JOURNAL NO. 16
Monday, August 27, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Speaker Jose De Venecia Jr. called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Pursuant to Section 35, Rule VIII of the Rules of the House, the Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter, Rep. Ernesto "Banzai" Nieva delivered the following invocation:

Panginoong Diyos na Makapangyarihan sa lahat, igawad Mo sa amin ang Iyong basbas at patnubayan ang bawat gawain namin sa Kapulungang ito.

Sa harap ng maraming suliranin na kinakaharap ng aming bansa, bigyan Mo po kami ng tatag at lakas ng loob upang makahanap ng kalutasan sa lahat ng mga ito.

Gabayan Mo, Panginoon, ang lahat ng namumuno sa aming pamahalaan, lalung-lalo na ang aming Pangulo.

Bigyan Mo po kami ng ibayong talino at matibay na paninindigan upang lalong tumatag at mapabuti ang ekonomiya at katiwasayan ng aming bansa.

Tulungan Mo po kami na magkaroon ng kalutasan ang mga nagaganap na kahirapan at hindi pagkakaunawaan sa iba naming kababayan.

Pag-ibayuhin Mo, Panginoon, ang aming katungkulan upang magawa namin ang mga mahahalagang panukala para sa ikabubuti at ikauunlad ng kabuhayan ng aming mamamayan at ng aming bansa.

Yamang narinig Mo na Panginoon ang aming panalangin, kami po ay taos-pusong nagpapasalamat sa Inyo at umaasa kami na Inyong igagawad and Inyong pagpapala at patnubay.

Amen.
ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General called the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abayon
Failon
Albano
Floirendo
Amante
Garcia (V.)
Amatong
Gonzalez
Ancheta
Gordon
Antonino-Custodio
Gozos
Apostol
Gullas
Aquino (A.)
Hizon
Aquino (B.)
Imperial

Arbison
Ipong
Baculio
Jaafar
Badelles
Jala
Banaag
Jaraula
Barbers
Javier
Barinaga
Jimenez
Baterina
Joson
Bautista
Lacson
Beltran
Lapus
Beratio
Leviste
Bersamin
Locsin (V.)
Bueser
Locsin (T.)
Bulut
Lopez (J.)
Cajes
Lopez (R.)
Calizo
Malanyaon
Castro
Mamba
Celeste
Marañon
Chatto
Martinez
Chiongbian
Matalam
Chipeco
Mathay
Chungalao
Maza
Cojuangco (M.)
Montilla
Dangwa
Nicolas
De Guzman
Nieva
De Venecia
Nograles
Del Mar
Ocampo
Dimaporo
Olaño
Dumarpa
Ortega
Dy (F.)
Pichay
Ermita-Buhain
Plaza
Escudero
Punzalan
Espino

Ramiro
Espinosa (Emilio)
Real
Estrella
Reyes (V.)
Roco
Teves
Rodriguez (I.)
Torres
Rodriguez (O.)
Tulagan
Roman
Unico
Salapuddin
Uy (E.)
Saludo
Uy (R.)
Sandoval (F.)
Veloso
Santiago
Vicencio
Seachon
Villar
Silverio
Villarama
Singson
Villareal
Soon-Ruiz
Violago
Suarez
Wacnang
Sumulong
Yapha
Suplico
Ylagan
Sy-Alvarado
Yumul-Hermida
Taganas Layus
Zamora (R.)
Taliño-Santos
Zubiri

With 122 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix I)

The following Members appeared after the Roll Call:

Abad
Fua
Ablan
Fuentebella
Acosta
Garcia (E.)
Almario
Garin
Amin
Gatchalian
Andaya
Gonzales
Angara-Castillo
Gunigundo
Angping
Joaquin
Bacani

Kintanar
Biazon
Lagman Luistro
Bondoc
Ledesma
Cagas
Lobregat
Calalay
Lozada
Castelo Daza
Macarambon
Cayetano
Mitra
Cojuangco (C.)
Monfort
Cruz
Moreno
Cruz-Ducut
Nantes
Cua
Padilla
Cuenco
Paras
Dadivas
Perez
Defensor (A.)
Pilando
Defensor (T.)
Puentevella
Domogan
Ramirez-Sato
Durano
Remulla
Dy (C.)
Reyes (E.)
Echiverri
Romualdo
Ecleo
Rosales
Enrile
Salceda
Espina
San Juan
Sandoval (V.)
Zamora (M.)
Solis
Zialcita
Umali (Aurelio.)

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Rep. Francis G. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body approved the Journal of the previous session.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Subsequently, Rep. Escudero acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests:

1. Officials and members of the delegation from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), People's Republic of China: Mr. Wu Shumin, Deputy Director General of the International Department of the Communist Party of China; Mrs. Feng Yueping, First Secretary of the International Department; Mr.

Wu Baocai, First Secretary of the International Department and Ms. Ai Hong, the interpreter;

2. Embassy officials from the PROC, namely: Madame Tong Xiaoling, Political Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission; Third Secretary Ms. Rao Hui Hua and Mr. Chen Di.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair stated that the House of Representatives was privileged and honored to welcome the special delegation from the Communist Party of China, the largest political party in Asia and the world, as they try to strengthen relations with political parties in the Philippines.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Thereupon, Rep. Escudero further acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of students from the Calauag Central College of Calauag, Quezon, headed by Professor Hideliza P. Noscal, who were guests of Rep. Georgilu R. Yumul-Hermida.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.
Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions, including the Communication, which were referred to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING
House Bill No. 2509, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE THOUSAND LINEAL METERS CONCRETE SEAWALL IN BARANGAY UNO-MAPALAD, MUNICIPALITY OF PALUAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2510, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING OCCIDENTAL MINDORO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAMBURAO, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AS MAMBURAO NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2511, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING MINA DE ORO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, BARANGAY BAGONG SIKAT, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AS MINA DE ORO NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2512, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONWIDE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2513, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL"
By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2514, entitled:
"AN ACT NAMING THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG ARTERIAL ROAD (STAR) TO APOLINARIO MABINI SUPERHIGHWAY (AMS)"
By Representative Reyes (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
House Bill No. 2515, entitled:

"AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE AUTHORIZED KEY POSITIONS AND APPROPRIATE RANKS IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVE FORCE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8186, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Solis
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2516, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DREDGING AND DIKING OF THE TULLAHAN, POLO AND ADJOINING RIVERS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF VALENZUELA CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2517, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CLEANING, REPAIR AND EXPANSION OF CANALS, SEWERAGE AND WATERWAYS WITHIN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF VALENZUELA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"
By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2518, entitled:
"AN ACT ALLOWING MARRIED OR LEGALLY SEPARATED WOMEN TO USE THEIR MAIDEN FIRST NAME AND SURNAME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 370 AND 372 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND ARTICLE 63 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, SERIES OF 1987, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"
By Representative Rodriguez (O.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS
House Bill No. 2519, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY OZAMIZ (GUBA), MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE OZAMIZ (GUBA) NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramiro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2520, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE GAUDENCIO ABORDO MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (GAMNHS) ANNEX IN BARANGAY BALAGUEN, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALAGUEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNDING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Sandoval (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2521, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CALANDAGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF ARACELI, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE CALANDAGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNDING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Sandoval (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2522, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, LAGUNA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2523, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THREE (3) BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUYAO, LAGUNA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION FOURTEEN OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2524, entitled:
"AN ACT DECLARING THE RIGHTS OF PATIENTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
House Bill No. 2525, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FIVE-YEAR EMERGENCY SCHOOLBUILDING PROGRAM APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2526, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8545, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT' PROVIDING FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER OR COUPON SYSTEM IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE, THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2527, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TO ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF COCONUT FARMERS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY LOW PRICES OF COPRA AND OTHER COCONUT PRODUCTS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2528, entitled:
"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, INCREASING THE MONTHLY COMPENSATION OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2529, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 215 AND 216 OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, BY UPGRADING THE SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF LABOR ARBITERS AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2530, entitled:
"AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE, THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE COMMISSION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Angara-Castillo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2531, entitled:
"AN ACT AUTHORIZING DUAL CITIZENSHIP TO AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGN CITIZENS WHO ARE FORMER FILIPINOS OR OF FILIPINO ANCESTRY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Umali (A. V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE
House Bill No. 2532, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ELECTIVE OFFICIALS RUNNING FOR ANY OFFICE OTHER THAN THE ONE WHICH THEY ARE HOLDING SHALL BE CONSIDERED IPSO FACTO RESIGNED UPON THE FILING OF THEIR CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE"
By Representative Umali (A.V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS
House Bill No. 2533, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 717, ENTITLED 'PROVIDING AN AGRARIAN REFORM CREDIT AND FINANCING SYSTEM FOR AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES THROUGH BANKING INSTITUTIONS' "
By Representative Lacson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES
House Bill No. 2534, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH (a) OF THE PENAL PROVISIONS OF GSIS ACT OF 1997 (R.A. 8291)"
By Representative Bueser
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION
House Bill No. 2535, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PIANON ANNEX IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAWIT, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PIANON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Carloto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2536, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 8 AND SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' "
By Representative Espina
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY
House Bill No. 2537, entitled:
"AN ACT SEPARATING THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY PINOMA, CITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA FROM THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE PINOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representatives Dy (F.), Albano, Abaya (A.) and Uy (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2538, entitled:
"AN ACT SEPARATING THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, CITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA FROM THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALSO IN THE CITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representatives Dy (F.), Albano, Abaya (A.) and Uy (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2539, entitled:
"AN ACT SEPARATING THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY VILLA LUNA, CITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA FROM THE ISABELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE VILLA LUNA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representatives Dy (F.), Albano, Abaya (A.) and Uy (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2540, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM IN THE PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUIMARAS NATIONAL MUSEUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Espinosa (E.T.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2541, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED CAPACITY MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN LORENZO, PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN LORENZO MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Espinosa (E.T.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2542, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGIONALIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS PAYROLL SERVICE DIVISION AND PROVIDING FOR FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Gullas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2543, entitled:
"AN ACT INCLUDING LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) IN THE LIST OF BASIC NECESSITIES AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"
By Representative Pichay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY
House Bill No. 2544, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE SURIGAO DEL SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANDAG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SURIGAO DEL SUR STATE UNIVERSITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Pichay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2545, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE PULUNG SANTOL HIGH SCHOOL-ANNEX IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PORAC, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, INTO AN INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PORAC HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Cruz-Ducut
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 2546, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERPASS AT THE INTERSECTION OF D. JAKOSALEM STREET AND GEN. MAXILOM AVENUE IN THE CITY OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2547, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RORO FERRY LANDING FACILITIES AT THE CEBU CITY PIER AND AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, AND A COASTAL ROAD FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA TO LAPU-LAPU CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2548, entitled:
"AN ACT ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO EMPLOYMENT, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN
House Bill No. 2549, entitled:
"AN ACT PUNISHING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DEFINING THE PUNISHABLE ACTS, PROVIDING PROTECTION MEASURES AND PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS
House Bill No. 2550, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER IN EACH OF THE 46 BARANGAYS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CEBU CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2551, entitled:
"AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF GUBA EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, LOCATED IN CEBU CITY, FROM TEN (10) TO TWENTY FIVE (25)-BED CAPACITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2552, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX BY LANDOWNERS WHOSE PROPERTY, FROM WHICH THE TAX IS DUE AND ACCRUING, IS OCCUPIED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SQUATTERS AND FOR OTHER RELEVANT PURPOSES"
By Representative Perez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
House Bill No. 2553, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 39 (A)(1) OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS INVESTMENT CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Baculio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
House Bill No. 2554, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN DIWAT, BARANGAY BUENAVISTA, MUNICIPALITY OF BONIFACIO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DIWAT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ramiro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2555, entitled:
"AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY SCHOOL INSPECTIONS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Rodriguez (O.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
House Bill No. 2556, entitled:
"AN ACT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE ORIGINAL BOUNDARY LINES BETWEEN THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA AND THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE"
By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
House Bill No. 2557, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION, THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2558, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2559, entitled:
"AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7903, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995' "
By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
House Bill No. 2560, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED CAPACITY MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUNAG, PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIBUNAG MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Espinosa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2561, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGONG BAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF EL NIDO, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE BAGONG BAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNDING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Sandoval (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2562, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE GAUDENCIO ABORDO MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (GAMNHS) ANNEX IN BARANGAY BALADING, BARANGAY CUYO, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALADING NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNDING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Sandoval (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2563, entitled:
"AN ACT REGULATING HARBOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AND THE CONDUCT OF HARBOR PILOTS IN ALL PORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES"
By Representative Suplico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
House Bill No. 2564, entitled:
"AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 910, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Suplico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2565, entitled:
"AN ACT RE-CLASSIFYING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO A REGULAR LAND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS LAND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OFFICE, BAROTAC VIEJO, ILOILO"
By Representative Suplico
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2566, entitled:
"AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLE 217 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE MAKING THE FAILURE TO LIQUIDATE CASH ADVANCE WITHIN THE PERIOD PROVIDED THEREIN A PRIMA FACIE PROOF OF MALVERSATION"
By Representative Lapus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS
House Bill No. 2567, entitled:
"AN ACT PENALIZING THE APPROPRIATION, ENCROACHMENT, REGISTRATION AND TITLING OF CREEKS, ESTEROS, STREAMS, CANALS, RIVER BANKS AND OTHER PUBLIC WATERWAYS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Duavit
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE
House Bill No. 2568, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR COUNTRYSIDE AND BARANGAY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

