

[VOL. IV, September 15, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 83

Monday, September 15, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:56 a.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, opened the session.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Lorenzo M. Sumulong.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

MR. SUMULONG: — Heavenly Father, through Your Divine Guidance we are approaching the end of our labors in the making of a new Constitution for our people. Of course, it was not smooth sailing all the time. It was unavoidable that many a time we see the same subject in different lights. Each of us has his or her own ideas and philosophies, depending on the heredity and the environment which have influenced our lives. There were even moments when in the heat of the discussion tempers flared and emotional outbursts were exchanged causing temporary disruption in the proceedings but these lapses in parliamentary decorum were soon tided over and tranquility in the floor discussions restored, thanks no doubt to the compassionate and merciful attitude that You, our Heavenly Father, take towards our human failings and shortcomings.

We pray, dear Lord, that in the days that remain for us to finish our work on the new Constitution, You will continue infusing in us the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may have the health, the strength, the light and the wisdom to carry on our task to a successful conclusion, to be more tolerant of each other's views, to be magnanimous in victory and graceful in defeat.

Let not our honest differences in opinion stand in the way of our unity. Let us respect the opinions of those with whom we disagree. Let them believe that they are right and we are wrong, even as we believe that we are right and they are wrong. For, after all, as one Spanish poet said:

En este mundo engaador
Nada es verdad ni mentira
Todo es segun el color
Del cristal con que se mira.

Kung ipahihintulot ninyong isalin ko sa ating sariling wika:

Sa mundong ito na lubhang mapaglinlang
Walang lubos na katotohanan, walang lubos
na kasinungalingan,
Ang lahat ay alinsunod sa kulay
Ng palagaying ating tinataglay.

Heavenly Father, we believe in You and in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and we trust that in Your infinite goodness and kindness, You will lead us to the right paths, You will lead us to the right decisions. We pray for Your continued guidance and assistance. Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present [*]	Laurel	Present [*]
Alonto	Present [*]	Lerum	Present [*]
Aquino	Present [*]	Maambong	Present [*]
Azcuna	Present	Monsod	Present [*]
Bacani	Present	Natividad	Present
Bengzon	Present	Nieva	Present
Bennagen	Present	Nolledo	Present [*]
Bernas	Present	Ople	Present [*]
Rosario Braid	Present	Padilla	Present
Calderon	Present	Quesada	Present [*]
Castro de	Present	Rama	Present [*]
Colayco	Present	Regalado	Present
Concepcion	Present	Reyes de los	Present
Davide	Present	Rigos	Present
Foz	Present	Rodrigo	Present
Garcia	Present	Romulo	Present
Gascon	Present	Rosales	Absent
Guingona	Present [*]	Sarmiento	Present [*]
Jamir	Present	Suarez	Present
Sumulong	Present	Treñas	Present
Tadeo	Present [*]	Uka	Present
Tan	Present	Villacorta	Present [*]
Tingson	Present	Villegas	Present

The President is present.

The roll call shows 31 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. CALDERON: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Assistant Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. CALDERON: I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. CALDERON: Madam President, I move that we approve the Journal of the previous session.

MR. DE LOS REYES: Madam President, just a slight correction.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner de los Reyes is recognized.

MR. DE LOS REYES: On page 16, second paragraph, third line, I request that the word "NOT" be inserted between the words "is" and "targeted," so that it will read: "that the country is NOT targeted." Then on the third paragraph, first line, instead of the word "continue," it should be "CONTINUOUS," so it will read: "The current pressure, he stated, is the CONTINUOUS attacks . . ."

With those corrections, I have no more objection to the Journal.

THE PRESIDENT: Are the proper corrections made?

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal, as corrected, is approved.

MR. CALDERON: Madam President, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary-General will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary-General read the following Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from the Sangguniang Bayan of Kabayan, Benguet, signed by Mayor Alfonso P. Aroco, opposing strongly the move to grant autonomy to the Cordillera region.

(Communication No. 905 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Local Governments.

Communication from Mr. Lupo T. Carlota, transmitting a resolution adopted by the First National Convention of Filipino-Americans in the United States, Memphis, Tennessee, urging the Constitutional Commission to include in the Constitution a provision allowing Filipinos to have dual citizenship.

(Communication No. 906 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Citizenship, Bill of Rights, Political Rights and Obligations and Human Rights.

Letter from Dean Celso B. Lantican, Acting President, Philippine Society of Foresters, Inc., pointing out some of the more serious disadvantages of the proposed 10-20 years logging ban, expressing hope that said ban will not be acted upon favorably.

(Communication No. 907 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Letters urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution a provision that the separation of the Church and the State shall be inviolable as embodied in the 1973 Constitution and as understood historically and jurisprudentially in the Philippines, from:

- 1) Pastor Victor G. Lamarca
Malabon Church of God
World Missions of the Philippines, Inc.
Malabon, Metro Manila

(Communication No. 908 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 2) Faith Tabernacle Church
c/o Mr. Alfeo Namacpacan
Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental

(Communication No. 909 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 3) Mrs. Cora A. Go
Tagum Christian Fellowship
Tagum, Davao del Norte

(Communication No. 910 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 4) Rev. Honorable Nerpiol
The Church Leadership Council
Surallah Alliance Church
Surallah, South Cotabato

(Communication No. 911 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 5) Rev. Mike J. Aguatis
Bible Land Mission
P.O. Box 19, Tagbilaran City
Bohol

(Communication No. 912 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Aurelio Periquet, Jr., President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressing his views on the proposed Article on National Economy and Patrimony and proposing specific amendments to Sections 1, 4 and 9 thereof.

(Communication No. 913 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communication signed by two hundred seventy signatories from the Philippine Women's University, seeking to incorporate in the new Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 914 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDENT: The session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 10:08 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:18 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is resumed.

MR. ROMULO: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. ROMULO: Before proceeding with the regular business of the day, may I ask that Commissioner Suarez be recognized.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Suarez is recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF COMMISSIONER SUAREZ

MR. SUAREZ: Thank you, Madam President.

I am compelled to stand before this body this morning on a matter of personal privilege, but I will deal with it very briefly. I would like to state from the outset, Madam President, that this is in connection with the prayer which I recited last Friday, September 12, 1986, as reflected in Journal No. 81 of our regular sessions.

At the outset, let me state that although the prayer was rather irreverent, it was made without any malice and was not intended to malign any of our distinguished colleagues, especially a distinguished colleague for whom personally I have developed great affection and respect.

There is a portion in the prayer I recited, Madam President, which reads and I quote: "but who had unfortunately applied for the position of security guard at the Subic Base shipyard."

I would like to state, Madam President, that this is absolutely without factual basis and lest it create any misunderstanding, may I formally move for the deletion of this particular phrase in order that we can set the records straight. May I extend my profuse apologies to a distinguished friend and colleague in the person of Commissioner de Castro, who feels alluded to in my prayer.