

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
of the  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

TWENTY-SECOND DAY  
Monday, November 8, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 2:15 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 37 Delegates present. Delegates Daniel Castro and Jose Mafnas were absent. No Delegates were excused. A quorum was present.

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Rasa: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the Summary Journal of the 19th Day.

The motion was seconded.

Convention Secretary: Mr. President, there are two corrections that should be made. On the second page, sixth paragraph, it should show that Delegate Borja's motion to amend the main motion carried. On the third page at the top, before Delegate Diaz withdrew his motion, it should reflect that Delegate Gregorio Calvo made the following statement: "The Rota Delegation is willing to stay and work over the weekend, so they should not again be accused of delaying the work of the Convention. I would like this to be reflected on the record."

Motion to adopt the Summary Journal of the 19th Day carried.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS - None.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acting Chairman Palacios: Mr. President, your Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources has completed its work on eminent domain and on behalf of the Committee I submit the Committee's Report and recommended constitutional provisions on eminent domain and ask that it be calendared for consideration by the Committee of the Whole at the earliest possible time.

Acting Chairman Prudencio Manglona: Your Committee on Governmental Institutions is still working on the matter of the "Executive Branch."

Chairman Fitial: Mr. President, on behalf of the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, I have the honor to present to the Convention, for consideration in Committee of the Whole, Committee Recommendation No. 7 on "Oath of Office." We have examined assiduously constitutions of other states on the requirements for and wording of a constitutional oath of office. We have also reviewed Section 204 of the Covenant which requires that all members of the legislature and all officers and employees of the government take an oath of affirmation to support the Covenant, Commonwealth Constitution and applicable provisions of the Federal Constitution, treaties, and laws. Mr. President, based on the Covenant provision, we have proposed a constitutional oath that would be required of all legislators and officers and employees of the Commonwealth and political subdivisions thereof. I recommend, on behalf of my colleagues on your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters that the Convention, meeting in Committee of the Whole, adopt the proposed constitutional language on an oath of office and the Committee Recommendation No. 7 and Report.

(7) INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PROPOSALS

Chairman Fitial: At this time I would like to introduce Recommendation No. 7

from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, regarding "Oath of Office.", and I ask that it be placed on the calendar under General Orders of the Day for consideration by the Committee of the Whole for First Reading.

Acting Chairman Palacios: At this time I ask that Committee Recommendation No. 6, regarding "Eminent Domain.", from the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources be calendered for First Reading.

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

(9) INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Delegate Ramon Villagomez: Mr. President, I would like to introduce a Resolution which I will read:

"A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands have elected a new group of legislators, including delegates to the Constitutional Convention, as members of the new legislature; and

WHEREAS, the delegates and the other new legislators will ensure that preparation for the Commonwealth government is efficient and thorough; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of unity, effectiveness and fairness necessary to the above endeavors is being promoted by the delegates and the other legislators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention offers its sincere congratulations to the delegates and the other members of the new legislature.

Offered by: Ramon G. Villagomez"

Convention Secretary: Delegate Villagomez, there is an error in the Resolution. I'm sure it's a typographical error, but "effectiveness" is misspelled.

("Effectiveness was originally spelled "effecitiveness.")

President Guerrero: I would suggest that the Secretary and introducer of the Resolution get together and correct that typographical error.

(10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

(11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None.

(12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None.

(13) MISCELLANEOUS

Delegate Ramon Villagomez: Mr. President, I would like to ask the Convention to recognize the presence of Senator Manuel Muna from Saipan, Senator-Elect Pedro Guerrero from Saipan, and all other visitors present in the Convention Hall.

President Guerrero: The Chair also recognizes the presence of the Vice-Speaker of the Municipal Council, Mr. Plasido Tagabuel.

(14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fitial: Mr. President, your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will meet immediately following the Plenary Session, in their usual meeting place.

Acting Chairman Palacios: Mr. President, the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources will meet right after the session at the Committee's office.

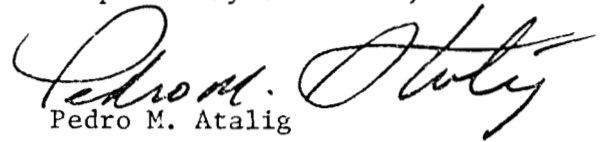
Acting Chairman Manglona: Mr. President, your Committee on Governmental Institutions will meet right after this session, in this Convention Hall.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention recess until two o'clock tomorrow.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention recessed at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pedro M. Atalig  
Convention Secretary