(CBBEs), GRANTING EXEMPTIONS FROM ANY AND ALL GOVERNMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Teves
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
House Bill No. 2569, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN FERNANDO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2570, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA MARIA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SANTA MARIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2571, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF FERROL, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE FERROL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2572, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN AGUSTIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2573, entitled:
"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) FOR THE CEMENTING OF VARIOUS BARANGAY PATHWALKS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2574, entitled:
"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS FARM TO MARKET ROADS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORCUERA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2575, entitled:
"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC MARKET IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORCUERA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE CORCUERA PUBLIC MARKET"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2576, entitled:
"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00) FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE RURAL HEALTH UNIT BUILDING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORCUERA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2577, entitled:
"AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORCUERA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2578, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA FE, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SANTA FE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Ylagan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2579, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING LOCALLY ESTABLISHED HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN THE 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF SURIGAO DEL SUR INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AS STATED HEREIN AND

CORRESPONDINGLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Falcon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2580, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN ILOG PROPER, MUNICIPALITY OF ILOG, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alvarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2581, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PO-OK, HINOBA-AN, MUNICIPALITY OF HINOBA-AN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BILBAO UYBICO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alvarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2582, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE CANDONI (POBLACION) EXTENSION CLASS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDONI, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FROM THE CANINGAY BARANGAY HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE QUERICO G. MANZANO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF"
By Representative Alvarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2583, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONCRETING OF BARANGAYS POBLACION 1, ABACA, TOMINA, SURA, MOLOBOLO, LA-A AND CAMINDANGAN, ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL"
By Representative Alvarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2584, entitled:
"AN ACT PENALIZING INFLUENCE PEDDLING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE
House Bill No. 2585, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE SUBDISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DIMASALANG, 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE INTO A REGULAR DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS '2ND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS,' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Seachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2586, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VILLAHERMOSA, MUNICIPALITY OF CAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF MASBATE TO BE KNOWN AS 'VILLAHERMOSA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Seachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2587, entitled:
"AN ACT DIVIDING CAWAYAN DISTRICT INTO TWO (2) SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BE KNOWN AS 'CAWAYAN WEST AND CAWAYAN EAST' IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAWAYAN, 3RD DISTRICT OF MASBATE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Seachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2588, entitled:
"THE SOLAR CONVERSION POWER SYSTEMS ACT OF 2001"
By Representative Abayon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2589, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL EIGHT (8) POSITIONS OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR THE HORACIO DELA COSTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY, AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2590, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE (3)-STOREY NINE (9)-CLASSROOM SCHOOL BUILDING FOR THE AMPARO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2591, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL SEVENTEEN (17) POSITIONS OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR THE CONGRESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2592, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE (3)-STOREY NINE (9)-CLASSROOM SCHOOL BUILDING FOR THE URDUJA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2593, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL THIRTY-THREE (33)-POSITIONS OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR THE CAMARIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2594, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL THIRTEEN (13)-POSITIONS OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR THE CIELITO ZAMORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY, AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2595, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL SEVENTY (70)-POSITIONS OF CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR THE CAMARIN-D ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY, AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Echiverri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2596, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TWENTY-FIVE (25)-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY GUINOMAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DIPLAHAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Cabilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2597, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TWENTY-FIVE (25)-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALANGAS, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Cabilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2598, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG DEPENDENT DETECTION AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IPIL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Cabilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2599, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANOLO FORTICH INTO A COMPONENT CITY OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF MANOLO FORTICH"
By Representative Acosta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
House Bill No. 2600, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUHI-TAMBO-TUBIGAN ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM PROVINCIAL ROAD TO NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alfelor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2601, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING TANDAAY (NABUA)-LIBON (ALBAY BOUNDARY) ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF

CAMARINES SUR, FROM PROVINCIAL ROAD TO NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alfelor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2602, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE IRIGA CITY-BUHI-LIDONG (ALBAY BOUNDARY) ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM PROVINCIAL ROAD TO NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alfelor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2603, entitled:
"AN ACT CONVERTING THE ANAYAN, PAWILI JUNCTION-BULA-PALSONG-TOPAZ (NABUA) ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM PROVINCIAL ROAD TO NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Alfelor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2604, entitled:
"AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS HOSTING A SANITARY LANDFILL FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION'S WASTE MATERIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Alfelor
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
House Bill No. 2605, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A P125 DAILY ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE WAGE AND SALARY RATES OF EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representatives Beltran, Maza and Ocampo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
House Bill No. 2606, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD MONTHLY SALARY INCREASE IN THE WAGE AND SALARY RATES OF EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representatives Beltran, Maza and Ocampo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2607, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVELIHOOD TRAINING CENTER IN BARANGAY 19, ZONE 2, TONDO, MANILA AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Nieva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2608, entitled:
"AN ACT MANDATING EMPLOYERS TO GRANT UP TO FOUR (4) WEEKS OF UNPAID LEAVE A YEAR TO EMPLOYEES WHOSE SPOUSE, PARENT, UNMARRIED CHILD, OR WHEN THEY THEMSELVES ARE SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS ILLNESS"
By Representative Perez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
House Bill No. 2609, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FREE MEDICAL SERVICES TO RETIRED FILIPINO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -OPERATED HOSPITALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Punzalan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
House Bill No. 2610, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDELARIA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON TO BE KNOWN AS CANDELARIA SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Punzalan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2611, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ANTONIO, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Punzalan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2612, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE

MUNICIPALITY OF HINDANG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2613, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAHAPLAG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2614, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2615, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HILONGOS, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2616, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INOPACAN, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2617, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2618, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABUYOG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2619, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2620, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION AND MARKETING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATALOM, PROVINCE OF LEYTE"
By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2621, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"
By Representative Puentevella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2622, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING THE STUDENT LOAN FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
By Representative Puentevella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
House Bill No. 2623, entitled:
"AN ACT GRANTING P125.00 DAILY ACROSS-THE-BOARD IN WAGES OF FILIPINO WORKERS NATIONWIDE"
By Representatives Suplico, Syjuco and Padilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
RESOLUTIONS
House Resolution No. 124, entitled:
"RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS PROMOTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) EXEMPLIFIED BY DISTRICT ENGINEER GIL. L.

VIOJAN OF THE SAMAR FIRST DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE"
By Representative Uy (R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 125, entitled:
"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATE OF FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEM AND CAPABILITIES OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE MANOR HOTEL FIRE TRAGEDY ON AUGUST 18, 2001"
By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 126, entitled:
"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO INVESTIGATE VARIOUS ISSUES THAT BECLOUD THE CONSTRUCTION OF NAIA III TERMINAL"
By Representatives Veloso, Cajes and Santiago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 127, entitled:
"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED UNLIQUIDATED OBLIGATIONS AND CASH ADVANCES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND THEREAFTER, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS APPROPRIATE THERETO"
By Representative Lapus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 128, entitled:
"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED SPATE OF RELEASES OF PRISONERS FROM THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS-RUN FACILITIES ALLEGEDLY THROUGH THE USE OF SPURIOUS DOCUMENTS AND IN CONNIVANCE WITH PRISON OFFICIALS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY'S PENAL SYSTEM AND PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AT LARGE"
By Representative Mitra
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 129, entitled:
"RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON FISCAL AND TRADE POLICIES THAT MAY BE USED TO EMPOWER OUR TANNERY AND LEATHER-BASED INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING THE SHOE INDUSTRY, TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET"
By Representatives de Guzman and Nicolas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
House Resolution No. 130, entitled:
"RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING THE OIL DEPOT LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT OF PANDACAN IN THE CITY OF MANILA INTO A SAFER PLACE OUTSIDE METRO MANILA"
By Representative Veloso
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
House Resolution No. 131, entitled:
"RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OPPOSE THE REPORTED RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE VALUE ADDED TAX RATE FROM THE CURRENT TEN PERCENT TO ELEVEN PERCENT AND EXCISE TAXES ON COVERED PRODUCTS BY TWENTY-ONE PERCENT (21%)"
By Representatives Zubiri and Barbers
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

With the permission of the Body, the following Members were made coauthors of the Bills and Resolutions hereunder indicated:

Rep. Plaridel M. Abaya for House Bill No. 187;

Rep. Harlin Cast. Abayon for House Bill No. 1764;

Rep. Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles for House Bills No. 186, 187, 189, 191, 194, 196, 211, 282, 298, 341, 1029 and 1030;

Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon for House Bill No. 1908;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 1106;
Rep. Zenaida G. Cruz-Ducut for House Bills No. 1024 and 1027;

Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco for House Bills No. 45 and 1031;

Rep. Ma. Theresa T. Defensor for House Bill No. 300, 966 and 975;

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar for House Bills No. 694, 2138, 2140, 2298, 2336, 2351, 2376, 2385, 2423, 2443, 2444, 2446, 2487, 2497, 2490, 2491, 2493, and House Resolution No. 80;

Rep. Francis G. Escudero for House Bills No. 133, 531, 382, 388, 1130, 1270, 1273, 1357 and 1809;

Rep. Eladio "Boy" Jala for House Bills No. 1803, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1813, 1817 and 1914;

Rep. Gerardo S. Espina for House Bills No. 245, 362, 363, 364, 373, 374, 384, 497, 836, 915, 916, 909, 1126, 1131, 1414, 1542 and 1801;

Rep. Edgar T. Espinosa for House Bills No. 694 and 1682;

Rep. Uliran T. Joaquin for House Bill No. 546, 771, 773, 776 and 791;

Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco for House Bills No. 1010, 1011, 1012 and 1026;

Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita for House Bills No. 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 47, 48, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 90, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1682, 1684, 1763 and 1772;
Reps. Roque R. Ablan Jr., Biazon, Fred H. Castro, Ernie Dulalas Clarete, Tomas M. Dumpit, Ismael G. Mathay III, Narciso D. Monfort, Manuel C. Ortega, Gilbert C. Remulla, Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo, Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr., Eduardo K. Veloso, Celso L. Lobregat and Juan Miguel F. Zubiri for House Bills No. 27 and 24; and House Joint Resolution No. 2;

Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula for House Bills No. 84, 131, 133, 526, 621, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1034, 2031 and House Resolution No. 84;
Rep. Marcelino C. Libanan for House Bills No. 9, 27 and 34; and House Joint Resolution No. 2;

Reps. Raul M. Gonzalez, Zubiri, Escudero, Krisel Lagman-Luistro, Lorna C. Silverio, Roseller L. Barinaga and Ablan for House Bill No. 1682;

Rep. Rafael P. Nantes for House Bill No. 186;

Rep. Prospero C. Nograles for House Bills No. 2412, 2420, 2421, 2423, 2427, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2446, 2585, House Resolution No. 120 and House Joint Resolution No. 4;

Reps. Aleta C. Suarez, Constantino G. Jaraula, Cynthia A. Villar and Biazon for House Bill No. 1907;

Rep. Wilfrido B. Villarama for House Bills No. 309, 1907, 1909 and 2257;

Rep. Eleuterio R. Violago for House Bill No. 2272;

Reps. Rodolfo S. San Luis and Perpetuo B. Ylagan for House Bill No. 300; and

Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" E. Zamora for House Bill No. 1106 and House Resolution No. 85.

COMMUNICATION
2000 Annual Financial Report of the National Government (Volume I)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MOTION OF REP. ESCUDERO

At this point, it being a Monday, Rep. Escudero moved that the Chair declare a Privilege Hour.

However, before the Body could act on the motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Jacinto V. Paras for his parliamentary inquiry.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. PARAS

Rep. Paras stated that earlier, the Secretary General had read the Bills and Resolutions on First Reading which the Chair had referred to various committees. However, he noted that several Resolutions which were supposed to have been referred to particular Committees had instead been referred to the Committee on Rules. He then cited that although Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco's speech regarding certain violations of telecommunications companies had supposedly been referred to the Committee on Transportation and Communications, the same has not yet been properly referred to the aforementioned Committee.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Escudero explained that the previous week, the Majority and Minority contingent had met to finalize the proposed Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid Legislation. He expressed hope that the same would be finalized within the week. In view thereof, he said that most of the Resolutions which had been filed earlier only seek to direct a certain committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation such that the mere act of referral constitutes an approval thereof by the House. Moreover, he said that the subcommittee of the Committee on Rules tasked to draft the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation has proposed to streamline the procedure by first referring the Resolution to the Rules Committee which, in turn, will refer the same to certain committees that will conduct the inquiries in aid of legislation.

He thereafter expressed hope that these matters would be clarified once the Committee on Rules presents before the Body the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation within the week.

With due respect to the Committee on Rules, Rep. Paras noted that in the past weeks, said practice had caused delays in the referral of various bills and resolutions to the appropriate committees when the Members could have to acted upon said measures. Pending such action, he said that the measure were still with the Committee on Rules. He then expressed hope that the situation would be remedied by now.

The Chair stated that he recognizes the need to respond to Rep. Paras' statement; thus, the Acting Majority Leader had announced the necessary steps being undertaken by the Committee on Rules.

THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

It being a Monday, on a previous motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour.
Subsequently, on motion of Rep. Escudero, the Chair recognized Rep. Raul V. Del Mar to deliver his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DEL MAR

At the outset, Rep. Del Mar informed the Body of a Supreme Court decision that had been rendered on August 24, 2001 which may seriously undermine the lives of the people of Cebu, the Visayas and Mindanao, and in the end, set back progress in said places.

According to newspaper reports, Rep. Del Mar continued, the Supreme Court had ruled on August 25, 2001 that the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) has a

valid franchise to operate and manage jai-alai games. He maintained that this is a reversal of what the Supreme Court had stated in its Resolution of November 29, 2000 that the PAGCOR is without any legislative authority to operate jai-alai. He added that said decision was affirmed only two months ago in a resolution dated June 19, 2001.

At this point, Speaker De Venecia relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Gerry A. Salapuddin.

Thereupon, Rep. Del Mar recalled that on May 6, 1999, then Congressman Raoul B. Del Mar of Cebu City had petitioned the Supreme Court to prohibit PAGCOR from operating jai-alai by itself or in agreement with Belle Corporation on the ground that PAGCOR had no legislative franchise to operate jai-alai. He disclosed that said petition was joined on July 1, 1999 by Rep. Federico S. Sandoval II and by former Rep. Michael T. Defensor who had filed a petition for injunction arguing that jai-alai is not included in PAGCOR's franchise and that the latter had usurped Congress' authority to grant franchises. Even Rep. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri was also with them, as he had filed a Petition in Intervention on the ground that the PAGCOR franchise did not and does not include the operation of jai-alai, he added.

Upon the instance of some Members of the House of Representatives, Rep. Del Mar said that the issue of PAGCOR's questionable authority to operate jai-alai had reached the Supreme Court. He disclosed that the cases were consolidated and it was on this basis that the Supreme Court had rendered its aforementioned rulings.
At this point, Rep. Del Mar clarified his position as to why he was bringing up the issue before the Body. Records will show, he continued, that he has consistently opposed gambling despite the promise of benefits and revenues that will help improve the lives of the country's marginalized sectors. He thereafter focused on another gambling activity called masiao which is a popular game in the Visayas and Mindanao and is rooted in jai-alai and the ills it breeds. When jai-alai was banned, he noted that masiao had been reduced to insignificant levels; hence, with jai-alai in business, masiao shall again be back with a vengeance. Thus, he cautioned that the people of Cebu will have to contend with criminal activities and shady dealings that masiao will surely bring. He said that the Cebu police system should therefore be fully mobilized to have masiao operations under tight watch.

Furthermore, Rep. Del Mar emphasized the House's legislative prerogative which is reason enough for concern. The basic principle, he emphasized, is that gambling is a prohibited activity because it violates public policy and morals and can only be allowed by a clear and express mandate of Congress.

Rep. Del Mar subsequently stressed that he took the floor not to question the integrity and competence of the Supreme Court justices. He opined that the reversal of the Supreme Court's two earlier rulings may simply be taken as a case of the majority of justices yielding to the "force of better reasoning." Neither is he pointing to the "cracks, crevices and loopholes" of the judicial resolution that gave PAGCOR what it wanted, he underscored, this as he expressed respect for the sub judice rule. He said that technically, the matter is still with the Supreme Court and any legal action is for the legal parties to the case to take.

It is the method, the process of decision, that raises a serious concern, Rep. Del Mar pointed out. Given the way the jai-alai issue had been decided, he asked when a legal question directly brought before the Supreme Court can be deemed as having been settled with finality. In this case, he said that the same principal issue of whether or not PAGCOR is empowered to operate jai-alai had already been adjudicated twice by the honorable Court en banc -- first in a 47-page Resolution dated November 29, 2001, as concurred in by 10 justices, and thereafter, after seven months, in a Resolution dated June 19, 2001, as concurred in by eight justices. He added that both decisions had directly addressed the issue.

Then referring to the Supreme Court Resolution of August 24, 2001 favorably deciding PAGCOR's Motion for Clarification dated July 6, 2001, Rep. Del Mar noted that in a brief period of two months from the date of PAGCOR's motion, the latter had prayed that the Court Resolution "be clarified to state that PAGCOR is authorized by Presidential

Decree No. 1869 to conduct, operate and manage the jai-alai operations." The Supreme Court had granted the desired clarification without PAGCOR raising new arguments that had not been raised at length by the Court, he noted. While it may be called a clarification, he stressed that it is still a reversal of the principal position that had earlier been taken twice by the same tribunal.

It is not material that the Supreme Court has limited its clarification to saying that PAGCOR can operate jai -alai by itself and through or with other entities, Rep. Del Mar opined. He pointed out that the evil effect that the government has been guarding against is the same.

Pursuing his point, Rep. Del Mar stressed that this gives the impression that the Supreme Court can make any ruling of right and wrong at its pleasure, and can fix the meaning of the law at will. He asked how many times the Supreme Court must take a second look before it can settle a resolution of a legal issue with finality.

What is worse, Rep. Del Mar lamented, is for the Supreme Court's Assistant Information Officer Conrad Tolentino to come out with a statement that the "case is now closed". He said that the case should have been, but was not declared, closed a long time ago when the Supreme Court had decided the very same issue twice, when it had denied PAGCOR's Motion for Reconsideration.

Rep. Del Mar thereupon referred to the universal principle of law and jurisprudence that judicial power is never exercised for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the judge; always for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the legislature, to the will of the law. It is worth noting, he continued, that Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario P. Davide Jr. who incidentally is a Cebuano, has been consistent in saying that PAGCOR does not have the authority to operate jai-alai.

The issue of jai-alai is not merely a legal issue -- it also involves peace and order, public policy and public morals, Rep. Del Mar stressed. Unless something is done to stop PAGCOR, he cautioned that it will soon open its jai- alai frontons and off-fronton betting stations. He thereafter appealed to Reps. Sandoval (F.) and Zubiri even as a symbolic gesture of dissent and protest, to file a Motion for Reconsideration of the Supreme Court's clarification, as this appears to be the only judicial remedy. He lamented that he has no legal personality to do so much as he wanted to. This, as he disclosed that former Congressman Del Mar is pursuing advanced medical studies in the United States.

However, Rep. Del Mar stated that he would still be doing his part. First, he said that he would write to the President to direct PAGCOR not to operate and conduct jai-alai games in view of its ill effects in his city, province and region. Second, he disclosed that he would file a bill limiting the operations of PAGCOR to gambling casinos. He expressed hope that this, with the support of his colleagues, will settle the issue of jai-alai with finality.

In closing, he said that the Archbishop of Cebu, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal had written President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, praying that PAGCOR be stopped from operating jai-alai, knowing the evils and undesirable consequences of masiao.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Escudero, the session was suspended at 4:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ESCUDERO

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Escudero manifested that the following Members had registered to interpellate Rep. Del Mar: Reps. Antonio V. Cuenco, Sandoval (F.) and Enrico R. Echiverri.

SUSPENSION OF REP. DEL MAR'S TIME

Upon previous agreement with the other registrants of the Privilege Hour, on motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body suspended Rep. Del Mar's time.

The Chair thereafter recognized Rep. Prospero C. Nograles for his parliamentary inquiry.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. NOGRALES

Rep. Nograles inquired to which committee Rep. Del Mar's speech was referred.

Rep. Escudero clarified that said speech has not yet been referred to any committee because the time of Rep. Del Mar has been suspended to accommodate the other registrants of the Privilege Hour. He added that after the interpellations on Rep. Del Mar's speech, then the referral of the speech and the interpellations thereon would be accepted by the Body.

MOTION OF REP. NOGRALES

Subsequently, Rep. Nograles moved that the Body refer Rep. Del Mar's speech to the Committee on Games and Amusements.

REMARKS OF REP. ESCUDERO

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Escudero said that at the proper time, Rep. Del Mar's speech and the interpellations thereon would be referred by the Body to the Committee on Games and Amusements. He clarified that he had already manifested that some Members had registered to interpellate Rep. Del Mar, hence there would be interpellations on said speech.

RESERVATION OF REP. NOGRALES

Rep. Nograles thereupon reserved to file his motion at the proper time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Escudero acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the following guests: Mayor Umali, Councilor Bait and barangay captains of Tiaong, Quezon, with Barangay Association President Landicho, who were guests of Rep. Lynnette A. Punzalan.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Escudero, the Chair recognized Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula to deliver his privilege speech.
PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. JARAULA

Rep. Jaraula focused on an issue that has been debated on the floor, captured the imagination of many and gained the contempt of some -- the matter of changing structurally the country's system of government.

Observing that for a long time, the country has adopted the presidential system of government imposed by the Americans under the 1935 Constitution, he noted that the Filipino people had gone through debates that had started with the 1971 Constitutional Convention. As a result thereof, he continued, the country had come up with a parliamentary system under the 1973 Constitution, but which system had never been implemented because it was ratified at the time of the Martial Law years.

The Constitution, Rep. Jaraula then said, was amended in 1976 and again in 1981 so that the country could revert to the presidential system.

Thereupon, Rep. Jaraula noted the following other developments:

1. In the Constitutional Commission of 1986, the debate as to whether a presidential or parliamentary system of government should be adopted was decided upon by only one vote at both the committee and plenary levels.

2. After the seventh coup attempt in 1989 and up to 1990, there was a strong clamor for and debate on, a change of the Constitution and a shift to a parliamentary system; and an honest movement advocating these changes which came into being was killed as it was unfairly charged with trying to accommodate former President Corazon C. Aquino whose term would expire in 1992.

3. After the aforecited movement expired in 1992, it was revived in 1993 and 1994; however, some sectors argued that it was not time for the legislature to tinker with the Constitution as there were more pressing matters that the nation had to attend to.

4. After said movement was set aside, the "PIRMA" movement was born, which was again met with much heated debate and was also unfairly suspected of being favored by former President Fidel V. Ramos because he wanted to be Prime Minister.

5. At the beginning of the Eleventh Congress, upon the birth of another movement seeking the restructuring of the government, former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada created a commission for this purpose; however, nothing happened after the commission had come up with an expensive report.

At this point, Rep. Jaraula observed that the current political climate is different compared to that prevailing in the Aquino and Ramos administrations. He explained that unlike former Presidents Aquino and Ramos who were inhibited from seeking re-election, President Macapagal-Arroyo will still qualify to run for the presidency in 2004 despite having served the last three years of a six-year term. He concluded that it is thus timely to venture into an examination of the form of government in the country.

Rep. Jaraula pointed out that the presidential system concentrates too much power in the Office of the President, as evidenced by the Members' "exodus" to Malacañang upon the convening of a new Congress. The evils that the country faces, he explained, arise from the fact that the party system is not anchored on principles or programs but on personalities. He lamented the fact that although the Philippines during the Liberation period had ranked number two to Japan after having been one of the most devastated communities in the world by war, its subsequent growth has been hampered by a system which concentrates power in the seat of government and which focuses ambition on the presidency. He stressed that cronyism, which is the source of corruption, is promoted by a system of "utang ng loob" between a President who needs billions of pesos to get elected and his rich friends who finance his election.

Yet, Rep. Jaraula observed, some sectors still say that the Constitution should not be tinkered with because it has brought about much emotion, sentimentalism and sometimes paranoia. He noted that any honest effort towards constitutional change since 1989 has been quickly criticized, justified by the argument to devote more attention to more pressing matters such as the economy.

Rep. Jaraula however stressed that the economy has been sinking deeper and deeper ever since. He explained that without thus restructuring the system, the evils inherent in the presidential form of government -- which concentrates powers in Malacañang -- will prevent the government from solving economic problems or corruption itself. He advanced that the presidential system is not responsive because the fixed term of office it provides to the Chief Executive makes him arrogant knowing he cannot be removed from office unless -- as has been shown in two instances in Philippine history -- through "people power" with the support of the military.

Rep. Jaraula then asked what the country has gained after people power or if the latter has contributed to the stability of the country and the strengthening of the government. He stressed that so many Filipinos still live in abject poverty, especially in the urban areas. He concluded that for all the emotion and paranoia against changing the presidential system, the latter has not solved the problems of the

nation.

Subsequently, Rep. Jaraula opined that it is time to look for alternatives because this is the mandate of the sovereign people. He reminded his colleagues that they are in Congress not to maintain tradition but to look for solutions and alternatives. He proposed that the Members seriously consider the adoption of a parliamentary system of government which converges the legislative and executive branches and retains the independence of the judiciary, as compared to the presidential system which separates the three branches from each other.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. AMANTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Edelmiro A. Amante asked whether he could ask Rep. Jaraula some questions even in the middle of delivering his speech.

With the permission of the Chair, Rep. Escudero said that Rep. Jaraula has the floor and he can yield to Rep. Amante if he wishes.

Rep. Jaraula said that while he welcomes Rep. Amante's request, he can answer his questions better when he shall have finished his speech.

After the Chair noted that Rep. Amante will be the first Member to interpellate Rep. Jaraula at the proper time, Rep. Amante said that he will wait for the latter to finish his speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. JARAULA
(Continuation)

Rep. Jaraula then added that under a parliamentary system, executive-legislative wrangling could be eliminated and the vetoing of measures (such as the two franchise bills that President Macapagal-Arroyo had recently disapproved) could be avoided. He explained that because the Prime Minister is chosen from among the Members of Parliament and his term depends on the confidence of his peers (if based on the 1973 Constitution), he cannot afford to be arrogant or to abuse his powers. He added that because the members of the Cabinet are also members of the Legislature, the assemblymen would always be in open dialogue with the members of the Executive. He also said that Members of Parliament need not go to the offices of the Cabinet officials but can immediately bring up their problems to the latter during the sessions of the Assembly. He pointed out that as a result, consensus would be swiftly secured, delayed action avoided, and government funds saved.

Rep. Jaraula contended that the country does not have to go through another exercise of "people power" with military backing. Saying he has nothing against "people power", he commented that there is something wrong if "people power" can succeed only if supported by the military. He added that there are coup rumors in the Senate itself.

Whereupon, Rep. Jaraula said that if the country is not prepared for a parliamentary system, the presidential system must be anchored on a unicameral assembly. He explained that billions of pesos worth of resources for maintaining another chamber in the legislature can therefore be redirected to agricultural development, more rural health units or more tertiary hospitals. He pointed out that Manila has many specialty hospitals, but a poor family from Mindanao would need a lifetime income to spend in coming to Manila to avail of the services of these establishments. He added that in addressing the problems of the poor, the government must first determine how it can save as much money for them.

In closing, he stressed that unless the structure of government is changed, not tomorrow but today, it cannot properly and responsively address the country's economic problems.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Thereupon, Rep. Escudero acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the

delegation from the Kabataang Liberal ng Pilipinas (KALIPI) headed by Mr. Elmer Baldemoro, regional chairman from Bicol and national vice president for community affairs, who were guests of Rep. Cho Roco.

The Chair then recognized Rep. Amante for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. AMANTE

Rep. Amante initially asked whether the presidential system of government has existed since the time of Emilio Aguinaldo or for a little over 100 years.

Replying in the affirmative, Rep. Jaraula said that in between that time there had been honest efforts to shift to a parliamentary system of government.

On whether not much progress has been achieved towards this endeavor, Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative.

On whether the parliamentary system of government would be beneficial to the people be they from Mindanao, Visayas, Bicol, or other regions, Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative.

Stating that he is an advocate of federalism, Rep. Jaraula clarified, however, that the country is not prepared for it given the present economic conditions and the precarious peace and order situation in Mindanao. It is for this reason, he said, that he is approaching the issue on a step by step basis.

Quoting a famous line which states that "a journey of a thousand steps begins with a single step", Rep. Amante then stated that the government has been spending much time and money on follow-ups by local officials, namely, 79 governors, 65 city mayors, 1,523 municipal mayors, including officials from regional and municipal offices of national agencies. He said that most of these officials come to Manila to follow up their requests, which practice costs about P4 billion per year. Another disappointment, he added, is the non-availability of Department Secretaries who are always attending meetings or conferences. He then recalled his eight-month stint as Executive Secretary during the Ramos Administration. He said that during that time, the Executive received an average of 1,500 letters a day and considering that the present population is now about 76.5 to 80 million, the figure may even be higher. Furthermore, he said that more than half of the Members of Congress at that time did not like him because he was inaccessible, as he had, most of the time, been attending numerous meetings. He then asked how the situation could be corrected.

Agreeing therewith, Rep. Jaraula said that Rep. Amante was speaking from experience.

Rep. Amante further observed that due to the current peso devaluation, the government could now be spending P6 billion that could have otherwise been used to develop the countryside. He stressed that it is about time that the government take a bold step and adopt a parliamentary-federal form of government instead of just changing it from a presidential to a parliamentary system of government.

Rep. Jaraula replied that although the government may adopt both -- a federal-parliamentary or a federal-presidential system, -- under the present circumstances, the country may not be prepared to adopt a federal form of government. At the proper time, he said that he will join Rep. Amante in espousing federalism, as he had done so many years ago and which had caused him to be detained for two nights due to a mistaken belief that the Alexander Noble episode was aimed at installing a federal system in the country starting from Agusan to Cagayan de Oro City.

SUSPENSION OF REP. AMANTE'S
INTERPELLATION

At this point, on motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body momentarily suspended the interpellation of Rep. Amante to allow AKBAYAN Party-List Representative Loretta Ann P. Rosales to take her oath of office before Speaker De Venecia following COMELEC Resolution No. 01-008 dated August 27, 2001, proclaiming

AKBAYAN as having won a seat in the House.
At this juncture, the Chair requested the family members and friends of Rep. Rosales to ascend the rostrum for the oath-taking.
At this point, Deputy Speaker Salapuddin relinquished the Chair to Speaker De Venecia
OATH-TAKING OF REP. ROSALES
Thereafter, Rep. Rosales took her oath of office before the Body, with Speaker De Venecia officiating.
Whereupon, the Speaker relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Salapuddin.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. AMANTE
(Continuation)

In pursuing his interpellation, Rep. Amante opined that the Executive is not capable of taking care of all of the country's problems and while it may always have the best intentions, its biggest problem is the lack of financial resources to help upgrade the living conditions of the poor. He added that the root cause of the rebellion in Mindanao and all the other problems in the country is the government's lack of adequate economic response to the people's needs. He then asked whether the country's adoption of parliamentarism and federalism could help accelerate the implementation of solutions to the country's problems.

Rep. Jaraula replied that he is advocating a change in the structure of government from the present presidential system to a parliamentary system. As to whether the country can go a step higher to a federal system, he stated that he does not believe that it can accommodate both changes at the same time.

Rep. Amante opined that the government is perhaps afraid to take the daring step of adopting federalism.

Reacting thereto, Rep. Jaraula said that the government can readily go for a federal system of government if the majority of the Members share Rep. Amante's view on the matter. Stating that he wanted to attain something more concrete now which is why he is first advocating a shift from a presidential to a parliamentary form of government, he then expressed hope that the brilliance and wisdom of Rep. Amante could bring the country to the next higher step which is federalism, an advocacy which he likewise supports.

Rep. Amante subsequently referred to Rep. Jaraula's brilliance, even as he underscored the country's festering political, social and economic woes and suggested anew the adoption of a parliamentary-federal form of government to achieve a united, peaceful and prosperous Philippines.

Rep. Jaraula said that he basically agrees with the proposition, although he said he did not deserve the accolade given.

As regards the Abu Sayyaf problem, Rep. Amante inquired whether this should be best left to local government units to work out and resolve peacefully, considering their knowledge of the political and social conditions in their respective jurisdictions. He then asked whether a federal system of government was best fitted to resolve the Abu Sayyaf problem.

Rep. Jaraula agreed therewith. He pointed out that there were not only a few instances wherein the government panel tasked to respond to their problems did not represent the majority of the people in Mindanao. Hence, the solutions that had been prescribed therein were not relevant to their lives and concerns, he pointed out. This, he said, was one of the reasons why the Abu Sayyaf problem has continuously haunted the government.

Thereafter, Rep. Amante maintained that a federal form of government will not only correct the inequities inherent in the existing form of government and promote an effective path to progress but will also put an end to the measly budgetary allocation given to Mindanao for infrastructure development.

Rep. Jaraula concurred with these observations.

Whereupon, Rep. Amante opined that a combination of a parliamentary and federal form of government can serve as a springboard for the country's political and economic progress. This, he said, could be achieved by building on the individual strengths of each provinces and linking them up to form the collective strength of the nation.

Whereupon, on motion of Rep. Del R. De Guzman, the Chair recognized Rep. Exequiel B. Javier for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. JAVIER

Rep. Javier initially inquired whether Rep. Jaraula was indeed against the presidential form of government because of the concentration of powers in the Executive branch. Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative, explaining that this is one of the evils.

Thereupon, Rep. Javier inquired whether one of the essential features of the presidential system was the separation of powers and the checks and balances among the different branches of government.

Rep. Javier likewise noted that in the presidential form of government, another essential characteristic was the fusion of powers of both the Executive and the Legislative in the parliament.
Rep. Jaraula concurred with these observations and stressed that the convergence of the powers of both the Executive and the Legislative in one assembly would promote a better working relationship among the different government agencies.

Rep. Javier then reiterated whether the reason why Rep. Jaraula was against a presidential form of government was the concentration of powers in the Executive branch.

Rep. Jaraula replied that this was only one of the evils of the presidential form of government and another is, its inability to respond immediately to problems in government. As to whether he was not against the concentration of powers of both the Executive and the Legislative branches in a parliament, he stressed that there was no concentration of powers to speak of, but rather a sharing of powers between the Executive and the Legislative branches with the presence still of a check and balance in the system. He explained that the Prime Minister, as head of government, cannot abuse his powers knowing fully well that he owes his position to the confidence of his peers. Similarly, his peers cannot just persecute the Prime Minister since on fundamental issues, the latter can recommend the dissolution of parliament and, therefore, send them back to their legislative districts, he added.

Whereupon, Rep. Javier clarified whether the essence of Rep. Jaraula's objection to any form of government was the concentration of powers in one Chamber or in one branch of government.

Rep. Jaraula clarified that his primary objection was that the concentration of power promotes a culture of cronyism, graft and corruption. This has been the country's problem ever since, he said, hence cronies and special interest groups could be found supporting prospective presidential aspirants for political and economic clout in the future.

Rep. Javier thereafter inquired whether the same characteristics pervading in a presidential system can also be found in a parliamentary system wherein a conspiracy between the Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of parliament would also redound to cronyism, graft and corruption.

Rep. Jaraula disagreed therewith, citing the inherent limitations on the powers vested upon a Prime Minister. Foremost, a prime minister cannot spend large sums of monies to perpetuate himself in power since he does not have a fixed term of office, he explained. The same is true, he continued, with his supposed cronies, considering the uncertainty of the hold on power of their prime minister. These are the features of the

parliamentary system, he said, which discourages cronyism, graft and corruption.

Rep. Javier however noted that although Japan has a parliamentary system, their prime ministers have a history replete with allegations of scandal and wrongdoings. Over only a short period of time, the Japanese parliament had already seen several changes in prime ministers, he pointed out.

Rep. Jaraula however noted that there had been periods in the Japanese parliament wherein the Japanese had enjoyed a very stable government. Although there may have been frequent changes in leadership, the difference that lies therein, he stressed, is the stability in government. He stated that such stability cannot be found in the Philippine government which of late had already seen several changes in political leadership. Thousands of Filipinos leave the country everyday, he stressed, and the parliamentary system can stem the hemorrhage. He said that the parliamentary system may not be the best of all possible systems, but it is as of now the best alternative to a presidential system.

Rep. Jaiver pointed out it does not matter whether the Philippines has a parliamentary or presidential system of government because it is the people who make the system work. Considering that the presidential system had worked in many countries, he then asked what guarantees would there be such that concentration of powers in one branch of government would not lead to corruption or cronyism with a shift to a parliamentary system. He opined that this is not the proper time to change the system of government because the people have been used to a presidential system since the Commonwealth years. However, he conceded that some defects of the system include the six-year term of the President which should be reduced to four years, subject to a reelection for another four years.

Moreover, he underscored that the Constitution need not be amended to enable Congress to recover its power over the purse or its tariff powers provided for by law. If Congress would want to recover its powers and lessen some of Malacañang's powers, then it should act now and take control of the situation. He stressed that Congress need not call a Constitutional Convention for said purpose. This, as he opined that the presidential system should be given a chance to succeed and that it has not failed yet even if it has been put to a test.

Thereupon, Rep. De Guzman moved that the Body recognize Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita for his interpellation. The Chair stated first that Rep. Isidoro E. Real Jr. will be the next to interpellate. Subsequently, the Chair recognized Rep. Zialcita for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ZIALCITA

Considering the economic and political problems besetting the country, Rep. Zialcita inquired as to how a change in the form of government could help solve the same.

Rep. Jaraula replied that even as Rep. Zialcita and those who had opposed the move have similar sentiments thereon, the country has not improved since then but has sunk deeper because of the evils inherent in the system. To illustrate his point, he said that the same quality of people would be able to maintain their character under a parliamentary system but will lose the same when placed under a presidential system because of the latter's inherent evils for which reason everyone is aiming for the highest position which is the presidency.

On whether this involves a question of national discipline or culture rather than the form of government, Rep. Jaraula replied that it is the form of government which would help restructure the nation's culture. He recalled that in 1972, the Philippines, even before the formation of the new society which lasted for a decade, had a very good society. He pointed out that even historians had written that the first few years under the system had yielded something good. However, he noted that after reverting back to the a presidential system, the evils of politics and the abuses had returned and have been tolerated ever since, thus bringing the country to where it is today.

On whether the Philippines would suffer the same fate as the former Russia which had a parliamentary system of government, but had not been able to solve its economic and political problems, Rep. Jaraula replied that Russia was an exception because it had been dictated upon by an ideology that condemned its own people to misery because of the priority it had given to the arms race. He added that Russia would rather have had a missile than provide its people with food until its collapse, which the world witnessed. He pointed out that Russia's ideology was not a good example of a parliamentary system of government.

Rep. Zialcita countered that Russia failed because its form of government was a parliamentary system.

Rep. Jaraula explained that Russia failed because of its ideology of world domination. Moreover, he said that Russia failed because it competed with several other countries, primarily the US, in space dominance. He maintained that Russia's devotion of so much money to spaceships, missiles, armaments and the deprivation of food for, clothing and shelter for its own people had caused its collapse.

Thereupon, Rep. Zialcita inquired how Rep. Jaraula proposes to change the form of government amidst the avalanche of crucial bills that the Twelfth Congress has to rush.

Rep. Jaraula replied that the matter could be addressed simultaneously. He said that the matter of constitutional change could be undertaken by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments while the appropriate Committees could study the various measures that have been filed. He said that he used to insist on the convening of a constitutional convention, but has adjusted his position to a convening of a constituent assembly to tackle constitutional changes.

REMINDER OF THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair requested Rep. Zialcita to occupy another podium and that the two Members address each other in the third person.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ZIALCITA
(Continuation)

On whether Rep. Jaraula was proposing the holding of committee hearings for purposes of proposing amendments to the Constitution in the middle of the Twelfth Congress, Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative. He explained that the hearings and meetings can simultaneously be done because the proper Committees could attend to each of the proposals. He pointed out that it would be convenient for the Members to meet in a common place to consider proposals of a similar nature.

Rep. Zialcita thereafter inquired whether Rep. Jaraula had considered the Social Weather Station's (SWS) survey results that showed that ordinary Filipinos on the street are not in favor of a parliamentary form of government but still prefer a presidential form of government. He further inquired whether the preference of the ordinary Filipino was important.

Rep. Jaraula replied that any survey is important, but that he is not privy to any recent survey on the matter. He added that this is again a matter of apprising the people of the problem, the proposed solution and the convenience that a parliamentary system could offer them. He said that he understands that the greater majority would logically agree to a presidential system because they have been used to the system. However, he said that once the people realize that the presidential system has not yielded any additional advantage but has even sunk them deeper, then they will understand the alternative form of government -- the parliamentary system.

Rep. Zialcita pointed out that there are different variations and forms of parliamentary governments. He asked whether Rep. Jaraula was referring to the British, Russian, French, Swiss or Danish types.

Rep. Jaraula replied that he would prefer the one that had been studied by some of the

best minds in the country in the 1971 Constitutional Convention. He said that said Convention had come up with a parliamentary system of government, but the only problem was the 1973 Constitution had never been implemented because it was overtaken by Martial Law. He said that although the 1973 Constitution is not perfect, it would make for an initial starting point in a parliamentary system.

On whether the proposed exercise would only be a waste of time considering that the country is beset with serious economic and political problems, Rep. Jaraula replied that this is an opportune time to consider a change in the structure of government considering that such a change to a parliamentary system is in fact necessary for solving the country's economic problems.

At this juncture, Rep. Zialcita thanked Rep. Jaraula and ended his interpellation. On motion of Rep. De Guzman, the Chair recognized Rep. J. R. Nereus O. Acosta for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ACOSTA

At the outset, Rep. Acosta noted that several questions had already been propounded by Reps. Javier and Zialcita. He then asked whether Rep. Jaraula had underscored the whole issue of building and strengthening government and political institutions vis-a-vis the proposal for a possible shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative, adding that these are necessary components in the system.

As such, Rep. Acosta asked whether it would be safe to conclude that the institutions of the Philippine government and a larger political culture are apparently inadequate, ineffective and corruption-ridden.

Rep. Jaraula affirmed Rep. Acosta's observations, adding that these characteristics are inherent in a presidential system.

On whether the core reason for the inadequacies and inefficiencies of government is not the form or structure of government but the kind of political culture and the institutions that had emanated therefrom or that had been built out of said political culture, Rep. Jaraula replied that the country's institutions had been built under a presidential system and therefore its weaknesses, inadequacies and inefficiencies were an integral part of the system. For this reason, he said that the system should be changed if the culture or the society has to be changed.

Rep. Acosta pointed out that the situation is similar to the case of the chicken or the egg argument. He however said that it is important to understand that there are things more important than just a change in the form of government. He explained that many political studies have referred to the country as a weak state, largely personality-driven, an institution being held hostage by the very personalistic orientation of the country's political culture and patronage. He pointed out that many of these dynamics have nothing to do with upholding the institutions and the processes but the personalities who occupy positions in certain institutions. He opined that the institution of a parliamentary system with the inherent weaknesses in the social and institutional capacities of a government could worsen the condition. He asked whether the expected shifting of confidence in a coalition setup inherent in a parliamentary system would be bad or would not help strengthen government institutions.

Rep. Jaraula replied that the Philippines is the only remaining country in Asia with a presidential system of government. He pointed out that experiences of countries in Europe and Australia would show that the parliamentary system had strengthened their institutions and the character of their people by eliminating the evils inherent in a presidential system. In other words, he said that the parliamentary system cannot easily and conveniently be abused, thus a different culture of governance will be built under a parliamentary system.

Considering that the matter is still debatable, Rep. Acosta said that he will not

belabor some of points propounded by Rep. Jaraula. However, he cited the case of the Italy which, since World War II, had changed its government for over 50 times. He pointed out that said country had survived politically because its bureaucracy had withstood the constant change in the confidence of coalition governments within the parliament.

Rep. Acosta then inquired whether Rep. Jaraula is not worried that the democracy the country enjoys now would not be able to withstand such expected changes. This, as he recalled that the volatility of the country's democratic institutions had been glaringly shown the previous year from the impeachment trial to the EDSA people power uprising in January to what had been called as EDSA III in May.

He pointed out that these simply show that the democratic institutions are not strong enough to be able to address all questions concerning the process of building a culture that addresses efficiency and effectiveness within the bureaucracy. He then inquired whether in a presidential system, unpopular decisions are issued but continuity of the parliament is still preserved while in a parliamentary system, unpopular decisions, especially in a weak state like the Philippines would result in the constant changing of the government simply because of the "no confidence" vote.

Rep. Jaraula responded that Italy's experience did not last long and its government has been stable for a long time because they simply looked for a good leader and then were able to gain stability. This, he said, had happened in Japan and in France and could happen anywhere in the world although Italy had gone far ahead.

As regards the institutions and the bureaucracy, Rep. Jaraula maintained that the beauty of the parliamentary system is that it protects and preserves the strengths of democracy. In contrast, he added that the presidential system destroys the stability of the bureaucracy to practically about 30% to 40%, as well as the morale and spirit of the people each time a new administration is brought in. He stressed that this is the evil of the presidential system which would be eliminated under the parliamentary system.

RESERVATION OF REP. ACOSTA

Noting that a few other Members wished to interpellate Rep. Jaraula, Rep. Acosta reserved to pursue his interpellation on the Bill in another forum once the Bill is referred to the appropriate Committees. He then congratulated Rep. Jaraula for bringing back an issue that carries with it a host of controversies.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. De Guzman, the Chair recognized Rep. Benigno C. Aquino III for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. AQUINO (B.)

Rep. Aquino initially clarified that he is from the Second District of Tarlac. Thereupon, he inquired whether Rep. Jaraula's premise is that the parliamentary system, being subject to "no confidence" votes has to be responsive to its electorate in a faster mode than the presidential form of government.

Rep. Jaraula affirmed this point and stated that this is especially so because the leaders (meaning the prime ministers and the ministers) running the government at a particular point in time mostly come from the same parliament.

Rep. Aquino inquired whether Rep. Jaraula agrees that in countries where the parliamentary system had succeeded, there seems to be a high degree of unity and homogeneity as in the case of Japan and England which has one of the oldest parliaments in the world which resulted from civil wars that led to the unseating of the monarchy's head of state.

Rep. Jaraula affirmed this point and stated that this is especially because the parliamentary system eliminates so much of the hatred and hostility that are usually generated during national campaigns under a presidential system.

