

JOURNAL NO. 81

Friday, September 12, 1986

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:38 a.m., the President of the Constitutional Commission, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

The National Anthem was sung followed by a prayer led by Mr. Jose E. Suarez, to wit:

Dear Lord, this morning, we pause briefly for a group picture-taking; a composite group with diverse backgrounds, disparate ideas, laboring to attain an elusive ideal, to craft, with Your Divine guidance, a solid nationalist pro-people charter. This may be the only occasion we will ever group happily together, a fleeting moment I cherish.

Muslims, Tagalogs, Cebuanos, Ilongos, Ilocanos, Pampangueños — Filipinos above all — pictured together, unity in diversity indeed, a bunch of Runyonesque characters I have learned to love and to respect.

Shower upon them, dear Lord, all Your blessings. Bless this law professor who yells like an excited jungleman, but whose heart is as big as the island of Palawan. Bless this law dean, whose tongue tries to catch up with the rapidity of his brainwaves, leaving him breathless, necessitating his being rushed to the hospital for oxygen priming. Bless also this respected president of a private university, which we had favored with fantastic tax exemptions, whose Mafia connections are belied by his soft purring voice, drawing sharp reminders from the Chair to "Speak louder, please". Bless likewise this exuberant evangelist, who gushes with joy at every approved provision, even if they are addressed against his big brothers. Bless this stern retired military officer, ideal for the position of Military Ombudsman to strike terror among the scoundrels and the scalawags in the army — but who had unfortunately applied for the position of security guard at the Subic Bay shipyards. Bless also this declared champion of every conceivable popular cause, whose stentorian voice could be heard all the way to Malacañang where, with the reluctance of a Julius Caesar spurning the crown thrice at the Lupercal, he may finally land.

Bless the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse — one of whom is a lovable bully who jumps at everyone approaching the microphone trying to gag him. Bless also the notorious Gang of Five, one of whom is a Gabriela who lashes at everyone waving an imperialist flag.

But dear Lord, reserve Your special blessings for this serene lady who

manages crisis after crisis without a single strand falling from her well-coiffed head.

And, Lord, please do not forget to bless me too, now that I am about to enter the gates of Clark Air Base and Subic Base.

May God bless us all!

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At this juncture, the Chair suspended the session for the offering of a Mass for the speedy recovery of Mr. Rosales and for the good health of all the Members, to be followed by a group picture-taking.

It was 9:44 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:38 a.m., the session was resumed.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General of the Commission called the Roll and the following Members responded:

Abubakar, Y. R.	Garcia, E. G.
Alonto, A. D.	Gascon, J. L. M. C.
Aquino, F. S.	Guingona, S. V. C.
Azcuna, A. S.	Jamir, A. M. K.
Bacani, T. C.	Laurel, J. B.
Bengzon, J. F. S.	Lerum, E. R.
Bennagen, P. L.	Maambong, R. E.
Bernas, J. G.	Monsod, C. S.
Rosario Braid, F.	Natividad, T. C.
Calderon, J. D.	Nieva, M. T. F.
De Castro, C. M.	Nolledo, J. N.
Colayco, J. C.	Ople, B. F.
Concepcion, R. R.	Padilla, A. B.
Davide, H. G.	Muñoz Palma, C.
Foz, V. B.	Quesada, M. L. M.
Rama, N. G.	Sumulong, L. M.
Regalado, F. D.	Tadeo, J. S. L.
De los Reyes, R. F.	Tan, C.
Rigos, C. A.	Tingson, G. J.
Rodrigo, F. A.	Treñas, E. B.
Romulo, R. J.	Uka, L. L.
Rosales, D. R.	Villacorta, W. V.
Sarmiento, R. V.	Villegas, B. M.
Suarez, J. E.	

With 47 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Mr. Calderon, there being no objection, the reading of the Journal of the previous session was dispensed with and the said Journal was approved by the Body.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Calderon, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES OF A PETITION

AND COMMUNICATIONS

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles of the following Petition and Communications which were, in turn, referred by the Chair to the Committees hereunder indicated:

PETITION

Petition No. 3 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Petition of the Committee on the Legislative, signed by its Chairman, the Honorable Hilario G. Davide, Jr., earnestly requesting the Constitutional Commission to vote unanimously for the re-opening of Sections 5 and 11 of the Article on the Legislative Power

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication No. 853 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Position paper submitted by Datu Zacarias T. Cotejar and Datu Bangkal Matanog of the Cultural Communities Association of Surigao del Sur, Inc., Dapja, Cabas-an, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, urging the Constitutional Commission to grant the Manobo Tribe of Mindanao autonomous government

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Communication No. 854 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Pancho S. Domiar of Cotabato City, urging the Constitutional Commission to review the provisions of P.D. No. 704 because it is believed that there are provisions that make the rich richer and the poor poorer

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Communication No. 855 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Angel V. Sanchez of San Jose, Antique, and thirty other signatories, submitting specific proposals to protect children from exploitation, white slavery and exposure to drug addiction

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Communication No. 856 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Ramon R. Leuterio, 105 P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, expressing his views that in drafting the new Constitutions the gallery should be closed and the press should be banned to enable the Commissioners to work in privacy just like the 1787 U.S. Constitutional Convention wherein the members isolated themselves from the public to protect their integrity and reputation

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 857 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Benjamin C. Canlas of 5 Chaparral St., Rancho Estate II, Marikina, Metro Manila, suggesting that in the printing of money and minting of coins this motto shall be inscribed: "Ang lakas ng Bayan ay galing sa Diyos".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 858 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Jovencio C. Bernardo of the Good Samaritan Association and one hundred thirty-one other signatories of Tacloban City, seeking the retention of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PREAMBLE, NATIONAL TERRITORY AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Communication No. 859 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Ranolfo P. Goze of Buguey, Cagayan, containing various electoral reforms for consideration by the Constitutional Commission

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS AND AGENCIES

Communication No. 860 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Alfonso O. Santiago of the Language Education Council of the Philippines, suggesting that the Constitution be written and promulgated in the national language

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Communication No. 861 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Atty. Jovencio Bereber of Pres. Roxas, Capiz, submitting a number of constitutional proposals for consideration in the framing of the

Constitution, notably those pertaining to declaration of principles, President and Vice-President, national legislature, national economy and transitory provisions

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 862 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Edgar U. Leuenberger, UP College of Pharmacy, submitting specific recommendations for inclusion in the Article on Education, Science, Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Communication No. 863 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from Mr. Lunaz El Mismo of 264 N. Burlington Avenue, Los Angeles, California, submitting a number of proposals for consideration in the framing of the new Constitution, notably those pertaining to presidential and vice-presidential term of office, citizenship, national language and the U.S. military bases

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 864 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from the officers and members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City, signed by its presiding officer, Casiano T. Eborá, urging the Constitutional Commission to create a Commission on National Language

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Communication No. 865 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from Mr. Rizalito P. Barrientos of 1051 Matimyas St., Sampaloc, Manila, and fifty-nine other signatories, expressing conformity to the proposal to allow the people to cast "yes" votes for portions of the new Constitution they support and "no" votes for those they strongly dislike during the plebiscite on the draft charter

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Communications Nos. 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880 and 881 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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 Alfredo K. Cudiamat
Faith Christian Church
Sta. Monica Subdivision