

[VOL. IV, September 12, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 81

Friday, September 12, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:38 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 Jose E. Suarez.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

MR. SUAREZ: Dear Lord, this morning, we pause briefly for a group picture-taking: a composite group with diverse backgrounds, disparate ideas, laboring to attain an illusive 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, Ilonggos, 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, whom 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 it is addressed against his big brothers. Bless this stern retired military officer, ideal of the position of military ombudsman to strike terror among the scoundrels and the scalawags in the army but (*stricken off the Record*). 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 back at everyone waving an imperialist flag.

But, dear Lord, preserve 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

THE PRESIDENT: The session is suspended so we can prepare for the mass we are offering for the speedy recovery of our colleague, Commissioner Rosales, and for all of us that we may enjoy good health. After the mass, we shall have a group picture-taking, and then we will resume the session.

It was 9:44 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

THE PRESIDENT: The session is resumed.

ROLL CALL

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

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present	Bacani	Present
Alonto	Present	Bengzon	Present
Aquino	Present	Bennagen	Present
Azcuna	Present	Bernas	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	Present
Guingona	Present	Sarmiento	Present
Jamir	Present	Suarez	Present
Laurel	Present	Sumulong	Present
Lerum	Present	Tadeo	Present
Maambong	Present	Tan	Present
Monsod	Present	Tingson	Present

Natividad	Present	Treñas	Present
Nieva	Present	Uka	Present
Nolledo	Present	Villacorta	Present
Ople	Present	Villegas	Present

The President is present.

The roll call shows 47 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: Madam President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's 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 yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion 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 Petition and Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

PETITION

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 reopening of Sections 5 and 11 of the Article on the Legislative Power.

(Petition No. 3 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS

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.

(Communication No. 853 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Local Governments.

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.

(Communication No. 854 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Letter from Mr. Angel V. Sanchez of San Jose, Antique, and 30 other signatories, submitting specific proposals to protect children from exploitation, white slavery and exposure to drug addiction.

(Communication No. 855 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Letter from Mr. Ramon R. Leuterio, 105 P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, expressing his views that in drafting the new Constitution, 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 reputations.

(Communication No. 856 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

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."

(Communication No. 857 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Jovencio C. Bernardo of the Good Samaritan Association and 131 other signatories of Tacloban City, seeking the retention of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

(Communication No. 858 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

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

(Communication No. 859 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Constitutional Commissions and Agencies.

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.

(Communication No. 860 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

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.

(Communication No. 861 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

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.

(Communication No. 862 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

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.

(Communication No. 863 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

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

(Communication No. 864 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication from Mr. Rizalito P. Barrientos of 1051 Matimyas St., Sampaloc, Manila, and 59 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.

(Communication No. 865 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Amendments and Transitory Provisions.

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