

Rec'd
11-17-76

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

SEVENTH DAY
Sunday, October 24, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 2:10 p.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 30 Delegates present. Delegates Olympio T. Borja, Antonio M. Camacho, Magdalena C. Camacho, Jose R. Cruz, Jose P. Mafnas and Ramon G. Villagomez were excused. Delegates Carlos S. Camacho, Juan DLG. Demapan and Herman Q. Guerrero were absent. A quorum was present.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that those Delegates not in attendance who had offered prior notification of their absence be excused by the Convention.

The motion was seconded and carried.

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Rasa: I move for the adoption of yesterday's Summary Journal.

The motion was seconded and carried to adopt the Sixth Day Summary Journal.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS - None

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

(7) INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

Vice Chairman Francisco Palacios: I move for the adoption on First Reading of Committee Recommendation No. 1: Eligibility to Vote; Committee Recommendation No. 2: Elections and Election Procedures; and Committee Recommendation No. 3: Initiative, Referendum and Recall, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Benigno Fitial: I move for the adoption on First Reading of Committee Recommendation No. 2: Education, from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

The motion was seconded.

Delegates David Q. Maratita introduced and read Delegate Proposal No. 47, entitled "Proposal Regarding Executive Branch of Government."

Delegates Luis Limes, Lorenzo I. Guerrero, Pedro M. Atalig, Benigno Fitial and Pedro Igitol introduced Delegate Proposal No. 46, entitled "Proposal Regarding Natural Resources." The Secretary read the Proposal.

Delegate Esteven M. King introduced and read Delegate Proposal No. 48, entitled "Proposal Regarding Employees' Rights."

REFERRAL OF PROPOSALS

Delegate Proposal No. 29, entitled "Proposal Regarding Election Procedures.", was referred to the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

Delegate Proposal No. 30, entitled "Proposal Regarding the Official Language of the Commonwealth.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 31, entitled "Proposal Regarding Trial by Jury.", was referred to the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources.

(Delegate Ramon G. Villagomez entered the Convention Floor.)

Delegate Proposal No. 32, entitled "Proposal Regarding Local Government.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 33, entitled "Proposal Regarding the Executive Branch of Government.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 34, entitled "Proposal Regarding Governmental Institutions.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 35, entitled "Proposal Regarding Capital Improvement Funds.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 36, entitled "Proposal Regarding the Office of Public Auditor.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 37, entitled "Proposal Regarding Land Alienation.", was referred to the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources.

Delegate Proposal No. 38, entitled "Proposal Regarding Education.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 39, entitled "Proposal Regarding Members of the Medical and Dental Professions.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 40, entitled "Proposal Regarding Taxation and Finance.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 41, entitled "Proposal Regarding Governmental Institutions.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 42, entitled "Proposal Regarding the Office of Comptroller.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 43, entitled "Proposal Regarding Consumer Protection.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Delegate Proposal No. 44, entitled "Proposal Regarding Education.", was referred to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

Delegate Proposal No. 45, entitled "Proposal Regarding Nomenclature of Government Offices.", was referred to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

(8) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF PROPOSALS - None

(9) MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS - None

Vice-Chairman Palacios: I move for the adoption on First Reading of Committee Recommendation No. 1: Eligibility to Vote from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, if I am not mistaken, I think under item 12, General Orders of the Day, we have Committee Recommendation No. 1: Eligibility to Vote. It is necessary that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole so that we can debate the issues involved and then go back and adopt it by the Convention. I suggest, if there is no objection by Vice Chairman Palacios, that we wait until after debate of the issues.

President Guerrero: Vice Chairman, can you withdraw your motion please.

Vice Chairman Palacios: I can, Mr. President, but the reasons I made this motion were that we still have Second Reading and on Proposals like Eligibility to Vote and Elections which are non-controversial I thought we would not need debate. I will yield to the Floor Leader's wishes and withdraw my motion.

President Guerrero: For clarification and information to the Delegates, introduction of the Committee's Recommendation under item 7, Introduction and First Reading of Proposals, is the most appropriate time for introduction. We will then discuss these Recommendations under General Orders of the Day while in Committee of the Whole.

Delegate Pedro Dela Cruz: I nominate Delegate David Q. Matatita to be the permanent Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

President Guerrero: Point of order. The Chair has the prerogative to appoint any member of this Delegation to be Chairman of Committee of the Whole. The point of order has been stated by the Chair and this is taken care of.

(10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

(11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None

(12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Plenary Session resolve into the Committee of the Whole in order to discuss the four stipulated items under General Orders of the Day.

The motion was seconded and carried to resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider Committee Recommendations No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources and Committee Recommendation No. 2 from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

President Guerrero: I appoint Delegate Benjamin Manglona to act as Chairman of this Committee of the Whole.

The Convention resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 2:25 p.m.

The Convention reconvened in Plenary Session at 4:24 p.m.

Delegate Benjamin Manglona: Mr. President, I am very happy to report that your Committee of the Whole deliberated and has adopted, in principle, Committee Recommendation No. 1: Eligibility to Vote, and Committee Recommendation No. 2: Election and Election Procedures, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources. It also adopted Committee Recommendation No. 2: Education, from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

I would like to inform the Chair that after considerable discussion on Committee Recommendation No. 3: Initiative, Referendum and Recall, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources, it was decided by your Committee of the Whole to defer action on this matter and this is referred back to the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention adopt Recommendation No. 1: Eligibility to Vote, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention adopt Recommendation No. 2: Elections and Election Procedures, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention adopt Recommendation No. 2: Education, from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Floor Leader Rasa: I ask for unanimous consent that we recess until tomorrow.

President Guerrero: We will have announcements first.

(13) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fitial: The Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will be meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. at its usual meeting place.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: I would like to make a short statement and announcement, please.

President Guerrero: First, let me recognize Vice-Chairman Prudencio Manglona.

Vice-Chairman Prudencio Manglona: The Committee on Governmental Institutions will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: I think it is abominable for any Delegate to express his discontentment on any Committee Recommendation when his participation has been practically nothing. Therefore, this particular person should come to the meeting tomorrow. And I will express again, that regardless of another duty, he should attend this meeting.

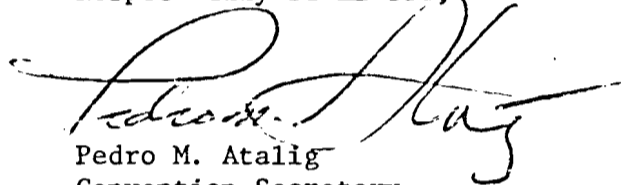
The Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources will meet tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in the same room.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that we recess until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary