

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL. (TRANSCRIPT)

Forty-Eighth Day
Saturday, December 4, 1976

(1) The Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 3:00 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 28 Delegates present. Delegates Vicente Attao, Daniel P. Castro, Jose R. Cruz, Juan DLG. Demapan, Herman Q. Guerrero, Jose P. Mafnas, Benjamin Manglona, Prudencio Manglona, Pedro M. Ogo, Leon I. Taisacan and Manuel A. Tenorio were absent without leave. No Delegates were excused. A quorum was present.

(4) ADOPTION OF THE JOURNAL - None

(5) COMMUNICATIONS - None

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

President Guerrero suspended items 7 through 13 on the Order of Business and moved to item 14, Announcements.

(14) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Atalig: Tomorrow is the day set for the signing of the Constitution. The ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Auditorium. I suggest that all the Delegates be there at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time in order to take their places on the stage. Also, after the ceremonies, we will have a reception to be held at the Royal Taga from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Delegates and staff. This will be a buffet dinner provided by the Office of Transition Studies and Planning, and Micronesian Insurance Underwriters will be providing the drinks. Spouses are included.

President Guerrero: I would like to announce that the consultants had completed the Section-by-Section Analysis of the Constitution and all the Delegates have been provided a copy. If you have any questions or any further discussion on the Analysis, we will have the time afforded each Delegate on Monday, December 6th. Please prepare any questions and/or discussion you would like to make in time before we meet on Monday.

Mr. Willens: I would like to have the Section-by-Section Analysis be adopted by the Convention, and I would prepare a Resolution to that effect at the request of our Convention President.

Delegate Fitiaf: I would like to remind the Delegates of the reception tonight here at the hotel at 6:00 p.m. given by the United Carolinian Association. Spouses are also included.

Secretary Atalig: I would also like to inform the Delegates that at the signing ceremonies, we will be using only two pens, fountain pens, and no other pens. If a Delegate wishes to use his own pen, he may, provided that it has black ink and is a fountain pen.

President Guerrero: I would like to urge all the Delegates to be at the signing ceremony by 1:30 p.m. since the presence of every Delegate is very important. The attire will be island wear.

Delegate Fitiaf: I would like to ask the indulgence of the Convention to recognize the presence of Mr. Chuck Bacchi, Legal Consultant to the Guam Legislature and also Steve Kelly from the Pacific Daily News in the gallery.

(Delegates Vicente Attao and Manuel Tenorio entered the Convention Hall).

Delegate Ftial: I would like to know if we the Delegates would be able to obtain a copy of the Constitution after the signing ceremony.

Secretary Atalig: For the signing ceremony, we will be signing two originals. One will be presented to Resident Commissioner Canham after it is signed, and the other will be taken to the Print Shop for printing. It will be a matter of days before each Delegate can obtain a copy, but we will definitely be providing each Delegate a signed copy of the Constitution because on Monday, we will be signing here at the Convention Hall the signature page of the Constitution, while the Constitution itself will be at the Print Shop for duplication.

Delegate Palacios: I would like to inquire about the pen we are going to use for the signing ceremonies. Is it a special pen that we can't use any other pen?

President Guerrero: We have purchased two pens for the signing ceremonies, and both are fountain pens. If you have a fountain pen that has black ink, you can use it, but we would like to make it uniform.

Delegate Felipe Atalig: Who would have access to the pens after the signing of the Constitution?

President Guerrero: They will become the property of the Convention together with the other objects we have declared as historical objects of the Convention.

Delegate Maratita: I am wondering if it would be possible to provide each Delegate with a pen for the signing ceremonies as a souvenir of the Convention.

President Guerrero: Secretary Atalig, is that possible, can you check into that matter later on? Delegate Maratita, your suggestion is well-taken, and I will discuss this matter with our Secretary after our session.

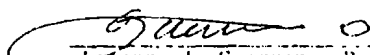
Floor Leader Rasa: If there are no further discussions, I move that the Convention stand in recess until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, and to meet at Mount Carmel Auditorium for the signing ceremonies. At the same time, I would like to make a motion to meet in Plenary Session here at the Convention Hall at 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 6, 1976, for the final session.

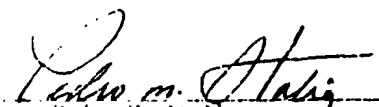
Motion to recess until 1:30 p.m., December 5th, for the Constitution signing ceremony at Mount Carmel Auditorium was seconded and carried.

(The Convention will meet in Plenary Session at the Convention Hall at 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 6, 1976, for the final session.)

The Convention recessed at 3:16 p.m.

APPROVED:


Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President
Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention


Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary