

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
of the  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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11-17-76

Summary Journal

Twenty-Third Day  
Tuesday, November 9, 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 35 Delegates present. Delegates Jose R. Cruz, Daniel P. Castro, Olympio T. Borja and Luis M. Limes were excused. No Delegates were absent. A quorum was present.

(Floor Leader Rasa moved that those Delegates not in attendance be excused. The motion was seconded and carried.)

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Rasa moved that the Summary Journal of the 22nd Day be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS - None.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Atalig reported that the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources had completed Committee Report No. 7, regarding "Natural Resources.", and that it should be placed on the calendar for First Reading.

Chairman Mafnas reported that the Committee on Governmental Institutions was still deliberating on "Executive Branch."

Chairman Fitial reported that the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters had completed deliberations and adopted the constitutional language for the provision on "Local Government." He said the Committee Report and Recommendation would be completed and presented to the Convention the following day.

President Guerrero reported that the Committee on Organization and Procedures had scheduled Committee Report and Recommendation No. 5, regarding "Public Lands.", for consideration of the Committee of the Whole for First Reading that day. He said each Delegate should correct his Order of Business to reflect the added consideration.

(7) INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Atalig introduced Committee Recommendation No. 7, regarding "Natural Resources.", from the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources. He asked that it be placed on the calendar for First Reading.

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

(9) INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS - None.

(10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Convention Secretary reported that the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources had recommended re-referral of Delegate Proposal No. 26 to the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters. They also recommended re-referral of Delegate Proposal No. 21 to the Committee on Governmental Institutions.

President Guerrero stated that the Committee on Organization and Procedures

would take the matter under advisement and reassign the Delegate Proposals.

(11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None.

(12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Floor Leader Rasa moved that the Convention resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole in order to consider Committee Recommendation No. 5, "Public Lands.", Committee Recommendation No. 6, "Eminent Domain.", and Committee Recommendation No. 7, "Oath of Office." The motion was seconded and carried. President Guerrero appointed Delegate Pedro Dela Cruz to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

The Convention resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 2:18 p.m.

The Convention reconvened in Plenary Session at 4:45 p.m.

Chairman Dela Cruz reported that the Committee of the Whole had adopted Committee Recommendation No. 5, "Public Lands.", with an amendment. He also reported that Committee Recommendations No. 6, "Eminent Domain.", and No. 7, "Oath of Office.", had been adopted without amendment.

Chairman Dela Cruz moved that the Convention adopt the Recommendations, as adopted by the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded and carried. The Convention adopted on First Reading Committee Recommendation No. 6, "Eminent Domain.", from the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources, and Committee Recommendation No. 7, "Oath of Office.", from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters without change. The Convention also adopted, as amended, Committee Recommendation No. 5, "Public Lands.", from the Committee on Personal Rights & Natural Resources. The amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 5, "Public Lands.", is as follows:

Committee Recommendation No. 5: Public Lands

Section 5(a) The Corporation shall make available some portion of the public lands for a homestead program. No person shall be eligible for more than one agricultural and village homestead. No person shall receive title to a homestead for five years after the grant of a homestead or shall be able to transfer title to a homestead within ten years of receipt thereof provided, however, that these requirements shall be waived for persons who have established a continuous residence on public lands for at least 20 years as of the effective date of this Constitution. Other requirements for eligibility for the homestead program and the nature of the interest in land to be transferred by the Corporation shall be as provided by law.

(13) MISCELLANEOUS

President Guerrero stated that the Resolution adopted for submission to President-Elect Carter was being circulated on the Convention Floor for signatures of all Delegates. He asked that it be completed during the session and returned to the Convention Secretary.

(14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Fitial announced that the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters would meet the following morning at nine o'clock.

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

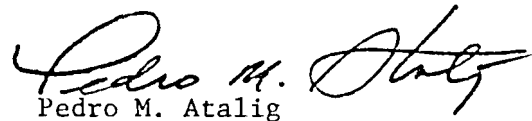
Chairman Mafnas announced that the Committee on Governmental Institutions would also meet the following morning at nine o'clock.

President Guerrero announced that there would be a meeting immediately following the session of all Convention officers, including the three vice-presidents and three chairmen of the substantive committees.

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

The Convention recessed at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pedro M. Atalig  
Convention Secretary