the House, the committee wishes to report that it has performed its task of unofficially notifying the President by telephone that there would be a joint session of Congress at four o'clock this afternoon.

Likewise, the committee is pleased to report back that the President has expressed her intentions and her willingness to join us this afternoon and deliver the State-of-the-Nation Address.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, the committee will also proceed to Malacañang to formally and officially notify the President of the action of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. At four o'clock in the afternoon today, the House will hold a joint session with the Senate to hear the State-of-the-Nation Address of the President. For this occasion, may I remind all Members of the House that we must be here an hour before the joint session.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session until after the joint session this afternoon.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair understands that the session will merely be suspended after the President delivers her State-of-the-Nation Address.

MR. OCAMPO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. After the reception, the session will resume to consider the report of the Committee on Appropriations, if there is such a report.

MR. OCAMPO. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. If there is no objection, the session is suspended until four o'clock this afternoon.

It was 10:47 a.m.

OPENING OF THE FOURTH JOINT REGULAR SESSION

At 4:00 p.m., the processional took place with the entry of the President of the Republic of the Philippines into the Plenary Hall.

The Speaker, the Hon. Ramon V. Mitra and the Senate President, the Hon. Jovito R. Salonga, opened the joint session.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House, the Fourth Joint Regular Session is called to order.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Sa panig ng Senado, ang pinagsamang sesyon ay binubuksan.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please remain standing for the Nation's Prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the Nation's Prayer, led by Min. Adriel Obar Meimban, Ph.D., Ustadz Moctar Haron, Rt. Reverend Admirador A. Fideris, and Bishop Gabriel Reyes, delegate of Iglesia ni Cristo, Office of Muslim Affairs, Independent Church, and His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, respectively.

NATION'S PRAYER

Mangyari pong pakiyuko ang ating mga ulo, mananalangin po tayo.

Mahabaging Panginoon
Nais po naming magpasalamat
Na pinahintulutan Mo po ang mga Mambabatas na narito
Na makapaglingkod po sa Iyo nitong
Nakaraang tatlong taon
Sa pamamagitan po ng kanilang tungkulin
Bilang mga halal ng bayan.
Sa gitna ng maraming pagsubok
At matinding pagtuligsa, at sa ilalim po ng
Kagaganap lamang na nakapipinsalang lindol

Sa aming naghihingalong bayan
Ay hinayaan Mo pa rin na nagkapalad
Kami ngayon na muling magkatipun-tipon.

Sa napakahalagang araw na ito
Muli kaming nagsusumamo
Na gawaran Mo kami
Ng sapat na lakas,
Na mapangibabaw ang kapakanan ng bayan,
Lalung-lalo na ng mga kapatid naming
Labis na naghihirap, at yaong
Mga naging biktima ng ilang mga
Sakunang nagdaan
Na naranasan ng aming bayan.

Bigyan Ninyo kami ng sapat na kakayahang
Maging bukas-loob at mapagpakumbaba
Upang maituring namin ang aming mga sarili
Hindi bilang nakatataas
Kundi bilang mga abang tagapaglingkod
Sa aming mga mamamayan.
Patnubayan po Ninyo kami
Sa lahat ng aming kapasiyahan,
At turuan Mo kaming
Laging gawing pangunahin
Sa aming mga isipan
Ang kabutihan ng aming Inang Bayan.

Basbasan Ninyo kami
At pagkalooban ng Inyong biyaya
Upang ang aming mga kapatid
Na magkataliwas ang landas
Ay muling magkaisa
Tungo sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran.
Sana'y madulutan Ninyo kami
Ng sapat na paninindigang
Pangibabawan ang mga pagsubok
Na nakaraan,
Upang ito'y maging inspirasyon
Para lalong maging tapat sa Iyo.

Ang lahat nang ito
Ay aming hinihiling
Sa ngalan Ninyo, Aming Panginoon.
Siya Nawa.

THE SPEAKER. Ladies and Gentlemen of Congress, Her Excellency, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT AQUINO

THE PRESIDENT. Senate President Jovito Salonga, Speaker Ramon Mitra, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, Members of the Cabinet, Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished guests, minamahal kong mga kababayan:

We gather today at a most crucial time in our history.

Seven days ago, a large portion of our country was rocked by one of the most serious natural calamities we have ever experienced: an earthquake which registered at magnitude 7.7 in the open-ended Richter scale, and intensity 8 in the Rossi-Forel scale near the epicenter. The tremor struck at 4:26 in the afternoon. After 45 seconds, nine of our cities and 39 municipalities in 15 provinces lay damaged; some, almost totally devastated.

As of this morning, based on the NDCC reports, we have accounted for 899 fatalities, most of them from the Cities of Baguio and Cabanatuan. We have counted 3,061 injured. With Dagupan City suffering the worst, actual property damage recorded so far is P2.6 billion. But we estimate the total damage to properties to reach from P10 to P15 billion.

I personally visited Cabanatuan, Baguio and Dagupan, sites of the heaviest damage to lives and property. There I saw and experienced for myself the grief that death and loss summon from our hearts.

But it was not sorrow alone that was present in those disaster sites. Amid the debris, I saw the strength and courage; I witnessed the selflessness and heroism of our people. In the midst of devastation, there is the will to survive; to help others; to rebuild; to start anew.

By the grace of God and the unshakeable faith of the Filipino people, I am confident we will pull through.

Yes, once again, we face a crisis.

But you and I and the rest of our people are not strangers to this. Since time immemorial, natural and man- made calamities have visited our land -- bringing with them widespread death and destruction.

And always, our people would rise from the rubble. We would shake off the dust and wipe the tears. And while we mourn our losses, our hope for the coming of a new day never dies.

Earthquakes can destroy the strongest man-made structures; but they can never shatter the faith of the Filipino.

To this day, rescue and relief work goes on. But slowly and surely, our countrymen are gearing up for the next important task -- that of rehabilitation.

Our people are determined to go back to their normal lives within the next few days. Our farmers want to return to their fields. Our labor force wants to return to their workplaces. Our businessmen want to resume the conduct of trade and commerce.

Today they are no longer asking us for gestures of pity. They are asking for assistance -- to help them get back on their feet.

I, therefore, come before you today to ask you to work hand in hand with me in the effort to restore the normalcy of our people's lives.

There is, however, more that I would like to ask of you today. Let me ask you to look beyond rehabilitation and share with me instead the vision of the building of a much stronger nation.

For while this is a time for grieving, so is this a time to survey the opportunities arrayed before us -- the opportunity to grow further in our maturity as a people; to leave the mistakes of the past and build on our strength; to abandon the

hatred and the division and to start afresh as a people, tested by suffering, faced with the options for a better tomorrow.

At this point, we must ask: Where shall we draw the needed fortitude to maximize these opportunities?

From where I stand, I see four sources.

First, our gains over the past four years.

Second, the strength and courage that our people have demonstrated during this calamity.

Third, the avenues for partnership among people and government that we have established;

And fourth, our abiding faith in God who has always cared for us.

May I invite you to examine our gains.

Last year, our nation bustled with productive energy.

The 5.7 percent growth in our economy was well within target.

A total of P17,480,000 in foreign investments poured into our country, 75 percent more than the previous year, evidence of the continuing confidence of the international community in our economic recovery.

We reduced our foreign debt by 4.3 percent -- from $27,800,000 in 1988, down to $26,600,000 as of January of this year.

Our stock exchanges registered a business volume of more than P22 billion, unmatched in the history of our country's stock market.

1989 was definitely a banner year.

Some 703,000 Filipinos gained access to new jobs as the unemployment rate in our country went down to 9.2 percent, from the 9.6 percent registered in 1988.

The annual per capita income of our workers rose by 3.3 percent as we moved to ensure that no government worker would receive a salary lower than P2,000; and to increase the minimum wage in the private sector by P25 per day.

Some 91,349 more Filipino families were able to build homes last year, the fruit of a vigorous housing program with an unprecedented record. Last year's mark brought the total number of our beneficiaries from 1986 to 1989 to 193,735 families. This shows our ability to provide new homes for an average of 64,578 families every year, surpassing the record of 1975 to 1985, where an average of only 28,543 families were given shelter annually.

Over one million schoolchildren, including those living in remote barangays, benefited from the 26,406 classrooms constructed last year.

Some 2,503,794 high school students benefited last year from our free secondary public education program. In addition, 101,000 more young Filipinos were able to attend high school last year. These are the students who cannot be accommodated in our public high schools but whom we assisted through service contracts with private educational institutions.

In February 1986, the lowest paid teachers, or those in teacher level one, were receiving only a measly basic salary of P1,096 plus allowances of P350.

In recognition of their crucial role in the upbringing of our youth, together we endeavored to raise this pay level. Today, our teachers in the lowest bracket are receiving a total of P3,102 plus additional compensation paid from the local funds of the local government units where they serve.

In February 1986, the highest paid teachers, or those in the secondary principal four level, were receiving only a total package of P2,393. Today, that has been raised to P7,478.

Some 1,407 more kilometers of major roads and 4,890 kilometers of feeder roads were constructed last year. This brings the total number of major roads built from 1986 to 1989 to 3,365 kilometers; and feeder roads, to 18,120 kilometers.

A total of 27,530 more hectares of farmlands were irrigated last year, benefiting 18,500 more farmers.

Nearly 7,000,000 more Filipinos gained access to safe drinking water with the implementation of 51,820 water supply projects.

From 2,042 barangays all over the country, among them the remotest, 2,700,000 more Filipinos now enjoy power supply. Last year, we added 349 barangays to this number.

In all of our efforts to sustain the forces in our economy, we have emphasized the use of science and technology. At present we are transferring technology from those who generate them to the end-users, especially in our rural areas.

Thus, we are supporting the widespread use of organic fertilizers in rice culture. This would save us some P241,000,000 yearly if used to replace half of present fertilizer imports. This type of fertilizer will increase farm income by as much as P3,000 per hectare every crop season.

We are also studying the potentials of locally-developed technology using agro wastes, such as coconut husks, corn cobs, and coffee hulls, for brick-making, grain drying and power generation. This is called the gasifier- combustor. If one-fifth of these agro wastes replace the 4,000,000 barrels of bunker fuel we now use for power- generation, we could save about $70,000,000 yearly.

Our advances in these areas received further boost from our accomplishments in the peace and order scene.

Last year, over 3,500 rebels from both the communist and secessionist movements returned to the fold of the law. Another 2,500 surrendered during the first semester of this year.

A total of 63 ranking communist leaders were neutralized. Of this number, 12 were top-ranking national leaders of the CPP/NPA.

We have reduced the fighting strength of the CPP/NPA by 19 percent by the end of 1989. And we brought down the number of communist-affected barangays by nearly two thousand, or 25 percent of the total number in 1988.

We registered last year a combat fatality ratio of one to two and a half in favor of the government, the highest such favorable ratio in six years.

In all parameters of our counterinsurgency effort, we are ahead.

Also in the interest of peace and security, we continued to engage in diplomatic moves to formalize agreements and treaties protecting our interests. We undertook serious efforts to resolve territorial disputes. Our diplomatic missions have kept our lines open with the Organization of Islamic Conference countries. We have consistently used this access to apprise these countries of our accelerated implementation of autonomy for Muslim Mindanao.

And as the century of Pax Pacifica beckons, we continue

to strengthen our foreign relations through our commitments to pluralist democracy, responsible market policies and development diplomacy -- all within the constitutional provisions on national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, the right to self determination, and the commitment to international peace.

These gains would have been meaningless without advances in the area of justice. Here, we directed our efforts over the past 12 months at further improving the investigation and prosecution processes, and at providing our less privileged countrymen with much better access to our justice system.

We initiated the prosecution of civilians who took part in the failed December coup, which cases are now pending in our courts. We also prosecuted and secured the conviction of the accused in such celebrated cases as the murder of Sec. Jaime Ferrer; the murder of NAMFREL volunteers in Quirino; the murder of Fr. Carl Schmitz; and the attempted large-scale smuggling of firearms.

We adopted measures to expedite preliminary investigation of cases by shortening the period for appeal and strictly imposing the period within which cases must be resolved. We have also weeded out corrupt and inefficient prosecutors.

We relentlessly pursued drug syndicates and gambling lords and busted their operations.

We gave 184,208 indigents free legal aid.

And because of the need for suitable and dignified facilities for our judges and other officials in the justice system, we are constructing halls of justice in various parts of the country. Twenty three of these will be ready for occupancy by the end of this month; 16 more will be completed by the end of the year.

We also advanced our quest for social justice as 340,000 more Filipino farmers were given ownership of the land they till, 85 percent more than the number in 1988.

In the process, we have distributed 13 times more land to former tenants under our Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program than was distributed from 1965 to 1985.

We also ensured that the lands they now own will become more productive through financial and technical support. Last year, we released P820,250,000 in production loans to farmer-beneficiaries.

This sum brings to P1,170,000,000 the total amount of production loans we have provided to 220,368 farmer- beneficiaries since I signed the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law passed by this Congress in 1988.

Our determination to implement our policy of decentralization found concrete expression when you and I began the process leading to the creation of two regional autonomous governments.

The first to undergo this process were provinces in Southern Philippines where most of our Muslim brethren live. This vesting of political autonomy underscores your firm resolve and mine to continue enhancing the lives of Muslim Filipinos through their more meaningful participation in our nation's political life.

On November 19 last year, our countrymen from this region cast their ballots, making their voice heard in the proposal to include their respective provinces in the proposed autonomous region. Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao chose autonomy.

In this autonomous region, on February 17, 1990, over 600,000 voters went to the polling places once more; this time, to select from 126 candidates the occupants of 23 elective positions in the regional assembly. By the first week of this month, all the winners had been proclaimed, thus completing this chapter in their bid for regional autonomy.

The second to undergo this process was the Cordillera region. On January 30, 1990, the proposed Organic Act for the Autonomous Region of the Cordilleras was presented to the voters there. The Province of Ifugao accepted membership in the autonomous region.

Political and material progress are however, not the sole measures of democracy's success. That is reckoned, as well, in the quality of a people's spirit -- in their attitude to the present and hope for the future.

Over the past months, in my continuing visits to the countryside, including the remotest and poorest provinces, I listened to our people and examined their lives. Having watched them so closely, I am encouraged by their resiliency and determination. Spurred by the support given them by government, they have set out to fashion for themselves a new and bright future. They are relying on their resourcefulness and industry, and on one another to improve their lives.

Last year, I felt this resurgent spirit enkindled in the people of Bataan and Bohol, Cavite and Laguna. I saw this again among our countrymen in Negros Oriental, Zamboanga City as well as Cotabato City.

This year, I saw this among the garments and livelihood cooperatives of Bulacan and among the farmers of the people's livelihood foundations of Pangasinan and Tarlac.

This is evident too among the people's organizations of Catanduanes, Pampanga, Romblon, Negros Occidental, North and South Cotabato, Rizal, Iloilo, and Camarines Sur. In many parts of our country, I saw a new determination among our people to work hand in hand with us, to link arms with us in our effort to translate our democracy into a better life for our people.

As we, however, were making real headway in our socio-economic thrusts, the enemies of our democracy, who comprised some 2 percent of the military, struck on December 1, 1989 in a futile bid to blunt the impact of the gains of our democracy.

For a few days, these misguided elements waged war against our people, employing a terrifying fear strategy that unmasked all their pretensions to ideological inclinations. Before our people, they attempted to display brute force, hoping to create an aura of armed victory. By December 6, the show was over. True to form, the leaders of the failed coup deserted their end once more to face the consequences of their act.

Once more, our people and the 98 percent of our armed forces who remained loyal to our Constitution thwarted the evil design of this band of military adventurists and their civilian supporters.

Once more, we proved that we are a resolute people. While we have yet to fully recover from the consequences of the imprudence of these misguided elements, our resolve to move forward has not been diminished. This failed adventur-

ism has underscored the fact that our restored democracy has gone past its fledgling stage. It has proceeded to mature and is now ready for a more profound expression in our life as a nation.

I am truly encouraged by what our people have proved themselves capable of. They have worked hard with us to give substance to the meaning of participatory democracy, not just in the political arena but in the realm of our nation's social and economic life as well.

As President, I have deemed it fitting to enshrine in a people's movement the transformation of democracy from concept to reality by our countrymen.

Hindi ako binigo ng ating mga kababayan. Sa pagtawag ko sa sambayanan upang magkapit-bisig, tumugon ang mga kababayan nating tahimik na nagpapatulo ng pawis upang bumuti ang buhay ng kanilang pamilya, kapwa at komunidad.

Ang mga kabisig nating ito ang nagbigay buhay sa diwa ng EDSA. Sa lahat ng dako ng ating bansa ay taglay pa rin nila ang diwa ng rebolusyon ng 1986. Patuloy silang kumikilos laban sa kahirapan, kaguluhan, sakit at kamangmangan.

Katulong natin sila sa pagpapabilis at pagpapalaganap ng ating mga programa: sa repormang pansakahan; sa kapayapaan at kaayusan; sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan at likas na yaman; sa pagpapatupad ng desentralisasyon; at sa paghango natin sa mga kapus-palad nating kababayan mula sa kahirapan. Kasama natin sila sa pagtulong sa mga biktima ng nagdaang lindol sa Cabanatuan, Dagupan, Baguio at iba pang mga pook.

Binigyang buhay ng mga kabisig nating ito ang diwa ng ating Saligang-Batas; binigyang halimbawa nila ang tunay na kahulugan ng demokrasya.

The magnitude of our people's involvement in the business of our nation today is without precedent in our history.

All these find expression in a national movement -- a movement that recognizes the silent, enduring crusade of our people, and their call for participatory democracy.

We shall count on the strength of this partnership as we take the next steps in the building of a stronger nation.

Now, the Filipino people must continue to lead the way.

Many have benefited from the example of our previous struggles. Many more stand to profit from what we shall make out of our democracy and freedom. We have proven many things during the past four years.

There is still much that has to be done. Despite the limited time left, we have our gains of four years to build on.

And from where I stand, I see that our nation is ready to take that giant step forward. Many of the needed reforms are in place. Our democracy is tried and tested. Our people are firm in their commitments.

We in the elected leadership must lead the way. We must demonstrate the willingness to pay the price, to accept the sacrifice that accompanies these decisions. Above all, we must show the supreme example of unity -- unity born out of our shared aspirations for the common good.

May I now invite you to examine the challenges involved in this important step forward.

First, it is imperative that we take decisive steps to continue enhancing our nation's productive capabilities.

We recognize the reality that the sufficiency of food on our tables is an important benchmark of the success of our democracy.

We took a crucial step when we launched our national rice action program early only this year. Through this program, we expect to achieve a sustained annual growth rate in our production of at least three to three-and-a-half percent in rice, and at least 5 percent in corn.

We expect, however, that despite the massive resources and support we are giving our rice farmers, we will still experience a heavy toll on our harvest due to the prolonged dry season that we just experienced. Fortunately, our earlier gains in the agricultural sector will cushion the effect of this drought.

The productivity of our industrial sector was increased because of the peace that now characterizes much of labor-management relationship. Our renascent democracy has helped our workers appreciate more deeply the value of the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The number of strikes and lock-outs has significantly decreased. In the process, P1 billion in workers's salaries and benefits, and about P5.7 billion in production costs were saved.

We are supporting our drive for greater productivity with a streamlined but responsive infrastructure program that placed special emphasis on our countryside. Of the total 6,297 kilometers of roads that we constructed last year, 95 percent were built in the provinces. We have also placed emphasis on infrastructure that would support livelihood in our rural areas. Much of the productivity of our countryside rests on our speedy implementation of our Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The selflessness of a mature people could provide this program with the much- needed boost.

We also need to enhance productivity by more responsive programs on energy. We recognize the setbacks resulting from the power shortage we all experienced this year. While we have already instituted the remedies necessary to bring our power supply back to normal, we are determined to put in place the needed long-term power infrastructure that will assure our people a permanently stable supply of electricity.

These energy programs must be complemented by our efforts in the areas of telecommunications and transportation. The archipelagic nature of our geography calls for a safer, modern and more efficient system of interisland water transportation.

We must remember that the highest priority in our quest for greater productivity is our disadvantaged countrymen. If we produce more, those who have less shall have more to partake of. This is the rationale for the many reforms we have implemented to tilt the balance in favor of the less privileged, to tilt the balance in favor of the countryside.

Our efforts at increased production must be complemented by our reinvigorated drive for conservation. I believe an important expression of our maturity is our exercise of good stewardship over our resources.

I am pleased to report that we marked a milestone last year in our reforestation program. In 1989, we reversed the deforestation trend: we have now planted more areas with trees than the areas wasted by the irresponsible exploitation of our forest resources.

Linking arms with our people and with non-governmental organizations, we have created a vision of development with-

out destruction.

To underscore this commitment, I directed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on June 1, 1990 to blast all roads leading to virgin forests being used by illegal loggers. Furthermore, we have drastically reduced the number of timber license agreements from 142 to 75.

Our maturity must now also be reflected in our stance on the population issue. I am aware that this is an emotionally charged subject matter that some of us have opted to shelve, or even totally ignore in the past.

We must now face this responsibility squarely and address it as a crucial health issue, a health issue where the well-being of our children, mothers, families -- in fact, of our whole society -- is at stake.

Here, we would like to give life to Article XV of our Constitution which upholds the importance of our families, and the right of our children to proper care and nutrition.

At stake here, too, is the very application of the principles of our democracy: where our people make the choice; where the final judgment on the morality of their choices is left to the freedom of their conscience.

The magnitude of the rebuilding work that is before us calls for the involvement of many more hands. There is thus a need for greater involvement among our youth, especially in activities where they are given the opportunities to appreciate the value of hard work, love for country, and a mature sense of responsibility.

In calling for this, we uphold the provisions of our Constitution. For we thereby underscore our recognition of the youth's vital role in nation-building.

For two years now, we have provided our youth with a vehicle for participation in public and civic affairs through the President's Summer Youth Program. Over 71,000 young people took hands-on jobs in the countryside, in private sector offices and in our government agencies. We exposed them to the realities of life while encouraging them to keep their idealism and advocacy for reforms.

And this month we called on them to march with us in our fight against drug abuse. They have responded well with the launching of the Junior Drug Watch.

I hope that in the coming years, there will be even more participation by them in these activities.

Our maturity is also anchored on a citizenry whose sense of patriotism is expressed in their honest and active participation in our revenue generation effort. This was evident last year as we increased our tax collection by 35.4 percent: from P90,400,000,000 in 1988 to P122,400,000,000 last year.

The more important expressions of our maturity, however, are the policy decisions we shall make as we adopt innovations in our revenue generation scheme: as we shift the tax burden from our poorer countrymen to the more affluent sectors of our society; as we enhance the equity and progressive character of our income tax measures; as we promote local autonomy through stronger local financing; as we continue to improve our tax administration.

We shall also undertake even more decisive steps towards lowering inflation and bringing down our fiscal deficits. In connection with this, we are intensifying our revenue generation efforts; we are accelerating the sale of government assets even as we take all the necessary measures to minimize public spending.

We will not stop until we bring down the public sector deficit to the more tolerable 3 percent as a ratio to our Gross Domestic Product. We are determined to bring this ratio further down in the next two years.

We continue to strive to make compassion a genuine hallmark of our society. But as we take the path of maturity, we see the greater need to balance compassion with the strength of the arms of justice. Painful though it may be, we must look at the options for heavier penalties for plunder; for heinous crimes; for crimes against public order, including rebellion and attempts at seizing the powers of the State.

