

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

Thirty-Fourth Day
Saturday, November 20, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 9:25 a.m.

The Honorable Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President, presided.

(2) A moment of silent prayer was observed.

(3) The Acting Convention Secretary called the roll. There were 29 Delegates present. Delegates David Atalig, Felipe Atalig, Pedro Atalig, Luis Benavente, Olympio T. Borja, Benigno Fitial, Henry Hofschneider, Oscar C. Rasa, Manuel A. Tenorio and Ramon G. Villagomez were excused. No Delegates were absent. A quorum was present.

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL

Acting Floor Leader Joaquin Torres: I move that the Summary Journal of the 33rd Day be adopted by the Convention.

The motion was seconded and carried.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS

President Guerrero: As requested yesterday, every Delegate has been given a copy of the letter to Ms. Deanne C. Seimer from Judge Robert A. Hefner, dated November 9, 1976. I do not see any need to read this letter into the record as you all have a copy.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acting Chairman Pedro Dela Cruz: The Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters is happy to submit our report regarding, "Schedule: Transitional Matters," Sections 1 through 8. I would like to point out that there are two changes. On Section 6, "Continuity of Corporations and Licenses," we added that professional licenses, such as the doctors and nurses, in the Northern Mariana Islands on the effective date of the Constitution shall continue in effect until otherwise provided by law provided, however, that a professional license may not be limited, amended or revoked except for cause. Your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will be discussing this further after this session, so that we can come up with the specific language on how we can protect the doctors and the nurses.

Also, we have one other change regarding "Election Procedures." According to the original "Schedule," the Resident Commissioner shall have the power to set the election date and establish registration and election procedures. We are changing this to give the power to the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, to create an Election Commission to monitor and prescribe elections and registration,

- (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

President Guerrero: As shown on our Order of Business, we have consideration of the draft, "Schedule: Transitional Matters," for First Reading.

Delegate Pedro Dela Cruz: I move that the Convention adopt the "Schedule: Transitional Matters," on First Reading.

Delegate David Maratita: Would it be in order for the Convention to resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for discussion of the "Schedule."

Chairman Juan DLG. Damapan: I move that the Convention resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole to consider "Schedule: Transitional Matters," excluding Section 6, 9 and 10, which have not been reported out by the substantive Committees.

The motion was seconded and carried.

President Guerrero: To Chair the Committee of the Whole for today, I would like to call on Delegate Juan DLG. Damapan.

The Convention resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 9:37 a.m.

The Convention reconvened in Plenary Session at 11:04 a.m.

Chairman Juan DLG. Damapan: The Committee of the Whole is happy to report that the "Schedule: Transitional Matters," was adopted, excluding Sections 6, 9 and 10, on First Reading unanimously.

Delegate Vicente Attao: I would like the record to show that the adoption was not unanimous.

President Guerrero: The record will show that it was a roll call vote.

Delegate Hilario Diaz: I move that the "Schedule: Transitional Matters," be adopted by the Convention as adopted by the Committee of the Whole on First Reading.

The motion was seconded.

(On voted vote division of the house was called. A roll call vote was taken.)

YES: Delegates Vicente Attao, Felix Ayuyu, Jose Borja, Carlos Camacho, Hapudena Camacho, Jose Cruz, Pedro Dela Cruz, Juan DLG. Damapan, Hilario Diaz, Herman Guerrero, Lorenzo Guerrero, Pedro Igitol, Esteven Klupp, Jose Mafnas, Benjamin Manglona, Prudencio Manglona, Vicente Manglona, Pedro Ogo, Leon Taisacan, Juan Tenorio, Joaquin Torres and Jesus Villagomez. (22 votes)

NO: Delegates Gregorio Calvo, Antonio Camacho, Daniel Castro, Juan S.

Mr. President and fellow Delegates. It is my privilege and prerogative to express my opinions to this Convention. We are looking at our draft Constitution issue by issue and we need to cover the Constitution with respect to all points of view. We must protect the interests of our people by looking at every issue from all points of view. It is my prerogative and privilege to have a view of all the issues. I want the people here to understand that.

Delegate Jose R. Cruz: I want the record to show that I am not here to have my views represented personally or give my own personal opinion. I am here because I represent the people of Tinian. I represent each and every family of Tinian.

President Guerrero: I urge the Delegates to have patience and cooperation here in this Convention.

(14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chairman Pedro Dela Cruz: Your Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters will be meeting immediately after this session.

Acting Chairman Francisco Palacios: Your Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon. I have copies of proposed amendments offered by different people during the public hearings, and I urge you to pick up these copies immediately following this session.

Chairman Jose P. Mafnas: Your Committee on Governmental Institutions will be meeting at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

President Guerrero: I would like to meet with the following Delegates immediately following this session: Jesus Villagomez, Joaquin Torres and Luis Limes.

Acting Floor Leader Joaquin Torres: I move that the Convention recess until 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 22nd.

The motion was seconded.

President Guerrero: Before we vote on the motion to recess, I would like to know if the substantive Committees will be meeting tomorrow?

Delegate Pedro Dela Cruz: Privilege. My question is regarding compensation on holidays, since some of us are employees of the Trust Territory Government. The Trust Territory Government is only paying straight time salary. Will the Convention pay us for the holidays we have worked?

President Guerrero: We have discussed that with the Administrative Officer here at the Convention and we will have to determine whether the holiday is on a regular work day or on the weekend.

Delegate Pedro Dela Cruz: I am talking about October 25th which was Veterans' Day and an official holiday. I checked with T. T. personnel and they will only pay us straight time and the Convention must come up with the difference. Also, Thanksgiving is coming.

President Guerrero: I will take this problem under advisement.

Acting Chairman Francisco Palacios: I announced earlier that the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources would be meeting this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Because of the Garapan Fiesta this afternoon, I would like to meet with the members of the Committee immediately after this session in order to make a decision on

Delegate Jose Borja: Point of clarification. According to your memorandum, an amendment must be submitted in writing 48 hours before the time it is scheduled for consideration by the Convention. Am I to assume that schedule supersedes the Convention's Rules of Procedure, which states you can submit an amendment at the time of debate?

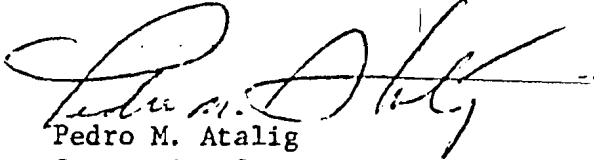
President Guerrero: The memorandum supersedes what we have in our Rules in order to expedite the business of the Convention. Any amendment has to be submitted in writing to the Secretary so that it can be duplicated and distributed on the Floor. You introduce your amendment when it is scheduled for discussion by the Convention. As discussed by the Committee on Organization and Procedures yesterday, in order for the proposed amendments to be considered, preferably by the substantive Committee, we have to assign these proposed amendments to them to see if they are or are not in support.

We will now vote on the motion to recess.

The motion to recess until 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 22nd, carried.

The Convention recessed at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary