

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
of the  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Summary Journal

NINETEENTH DAY  
Friday, November 5, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 2:07 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 33 Delegates present. Delegates Carlos S. Camacho, Jose R. Cruz, Herman Q. Guerrero, Francisco T. Palacios, Oscar C. Rasa and Joaquin S. Torres were excused. No Delegates were absent. A quorum was present.

(Delegate Benigno Fitial moved that Delegates not in attendance be excused. The motion was seconded and carried.)

(Delegates Rasa and Torres entered the Convention Hall during Committee of the Whole.)

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Delegate Felipe Atalig moved that the Summary Journal of the 18th Day and the Verbatim Transcripts of Days 1 through 5 be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS

The Convention Secretary read a letter to the Convention from Edward DLG. Pangelinan, conveying best wishes to the Convention from various friends on the Mainland. Mr. Pangelinan is the Marianas/Washington Liaison Officer.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Mafnas gave an oral report on disposition of various Delegate Proposals by the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

Chairman Atalig reported that the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources had submitted Committee Report and Recommendation No. 5, regarding "Public Lands." He also reported that the Committee was working vigorously on the matter of private lands and they anticipated completing their work on that matter soon.

Chairman Fitial submitted a written report showing disposition of Delegate Proposals by the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters. He reported orally that Committee members' attendance, with the exception of two members, had been very good.

(7) INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - None.

(8) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF PROPOSALS - None.

(9) INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Delegate Olympio T. Borja moved that Resolution No. 4, as introduced by Delegate Benigno Fitial, be adopted by the Convention. The motion was seconded.

Delegate Borja also moved for the temporary suspension of Convention Rule No. 47. The motion was seconded and carried.

Delegate Borja moved that wording be added to the proposed Resolution between "A Resolution" and the first "Whereas." He proposed to add "Conveying greetings and the best wishes to President-Elect James Earl Carter, Jr."

Delegate Benigno Fitial moved to end debate. The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion to amend, as offered by Delegate Olympio T. Borja, carried.

Delegate Olympio T. Borja moved to further amend by adding another "Whereas" clause after the fifth "Whereas" clause and before "Be It Resolved." The proposed wording was "WHEREAS, it is the sense of the delegates of the Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands that President-Elect Carter should receive due recognition from his future fellow Americans in the Marianas; now, therefore,". The motion was seconded and carried.

Delegate Felipe Atalig offered an oral amendment that was defeated.

Delegate Benigno Fitial moved that all Delegates to the Convention sign the Resolution if adopted as amended. The motion was seconded and carried.

Delegate Olympio T. Borja moved to amend the main motion to adopt the Resolution by the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded and defeated.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 4, as amended, carried.

(10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

(11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None.

(12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Delegate Hilario Diaz moved that the Convention resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole in order to consider Committee Recommendation No. 3 from the Committee on Governmental Institutions, regarding "Legislative Branch of Government.", and Committee Recommendation No. 5 from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources, regarding "Public Lands.". The motion was seconded and carried. The President asked Delegate Juan P. Tenorio to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

The Convention resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 2:40 p.m.

The Convention reconvened in Plenary Session at 4:58 p.m.

Chairman Tenorio reported that the Committee of the Whole had adopted Committee Recommendation No. 3 from the Committee on Governmental Institutions, regarding "Legislative Branch of Government." He also reported that the Committee had regrettably deferred action on Committee Recommendation No. 5 from the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources, regarding "Public Lands."

Chairman Mafnas moved that Committee Recommendation No. 3 from the Committee on Governmental Institutions, regarding "Legislative Branch of Government.", be adopted by the Convention on First Reading. The motion was seconded and carried.

(13) MISCELLANEOUS - None.

(14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Mafnas announced that the Committee on Governmental Institutions would meet the following morning at nine o'clock.

Chairman Atalig announced that the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources would also meet the following morning at nine o'clock.

Chairman Fitial announced that the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Natural Resources would recess for the weekend.

There was discussion regarding a lack of committee meetings on Sunday and whether or not the Delegates would receive a salary for the weekend.

Delegate Hilario Diaz moved that the Convention recess until Monday morning at ten o'clock.

There was further discussion regarding salary and per diem for the Delegates.

Delegate Diaz withdrew his motion to recess.

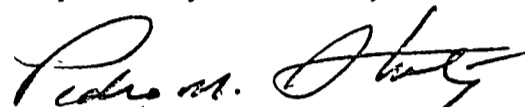
Delegate Jose Mafnas moved that the Delegates report back to their constituents on Sunday, regarding progress of the Convention, and that the Convention recess until Monday afternoon at two o'clock. The motion was seconded and defeated.

Delegate Pete Ogo asked that the record reflect that the defeated motion was asking for all Delegates to report back to their constituents, and not just those from the outer islands.

Floor Leader Rasa moved that the Convention recess until Monday afternoon at two o'clock. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention recessed at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pedro M. Atalig  
Convention Secretary