Our maturity is anchored, too, on the commitment of our soldiers to our constitutional democracy. While there are still a few within the AFP who continue to hang the sword of Damocles over our people, I am proud to say that, on the whole, the Armed Forces of the Philippines continues to be the protector of our democratic gains. Even as they perform their mandate of keeping peace and order in our land, they are also our partners in our development goals.

I cite in particular our AFP Engineering Corps, whose Engineering Brigades undertake the construction of several vital infrastructure, particularly in the areas threatened by insurgency.

I am pleased to note that even in our peace and order efforts, the partnership approach is applied. The civilian sector continues to play a vital role in our integrated strategy towards the attainment of these goals. This partnership is evident in our various interagency councils, such as the peace and order, the regional development, and the national reconciliation and development councils.

Our maturity is anchored on our ability to earn and maintain a place of honor and respect in the community of nations.

We acknowledge the support of our friends in our economic development thrusts. Last year, we obtained pledges and grants totalling $3,500,000,000, 98 percent of which have already been programmed or utilized for specific projects.

This place of honor also rests on our credibility before our international creditors. Today, we still suffer from the burdensome legacy of the past. Our foreign debt continues to stare us in the face; and so does the responsibility of servicing all of these debts.

Since the time we inherited these liabilities, you and I have not stopped looking for better repayment terms from our creditors. We have also pushed back the terms for the repayment of the principal. Where opportunities are present, we have taken advantage of them so as to buy back debts at significant and favorable discounts.

I share with you the concern that a significant amount of our country's foreign exchange receipts flows out to service our foreign debt. I share with you the strong desire to see the day when our precious foreign exchange shall be used instead to fund social development.

It is also my hope, however, that Congress would share with me the concern that any move we take on the manner of debt repayment must never jeopardize in any way our painfully

built good standing with our creditors.

The systematic approach we have adopted over the past four years has been beneficial to our people, to our constituents. This approach has favored our economic growth, price stability, and our renewed access to the international financial market.

Our economy today is one of the best performing among nations with substantial foreign debt. And this has been possible only because our creditors believe that they can count on our word and commitment. You and I must work together to keep it that way.

Finally, we must address the issue of our relationship with the United States of America.

We are determined to chart a new course in our relationship with our long-time ally. I served the notice of termination of our military bases agreement. I have made sure that the provisions of our Constitution have been strictly adhered to. Above all, I have painstakingly endeavored to ensure that the national interest will be upheld whatever the outcome of our future discussions with the United States.

I served that notice of termination knowing the far-reaching consequences of that act. I declared our preparedness to look into other possibilities in our relationship with America. I underscored our desire to keep the friendship, whatever form our partnership may take in the future.

In this historic event, there is a paramount issue to address. This is the question of our ability as a people to live out to the fullest the true essence of sovereignty.

We must ensure that in making the decision as to whether the bases must go or stay, we must unite instead of divide.

Should we become a nation divided after this decision, then there shall be no sovereignty to speak of. To follow our national will, whatever option we might take, we must first agree to rid ourselves of unhealthy division. Only then can we stand up to any foreign nation and say, "This is our people's decision; we shall pursue it by every means."

When the two Houses of our Congress, therefore, meet in this Fourth Regular Session, there are two things I shall ask of you. First, I ask you to consider and appreciate the significance of this time in our history. I ask you to consider the options for a giant step forward that are arrayed before us.

And second, I ask you to address a legislative agenda that will push our democracy further into that level of maturity -- a higher level of maturity necessary to the rebuilding of our nation.

A good part of this agenda is drawn from initiatives already taken by the two Houses of Congress. In adopting this agenda, we focus on the commonality of our goals and our shared vision for our country and people.

I recognize as well that most of the bills in this agenda have been passed by one of the two Chambers and accordingly transmitted to the other. It is my hope and urgent call that this agenda we have worked out together will be completely enacted during this Fourth Regular Session.

May I now propose the following:

First, to help our countrymen in the disaster areas: the immediate passage of House Bill No. 31448, appropriating P10 billion for aid, relief and rehabilitation, and for the repair and reconstruction of permanent structures affected by the recent earthquake.

Second, to further hasten our poverty alleviation and countryside agro-industrial development thrusts, the passage of the following measures:

1. Providing small and medium enterprises with capital of less than P5,000,000 with an integrated assistance package and services, including more accessible credit and financing;
2. Strengthening the social amelioration program for the sugar industry;
3. Establishing a magna carta for small farmers which seeks to further improve agricultural productivity and income; and
4. Providing for a Code governing the development and conservation of our fishery and aquatic resources.

Third, to further strengthen local autonomy: the immediate passage of the Local Government Code, particularly, the provisions rationalizing the allotment system to increase funds at the disposal of local government units.

Fourth, to further emphasize our concern for protection of the environment, the passage of the following bills:

1. Providing for comprehensive anti-pollution measures, including increased penalties for violations thereof;
2. Increasing charges for the cutting of timber and other forest products to levels that better reflect their economic value; and
3. Updating the 53-year old Public Land Law to conform to new realities.

Fifth, to enhance the equity and progressive character of our tax system, the passage of a tax reform package which includes, among others, the following bills:

1. Increase in personal exemptions from income tax;
2. Imposition of the affluent consumption tax;
3. Provision of ceilings on certain business deductions;
4. Conversion of the ad valorem tax on oil products to specific tax; and,
5. Gradual phaseout of the gross receipts tax on banks to help cut intermediation cost.

Sixth, to underscore our sovereignty and independent foreign policy:

1. The passage of the law creating the Baselands Development Authority to implement the bases conversion plan which will be submitted by the Legislative-Executive Bases Council; and
2. The passage of a law upgrading our Foreign Service Corps.

Seventh, to accelerate the upgrading of our transportation system:

1. The passage of a law increasing the capitalization

of the Philippine National Railways; and

2. A law increasing the capitalization of the Light Rail Transit Authority;

And eighth, to strengthen the safeguards of our democracy, the passage of the following measures:

1. A revised bill repealing Presidential Decree 1850 thereby strengthening civilian supremacy over the military;
2. The anti-coup and the anti-plunder bills;
3. A bill providing for a witness protection program;
4. Omnibus amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act; and
5. The passage of electoral reform measures.

I join our people in thanking the Ladies and Gentlemen of both the Senate and the House of Representatives for the continuing legislative support you have given to our nation's aspiration for greater productivity and reform.

I cite in particular your work on the following legislation of national importance: Republic Act 6810 or the Magna Carta for countryside and barangay business enterprises; Republic Act 6763 on the construction of concrete barangay roads and multipurpose pavements; Republic Act 6849 on the installation of municipal public telephones; Republic Act 6826 on the grant of emergency powers to the President; and, Republic Act 6948 upgrading the benefits of military veterans and their dependents.

I also acknowledge your help in the passage of the following laws: Republic Act 6846 creating the Abot-Kaya Pabahay Fund; Republic Acts 6938 and 6939 on the Cooperative Code and the Cooperative Development Authority; Republic Act 6952 establishing the Petroleum Price Standby Fund; Republic Act 6956 modifying the excise tax on certain products; and Republic Act 6957 on the financing of infrastructure projects by the private sector.

I look forward to our continuing cooperation as we endeavor to keep the agenda of our nation foremost in our list of priorities.

As President, I reiterate my commitment to institute greater reforms during the next two years of this presidency. I am aware of the many obstacles strewn in our path by those who wish to waylay our march towards our goals. I wish to assure you and the rest of our countrymen that I shall never be intimidated; there shall be no rest from my work until the task is completed.

But our success would not be possible without unity among us. I therefore ask you, honorable Senators and Representatives of this, our people's Congress, and the rest of our leaders to renew with me our commitment to the dream that bound us together in 1986: democracy, freedom, sovereignty, economic growth, social justice.

Let us join hands with our people as we undertake the task of rebuilding, and as we resume our march towards our goals.

I should like to thank also all our friends throughout the world -- governments, institutions, as well as individuals -- for the humanitarian assistance given to our people and the victims of the earthquake. I intend to properly thank and commend them along with all those who acted valiantly to save lives at appropriate ceremonies in the near future.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council is hereby directed to submit to me at the soonest possible time the full list of these friends and these heroes.

May katiyakan ang ating tagumpay kung tayo'y magkakaisa. Kung kaya't hinihimok ko kayo, kagalang-galang na mga Senador, Kongresista at ang iba pang mga pinuno ng bayan na muli tayong manumpa sa pangarap na nagbigkis sa atin noong 1986. Ibalik at panatilihin ang demokrasya, kalayaan, karapatan, katatagang pangkabuhayan at katarungang panlipunan.

Mula sa halos gan: na pagkawasak na ating naranasan, tayong lahat ay magkapit bisig upang magampanan natin ang ating tungkulin na itayong muli ang napinsala sa atin nang sa gayon ay makapagpatuloy tayo sa landas tungo sa ating inaasam na mga layunin. Magkaisa tayo; magtulungan tayo.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

Everybody rose.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT SESSION

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House, the joint session is adjourned.

The Members of the House, however, will convene at six o'clock this evening.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Sa panig ng Senado, ang pinagsamang sesyon ay ating itinitindig.

It was 5:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:09 p.m., the session was resumed with the Speaker presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary will read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary read the following House Bill on First Reading and the Speaker made the corresponding reference:

BILL ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 31448, entitled:

"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN

BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/ AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990."

Recommending its approval with amendments, in consolidation with House Bill No. 31449.
By Congressmen Andaya, Ortega, Aspiras and the Members of the Committee on Appropriations.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 6:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 31448
(P10-B quake aid fund)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 31448, embodied in Committee Report No. 1147, as reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hear none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Bill No. 31448 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY. House Bill No. 31448, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990

The following is the whole text of the bill.

HOUSE BILL NO. 31448

Introduced by the Members
of the Committee on Appropriations

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/ AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990.

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

SECTION 1. The sum of Ten Billion Pesos (P10 Billion) is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for aid, relief, and rehabilitation services to people/areas and repair and reconstruction of permanent structures affected by the earthquake that hit the country on July 16, 1990.

SECTION 2. The President of the Philippines shall determine the projects and activities which shall be supported from the appropriations authorized herein.

SECTION 3. The repair and reconstruction of affected permanent structures and facilities shall be through negotiated contracts.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, may I request that the Hon. Rolando Andaya, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, be recognized.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Hon. Rolando Andaya.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF REP. ANDAYA

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I will speak very briefly, Mr. Speaker, and my dear colleagues, because this measure is of utmost urgency.

This bill, House Bill No. 31448, which was certified as urgent by the President of the Philippines in her communication to the Speaker dated July 21, 1990, seeks to appropriate P10 billion for aid, relief and rehabilitation services to people and areas, and for the repair and reconstruction of government infrastructure affected by the strong temblor that struck the Philippines very recently.

The temblor that shook Luzon Island in the afternoon of July 16, 1990, recorded at 7.7 on the Richter Scale, is one of the strongest and most destructive in our history.

Mr. Speaker, only two days after the quake, 528 were reported dead, 1,123 injured, and over 1,000 persons still trapped in buildings, while 15,646 families were reported to have been left homeless with the destruction of 1,785 houses. The damage to highways and bridges, water systems, power lines, hospitals and school buildings and other public infrastructure runs into billions of pesos.

Because of the massive devastation, Mr. Speaker, Pres. Corazon C. Aquino issued Proclamation 613 declaring several cities and provinces under a state of calamity.

While significant government efforts have been done to alleviate the suffering of the people affected by this calamity, a supplemental budget is necessary to speed up the process of rehabilitation for the families of the victims and the reconstruction of the affected areas. Hence, Mr. Speaker, this urgent bill for our favorable consideration and immediate approval.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Agusan del Norte?

MR. AMANTE. May the distinguished sponsor yield to some clarificatory questions?

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. ANDAYA. Very willingly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. AMANTE. First, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to be misunderstood that I am against this bill. But this question must be asked in order that this bill may really respond to the desired end.

Mr. Speaker, the first question I would like to ask is: In the light of my experience that every bill of this kind is always subjected to the objection anchored on the constitutional provision that special appropriation must always be accompanied by a certification from the National Treasurer on the availability of funds or in the absence thereof, the bill must have a revenue measure accompanying it to support the funds desired, why is it that in this particular bill, I do not see these things despite the urgency?

MR. ANDAYA. The point is well taken, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, the Constitution provides that a supplemental appropriation of this nature should be accompanied by revenue measures out of which funds can be generated or a certification of availability of funds issued by the National Treasurer. We have, Mr. Speaker, the corresponding certificate of availability of funds for this purpose. In fact, we have within this hall the National Treasurer herself, Miss Rose Cajucom, who issued the certificate of availability of funds to support this House Bill No. 31448.

MR. AMANTE. I raised the question, Mr. Speaker, because I do not like our rhetoric not to be accompanied by the necessary heroics. I was told, and it was printed in the papers, that we are running a deficit of approximately P17 billion. If we are running a deficit that much then there is a problem about availability of funds.

But I will not dispute this anyway. Considering that Miss Cajucom is already here -- incidentally, in the Visayan dialect, Cajucom means judgment -- and if based on her family name, her judgment is that there is indeed a certification, then I have no right to dispute. That was only for clarification.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bukidnon is recognized.

MR. ZUBIRI. Will the honorable sponsor yield to a few questions, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman may do so, if he so desires.

MR. ZUBIRI. This is only a follow-up to the question of the honorable Gentleman from Agusan del Norte.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the availability of funds. But we would only like to know where these will come from because we also have a commitment to our constituents. We are willing to sacrifice in favor of the disaster-stricken areas for as long as we are advised so that our own constituents will not expect all the fundings already appropriated for and approved under the Appropriations Act of 1990.

MR. ANDAYA. That is a good point, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to call the attention of the distinguished Gentleman from Bukidnon that precisely Section 1 of the bill provides that the sum shall be taken from funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. If we do not put the phrase "of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated," I share the concern of the distinguished Gentleman from Bukidnon that it is very possible that this amount to support the P10 billion would be taken from the funds already appropriated, including those for the projects in Bukidnon.

MR. ZUBIRI. So, are we made to understand, Mr. Speaker, that the P10 billion already certified by the National Treasury will not affect any approved appropriated funds for 1990?

MR. ANDAYA. To my thinking, Mr. Speaker, the amount would not.

MR. ZUBIRI. So, this money will come from other sources?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZUBIRI. Perhaps from savings or other sources of

income of the government?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZUBIRI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you.

MR. TIROL. Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bohol is recognized.

MR. TIROL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Will the sponsor yield to a few questions?

THE SPEAKER. The sponsor may yield.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker, there are two Gentlemen from Bohol now on the floor. May I please know which Gentleman is being recognized?

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from the opposition.

MR. ZARRAGA. After the opposition Gentleman from Bohol, this Representation makes a reservation that he be accorded the same privilege.

THE SPEAKER. The other Gentleman from Bohol may seek recognition after the opposition Gentleman from Bohol shall have finished his interpellation.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TIROL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
May we know from the sponsor whether there is such a thing as fund in the National Treasury not already appropriated?

MR. ANDAYA. Actually we have funds in the National Treasury, funds in the different government-owned or controlled banks, even funds in the Central Bank. But -- I would like to explain this, Mr. Speaker -- this P10 billion will not be spent in one sweep. We are just giving authority to the executive branch to incur obligations and disburse later on. Even if we have all the money in the world, even if we have money in the "bodega," without this appropriation measure, not a single centavo of that money can be spent. So this is some kind of standby appropriation. What we need is the authority from Congress to enable the executive branch to attend to the victims of the earthquake and to reconstruct or rehabilitate the affected government infrastructure.

MR. TIROL. Does it mean, Mr. Speaker, that as of the present we do not know whether this P10 billion is available from the funds in the National Treasury?

MR. ANDAYA. According to the Treasurer of the Philippines, the funds will be made available. If the Gentleman will ask me the possible sources, well, we have just passed the "sin taxes" which should generate P3.4 billion. Remember, the "sin taxes" were supposed to be for the veterans but the appropriation for the veterans would amount to only about P1.7 million. Per report of the Finance Secretary, we had increased collection, at least for the first quarter, of P240 million.

But it is very possible that reconstruction bonds will be sold to institutional investors, for example, insurance companies which have plenty of money. We also have retirement funds which can be invested in these bonds. We can float bonds for the overseas workers because we have their dollar deposits in the FCDUs or the foreign currency deposit units of the different banks here. These dollar deposits may be used to purchase these dollar bonds. If we are really short of funds, we have friends -- the ADB and World Bank, for example -- and countries, that can invest on these reconstruction bonds at very, very concessional rates.

But in the meantime, we must consider that it takes time to do all these things. Banks would certainly want to be presented feasibility studies on the cost of these projects to be undertaken and such studies will take time. But Congress should give the authority to the executive branch to implement all these things to alleviate the sufferings of the victims and to reconstruct the damage wrought by the earthquake.

I have just filed a resolution that we suspend our debt payments for two years. Mr. Speaker, it is not only the increased expenditure of P10 billion; this will be a double kill. Very possibly, there will be reduced income due to increased expenditure. There are mining companies devastated by this earthquake. Real estate taxes will suffer, since the taxes paid before by commercial establishments would not be paid, even income taxes may suffer. But in the meantime that we have the money certified by the National Treasurer, we should now give this authority to the executive so that in the midst of this devastation, Congress will show its concern in responding immediately.

MR. TIROL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I notice that the sponsor is speaking in the future tense, specifically money that is to come in the future. But we were assured by the sponsor that Miss Cajucom, the National Treasurer, is speaking in the present tense that this amount of money is already available. So, which is which, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. Actually if we talk of money, the government has plenty of money. Right now, the government has P70 billion. But it does not mean that we are going to spend the entire P70 billion because we have other responsibilities. As I have said, this will not be spent in one month or even, I think, for the balance of the year, but the government is now authorized to incur obligations. Payment will perhaps be disbursed over a period of more than one year. This is merely an authority for them to incur obligations which will be paid later.

MR. TIROL. A point of clarification, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, this P10 billion will have a spillover as far as the sourcing is concerned. If this could not be possibly fully

sourced within the present fiscal year, is it understood that the additional sourcing could be taken in the next fiscal year?

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, it is possible that the actual disbursements will happen not during 1990, but in 1991.

MR. TIROL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One or two more questions: Since we are talking about possibilities, is it also possible, Mr. Speaker, that one of the sources which could be indicated or located here will be a moratorium of our debt servicing or the limitation of our debt service?

MR. ANDAYA. It is very possible but we do not like to tie this bill up to these proposals in Congress because if we put here that the money will come from such sources, these projects will not be implemented.

MR. TIROL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are all my questions.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The other Gentleman from Bohol, the Honorable Zarraga, is recognized.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. He may interpellate the committee chairman, if he agrees.

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that this bill's intention, which is very laudable, is to provide aid, relief and rehabilitation to people in areas badly hit by an earthquake about seven days ago -- Baguio, Dagupan, Cabanatuan, and the nearby areas. Is that correct?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The aid will be confined to those hit by the July 16 earthquake.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to bring to the attention of the distinguished sponsor that an earthquake measuring 7.2 in the Richter scale also took place last February 7 in Bohol and it devastated several buildings, roads, hospitals, and churches and some of these were condemned. Although it did not gain as much national prominence as the one that happened about a week ago, there is no question, if anyone would like to conduct an investigation, that extensive damage was suffered by the people particularly in my district. Ninety percent of the damage of that earthquake affected the towns in my district. So I would like to know from the distinguished sponsor if he is willing to accept an amendment at the proper time with respect to the applicability of this bill.

MR. ANDAYA. I sympathize with the distinguished Gentleman from Bohol, but other areas in the country also suffered calamities, not only earthquakes but even typhoons, droughts, among others. I would like to emphasize that we can use the calamity fund with a balance of about P400 million, which information came from the Secretary of Budget and Management himself. Because the Budget Secretary is present, perhaps he would seriously consider giving calamity funds to the victims in the areas mentioned by the distinguished Gentleman from Bohol. I am afraid that if we enlarge the coverage of the measure, some people in Bicol might include other calamities such as the typhoons that hit the country recently. The Calamity Fund can take care of this problem.

MR. ZARRAGA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Precisely, this Representation has been compelled to take this matter up because while it is true that there is the calamity fund and we have in fact been promised funding for the repair of some of these damaged buildings including a district hospital where the patients had to be evacuated because the building itself had been condemned, the fund has not been forthcoming. It is the apprehension of this Representation that unless immediate action is taken, including putting within the coverage of this bill the effects of the earthquake in Bohol which happened within the last six months, these funds may not be coming at all. So if the provision "for victims of earthquakes" is included, we will limit the funding to earthquakes alone and not to any other calamity which took place within six months before today, and the victims of the earthquake in Bohol would be afforded the same privilege and assistance.

MR. ANDAYA. We will consider that at the proper time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARQUEZ. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Quezon is recognized.

MR. MARQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask some clarificatory questions of the chairman.

THE SPEAKER. The chairman may answer, if he so desires.

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARQUEZ. According to newspaper reports, Secretary Estanislao is securing $1 billion from the World Bank for these calamity projects. If that amount is granted, is there still a need for us to appropriate P10 billion?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I have said earlier, even if we have all the money in the world, it cannot be spent without authority from the executive branch to appropriate it because this merely will not raise money. An appropriation bill does not raise any revenue. This is merely the author-

ity to spend. So, whether we get that loan or win in the international sweepstakes, we still need this P10 billion.

MR. MARQUEZ. So even if that will be granted, we still need this P10 billion.

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, because Congress, especially the House of Representatives, should appropriate these funds.

MR. MARQUEZ. My last question, Mr. Speaker, is to clarify things once and for all. Based on the certification of availability of funds signed by the Treasurer of the Philippines, Ms. Rosalina Cajucom, the funds will be made available to finance the amount of P10 billion. In short, it will be made available. It is not yet available. Is that right?

MR. ANDAYA. It will be made available as and when the need arises. As cited by the distinguished Gentleman from Agusan del Norte, the Constitution provides for either of two things: that a supplemental measure be supported either by revenue measures, out of which funds shall be generated, or a certification from the National Treasury on the availability of funds. Supposing we disapprove those revenue measures since there is no money?

In other words, it is something futuristic. The law does not require that the money be in the "bodega." Even our national budget of up to P145 billion does not allocate that. We do not have that kind of money; it will still be forthcoming.

MR. MARQUEZ. Will this money be made available to the Kabisig?

MR. ANDAYA. I have no idea, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARQUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROÑO. Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Samar is recognized.

MR. ROÑO. Mr. Speaker, will the distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Sur yield to just a question?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, willingly.

MR. ROÑO. Mr. Speaker, I share the unanimous opinion of this body that there is urgency in the immediate passage of this measure and because of that, I would not prolong my interpellation anymore. I just have two very short questions.

First, while we believe that there is a need for the immediate reconstruction of public infrastructure in the devastated areas through negotiated contracts, under Section 3 of the bill, just to make sure that only capable contractors will undertake the negotiated contract, would the distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Sur agree to a provision that only prequalified contractors, and not every Tom, Dick and Harry may be allowed to undertake negotiated contracts in accordance with existing rules and regulations?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, we agree to that.

MR. ROÑO. In accordance, of course, with the amount of the contract.

MR. ANDAYA. We are willing to accept an amendment to that effect, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROÑO. In the matter of the so- called assistance to people and areas for relief and for aid, would the distinguished Gentleman also agree to an amendment in one of the sections here which would say that, in the matter of handling of funds for assistance or aid for relief and rehabilitation, especially to people and areas, auditing rules and regulations should be strictly adhered to?

MR. ANDAYA. We are agreeable to that.

MR. ROÑO. Finally, Mr. Speaker, just to make the record straight, based on the manifestation of the distinguished Gentleman from Quezon about the so-called $1 billion that is now being negotiated by the Secretary of Finance with the World Bank, this is an ADB and World Bank concessionary loan, and the figure is about $200 million to $250 million, not $1 billion.

Thank you very much.

MR. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker.

MR. ESCUDERO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the leader of the minority, the Gentleman from Sorsogon.

MR. ESCUDERO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The opposition is in accord with this House bill, Mr. Speaker, most especially since this Representation saw the devastation in Baguio City, La Union and Pangasinan. Based on the briefing given by the military and civilian officials there, this Representation will propose during the period of amendments that the specific date, July 16, 1990, on line 5, Section 1 of the bill, be amended, considering that in Baguio City alone 529 aftershocks destroyed some public buildings.

Mr. Speaker, Section 2 reads:

> The President of the Philippines shall determine the projects and activities which shall be supported from the appropriations authorized herein.

The anxiety of this Representation is that up to this very time, it seems that the President is getting very inaccurate reports about the damage inflicted by the earthquake. For example, the President designated an overall coordinator for Pangasinan in the person of Sec. Alran Bengzon; for Nueva Vizcaya, the president of PNOC, Manuel Estrella; and for Baguio City,

Sec. Ping de Jesus.

The vice-governor of La Union had to appear on T.V. to inform the country that La Union, the hometown of our colleague, Congressman Aspiras, had been devastated. I myself saw 70 percent of both private and government buildings in his hometown were either totally wrecked or rendered not fit for human habitation. So, how do we operationalize Section 2 to make sure that the areas affected will get assistance from this fund in direct proportion to the damage inflicted?

MR. ANDAYA. The committee is offering the following amendments: On the same page in the precise section that the Gentleman mentioned, after the word "shall," insert a comma (,) and add the following phrase: "WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT." In other words, the Office of the President shall submit a listing of all these projects and activities within a period of six months.

Another amendment of the committee reads: "THE PRESIDENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES A QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE STATUS OF FUNDS RELEASED, OBLIGATED AND DISBURSED, THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE APPROPRIATIONS WERE UTILIZED AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE EXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING THE PERCENTAGE OF COMPLETION OF REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS." We have also provided that guidelines on how these projects shall be implemented, how this money shall be utilized and the mechanism therefor -- how to operationalize it -- should be issued within a period of 30 days after the approval of this bill into law.

MR. ESCUDERO. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, is giving us the assurance that the projects will be objectively and properly identified unlike the present situation where the chairman of the National Disaster Council of the Philippines issued a disaster manual only after the earthquake.

MR. ANDAYA. But these provisions should be able to apprise all of us of what is happening. There will be a quarterly report and the implementation will be based on guidelines to be issued within 30 days, and all these projects shall be listed down within a period of six months after approval of the Act. So, if one of us discovers that his area was not included in the list, he can always complain. Also, we made it a six-month period because it may be too late if it is longer.

So, we have these provisions to enable us to react or complain.

MR. ESCUDERO. I thank the Gentleman for his assurance, Mr. Speaker. Let me just put it on record that the amount is indeed very inadequate, based on what we saw. But should the amount be properly and equitably distributed, then at least our people's suffering could be alleviated.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. DOMINGO. Will the chairman of the Appropriations Committee yield to one question, Mr. Speaker?

THE SPEAKER. Will the chairman yield to one question?

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise not to oppose the bill. As a matter of fact, I rise to support the measure because I am also concerned.

Considering that it is the President who determines the activities and services to people in the areas affected, may we know from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee if the President would be authorized under this bill to get the amounts she promised, namely: P10,000 for every death and P5,000 for every injury.

MR. ANDAYA. According to the Gentleman from Samar, we are going to provide here that all disbursements will be subject to accounting and auditing rules.

So, that should be sufficient safeguard to be sure that there are no ghost casualties, whether injured or dead.

MR. DOMINGO. I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, because at the time the President promised P10,000 for every dead and P5,000 for every injured, I think only about 30 or 32 were reported to have died, but now it appears that there are about a thousand dead and about 5,000 injured. Would this amount be sufficient?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, it would be more than sufficient because even if we multiply 1,000 dead by 10,000, that is only P10 million. But the bulk of this appropriation will be for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges, power lines, water systems, and buildings, among others. On the relief aid that is very small because even if the number of casualties is 2,000, that will amount to only P20 million.

MR. DOMINGO. So, it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that aside from the social fund of the President, she can avail of these appropriations and give to the victims, whether dead or injured?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, under this bill, the President is authorized to utilize a portion for that purpose.

MR. DOMINGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I also thank the chairman.

MR. FUGOSO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Manila?

MR. FUGOSO. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the

Committee on Appropriations, but my question will not be about appropriation. I am concerned with Section 3 which reads:

> The repair and reconstruction of affected permanent structures and facilities shall be through negotiated contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if we include this section here, these negotiated contracts will again pave the way for the entry of unscrupulous contractors. Anyway, these projects cannot be implemented immediately and it will take time to have these completed. We can still follow the existing regulation that all contracts be done through public bidding.

I would like to ask the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations if he is willing to have this provision deleted at the proper time.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the distinguished Gentleman from Manila, a distinguished member of the Committee on Appropriations, but I would like to inform him that we have amended this. One of the committee amendments is to change the word "shall" to "MAY" and then we will accept amendments later on to the effect that these negotiated contracts will be awarded to pre-qualified contractors.

The reason we gave authority for negotiated contracts is that this is something of utmost urgency. If we follow the normal way of doing things through public biddings and publication in newspapers, the delay may cause untold sufferings and further damage to our people. So, this is one way of speeding up the implementation of the projects.

Anyway, the concern of the distinguished Gentleman from Manila is answered by the amendment that we are going to accept, that only prequalified, licensed contractors should be given these negotiated contracts.

MR. FUGOSO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I saw the proposed Section 3, that the repair and reconstruction of affected government infrastructure and facilities shall be undertaken by concerned implementing agencies and I would amend "shall" to "MAY". So it will read, "And facilities MAY be undertaken by concerned implementing agencies." It does not call for public bidding anymore because the concerned agencies here will be the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. I am sure they have qualified people to supervise the implementation of the projects.

MR. ANDAYA. I agree with the distinguished Gentleman.

MR. FUGOSO. But still, the negotiated contracts have no more place in any proposal because it is a matter of one or two months' delay. It will not matter anymore because if we want to help these people, we can put up temporary bridges; we can put up detours. But if we allow negotiated contracts, I am afraid we will suffer again tremors to punish us for the past wrongdoings when negotiated contracts included ghost contracts. That is what I fear, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I will leave the decision to our chairman during the period of amendments.

MR. ANDAYA. We really have to be strict about the implementation, Mr. Speaker. For example, although we have the Department of Public Works, because of the magnitude of the damage, they may not be in a position to really implement all projects. Besides, we have other projects in the rest of the country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Pangasinan is recognized.

MR. DE VENECIA. Will the chairman yield to a few questions?

THE SPEAKER. The chairman may yield, if he so desires.

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, right now the government is facing a shortfall, a budgetary deficit of about P55 billion.

MR. ANDAYA. That is not correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DE VENECIA. How much is it then?

MR. ANDAYA. That is actually a misinformation. The budgetary deficit is only P7 billion. The so-called P55 billion is not even P55 billion, but P38 billion. How then did it become P38 billion? They said that this is the total public sector. What was added to the P7-billion budgetary deficit of the national government were the cash flow deficiencies of 14 government-owned and controlled corporations. They want the national government to shoulder losses of the Central Bank, for the first time in history.

So, just to put things in perspective, the fiscal deficit is only P7 billion. That for the total public sector is not even P55 billion, it is only P38 billion.

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the accumulated deficit of the national government, the Central Bank and the public corporations.

MR. ANDAYA. It is not P55 billion but it is P38 billion.

MR. DE VENECIA. It is still a significant amount.

Anyway, I was laying the basis to help the Gentleman, not to compete with him, Mr. Speaker. I was saying that we can almost see that there will be shortfalls or deficits in funding the P10 billion. If we can anticipate this as we know that there will be a deficit even in raising the amount of P10 billion, is it possible, Mr. Speaker, to finance the shortfall at the proper time by asking for an amendment in fund flows from the Phil-

ippine Aid Plan and from official credits and grants to fully finance the P10 billion?

MR. ANDAYA. That is a good source of funding for this purpose, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DE VENECIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Secondly, after meeting the fund requirements of the P10 billion, and as observed by the distinguished Minority Floor Leader that P10 billion is woefully inadequate to satisfy the grievous infrastructure damage in Nueva Vizcaya, in Cagayan Valley, Ilocos region, Isabela, Benguet, Baguio City, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac and other provinces, is it possible that at the appropriate time we will again insert an amendment that in the event that the P10 billion is insufficient upon certification by the President to the Congress of the Philippines, further flows shall be availed of from the second-year Philippine Aid Plan and from official credits and grants, and/or from the flotation of reconstruction, earthquake-related bonds?

MR. ANDAYA. I would rather that the sourcing be open-ended because if we put individual specific sources of funds, it may hamstring the implementation of this project, although I agree that the PAP is a possible source, aside from the other things that the Gentleman mentioned. But to put that in the law may be counterproductive, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, unless we put this into law, we are limited to the P10 billion. That is why we are suggesting a wide-ranging authorization precisely to meet the requirements of the infrastructural damage. By virtue of this proposed amendment, we are now authorizing this proposed piece of legislation to avail of funds from PAP and from other official credits, PAP being distinguished from official credits, and at the same time to avail of locally denominated or peso-denominated and foreign-denominated reconstruction bonds which are exactly earthquake-related. So we are not limiting the profile of the proposed legislation, Mr. Speaker. We are broadening it to enable the committee to receive as much funds as possible without going against the intent of the bill.

MR. ANDAYA. But, Mr. Speaker, even without that phraseology, the same thing can happen because right now, bonds can be issued by the government under Republic Act 245, so that is one of the options. But to put that in the law may not be very productive or appropriate for the purpose.

MR. DE VENECIA. But is it not that the previous legislation passed in the early '60's limits the flotation of peso-denominated bonds only to P1 billion, which would translate only to about less than $50 million, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. That is in Republic Act 1000. But in Republic Act 245, as amended, the government is authorized to issue not only Treasury bills but also bonds. But as pointed out by the Gentleman, we also have to consider the repayment of these bonds, but that is neither here nor there. We are giving here the authority to the executive to incur obligations to the tune of P10 billion, maximum.

MR. DE VENECIA. Yes. What I was saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the P10 billion is inadequate. I was raising the probability of two deficits: First, in the event of a deficit from local sourcing. So, we take recourse to PAP which is mainly concessional borrowing or from PAP components which are nonconcessional borrowings but grants.

Second, in the event that the P10 billion is insufficient, we are saying that there be a standby authority to source again the insufficiency from PAP or from other sources.

If the Gentleman wants to strike out the bonds, that will be acceptable to me, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. May I ask for a one-minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Before we suspend the session, the Chair calls attention to Section 91 of the Rules of the House, which reads as follows: "Smoking is prohibited within the Session Hall." In implementing this particular provision of the Rules, the Chair designates the Lady from Pasay, the Hon. Lorna Verano-Yap. She may use whatever implements familiar to her to enforce this provision of the Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 7:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

To assist the Lady from Pasay in her new duty, the Chair further designates the Lady from Bukidnon, the Hon. Violeta Labaria who is a doctor of medicine, and the Lady from Batangas, the Hon. Lally Laurel-Trinidad, to compose the three-lady committee that will enforce this particular provision of the Rules.

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, in order to hasten the approval of this very important bill of Congressman Andaya, I will just limit the additional flows from the Philippine Aid Plan, but prevent use of all commercial borrowings.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to cross the bridge when I come to it, meaning, if the amount of P10 billion is insufficient, let us pass another supplemental appropriation. But we will cross the bridge when we come to it. We should not put here an open-ended appropriation measure.

MR. DE VENECIA. Is the Gentleman suggesting that if there is a shortfall in the first P10 billion, we will not authorize even the availing of foreign grants?

MR. ANDAYA. We should pass another supplemental

appropriation, if indeed this P10 billion is lacking.

MR. DE VENECIA. Suppose the P10 billion cannot be funded from National Treasury funds, can we avail of official credits?

MR. ANDAYA. That is one of the options of the national government.

MR. DE VENECIA. That is acceptable to me, Mr. Speaker. On the second one, in order to hasten approval of the Gentleman's bill, I will make the proper amendment at the proper time.

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from South Cotabato is recognized.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, will the sponsor of the bill entertain a few questions from this humble Representation?

THE SPEAKER. The chairman may yield if he so desires.

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, in line with the question of the Gentleman from Pangasinan on the amount, may I ask the sponsor of the bill if the amounts appropriated for these areas were taken into consideration, since it is only Congress that can realign such funds. How much of these funds, Mr. Speaker, is available for the construction of these areas?

MR. ANDAYA. If the Gentleman is referring to the calamity fund, Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned earlier, out of the P1 billion, there was a balance of about P400 million two or three days ago, because there were calamities that happened before the July 16 earthquake. This P400 million may not be sufficient.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, I am an avid reader of the newspapers. I understand that Tarlac itself has P480 million in unexpended funds. What do we do about this P480 million in unexpended funds, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. All these things should be considered in the giving of funds out of this appropriation measure for these affected areas. These things should be taken into consideration.

MR. ANTONINO. So, do I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the sponsor of this bill and his committee are amenable to amendments that we would use available funds immediately for the reconstruction of these destroyed areas as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, that is true, Mr. Speaker, that is why there is a sense of urgency here, hence the provision "This Act shall take effect upon its approval." There is even no need for publication in the newspapers. To hasten implementation, we also added that this may be done through negotiated contracts.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House himself, in his opening statement in the Fourth Regular Session, stated that many bills, many laws that have passed this Congress are not implementable. Here, we are giving the President and the Cabinet six months to formulate guidelines.

MR. ANDAYA. No, Mr. Speaker, it is only one month from approval.

MR. ANTONINO. If I read number 2 of the committee amendments correctly, on the same page, line 6, after the word "shall," insert a comma (,) and add the following phrase: "WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT."

MR. ANDAYA. That refers to that particular section, but may I call the attention of the Gentleman to page 2 of the committee report. It says:

> SECTION 4. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT.

MR. ANTONINO. Would that, Mr. Speaker, guarantee the implementation of the needed infrastructure programs?

MR. ANDAYA. With the short period of 30 days for them to come up with these guidelines, we should be able to know what they are going to do. But if the Gentleman would like to propose a shorter period, we are willing to consider it. If he wants to put there 20 days -- in other words, while the bill is still pending with us -- they should now start formulating guidelines and issue these within 30 days. We can shorten the period.

MR. ANTONINO. What I am driving at, Mr. Speaker, is the implementation, not the guidelines.

MR. ANDAYA. The Gentleman was referring to the guidelines, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. I was leading to that, Mr. Speaker. We cannot eat guidelines; neither can the people who have suffered. I am talking about implementation. If we set an open-ended implementation of this bill, as the Speaker in his statement has said, when will these laws be implemented? Although I myself am not from the area, my heritage is. There

might be a delay in implementation. I ask the distinguished sponsor if he is willing to accept an amendment to a deadline in implementation during the period of amendments.

MR. ANDAYA. For example, what deadline, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANTONINO. That the contracted obligations of roads and bridges be set at certain dates so that we put pressure on the implementing agency to repair and open those roads and bridges to these areas which are not reachable right now by food/relief agencies and so forth, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. I do not think that is an answer, Mr. Speaker; the Gentleman is just making an observation.

MR. ANTONINO. I am not making an observation.

MR. ANDAYA. But to put a deadline here -- to say that a certain thing should be done within 6 months, another thing should be done in 10 months -- would merely be directory. The fact that this is an emergency bill, a calamity bill -- a bill to reconstruct and rehabilitate the area -- presupposes that this should be implemented immediately. Supposing they do not do it within the period, we cannot send them to prison.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, I used the words "obligated" and "contracted," not "done."

MR. ANDAYA. That is why this provision on negotiated contracts -- that is, they may do these through negotiated contracts -- presupposes that the implementation will be speeded up and that the processing of these contracts should be speeded up, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. With the permission of the Gentlemen on the floor the session is suspended.

It was 7:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.
The Gentleman from South Cotabato may continue.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, I was pointing out that there were a lot of complaints about the implementation of laws passed by Congress. I feel that the reconstruction should be implemented immediately, that pressure should be exerted on the executive branch. The sense of this Congress is that we feel the suffering of the people. This is my point, Mr. Speaker, that is why I asked the sponsor if he was willing to accept an amendment that this amount be obligated and contracted within six months from its passage.

THE SPEAKER. The chairman will respond.

MR. ANDAYA. I share the concern of the distinguished Gentleman from Cotabato but to put a deadline -- that all these things should be contracted out in a period of six months -- may not be very reasonable because whether it is negotiated or done through public bidding, these are huge projects which would require engineering studies, plans, feasibility studies, among others. They may not be able to do it considering the extensive and massive damage in the entire Northern and Central Luzon, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, when it concerns the state of suffering of the Filipino people, does this government stop at five o'clock? Will it not take overtime? The Speaker of this House has promulgated that we be in session today, right after the State of the Nation Address, because it is a most urgent measure for the relief of the suffering of people in certain portions of the Philippines. Can we not make it a point that the executive branch of this government also consider it urgent to relieve that suffering as soon as possible? This I ask of this House today, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. I agree with the distinguished Gentleman from Cotabato, Mr. Speaker, so we are willing to accept an amendment that the implementation shall be done at the soonest possible time.

MR. ANTONINO. Will the sponsor accept a six-month period, because we have passed so many laws in this House such as Kalakalan 20 where because the guidelines are still pending, the implementation has not been done.

MR. ANDAYA. We will consider that amendment when it is presented, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
The additional point I will make is that we have not seen how this bill will be implemented, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the indulgence of the good sponsor to brief us on how this P10 billion will be expended and who will implement the actual expenditure of P10 billion. I am sure it will not be Malacañang who will identify these projects. May I ask the indulgence of the good sponsor to brief the honorable body on the mechanics, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. As stated in the committee report, one of the amendments introduced or to be introduced by the Committee on Appropriations is that this will be undertaken by the concerned agencies of the government.

MR. ANTONINO. Do we mean, the concerned agencies of the government, as established within the organizational concept of the government?

MR. ANDAYA. The distinguished Gentleman from Nueva Ecija, Congressman Garcia, is offering an amendment that the identification of this project shall be done in consultation with the elected national and local officials. We have

informed Congressman Garcia that we are willing to accept that amendment. Yes, we are willing to accept that amendment and this should answer the apprehension of the distinguished Gentleman from Cotabato whose relatives come from the affected areas.

MR. ANTONINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied with the answers of the honorable Gentleman. I would like to thank the sponsor, and I would like to state that I am with this bill.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JAVIER (E.). Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Antique is recognized.

MR. JAVIER (E.). Mr. Speaker, I would not be representing my constituency if I do not speak tonight. I would like to share the sentiment of the Gentleman from Bohol that on June 14 a strong earthquake likewise hit our province, which was declared by the President as a calamity area. So I would like to ask the sponsor if he would be amenable to amendments covering those areas which were hit by earthquakes before July 16, 1990.

MR. ANDAYA. In other words this is limited to earthquakes which happened not only on July 16 but six months prior to July 16?

MR. JAVIER (E.). Is the chairman amenable to that amendment, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. We are willing to accept that.

MR. JAVIER (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Basilan is recognized.

MR. DANS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To clarify some doubts in my mind with respect to the Gentleman's statement that while the government now has enough money in its coffers, it appears that this money cannot be spent unless Congress comes up with a special appropriations bill, is it a correct impression that whatever slow relief that is being delivered in these devastated areas is again the doing of Congress, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. We need appropriation to spend money. The Constitution says that no money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law.

MR. DANS. But definitely whatever delay in the relief operations in these devastated areas is not because of Congress' failure to come out with the appropriations bill.

MR. ANDAYA. As I have said, we still have the calamity fund.

MR. DANS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. So, that is also an appropriation authorized by Congress, aside from private contributions.

MR. DANS. I just want to set the record straight, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if the committee has ever considered the vast resources that the executive department can lean on in coming up with an immediate relief operation over these areas. I wonder if the committee has ever made an inventory of the resources available, namely: the calamity fund; the duty-free shop tax income; the hotel room tax; the travel tax income; the Sweepstakes fund, the PAGCOR fund. I wonder if the committee has made an actual inventory of these immediately available resources.

MR. ANDAYA. That is why, as I have said the calamity fund still has a balance of P400 million. As to the other matters that the Gentleman mentioned, there is now a pending bill; in fact there are many bills in this House under the one-fund concept. The Committee on Appropriations will immediately report out that all these funds from PAGCOR, the duty-free shops, among others, should be pooled and deposited in the National Treasury so that it is Congress that should appropriate these. For example, the PAGCOR fund was by virtue of a special law that was approved.

I was talking with Congressman Tinga who is one of the authors of this one-fund concept. The Committee on Appropriations will immediately report this out so that no money will be spent henceforth without appropriation by this new Congress. But it does not mean that there was no authority for the expenditures before because these are covered by special laws which authorized the expenditure of these funds.

MR. DANS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that well-meaning statement.

Just to set the record straight, as far as I am concerned, it appears now that these are continuing appropriations but the executive department would not want to make available or would not even want to avail of these funds.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. No, Mr. Speaker, may I point out that they have been rendering assistance even without this bill. This bill is simply to augment whatever resources we have.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will now entertain a motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate.

MR. ANNI. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Sulu?

MR. ANNI. May I ask a few questions of the author of this bill, Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain a motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

MR. OCAMPO. I now move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate and proceed to the period of amendments.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The committee will now present committee amendments.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Appropriations would like to present the following amendments:

On page 1, line 4, delete the words "permanent structures" and in lieu thereof substitute the words "GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURES."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, line 6, after the word "shall," insert a comma (,) and add the following phrase: "WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection?

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Bohol?

MR. ZARRAGA. May I please know from the sponsor if he is willing to accept an amendment to his amendment?

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman will present his amendment to the amendment.

MR. ZARRAGA. This Representation would respectfully submit this amendment to the amendment proposed by the Gentleman from Camarines Sur: On line 6, after the word "shall," insert the phrase: "EQUITABLY APPORTION AMONG THE PROVINCES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE" and then the amendment by the committee.

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, are we now accepting individual amendments?

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment to the amendment?

MR. ESCUDERO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Sorsogon?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. ESCUDERO. May I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 7:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. ESCUDERO. Mr. Speaker, may I propose an amendment to the amendment presented by the Gentleman from Bohol.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to be clarified. Is it not that we should first approve the committee amendments and later on introduce individual amendments? If we introduce committee amendments and individual amendments at the same time, we might get confused, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Sorsogon will withdraw his request.

MR. ESCUDERO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

THE SPEAKER. How about the Gentleman from Bohol? Will he withdraw his amendment to the amendment?

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to withdrawing my amendment at this time, provided that at the proper time this Representation will be allowed to reintroduce the same amendment.

THE SPEAKER. There will be a period of individual amendments after the body shall have approved the committee amendments.

MR. ZARRAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The body will vote on the amendment of the committee.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none;

the amendment of the committee is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the same page, that is, page 1, line 8, after the period (.), add the following sentence: "THE PRESIDENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES A QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE STATUS OF FUNDS RELEASED, OBLIGATED AND DISBURSED, THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE APPROPRIATIONS WERE UTILIZED AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE EXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING THE PERCENTAGE OF COMPLETION OF REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection?

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Nueva Ecija?

MR. JOSON. Before I propose my amendment to the committee amendment, Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from the sponsor whether this word is "construction" or "reconstruction"?

THE SPEAKER. The sponsor may answer.

MR. ANDAYA. This could be "reconstruction" or "construction," but we are willing to make it "reconstruction." If we use "reconstruction," it is possible that the site has been changed. Besides, there might be some technicalities, that we have to do it exactly as it was.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Nueva Ecija may wish to propose his individual amendment after the committee amendments shall have been approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Anyway, we will consider that at the proper time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOSON. Yes, Mr. Speaker. But since this involves the word "construction" itself, in order to conform with the intent of the law which says "repair and construction," and now we are providing here for "reconstruction," there will be no uniformity in the usage of words. I do not know if the intent is already different from that earlier manifested, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. If the amendment involves the construction of the sentence itself, then it changes the thought and the Gentleman may propose his amendment.

MR. ANDAYA. It is not the construction of the sentence, Mr. Speaker. I think the Gentleman wants to change the word "construction" to "RECONSTRUCTION."

THE SPEAKER. Then it involves the amendment and it is in order for the Gentleman from Nueva Ecija to propose his amendment.

MR. JOSON. Yes, to conform with the title as well as the intent of the law, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment to change the word "construction" to "RECONSTRUCTION" is accepted.

THE SPEAKER. The committee accepts.

Is there any objection to the amendment to the amendment?

MR. ANDAYA. But I would like to put it on record, Mr. Speaker, that the meaning of "reconstruction" here does not mean restoration of a building or structure to a condition as it was before the earthquake. I would like to put that as the intent of the word "reconstruction."

THE SPEAKER. If there is no objection to the amendment to the amendment, the amendment is approved.

Is there any objection to the amendment of the committee? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment, as amended, is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, lines 9 and 10, amend Section 3 to read as follows: "SECTION 3. THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF AFFECTED GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURES AND FACILITIES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN BY CONCERNED IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND MAY BE DONE THROUGH NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS."

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ABAYA. Before we act on the committee amendment, Mr. Speaker, may we propose an amendment to the amendment by way of addition?

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman will state his amendment. He may wish to propose this during the period of individual amendments since it does not change the structure of the committee amendments.

MR. ABAYA. It may, Mr. Speaker; it is a substantial amendment to his amendment.

THE SPEAKER. In which case, the Gentleman will state his proposed amendment.

MR. ABAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We propose to add the following sentence after that proposed amendment which runs as follows...

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela will please clarify the amendment he intends to propose. If it is a whole new sentence, then it should be introduced as an individual amendment, and he may wish to introduce it at the proper time.

MR. ABAYA. I submit, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment of the committee? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none ...

MR. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Ilocos Norte is recognized.

MR. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker, may the distinguished author restate the amendment, because I would like to insert a word in his amendment.

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment reads: "THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF AFFECTED GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURES AND FACILITIES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN BY CONCERNED IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND MAY BE DONE THROUGH NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS."

MR. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker, will the distinguished author agree to the insertion of the word "GOVERNMENT" between "IMPLEMENTING" and "AGENCY"?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ABLAN. So, it shall read: "SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN BY CONCERNED IMPLEMENTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment to the amendment? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker, please.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Agusan del Sur is recognized.

MR. AMANTE. In the concluding part of the amendment of the committee, it says: "may be done through negotiated contract." May I inform the honorable sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that all contracts are governed by PD 1594 which says, among others, that negotiated contracts or by administration shall be done in cases of emergency as a consequence of the calamity where properties or lives are imperiled. So, I feel that this is redundant because this is already properly governed by Presidential Decree 1594, as amended, which is more encompassing, considering that it allows by administration or by negotiated contract the necessary safeguards in order that the best contractors with the finest track record are included.

THE SPEAKER. In other words, the Gentleman from Agusan del Sur is suggesting the deletion.

MR. AMANTE. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I propose to put a period (.) after the amendment of the distinguished Gentleman from Ilocos Norte, specifically, "implementing government agencies" because that is covered by PD 1594, as amended.

MR. ANDAYA. I agree that it may be true that there are laws to this effect, but because this is a grave emergency that the amount involved is so big, we might as well be very clear about this. It shows the concern and intention of the House of Representatives to speed up the prosecution of projects. It may not be necessary, but it is better to be clear about it and put it here in this bill to show to our people that we want this to be speeded up.

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to point out that we do not have to reiterate laws on subsequent laws; otherwise, these laws should never be taken judicial notice of. But I will assume that they are not ignorant of the law. In fact, ignorance excuses no one, and I do not like this House to be charged with ignorance despite our effort to emphasize, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. No, actually, going back to that decree that the Gentleman is talking about, is there no limitation there of P100 million?

MR. AMANTE. None.

MR. ANDAYA. No limitation whatsoever?

MR. AMANTE. None.

MR. ANDAYA. Why is it that they keep on citing a ceiling that this can be through negotiated contract? The damage here is in billions. It is very possible that one project may amount to hundreds of millions. So, to be very sure, I do not see anything wrong if we put that phraseology -- that the repair and reconstruction projects may be subject to negotiated contracts.

THE SPEAKER. The committee is saying that it recognizes the existence of this presidential decree and yet feels it necessary to include this since this will not cause any harm anyway, but should clarify the intention of this particular law.

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker, as a matter of further clarification, I hope the sponsor will agree to an amendment to the amendment which will read: "SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE IMPLEMENTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BY ADMINISTRATION OR THROUGH NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS."

MR. ANDAYA. All right, we can put that.

MR. AMANTE. With that acceptance, Mr. Speaker, I will rest my case.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Agusan del Sur will restate the phrasing of this amendment.

Will the committee then rephrase this amendment?

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker, may I just approach the chairman so that he will be the one to restate it for the body.

I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 7:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

The Gentleman from Agusan del Sur will proceed.

MR. AMANTE. Mr. Speaker, after the word "AGENCIES," insert: "BY ADMINISTRATION OR THROUGH NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS." This phraseology, through a private dialogue with the sponsor, has been accepted. I hope he makes it public now.

MR. ANDAYA. We accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. AMANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment to the amendment? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment, as amended, is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I would just like to put on record that even if we put "MAY BE UNDERTAKEN BY ADMINISTRATION OR NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS" it does not preclude public bidding. In other words, this is not exclusive. Either by administration or negotiated contracts, they can do it through public bidding if they want to.

THE SPEAKER. We will now proceed to the next amendment.

MR. ANDAYA. On the same page, Mr. Speaker, between lines 10 and 11, insert a new section to read as follows, and renumber the succeeding sections accordingly: "SECTION 4. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection?

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Nueva Ecija is recognized.

MR. JOSON. I propose to change the word "GUIDELINES" to "RULES AND REGULATIONS."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment?

MR. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Pangasinan is recognized.

MR. DE VENECIA. Just a minor amendment to the amendment. Instead of "THIRTY (30) DAYS," because this is an emergency, substitute it with "FIFTEEN (15) DAYS."

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DE VENECIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment to the amendment? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

Is there any objection to the amendment, as amended? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment, as amended, is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. The last amendment of the committee, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the title.

Is it now the proper time or after the individual amendments?

THE SPEAKER. The committee can submit the amendment after the period of individual amendments.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will now accept a motion to close the period of committee amendments.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, considering that there are no more committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to the individual amendments.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Chair will now accept individual amendments.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bohol is recognized.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker, this is a joint motion between Rep. Exequiel Javier and this Representation.

On page 1, line 4, add the letter "S" to the word "earthquake" to make it plural.

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the amendment? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bohol is recognized.

MR. ZARRAGA. Another joint motion to amend. On page 1, line 5, delete the phrase "on July 16, 1990" and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase "WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS."

MR. ANDAYA. From what?

MR. ZARRAGA. Within the last six months from July 16, 1990.

MR. ANDAYA. Subject to style, we accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The sponsor of the amendment will please clarify whether damages which occurred after July 16 are included in the amendment.

MR. ZARRAGA. The amendment, Mr. Speaker, refers to the damage inflicted by earthquakes that took place within the last six months prior to July 16, 1990.

MR. ANDAYA. But according to the Speaker, after July 16, there were damages on account of aftershocks.

MR. ZARRAGA. No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. So, why do we not just put it six months before the approval?

MR. ZARRAGA. At any rate, the amendment is to the damage effected by the earthquakes that hit the country within the last six months from July 16, 1990.

May I ask for a suspension?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 7:51 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

Are there any more individual amendments?

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bohol, the Hon. Isidro Zarraga is recognized.

MR. ZARRAGA. Mr. Speaker, this Representation will no longer pursue his proposed amendment which was actually a joint motion to amend by Rep. Exequiel Javier and this Representation, after the assurance given by the Secretary of Budget and Management during the suspension of the session that the amounts that have been allotted for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and construction of new buildings and other infrastructure as a result of the earthquakes in Bohol on February 19 of this year and in Antique in June of this year, will be forthcoming. Therefore, this Representation is withdrawing such amendment.

THE SPEAKER. The amendment is withdrawn.

Are there any further amendments?

MR. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, on line 6.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ALBANO. On line 6, Mr. Speaker, after the word "determine."

MR. GARCIA (S.). Mr. Speaker, anterior amendment.

THE SPEAKER. What is the anterior amendment of the Gentleman from Nueva Ecija?

MR. GARCIA (S.). Mr. Speaker, on line 6, Section 2, between the words "the President of the Philippines" and "shall," insert the following phrase: "IN COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Isabela?

MR. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, on line 6, between the words "determine" and "the," insert the following phrase: "ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL DAMAGE CERTIFIED BY THE CONCERNED DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OR AGENCY."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, may I just manifest that this amendment is a joint sponsorship of the distinguished members of the opposition, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The statement is duly recorded.

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker.

MR. TIROL. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The other Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ABAYA. Unless there is an anterior amendment, Mr. Speaker, my proposed amendment is on line 10 of the new Section 3.

MR. TIROL. Anterior amendment, Mr. Speaker, on line 4.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Bohol is recognized.

MR. TIROL. I propose, Mr. Speaker, to change the term "government infrastructures" to "GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES" only, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. We would like to accept the amendment but the intent here is that "infrastructure" covers power lines, water systems, and others; it covers everything.

MR. TIROL. We were thinking, Mr. Speaker, that "structures" is more comprehensive because "infra" refers to the foundational portion of structure. But there were structures, superstructures which were also destroyed, Mr. Speaker. So, to our submission, "structures" is the more comprehensive term.

MR. ANDAYA. I just want to say that the intent here is that "infrastructure" would cover what the distinguished Gentleman from Bohol would like to include: namely, roads and bridges, hospitals, school buildings, power lines, water systems and others.

THE SPEAKER. Since the committee has defined the coverage of the term, does this satisfy the Gentleman from Bohol?

MR. TIROL. We are satisfied, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Are there any further amendments?

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ABAYA. Line 10, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker, line 6.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Nueva Ecija is recognized

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker, after the amendment accepted by the sponsor, with respect to the amendment proposed by the Gentleman from Isabela, I propose to add the words: "AND PUBLISH IN ANY NEWSPAPER OF NATIONAL CIRCULATION THE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES AND..." subject to style.

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. This may entail a lot of listing, Mr. Speaker. Besides, to have this published in the newspapers might entail a lot of cost. So, perhaps "publication in the areas affected" will be better.

MR. JOSON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. Not necessarily in newspapers, as we can also make use of, say, bulletin boards.

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is for purposes of transparency and to prevent undue concentration of projects, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. Perhaps, as a compromise, the information as to these projects should be disseminated in the areas affected.

THE SPEAKER. The committee will please clarify the meaning of "publication," since there is a legal definition of the word. So the proponent of the amendment should clarify what is meant by "publication."

