

[ VOL. IV, September 03, 1986 ]

R.C.C. NO. 73

Wednesday, September 3, 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 Teodoro C. Bacani.

*Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.*

PRAYER

BISHOP BACANI: Let us put ourselves in the presence of God.

O wise and Almighty God, as we begin our work today, make us realize that we are all pilgrims towards the truth. Grant us a share of Your truth but make us realize always that each of us can only have a share. Let us not fall into the belief that the share that we hold is the fullness of truth. Let us not identify truth simply with our own positions. Help us to search for the fullness of truth as we work, argue and debate together.

Help us to look at the merits of the arguments of our opponents in this hall and grant that as we look at the merits of their arguments, we may desist from questioning their motivations.

Grant us, O Father, trust in one another, that indispensable condition for our working together for the good of Your people. Grant us the grace to work in peace with one another; be hospitable to one another even while we are not hospitable to one another's ideas.

Grant us, O Father, to be able to fashion a fundamental law of the land worthy of our people. These we ask You in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, reading:

Abubakar

Present \*

Natividad

Present \*

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

The President is present.

The roll call shows 34 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 yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's session? (*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 that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session? (*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 Proposed Resolution on First Reading and Communications, the President making the corresponding references:*

#### PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON FIRST READING

Proposed Resolution No. 543, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JOSE B. LAUREL, JR. ON HIS BEING CONFERRED THE ORDER OF KALANTIAO.

Introduced by Hon. Davide, Jr., Maambong, Foz, de los Reyes, Jr., Bengzon, Jr., Bennagen and Rama.

To the Steering Committee.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from one Roque J. Fernandez of Guimbal, Iloilo, suggesting the redistricting of Iloilo to seven congressional districts so as to provide the people equitable allotment of district representation.

(Communication No. 692 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the Legislative.

Telegram from the Cantilan Gospel Church, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the provision that the separation of the Church and State shall be inviolable as embodied in the 1973 Constitution and as understood historically and jurisprudentially in the Philippines.

(Communication No. 693 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Telegram from the officers and members of the Philippine International Islamic Crescent Society, sent by its Secretary-General, Dr. Maguid Malang, expressing profound gratitude for the approval of a constitutional provision granting autonomy to Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras.

(Communication No. 694 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Archives.

Telegram from Sheik Ibrahim Nader, President, Federation of Islamic Arabic Schools, Poon-a Bayabao, Lasur, requesting vehemently the grant of autonomy to Mindanao.

(Communication No. 695 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Local Governments.

Telegram from the Interchurch Peace Council of the Netherlands expressing hope and support for the inclusion in the Constitution of a provision making the Philippines nuclear-free and foreign-bases free.

(Communication No. 696 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Communication from the Kapunongan sa Kapilya sa Kristohanong Katilingban (4 K's) and Maayong Panglawas ng mga Surigawnon, signed by 85 residents of Surigao City, requesting inclusion in the Constitution of a provision regarding: (1) the creation of health centers; (2) reduction of the cost of medicines; (3) creation of sectoral committees, particularly on health; (4) prioritization of health, education and other social services; (5) respect for the right of hospital workers to organize and form labor unions; (6) orient the people on health education; (7) enactment of laws providing for free pre-natal checkups, vaccination, etc. for women during pregnancy and childbirth; and (8) removal of the U.S. military bases and support the call for a bases-free and nuclear-free Philippines.

(Communication No. 697 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Letter from Mr. Job Elizes, Jr. and family, 19 Filipinas Avenue, Parañaque, Metro Manila, requesting inclusion in the Constitution of a provision that will mandate the State to "include the teaching of specific acts and omissions in grade school which are in everyday life relating to respect and caring for the fellowmen, law and order, conducive to peaceful and orderly life, to develop in the child, law and order habit as his second nature and part and parcel of his being."

(Communication No. 698 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication signed by Mr. Gerardo C. Enriquez and 23 other concerned citizens of Alabat, Quezon, requesting the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution a provision restricting the entry of foreign fishing and/or mining groups to prevent unmanageable depletion and exploitation of our natural resources.

(Communication No. 699 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communication from 153 signatories of Digos, Davao del Sur, appealing to the Constitutional Commission to include, among others a provision that would enshrine in the Constitution the value of human life, e.g. that an unborn child in its mother's womb should be entitled to the protection of the State.

(Communication No. 700 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Communication signed by 413 signatories from various parts of the country, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 701 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Communication from 169 signatories of Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, appealing to the Constitutional Commission to consider, among others, provisions that would enshrine in the Constitution the value of human life, e.g. that an unborn child in its mother's womb should be entitled to the protection of the State.

(Communication No. 702 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Letter from Mr. Mauro P. Balingit of 37 Aldrin Street, Doña Faustina Village, Culiat, Diliman, Quezon City, requesting that before the Constitutional Commission submits the final draft of the Constitution to the President for action, it should be published in full in the leading newspapers to give time for the concerned citizens to appeal on the items that may be objectionable to them.

(Communication No. 703 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Communication from the Alliance Evangelical Church, Cotabato City, signed by its Chairman, Rev. Jose V. Empleo, and 21 other officers, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate, among others, 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.

(Communication No. 704 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Communication from the Community Evangelical Church, Dadiangas Heights, General Santos City, signed by its Chief Elder, Roberto Y. Cania, and 15 other officers, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate, among others, 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.

(Communication No. 705 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I ask that Commissioner Romulo be recognized on a question of privilege.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Romulo is recognized.

But before we do so, may the Chair inquire what is the nature of the privilege speech or remarks?