

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VERBATIM JOURNAL (TRANSCRIPT)

Forty-Ninth Day
Sunday, December 4, 1976

The official signing ceremonies for the Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands were called to order at 2:20 p.m.

The Honorable Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President, presided.

The Honorable Monsignor Tomas Camacho gave the invocation.

The Convention Secretary called the roll. There were 33 Delegates present. Delegates Jose R. Cruz, Juan D.G. Demapan, Benjamin T. Manglona, Prudencio T. Manglona, Pedro M. Ogo and Leon I. Taisacan were absent. No Delegates were excused.

President Guerrero called upon Delegate Magdalena Camacho to lead the Delegates and guests in reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands as follows:

"We the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of our traditions and hopes for our Commonwealth in political union with the United States of America."

President Guerrero made the following remark:

"Honorable Resident Commissioner Erwin D. Canham, Honorable Monsignor Tomas Camacho, Honorable Francisco C. Ada, other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

"On behalf of my fellow Delegates to the Marianas Constitutional Convention, through whose collective effort, understanding, and foresight, we have been able to accomplish the difficult task of framing our fundamental law, I extend my warmest and sincerest welcome to each and everyone of you to witness the signing of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"This is indeed a solemn and historic moment for all of us. This eventful day marks a giant stride towards full attainment of our long-cherished desire to be a part of the political family of the United States of America, and stay within her protective folds.

"We, the leaders whom you delegated to safeguard your future, economically and politically, take pride in having done our best to frame this constitution, as an important step of nation-building. Your delegates, everyone of us, strived to ensure that the constitution we are about to sign today, truly represents your aspirations and ideals, that it truly expresses your ideas and thoughts on what your future government should be.

"We feel very confident that this constitution will reflect to the best interest of our people, duly considered under the basic principles of democracy that our government should be of, for, and by the people, and that legislations are enacted not for the benefit of a few, but for the greatest good of the greatest number.

"Thank you. Si Yuus Maase."

President Guerrero also recited his remark in Chamorro language.

The Honorable Erwin D. Canham, Resident Commissioner for the Government of the Northern Marianas made the following remark:

"Monsignor Camacho, Mr. President Guerrero, Delegate Magdalena Camacho, other distinguished Delegates, eminent visitors, ladies and gentlemen:

"Now we come to a long-awaited moment; a moment of formal accomplishment,

Daniel P. Castro
Pedro Q. Dela Cruz
Juan S. Demapan
Hilario F. Diaz
Benigno R. Fittal
Herman Q. Guerrero
Henry U. Hofschneider
Pedro J. Igitol
Esteven M. King
Luis M. Limes
Jose P. Mafnas
Vicente M. Manglona
David Q. Maratita
Francisco T. Palacion
Oscar C. Rana
Juan P. Tenorio
Manuel A. Tenorio
Joaquin S. Torres
Jesus G. Villagomez
Ramon G. Villagomez

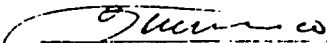
On behalf of the Convention, President Guerrero presented the signed Constitution to Resident Commissioner Canham. Mr. Canham accepted the signed Constitution.


The Commonwealth song "GI Talo GI Halom Tase" was led by the Islanders singing group.

The benediction was given by Monsignor Camacho.

There being no announcements, the Convention's official signing ceremonies were recessed at 3:00 p.m., to reconvene at 10:00 a.m., the following day for a regular session.

APPROVED:


Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President
Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention


Pedro M. Atalig
Convention Secretary

p. 315 missing