MR. JOSON. "Publication" means to list the same in a newspaper of national circulation for purposes of general information. But if the intent of the committee is to provide only for dissemination, either in written or in oral form, then I am perfectly amenable to such a proposal, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Therefore, the Gentleman is satisfied with the explanation of the committee.

MR. JOSON. Will the word then be "dissemination," Mr. Speaker?

MR. ANDAYA. I think the sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is willing to change the word "publication" to "dissemination." It may include radio broadcasts or bulletin boards, among others.

THE SPEAKER. In which case, does the committee accept the amendment?

MR. ANDAYA. We accept it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Subject to style, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Camarines Sur is recognized.

MR. ALFELOR. I wish to amend Section 3. There is no mention in the bill how aid, relief and rehabilitation services to people shall be implemented or provided. I would like to infuse additional amendment to Section 3, to wit: "The repair and reconstruction of affected government infrastructures and facilities, AND AID, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICES shall be undertaken by appropriate government implementing agencies."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. In other words, it is not only the repair and reconstruction, but also the aid and relief.

MR. ALFELOR. Aid, relief and rehabilitation.

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ALFELOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Cebu is recognized.

MR. GARCIA (P.). On line 10, Mr. Speaker, after "contracts," delete the period (.), and substitute it with a comma (,), and add the following phrase: "SUBJECT TO ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. GARCIA (P.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker, still on Section 3, may we propose the inclusion of the following sentence -- and by the way, this is a result of the interpellation conducted by the Hon. Jose Roño, and it was agreed in principle by the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations -- to wit: "HOWEVER, IN CASE OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS, ONLY DULY PREQUALIFIED AND LICENSED CONTRACTORS AND/OR SUPPLIERS CAN BE AWARDED THE NEGOTIATED CONTRACT."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker, subject to style.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ABAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Are there any further amendments?

The remaining amendment is on the title of the measure.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from South Cotabato is recognized.

MR. ANTONINO. Mr. Speaker, after line 10, insert a new section which would read: "SECTION 4. ALL CONTRACTS UNDER THIS ACT MUST BE OBLIGATED WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. I thought the distinguished Gentleman from South Cotabato wanted to make it one year?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 8:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I explained to the distinguished sponsor, I think he is amenable to make it one year because contracts should be entered into before the amount can be encumbered or obligated. But before we can do that there have to be feasibility studies, cost estimates, per COA regulations. So, I think the Gentleman is willing to make it one year.

MR. ANTONINO. I agree, Mr. Speaker, since the committee says that these contracts must be obligated within one year.

MR. ANDAYA. The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANTONINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Isabela is recognized.

MR. ABAYA. May we respectfully add a new section to the last section. I think that is Section 5. This amendment we are proposing will be Section 6, and will read as follows: "IN THE MATTER OF AID, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE, THE SAME AND ANY EXPENDITURE OR DISBURSEMENT SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO PROPER EXISTING AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS."

MR. ANDAYA. I think that is already covered by the previous amendment, first by the Congressman from Camarines Sur which included here aid and relief and by the Congressman from Cebu who proposed that all these things be subject to accounting rules.

MR. ABAYA. Mr. Speaker, I sought clarification from the Gentleman from Cebu who introduced an amendment of this sort, but his amendment covers only infrastructure.

MR. ANDAYA. That was before the amendment introduced by Congressman Alfelor, who introduced an amendment subsequent to that of the Congressman from Cebu to include there not only repair and maintenance but also aid and relief, so that accounting and auditing rules cover everything.

MR. ABAYA. If the case is that everything -- that is, infrastructure and relief, aid and rehabilitation services to people or persons -- is covered by proper and existing regulations then that would be all right with this Representation, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. If there are no more individual amendments, the committee will now propose the final amendment to the title.

MR. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDAYA. I think one last amendment is to be introduced by the Gentleman from Ilocos Norte.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Ilocos Norte is recognized.

MR. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this is with regard to the amendment introduced by the Congressman from Isabela which reads: "It shall be through negotiated contracts by prequalified and licensed bidders." I would like to put after that the words "IN THE AREA."

MR. ANDAYA. I agree with the Gentleman but since these may be very big projects, there may be no available contractors locally.

MR. ABLAN. All right, I submit to that.

MR. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOSON. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Nueva Ecija is recognized.

MR. JOSON. I would like to propose a new section before the effectivity clause, Mr. Speaker, which will read as follows: "ANY LAW, ORDER, DECREE, RULES OR REGULATIONS WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH OR CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT ARE HEREBY AMENDED OR REPEALED."

THE SPEAKER. What does the committee say?

MR. ANDAYA. Subject to style, we accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, we will now present the committee amendment to the title. I do not think the individual amendments affected the title.

THE SPEAKER. So the committee should introduce an amendment which would, as a consequence of previous amendments, change the last section concerning the effectivity

of the bill itself. In other words, instead of Section 4 it should now be Section 6.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, we now go to the title. We propose that the title be amended to read as follows: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990."

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Gentleman from Manila is recognized.

MR. OCAMPO. I move that the period of amendments be closed, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Chair will now entertain the motion to approve the bill.

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve House Bill No. 31448.

MR. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the distinguished Acting Floor Leader, I request that all the Members of this august Chamber be made coauthors of this particular bill. (*Applause*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 31448
ON SECOND READING
(P10-B quake aid fund)

THE SPEAKER. The request is granted.

The House will now vote on the motion to approve the measure.

Is there any objection to the approval of House Bill No. 31448? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; House Bill No. 31448 is approved unanimously. *(Applause)*

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 31448
ON THIRD READING
(P10-B quake aid fund)

MR. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, considering that this is a certified bill, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 31448.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Voting on the bill on Third Reading is, therefore, in order.

The Secretary will read the title of the bill.

THE SECRETARY. House Bill No. 31448, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR AID, RELIEF, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO PEOPLE/AREAS AND FOR THE REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 16, 1990.

FIRST ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Laguda). The body will now vote on the bill, and the Secretary will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

Abaya..... Yea
Abines.....
Ablan..... Yea
Acosta..... Yea
Adasa..... Yea
Aguilar.....
Albano..... Yea
Alfelor..... Yea
Almario..... Yea
Amante..... Yea
Amatong..... Yea
Andaya..... Yea
Andolana..... Yea
Angeles,
Democlito J. ..... Yea
Angeles,
Romeo S. ..... Yea
Aniag..... Yea
Anni..... Yea
Antonino..... Yea
Apacible..... Yea
Aquino,
Antonio L..... Yea
Aquino,
Florante L. ..... Yea
Aquino,
Herminio S. ..... Yea
Aquino,
Honorato Y. ..... Yea
Aquino-Oreta..... Yea
Arteche..... Yea
Aspiras..... Yea
Bacaltos..... Yea
Badelles..... Yea
Bagatsing,
Amado S..... Yea
Bagatsing,
Ramon Jr. S. ..... Yea
Bakunawa..... Yea
Bandon..... Yea
Bautista..... Yea
Beltran..... Yea
Bengson..... Yea
Bernardez.....
Borja-Agana..... Yea
Cabochan,
Gerardo P. ..... Yea
Cabochan,
Jose L. ..... Yea
Cainglet..... Yea
Calingasan..... Yea
Camasura..... Yea
Carloto..... Yea
Cerilles.....
Chaves..... Yea
Chiongbian..... Yea
Chipeco..... Yea
Claver..... Yea
Cojuangco..... Yea
Concepcion..... Yea
Coseteng..... Yea
Cua..... Yea
Cuenco..... Yea
Dangwa..... Yea
Dans..... Yea
Dayanghirang..... Yea
Daza.....
Dimaporo..... Yea
Domingo..... Yea
Dominguez.....
Dragon..... Yea
Durano..... Yea
Ecleo..... Yea
Enverga..... Yea
Escudero..... Yea
Espinosa..... Yea
Estrella,
Conrado Jr. B. ....
Estrella,
Conrado III M. ... Yea

Estrella, Ernesto T. .....
Fua..... Yea
Fugoso..... Yea
Garcia, Enrique T. ..... Yea
Garcia, Pablo P. ..... Yea
Garcia, Simeon Jr. E. ..... Yea
Garduce..... Yea
Garin..... Yea
Gillego..... Yea
Gonzalez..... Yea
Gordon.....
Guanzon..... Yea
Guerrero..... Yea
Gutang..... Yea
Guzman de.....
Horca..... Yea
Imperial.....
Isidro..... Yea
Jabar..... Yea
Javier, Exequiel B. ..... Yea
Javier, Rufino S. ..... Yea
Joaquin..... Yea
Joson..... Yea
Labaria..... Yea
Lacson..... Yea
Lagman..... Yea
Laguda..... Yea
Laurel-Trinidad..... Yea
Lazatin..... Yea
Legaspi..... Yea
Lingad..... Yea
Lobregat..... Yea
Locsin..... Yea
Lopez, Alberto J..... Yea
Lopez, Al Ignatius G..... Yea
Lopez, Jaime C..... Yea
Lopez-Vito..... Yea
Loreto..... Yea
Lumauig..... Yea
Mar del..... Yea
Marquez..... Yea
Martinez..... Yea
Maskariño..... Yea
Mastura..... Yea
Matalam..... Yea
Mathay..... Yea
Matti..... Yea
Mendiola..... Yea
Mercado..... Yea
Miran..... Yea
Mitra.....
Monfort..... Yea
Montejo..... Yea
Nalupta..... Yea
Navarro..... Yea
Nograles..... Yea
Nuñez..... Yea
Ocampo..... Yea
Ojeda..... Yea
Ong..... Yea
Ortega..... Yea
Ozamiz..... Yea
Padilla..... Yea
Palacol..... Yea
Paras..... Yea
Payumo..... Yea
Pedro de..... Yea
Pelaez..... Yea
Perez..... Yea
Pilapil..... Yea
Pineda..... Yea
Plaza, Charito B..... Yea
Plaza, Democrito O..... Yea
Ponce de Leon..... Yea
Puey..... Yea
Punzalan..... Yea
Puyat-Reyes..... Yea
Puzon..... Yea
Ramirez..... Yea
Ramiro..... Yea
Raymundo..... Yea
Real.....
Respicio..... Yea
Reyes.....
Rivera..... Yea
Roa..... Yea
Robles.....
Roco.....
Rodriguez..... Yea
Romero..... Yea
Romualdo..... Yea
Roño..... Yea
Rosario del..... Yea
Roxas..... Yea
Santos..... Yea
Sarmiento..... Yea
Sator..... Yea
Serapio..... Yea
Serna de la.....
Singson, Eric D..... Yea
Singson, Luis C..... Yea
Sison..... Yea
Starke..... Yea
Sumulong..... Yea
Tan..... Yea
Tanjuatco..... Yea
Teves..... Yea
Tinga..... Yea
Tirador..... Yea
Tirol..... Yea
Tupas..... Yea
Tuzon..... Yea
Ty..... Yea
Unico..... Yea
Valdez..... Yea
Valencia..... Yea
Veloso..... Yea
Venecia de..... Yea
Verano-Yap..... Yea
Villareal..... Yea
Webb..... Yea
Yap, Jose V..... Yea
Yap, Renato A..... Yea
Yulo.....
Zamora..... Yea
Zarraga..... Yea
Zubiri..... Yea

SECOND ROLL CALL

THE SPEAKER. The Secretary will conduct a second call for those who have not registered their votes.

THE SECRETARY, *reading*:

Abines.....
Aguilar.....
Bernardez.....
Daza.....
Dominguez.....
Estrella, Conrado Jr. B. ....
Estrella, Ernesto T. .....
Gordon.....
Guzman de.....
Imperial.....
Mitra.....
Real.....
Reyes.....
Robles.....
Roco.....
Serna de la.....
Yulo.....

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 31448
ON THIRD READING
(P10-B quake aid fund)

THE SPEAKER. The results show 177 votes in favor, none against and no abstention.

House Bill No. 31448 is unanimously approved on Third Reading.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

It was 8:18 p.m.