

**Committee on Justice and Human Rights
and**

Committee on Finance

(Joint Meeting)

Wednesday, 22 September 2004

2:01 p.m. to 2:12 p.m.

Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada Room

Members Present: Senators Arroyo (Chairman, Committee on Justice and Human Rights and presiding and Biazon

Agenda

Senate Bill No. 1330, introduced by Senator Recto, *entitled*: “An Act Providing For Compensation To The Victims Of Human Rights Violations During The Regime Of Former President Marcos, Documentation Of Said Violations, Appropriating Funds Therefore, And For Other Purposes”

Senate Bill No. 1745, introduced by Senators Arroyo, Osmeña III and Pimentel, Jr., *entitled*: “An Act Providing For Compensation To The Victims Of Human Rights Violations During The Regime Of Former President Marcos, Documentation Of Said Violations, Appropriating Funds Therefor, And For Other Purposes”

Call to Order

At 2:01 p. m., Senator Arroyo, Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and presiding, called the meeting jointly conducted with the Committee on Finance to order.

Discussions

Senator Arroyo, Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights stated that a similar bill to Senate Bill Nos. 1330 and 1745 was deliberated upon during the Twelfth Session. He then read into the record the legislative history of S. No. 1877. He pointed out that while President Arroyo certified the bill for immediate enactment, it was never passed by the Senate even as the Twelfth Congress adjourned *sine die*.

Noting that S. No. 1330 has been certified as urgent by the President, Senator Arroyo stated that the presidential certification for S. No. 1745 is forthcoming. He emphasized that the previous Senate had conducted exhaustive public hearings on S. No. 1877 and had deliberated it in plenary. He then instructed the Committee secretariat to prepare a committee report on S. Nos. 1330 and 1745 for circulation to the members of the two committees even as he noted that the matter was taken up during the National Security meeting on September 21, 2004, the anniversary of the imposition of Martial Law in the Philippines.

Senator Biazon confirmed that there was much discussion on the desirability of a reconciliation of all the forces brought about by EDSA I, II and III during the aforesaid National Security meeting. He also confirmed that one of the major steps to be taken to effect such reconciliation is the enactment of a bill granting compensation to the victims of Martial Law.

Senator Biazon noted that there are 10 new senators who would officially be introduced to the issue of granting compensation to the victims of Martial Law for the first time although these senators would have been familiar with the subject matter through the media. He stressed that he interposes no objection to the preparation of committee report on S. Nos. 1330 and 1745 provided that the new members of the committees would not object.

Senator Arroyo stated that the committee report shall be prepared and presented to the members for their consideration and approval so that the committee report could be deliberated upon in plenary and amendments, if any, could be introduced. He pointed out that the deliberation of the bill in plenary could be accelerated without bypassing any procedural requirement considering that the agenda of the Senate is not full.

Senator Biazon iterated that he has no objection to the preparation of the committee report at this time even as he shared the view of the Chair that any objection to the bill would be resolved in plenary.

Senator Arroyo repeated his instruction to the secretariat for it to prepare the necessary committee report.

Adjournment

As there was no other business to be taken up, Senator Arroyo adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p. m.