Rep. Aquino next inquired to which country the Philippines is closer in terms of unity and homogeneity: England, Japan or Israel. Rep. Jaraula replied that the Philippines may have acquired some of the features of said countries albeit it has its own distinct Filipino system.
Noting the present system in the Twelfth Congress wherein various parties are represented, Rep. Aquino inquired whether the country could come up with a parliament similar to Israel's which seems to accommodate all political parties.

Rep. Jaraula replied that this is always a possibility which depends on the development of the country and the education of the people.

On whether Rep. Jaraula envisions a distinct possibility that whoever emerges as prime minister of such parliament that may be formed could come up with diluted policies owing to his accommodation of the desires of smaller parties as in the case of Israel, among others.

Rep. Jaraula opined that the policies may not necessarily be diluted because the accommodation of various ideas may actually strengthen possible courses of action and lead to the formation of a national consensus instead of giving priority only to one dominant party.

Rep. Aquino then noted that the difference between the number of Members in the Majority and those in the Minority and asked whether the country would emulate Singapore which has only one representative of the Opposition in the parliament who lands in jail from time to time for the contrary views he espouses against the Singaporean government.

Rep. Jaraula replied in the negative and underscored that Singapore has a culture and society totally distinct from that of the Philippines. While it pretends to be democratic, he said, Singapore's government is generally anchored on respect for power which had been exercised judiciously. He added that in other societies, the same power may have produced a dictatorship.

Rep. Aquino further inquired whether Rep. Jaraula envisions in the parliamentary system he is espousing that the prime minister would be subject to a no confidence motion, make unpopular decisions and be subject to the wishes of the other Members of Parliament given the volatility of his reign as a Prime Minister.

Rep. Jaraula replied that the espousal of a cause can be unpopular at the start but because man is rational and would always respect reason for as long as it is articulated and understood, that the same cause may become popular if it is really for the good of the people.
Rep. Aquino inquired whether Rep. Jaraula agrees that in the present presidential form of government which provides for a six-year term of office for the President, the latter has the liberty to espouse even unpopular causes that may not be needed by the State if he operates within the bounds of law. He illustrated the matter of reforms in the oil industry when the law regulating the industry was passed during which widespread concern over price increases was felt. He added that there had been a popular clamor to do away with the Oil Price Stabilization Fund at that time because the Fund had been constantly draining the national coffers causing the government to pay for a lot of opportunity costs in terms of investments that are beneficial to society. He asked whether Rep. Jaraula envisions a parliamentary system wherein the Prime Minister can embark on similar unpopular causes and still hold on to his position.

Rep. Jaraula reiterated that this is simply a matter of articulating and making the people understand the matter. He added, however, that he would not want to take the Oil Deregulation Law at this time because the issue of whether said law has benefited the people or only a few is still highly questionable.

Rep. Aquino inquired whether Rep. Jaraula agrees that generally, the economy can be improved if the business community and the entrepreneurs are confident that the

policies of the government are consistent.

Rep. Jaraula agreed with this and opined that the improvement of the economy would be a faster process under a parliamentary system because confidence in the government can be maintained in a system which can respond immediately and directly to problems and can change administrations easily without having to go through what the country had seen in recent years.

Rep. Aquino next asked whether Rep. Jaraula agrees that what has been keeping the Philippine economy down is the fact that a lot of entrepreneurs have been embarking on a maximum of five-year programs instead of the long-term ones. He cited that in Japan, entrepreneurs embark on investment plans for decades primarily because there is an assurance in the business community that the new administration would retain the same policies instituted by the one that it had succeeded.

Rep. Jaraula maintained that it is because of the lack of confidence borne out of empirical knowledge that every President comes in with a new set of values most of which are defined or dictated by his financial advisers or funders to whom he owes a great deal of gratitude and thus he would favor in his administration.

Rep. Aquino then inquired what would make the Prime Minister under a parliamentary system immune from the need to cater to the needs of his financiers.

Rep. Jaraula replied that the matter involves not only a question of immunity but a radical decrease in temptation. This, as he explained that at first, one does not have to undertake a campaign to become a prime minister as all he has to do is to win in his district, be popular and lead his party because the parliamentary system is a party system. He cited the case of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a young man who is not so much known to the world but had led his party when it was down. In the cycle of political struggle, he added, Mr. Blair's party came into power and he was elected Prime Minister not because he is a towering figure but because he sacrificed for his party at the time it was down.

On whether he agrees that the key to Japan's success is the professionalism and consistency of its bureaucracy, Rep. Jaraula replied in the affirmative. He stressed that the Japanese community has been protecting a culture that has been built up by their parliamentary system where personalities are subordinated to the greater interest of the country as represented by a party.

Rep. Aquino inquired as to how Rep. Jaraula would reconcile the situation with the dictum that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." He cited that in Japan, a ministry is in charge of ensuring that banks perform their duties in accordance with the law and upon retirement, their overseers and examiners are absorbed by said banks which are now on the verge of bankruptcy and has led to the 10-year recession in the Japanese economy.

Rep. Jaraula replied that this is one case that has to be evaluated by the Japanese government although by and large, the entire parliamentary system has been stable despite changes in the administration.

Rep. Aquino maintained that this was the point he had tried to raise precisely because of the volatility of the parliamentary system, the Japanese government had needed some measure of stability which it tried to realize by increasing the power of the appointed bureaucracy which eventually became a very private club to the detriment of the entire nation.

On another point, Rep. Aquino sought clarification on Rep. Jaraula's claim that People Power I would not have succeeded without the active participation of the military.

Rep. Jaraula clarified that his statement was not in that context and explained that for him, EDSA I was something different because the participation of the military was necessary, otherwise there would have been bloodshed. The fact that there had been no bloodshed, he said, could be attributed to the consolidation of military support for

one side which supported the people.

On further query, Rep. Jaraula pointed out that he had referred to EDSA I wherein there was a consensus such that those who were identified with the incumbent had changed their minds, and this had not led to a divided military. Had the military been divided, he said, there would have been bloodshed at that time. He reiterated that EDSA I was something distinct from EDSA II.

Thereupon, Rep. Aquino recalled that the people who comprised the so-called Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM) which was the military component of the anti-Marcos forces, was not in a position to launch any military action because they had been holed up in both Camps Aguinaldo and Crame fearing for their lives as the forces of the dictatorship had encircled them. This was a situation wherein the civilian populace was supposed to have been protected by the military and they in turn, protected the rebel military forces.

Rep. Jaraula agreed therewith, adding that the majority of the military at that time had protected the incumbent President. He recalled that the RAM had tried to consolidate their forces from among the disgruntled soldiers. However, he continued that the military faction that would have allied with the incumbent saw the people power, the mass of humanity in EDSA, and thus had sided with the people such that the remnants of the loyalists to the incumbent could not use their military power.

However, Rep. Aquino recalled that the military presence in EDSA II was smaller as exemplified by Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes and the rest of the commanding generals of various military units. In fact, he continued that the most visible military elements were the Presidential Security Group and other operational control units in Malacañang. Obviously, he said, EDSA II had resulted in the unseating of former President Estrada and that the participation of the military who sided with the people, was more symbolic than actual. In view thereof, he expressed hope that Rep. Jaraula would reconsider his earlier statement that EDSA I and EDSA II could not have prospered without decisive military intervention.

Rep. Jaraula clarified that in the case of EDSA II, it was the withdrawal of military support from the incumbent President which had spelled the difference and had compelled former President Estrada to leave Malacañang.

In ending his interpellation, Rep. Aquino thanked Rep. Jaraula for his time.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. De Guzman, the Chair recognized Rep. Gerardo S. Espina for his intepellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ESPINA

Rep. Espina initially stated that Rep. Jaraula was proposing that Congress restudy the structure of the Philippine government, specifically on the possibility of establishing a parliamentary system of government in the country. He then recalled that as the chairman of a committee in the 1971 Constitutional Convention tasked to study the form of government that should be adopted at that time, he had strongly favored the retention of the presidential system of government. However, he said that at present, he has an open mind on the issue and would therefore like to be clarified thereon. He then inquired on the percentage of disturbances resulting from a change of leaders or administration through extra-constitutional means which had taken place under a presidential or a parliamentary form of government. He said that this question is very relevant to the point which Rep. Jaraula had raised specifically as regards the issues of stability and continuity of policy directions.

At this point, Rep. Jaraula emphasized that he has known only of a radical change of administration under a presidential system. He said that under the system, the President has a fixed term of office such that there had to be a radical introduction of a factor which would not strictly follow the constitutional processes. He pointed out that this would not happen under a parliamentary system because the convenience provided by the system as far as changes in administrations are concerned. He said that

a mere vote of no confidence/resolution, could affect a change in administration.

Whereupon, Rep. Espina pointed out that studies have shown a higher incidence of violent overthrow and changes in administration in countries with a presidential form of government. In fact, he said that the same had happened twice in the Philippines due to the rigid manner in which the leadership is changed. He pointed out that considering the fixed term of the President, the impeachment process had helped effect changes in administration through extra-constitutional means. Under a parliamentary system, he stressed that the process of changing an administration is through a vote of no confidence or by the process of dissolution. In other words, he said a change in administration could be achieved peacefully as follows: 1) The Prime Minister may dissolve the parliament and call for a new election and the issue over which the Prime Minister and the Members of the Parliament are in conflict are resolved by the people; and 2) If the proposal of the Prime Minister is not acceptable to the Members of Parliament, then the Prime Minister may seek the support of the people by submitting the same for the latter to decide, by dissolving the parliament and then letting the people determine their stand. He then asked whether Filipinos are ready to vote under a parliamentary system of government wherein the fundamental difference as against the presidential system lies in their awareness, understanding and appreciation of the significance of every issue. He said that he asked the question inasmuch as several times even in the previous Congresses, he had characterized Philippine polity as very personalistic, parochial and paternalistic. In this regard, he inquired whether Filipinos are ready to adopt a parliamentary form of government wherein elections are primarily based on fundamental differences of positions on major national issues.

Replying in the affirmative, Rep. Jaraula stated that at this point of time, Filipinos are prepared to venture into a parliamentary system of government especially so because they realize that the system would provide direct and immediate responses to their problems. This, as he opined that as Filipinos realize the difference in terms of inherent delays under a presidential system vis-a-vis direct responses under a parliamentary system, then they would readily embrace the latter.

