

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

Twenty-Fifth Day
Thursday, November 11, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 1:05 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 34 Delegates present. Delegates Olympio T. Borja, Daniel P. Castro, Herman Q. Guerrero, David Maratita and Francisco T. Palacios were excused. No Delegates were absent. A quorum was present.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that those Delegates not in attendance be excused.

The motion was seconded and carried.

(Delegates Herman Q. Guerrero, David Maratita, and Francisco T. Palacios entered the Convention Hall during Committee of the Whole.)

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention adopt the Summary Journal of the 24th Day.

The motion was seconded.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: There is a correction that should be made on the first page under item 6, the second paragraph. The word "that" should be changed to "this."

The motion to adopt the Summary Journal of the 24th Day carried.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS - None

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Jose P. Mafnas: I am sorry to report that the Committee on Governmental Institutions is unable to submit the Committee Report and Recommendation on the "Executive Branch" this morning.

Chairman Benigno Fitial: The Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters was hoping to present the Committee Report and Recommendation, regarding "The Preamble," but the duplicating machine was not functioning properly. The Recommendation will definitely be introduced tomorrow.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: Your Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources has completed their work on Committee Recommendation No. 8, regarding "Land Alienation." However, as stated previously by Chairman Fitial, due to problems with the duplication machine, your Chairman is not able to submit that report. We expect to submit it to the Convention tomorrow.

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

(8) SECOND AND FINAL READING OF PROPOSALS - None

(9) INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS - None

- (10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None
- (11) SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None
- (12) GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

President Guerrero: Today we have Committee Recommendation No. 8 from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, regarding "Local Government," for discussion during the Committee of the Whole.

Floor Leader Rasa: I move that the Convention resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was seconded and carried.

President Guerrero: May I call on Delegate Ramon Villagomez to Chair the Committee of the Whole for today.

The Convention resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 1:15 p.m.

The Convention reconvened in Plenary Session at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Ramon Villagomez: I am happy to report to you that Committee Recommendation No. 8 from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, regarding "Local Government," has been adopted with certain amendments.

I move that the Convention adopt the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 8, regarding "Local Government," from the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters is as follows:

Section 3: Responsibilities of Mayor.

- (1) The word "shall" is substituted for the word "may" in the first line of subsection 3(d); and
- (2) The following sentence is added to subsection 3(d): "Any proposal relating to the budget made by the mayor shall be considered by the responsible Commonwealth official and rejected only for good cause."

- (13) MISCELLANEOUS - None
- (14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Felipe Atalig: I wish to announce that this evening at 7:00 p.m., your Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources will be meeting to review the last Committee's Recommendation, No. 8. I would also like to ask the Committee members to pick up copies of Recommendation No. 8 so they will have ample time to read it before the meeting tonight.

Chairman Benigno Fitial: Your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will meet tonight at 7:00 p.m. I would like to invite interested Delegates from Rota and Tinian to attend for the purpose of discussing further the provision on "Local Government," which was just adopted by the Convention on First Reading.

Chairman Jose P. Mafnas: For reasons that I cannot reveal, which I will advise you on at a later time, your Committee on Governmental Institutions cannot meet tonight. We will meet tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

Delegate Henry Hofschneider: I would like to attend the meeting of the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, and I am asking if I can be excused by the Chairman of the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources.

Chairman Felipe Atalig: Yes, provided there is one Delegate from Tinian in attendance, so I urge Delegate Diaz to come and attend the meeting.


President Guerrero: There will be a meeting of the three Vice Presidents, three Committee Chairman, the Floor Leader, and Convention Secretary immediately following this session.

Delegate Juan DLG. Demapan: I move that the Convention recess until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention recessed at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary