

MR. PRESIDENT, I RISE TODAY TO APPLAUD AND SUPPORT A THEME WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED PRIVATELY BY MANY OF OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES. WE AGREE THAT IT IS TIMELY THAT WE, AS A BODY OF A WHOLE, EARLY, NOW, AS WE BEGIN OUR DELIBERATIONS ON REMODELING THE LAW OF OUR LAND, THAT WE RENEW OUR PLEDGE TO ~~CONSENSUS~~<sup>FELLOWSHIP</sup> AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AND THAT WE RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO THE DUTY OF SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

I WAS ELECTED TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND I WAS BESTOWED THE SINGULAR HONOR OF SERVING AS ITS PRESIDENT. TIME AND TIME AGAIN, DURING THOSE DAYS DISCUSSIONS WERE HEATED AND DEBATES WERE ~~HEATED~~<sup>HOT</sup>; ISSUES RAISED WERE OFTEN CHAMPIONED BY IMPASSIONED PRESENTATIONS AND SINCERE PETITIONS. BUT, THE DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATES BECAME PRIMARILY DIAGNOSTIC OF OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL POLICY NEEDS, AND PASSIONS GAVE WAY THROUGH COMPROMISE.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE ENTRUSTED US WITH THE HALLOWED ~~DEBATE~~<sup>DUTY</sup> OF HAMMERING OUT IN THIRTY DAYS A DOCUMENT WHICH REFLECTS RATIONALITY AND REASONABLENESS AND WHICH HOLDS SACRED THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE COMMONWEALTH. WE MUST PUT ASIDE PETTY JEALOUSIES AND POLARIZATIONS AND CONSIDER EACH BILL PRESENTED ON THE BASIS OF ITS MERIT FOR THE WHOLE, NOT THE <sup>Author.</sup> Demeanor OF THE PRESENTOR. WE MUST, IN OUR PASSIONS, REFUSE TO VIEW ACCEPTANCE OF THE BILLS WE SUBMIT AS PERSONAL ENDORSEMENTS, OR THEIR REJECTION AS PERSONAL AFFRONTs.

WE ARE IN THE BIG LEAGUE NOW. WHAT WE DO HERE WILL ~~LAST~~<sup>LIVE</sup> LONG AFTER WE CONCLUDE OUR PROCEEDINGS AND WILL CONTROL THE DESTINY OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND ITS PEOPLE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

I AM THRILLED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND I AM HUMBLED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH WORTHY PERSONS AS YOURSELVES. DURING THESE DAYS LET US EVER BE ~~CONSCIOUS~~<sup>AWARE</sup> OF THE POWER OF COMPROMISE, THE wisdom OF patience, THE Joy OF FELLOWSHIP AND THE GREAT ENDURING HARMONY NEEDED FOR ALL OF OUR people.

Thank you

Remarks by Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero on June 19, 1985.