Stating that he is intrigued by the possibility of a parliamentary system being adopted in the country, Rep. Espina however expressed apprehension over the issue of awareness and the possibility of constant changes in administration. He then cited the case of the Fifth Republic of France wherein in a span of one year, six changes in administration had been effected. This, as he noted that the French people are very issue-oriented. He then expressed apprehension that the same could happen in the Philippines considering that Filipinos are very personalistic in the sense that programs of government depend on what the President wants such that there would be no continuity of government plans and programs and the people would be following persons rather than ideals or ideologies. Thereafter, he cited that under bipartisan politics in the United States, the Democrats and the Republicans adopt their respective platforms of government such that one can distinguish one political party from the other. However, he said that such a distinction is not evident in Philippine politics as one cannot distinguish the Nationalist People's Coalition, LAKAS-NUCD, the Lapiang Demokratikong Pilipino and the Liberal Party from each other in terms of ideological identity. He expressed apprehension over the possibility that a shift from a presidential to parliamentary system without the requisite of people's awareness of national issues may not reap the benefits expected of a parliamentary form of government.

Even as he appreciated Rep. Espina's observation, Rep. Jaraula however emphasized that such have been borne out of the behavior of Filipinos in the past, under a presidential form of government. However, he expressed optimism that this behavior would change with the shift to a parliamentary system. He pointed out that the US experience is correct, except that the US is an exception by itself. In fact, he said that it is the only country with a presidential system among all the developed countries that has become successful. Moreover, he stated that the Filipinos' personalistic mentality is borne out of the fact that they have been under the presidential system for decades. He added that in the provinces, the people look at the local officials in terms of their proximity to the President and would even encourage a change in their party affiliations in the belief that the party of the President can deliver. This had

destroyed the system, he averred, because in this case the people are no longer governed by programs, doctrines and principles but by personalities. He then suggested that this Filipino characteristic be changed and that Filipinos should develop a different culture once the system of government is changed from presidential to parliamentary.

Rep. Espina thereupon disclosed that the delegates to the US Constitutional Convention had been guided by an idea that was not originally American, as the presidential system of government was introduced by a French political scientist named Montesquieu. Having had the opportunity of being a Member of Congress under the presidential system and a Member of the Legislature under the parliamentary system, he observed that the parliamentary system has the advantage of having a greater sense of political accountability. On the other hand, he noted that under the presidential system, a cabinet member can be as corrupt and as abusive as he would like to be because not having an office to run for, he does not have any political accountability but only the confidence of the President. In the case of the parliamentary system, he said that there is greater political accountability because the candidates must win in the elections to become Members of Parliament and later on be chosen as Members of the Cabinet.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Salapuddin relinquished the Chair to Rep. Escudero.

Agreeing therewith, Rep. Jaraula noted that both the parliamentary and presidential systems build up character but the latter creates one which is bad.

As a rejoinder, Rep. Espina observed that there is a greater possibility of distortion of the doctrine of separation of powers under the presidential system, as the Philippine experience has shown that the Executive Department is in reality the more dominant branch. As an example, he noted that congressmen have difficulty bringing up their problems to cabinet members because the latter owe their appointments to the President and not to Congress. Under the parliamentary system, he pointed out that it would be easier for Members of Parliament to discuss their concerns with cabinet members because they would be working together.

Rep. Espina subsequently expressed concern that any proposal allowing President Macapagal-Arroyo to fully serve the term that she is entitled to would meet a strong negative reaction from the presidency herself. He asked how Rep. Jaraula would solve this particular political dynamics that would be felt by everyone in the event the proposal to shift to a parliamentary system becomes a serious matter for Congress to decide upon.

In the case of former Presidents Aquino and Ramos, Rep. Jaraula answered that the problem was that their terms of office were to expire and they were prohibited by the Constitution from succeeding themselves. However, he said that the situation does not apply now because even as the term of the President expires in the year 2004, under the Constitution, she would still be eligible to run in her district and aim for the prime ministership after being elected to the parliament.

Rep. Espina said that this was precisely his concern and for which he had already filed a resolution amending the Constitution. He expressed hope that the change of government will be effective two elections from now so that along the way, the incumbent President can fully realize the opportunity given her by the Constitution. He recalled that when the proposal to amend the Constitution was first made during the term of former President Ramos, the proposal had come about one year before the end of his term. When this was made, he continued, there was the suspicion that the former President had wanted to amend the Constitution to prolong his term either by amending the term of office of the presidency or shifting to a parliamentary system of government. He thereupon disclosed that he had at that time delivered a speech in favor of amending the Constitution.

Another reason, Rep. Espina surmised, was that former President Ramos had not forcefully come out for the amendment because he was not serious enough; otherwise, he could have had achieved what he wanted. On the other hand, President Macapagal Arroyo

's case is different because she has inherited the last three years of a six-year term which will allow her to run for another six years or a total of nine years in office. Considering the dominant control of her party throughout the country, he projected that any move to put in danger the possibility of her serving as President for nine years may not sit favorably with her.

Although shifting to parliamentary system would enable President Macapagal-Arroyo to run for Congress and still aspire to become the President, he opined that such an action is open to doubt insofar as the opportunity to serve as head of the country is concerned because as a Member of Parliament, she will be elected only by some 300 or 400 members thereof. In such a scenario, he said that there is no original competitive advantage. On the other hand, he said that an incumbent President running for national office has a distinct advantage. Given this picture, he opined that the proposal to amend the Constitution may not be easily accepted by Malacañang.
Rep. Jaraula, in reaction, said that based on the President's talent and character, she would look back to history and note that only former President Manuel L. Quezon and former President Ferdinand E. Marcos had made it to the second term, this as he stressed that even the President's father had lost when he ran for the presidency for the second time. He said that he would like to look at President Macapagal-Arroyo as someone who, having tasted the awesome powers of the presidency, and taken a look at the sufferings of the Filipinos, would consider making history by leading the move for a shift from a presidential system to a parliamentary form of government because she would be a big factor in this change. She will not only be making history but saving the country as well, he added.

Through this process, Rep. Jaraula continued, President Macapagal-Arroyo shall enjoy almost a full term of what her father and most Presidents had, which was limited before to only four years. By the year 2004, he said that if the country would go for the parliamentary system, she would still be the most dominant personality in the country because she could easily win the prime ministership. Again making history, he stressed that President Macapagal-Arroyo will have become the last President under the presidential system and the first Prime Minister under the parliamentary system. He said that in this manner, she shall have obtained something that no other Filipino has ever obtained.

Rep. Espina agreed that it is good to have a strong sense of history. However, he said that it has been written that sometimes history is created on the basis of the writer's perception. While there is a great possibility that President Macapagal-Arroyo's sense of history may validate Rep. Jaraula's perception, he maintained that the President may also want it written that she was the only woman President who was reelected for a second the term, and thereby was the only President, being a woman at that, who served nine years.

Rep. Jaraula however opined that the President would appreciate being the last President under a presidential system and the first Prime Minister under a parliamentary system.

The problem with history is that nobody knows it until it happens, Rep. Espina countered.

SUSPENSION OF REP. ESPINA'S
INTERPELLATION

Thereupon, Rep. De Guzman moved that the Body temporarily suspend Rep. Espina's interpellation to give way to the oath-taking of a new Member of the House, and there being no objection thereto, the Body approved the same.

At this point, Rep. Escudero relinquished the Chair to Speaker De Venecia.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair invited Rep. Benjamin A. Cruz of the Party-List BUTIL to come up to the

rostrum together with his family for his oath-taking.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. CRUZ

At this juncture, Rep. Cruz of the Party-List BUTIL took his oath of office before the Body, with Speaker De Venecia officiating,

REFERRAL OF REP. JARAULA'S SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body referred Rep. Jaraula's speech and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body elected the following members to the Special Committee on Poverty Alleviation, on the part of the Majority:

1. Rep. Danton Q. Bueser
2. Rep. Arthur F. Celeste
3. Rep. Uliran T. Joaquin
4. Rep. Augusto H. Baculio
5. Rep. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta
6. Rep. Munir M. Arbison
7. Rep. Fred H. Castro
8. Rep. Solomon R. Chungalao
9. Rep. Josefina M. Joson

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body elected the following as additional members to the various Committees hereunder indicated, on the part of the Majority:

1. Rep. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta -- to the Committee on Local Government;

2. Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga -- to the Committee on Appropriations;

3. Rep. Uliran T. Joaquin -- to the Committees on Energy and Housing and Urban Development;

4. Rep. Nenet S. San Juan -- to the Committees on Muslim Affairs and National Cultural Communities;

5. Rep. Augusto "Boboy" Syjuco -- to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

6. Rep. Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles -- to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

7. Rep. Raul L. Villareal -- to the Committee on National Defense.

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body elected the following as additional members to the Committee on Oversight, on the part of the Majority:

1. Rep. Victor R. Sumulong
2. Rep. Douglas RA. Cagas
3. Rep. Emilio C. Macias II

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO
THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body elected the following as additional members to the Committee on Revision of Laws, on the part of the Majority:

1. Rep. Eladio "Boy" Jala
2. Rep. Roberto C. Cajes
3. Rep. Edgar M. Chatto
4. Rep. Simeon L. Kintanar
5. Rep. Douglas RA. Cagas
6. Rep. Jacinto V. Paras
7. Rep. Generoso DC. Tulagan
8. Rep. Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I
9. Rep. Raul V. Del Mar
10. Rep. Enrico R. Echiverri
11. Rep. Harlin Cast. Abayon
12. Rep. Alipio Cirilo V. Badelles

ELECTION OF REPS. ABLAN AND
DURANO TO THE COMMITTEE
ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body elected the following members to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs in the following order:

1. Rep. Roque R. Ablan Jr. -- after Rep. Antonio V. Cuenco; and

2. Rep. Joseph "Ace" H. Durano -- after Rep. Ablan.

REFERRAL OF BILLS

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body referred the following Bills to the Committee on Foreign Affairs: House Bills No. 103, 211, 368, 1311, 1608, 1646, 1782, 1783, 1835, 1847, 2061 and 2115.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 28, 2001.

It was 7:05 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(SGD.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

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