

JOURNAL NO. 77

Monday, September 8, 1986

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:56 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. Gregorio J. Tingson, to wit:

"Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, for by it the elders obtained a good report. Through Faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Book of Hebrews

"Loving Heavenly Father, Whose we are and Whom we serve, we approach Thy throne of grace this morning as we start another day of work at our Constitutional Commission with deep humility and with a profound sense of gratitude: deep humility because we are not worthy to be entrusted with such a heavy and intricate task; profound gratitude because we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us which is really faith at work; faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; faith which is the flow of Divine energy through us, who are willing to do that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight; faith which is believing the incredible, seeing the invisible and doing the impossible.

Our country here, Lord, needs a political stabilizing document. Help us to write it well. We need to finish this Charter fairly soon. We cannot afford to disappoint our people. Bless us with discerning mind, a believing heart, a strong physique, a living and uncompromising faith.

And along with St. Paul, we declare true faith in Thy goodness, tolerance and understanding when he said, "This is our work and we can do it because Christ's Mighty energy is at work within us."

In the Blessed and Matchless Name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

Alonto, A. D.	Muñoz Palma, C.
Bacani, T. C.	Quesada, M. L. M.
Bengzon, J. F. S.	Rama, N. G.
Bernas, J. G.	Regalado, F. D.
Rosario Braid, F.	De Los Reyes, R. F.
De Castro, C. M.	Rigos, C. A.
Colayco, J. C.	Rodrigo, F. A.
Concepcion R. R.	Romulo, R. J.
Davide, H. G.	Sarmiento, R.V.
Foz, V. B.	Suarez, J. E.
Gascon, J. L. M. C.	Sumulong, L. M.
Guingona, S. V. C.	Tadeo, J. S. L.
Jamir, A. M. K.	Tingson, G. J.
Monsod, C. S.	Treñas, E. B.
Natividad, T. C.	Uka, L. L.
Nieva, M. T. F.	Villegas, B. M.
Padilla, A. B.	

With 33 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

The following Members appeared after the Roll Call:

A.M.

Abubakar, Y. R.	Lerum, E.R.
Aquino, F. S.	Maambong, R. E.
Bennagen, P. L.	Nolledo, J. N.
Calderon, J. D.	Ople, B.
Garcia, E. G.	Tan, C.
Laurel, J. B.	Villacorta, W. V.

P.M.

Azcuna, A. S.

Mr. Rosales was sick.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

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

REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

hereunder indicated:

Communications Nos. 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 — 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, each from the following:

- (1) Miriam E. Auza
60-B Mabilis Street
Diliman, Quezon City
- (2) Beth Banez
32-A Scout Madrinan
Quezon City
- (3) Josephine Sasoy
56 Miranda Street
Panabo, Davao
- (4) Ana F. Japay
58 Peach Street
SSS Village
Marikina, Metro Manila
- (5) Orpah Marasigan
32-C Scout Madrinan
Quezon City
- (6) Karenina B. Montemayor
Beverly Hills Subdivision
Antipolo, Rizal
- (7) Beth C. Manalastas
Sampaguita Street, Sto. Nino
San Fernando, Pampanga
- (8) Jing Carpio
32-A Scout Madrinan
Quezon City
- (9) Leah M. Darwin
73-B Lazeano
Diliman, Quezon City
- (10) Cyd H. Latuno
66-D Gen. Lim Street
Heroes Hill, Quezon City
- (11) Rachel Ma. Virtucio
70-3 Gen. Malvar Street
Davao City

- (12) Adela S. Erpelo
914 Guadalupe BLISS I
Makati, Metro Manila
- (13) Maria Jovita M. Perez
56 Luna Street
San Pedro, Laguna
- (14) Lutgarda Ocastro
1721 Phase 3
Guadalupe BLISS
Makati, Metro Manila
- (15) Leonida Ramos
217 Paraiso Street
Tondo, Manila
- (16) Alvina Torres
ACPO Box 51
Quezon City
- (17) Roy Bolina
70 Scout De Guia Street
Quezon City
- (18) Zillah Balico
Barotac Nuevo
Iloilo
- (19) Rowena Jameo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 778 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Manuel Navoa expressing his gratitude and of the three hundred persons in death row for the abolition of the death penalty and also seeking the enactment of a law providing compensation to acquitted prisoners as well as victims of crimes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Communications Nos. 799 and 780 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communications, urging the Constitutional Commission to include in the Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception, from the following:

- (1) One hundred twenty-one signatories from the BIR Catholic Charismatic Community, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
- (2) Seven thousand five concerned citizens of the Province of Misamis Occidental

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

Communication No. 781 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Jesus B. Blanco, submitting Resolution No. 1 of the BIR Improvement Movers Association, urging the creation of a Constitutional Commission on Revenue

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS AND
AGENCIES

Communication No. 782 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from Mr. Delfin R. Manlapaz of 1707 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City, suggesting a constitutional provision mandating the State to create a citizen-owned reservoir of national credit, wherein each of them, natural-born or naturalized, is credited with a prorated initial bank deposit

TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF MR. ALONTO

At this juncture, Mr. Alonto rose on a question of privilege by giving the reaction of the Mindanao Muslims to the historic trip of President Aquino to the South for a peace talk with Nur Misuari.

He stated that on Friday, September 5, 1986 which was also the first day of the first month of the Hegira year, President Aquino proceeded to Jolo, Sulu, against the advice of her advisers, to meet the leader of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front.

On behalf of the Muslims in Mindanao, he congratulated the President and all those who accompanied her on a mission of peace for Mindanao. He stated that the meeting significantly had for its venue the Carmelite Convent situated at the heart of a Muslim city which had not known peace during the regime of President Marcos.

He quoted the President, who spoke before the audience in Zamboanga City and Jolo, to have said: "I am not afraid to face any danger. I am ready to face anything and if I have to make sacrifices, I will gladly do it to achieve peace for all." He lauded the President, stating that she deserves not only the accolade but also the support and cooperation of the Filipino people in her effort to attain peace for all people.

Mr. Alonto recalled that twenty years ago, some 20,000 Muslims had already recommended a workable solution to the peace problem in Mindanao through the grant of local autonomy with a definite and guaranteed territorial jurisdiction; and a legislative power to enact local laws based on the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet, which recommendation was based on what Dr. Majul said in the 1971 Constitutional Convention that "unless we can bestow to our people a sense of oneness and common destiny, there seems to be no possible recourse to contain the