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CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

THIRD DAY
Wednesday, October 20, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

The Honorable Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President, presided.

(2) A moment of silent prayer was observed.

(3) The Convention Secretary called the roll. There were 39 Delegates present. No Delegates were absent or excused.

(4) COMMUNICATIONS - None.

(5) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Jose P. Mafnas: Mr. President, I would like to make an oral report to the Convention. Your Committee on Governmental Institutions met yesterday and made substantial progress on the issue of a Washington Representative. A report will be prepared and submitted to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Chairman Benigno Fitial: Mr. President, your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters also met yesterday and adopted a schedule of meetings and agenda. We are very confident we will accomplish our assignment in three weeks as provided by the schedule from the Pre-Convention Committee. Today we will discuss Constitutional Amendment and we are also confident that we will accomplish this today.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: Mr. President, at this time I would like to make an oral report. Your Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources began its deliberation yesterday morning. The Committee decided to consider the matters assigned to it in the following order: Eligibility to Vote and Election Procedures scheduled for discussion on October 19 and 20; followed by Bill of Rights on October 20 and 21; then Natural Resources on October 26 to 28; and Land Alienation from October 29 to November 4. Your Committee designated November 5 for their review and adoption of all constitutional provisions to be proposed by the Committee to the Convention. At its afternoon meeting the Committee discussed Eligibility to Vote. The Committee tentatively made decisions concerning citizenship, age and residency requirements. Today's agenda for the Committee includes literacy requirements, disqualification from voting due to conviction of a crime, election procedures, initiative, referendum and recall. I wish to further report, Mr. President, that the participation and output of work by your Committee members is excellent and highly commendable by your Committee Chairman. Thank you.

(6) INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSALS

Delegate Jose R. Cruz introduced Delegate Proposal No. 01, entitled "Proposal Regarding the Executive Branch of Government."

At the request of Floor Leader Rasa, President Guerrero dispensed with items (7) and (8) of the Order of Business, there being no objection from the floor.

(9) MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, at this point I would like to move that Convention Rule 68(a) be temporarily suspended.

The motion was seconded and carried to temporarily suspend Rule 68(a).

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, at this point I would like to introduce Proposed Rule Amendment No. 13. specifically deals with the Journal and the transcript. I move that Proposed Rule Amendment No.13 be adopted.

The motion was seconded and carried. The adopted Rule Amendment is as follows:

RULE AMENDMENT NO. 13

Resolved, That the following be added to the Rules of Procedure:

77. Journal. The journal to be prepared by the secretary pursuant to Rule 14(b) shall consist of a summary of the proceedings of the Convention. The journal shall be produced daily for the delegates and shall be submitted for their approval each day during the Convention's consideration of preliminary matters under Rule 38.

78. Transcript. A verbatim transcript of the proceedings of the Convention shall be produced and distributed by the secretary under Rule 14(g) to the delegates as is practicable. Delegates shall have four (4) days, excluding days on which the Convention does not meet, in which to correct inaccuracies in the transcript by filing an appropriate notice with the secretary of the Convention or by offering an amendment or addition during its consideration by the Convention. Following this four (4) day period, the president shall submit the transcript to the Convention for its approval.

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, there being no further action under Motions and Resolutions, I request that we move on to item (10) of our Order of Business.

President Guerrero: There being no objection from the floor, it is so ordered.

(10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Delegate Olympio T. Borja: Mr. President, in line with the Rule Amendment No. 13 just adopted by the Convention, I would like to move for the adoption of the Summary Journals of the first and second days.

The motion was seconded.

Delegate Jose P. Mafnas: Mr. President, on page 3 of our Summary Journal of the First Day. Am I correct that the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources is still Ramon Villagomez?

President Guerrero: For the information of the Delegates, yesterday I officially appointed Delegate Felix A. Ayuyu to be Vice-Chairman of that Committee. This morning I received a communication from Delegate Ayuyu saying that he reluctantly declined to be Vice-Chairman of that Committee. At this time I would like to inform the Delegates that I will delegate the authority to the Chairman of that Committee for them to elect their Vice-Chairman.

Motion to adopt the Summary Journals of the First and Second Days carried.

(11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None

(12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None

(13) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Secretary: Mr. President, I would like to announce that the three substantive committees will meet immediately following our recess. The following rooms have been assigned for their meetings: The Committee on Governmental Institutions will meet in the Convention Hall. The Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources will meet in the Keio Room. And the

Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will meet in the room at the back of the Convention Hall.

I would also like to announce that coffee and hot tea will be provided to the Delegates at the expense of fifty cents (50¢) per day per Delegate.

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, there being no further business, I move that the Convention recess until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention recessed at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary