

JOURNAL NO. 61

Wednesday, August 20, 1986

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:46 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. Edmundo G. Garcia, to wit:

"My heart praises the Lord;

My soul is glad because of

God my Saviour,

for He has remembered me,

His lowly servant!

From now on all people will

call me happy,

because of the great things

the Mighty God has done

for me.

His name is holy;

from one generation to

another

He shows mercy to those

who honor Him.

He has stretched out His

mighty arm

and scattered the proud with

all their plans.

He has brought down mighty

kings from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with

good things,

and sent the rich away with

empty hands.

He has kept the promise He

made to our ancestors;

and has come to the help of

His servant Israel.

He has remembered to show

mercy to Abraham

and to all His descendants

forever!"

Dear God, Father of our people, be with us till the end as we finish our task of writing a charter together with our people for the future.

We continue this effort in FAITH, knowing fully well that no matter how much we try, what we can produce is but an imperfect and unfinished document. Imperfect, because we are men and women with feet of clay holding imperfect tools in uncertain times. Unfinished, for no matter what we do, only the people can give life and meaning to the lines we write.

We continue this effort in HOPE, knowing that if we fail to say or fail to do what we must, someday our people will say or do what must be said or done in our barrios and cities, in our towns and countryside or in our autonomous regions.

Dear God, You, who can read between the lines, and even beyond them, we hope that You will perfect our efforts by Your guidance and loving kindness, in session or out of session, in season or out of season, for the good of our people and this country which You love so dearly.

Finally, we continue this effort in LOVE, knowing that when all is said and done, the

one important thing is how we have loved our neighbor in word and deed, especially those who have less in life, those closest to Your heart, the lowly ones, the voiceless and the poor.

Dear God, You, who love our people and country more than any one of us here and more than we can imagine, stand by our side. We believe in the constancy of Your love. Because we may seem to be a poor and peripheral nation but it is no reason for us not to be proud and free, to be strong and self-reliant, to be independent and sovereign.

You who have crushed the proud from their thrones, lift up Your lowly ones and this our only country, brave isles in difficult seas but beloved in Your eyes.

Dear God, we trust that You will be with us, now and always.

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.	Natividad, T. C.
Azcuna, A. S.	Nieva, M. T. F.
Bacani, T. C.	Nolledo, J. N.
Bengzon, J. F. S.	Padilla, A. B.
Bennagen, P. L.	Muñoz Palma, C.
Rosario Braid, F.	Rama, N. G.
Calderon, J. D.	Regalado, F. D.
De Castro, C. M.	Rigos, C. A.
Colayco, J. C.	Rodrigo, F. A.
Concepcion, R. R.	Romulo, R. J.
Davide, H. G.	Rosales, D. R.
Foz, V. B.	Suarez, J. E.
Garcia, E. G.	Sumulong, L. M.
Gascon, J. L. M. C.	Tan, C.
Jamir, A. M. K.	Tingson, G. J.
Laurel, J. B.	Uka, L. L.
Lerum, E. R.	Villegas, B. M.
Monsod, C. S.	

With 35 Members present, the Chair declared of the presence of a quorum.

The following Members appeared after the Roll Call:

A.M.

Abubakar, Y. R.	Quesada, M. L. M.
Aquino, F. S.	De los Reyes, R. F.
Bernas, J. G.	Sarmiento, R. V.
Guingona, S. V. C.	Tadeo, J. S. L.
Maambong, R. E.	Villacorta, W. V.
Ople, B. F.	

Mr. Treñas was sick.

Mr. Brocka was absent.

On August 19, 1986, Mr. Gascon, who was inadvertently marked absent, came late in the afternoon.

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 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:

Communication No. 582 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from Mr. Santiago Morales of the Philippine Chamber of Communications, Inc., Room 504 SMS Bldg., 120 Juan Luna, Binondo, Manila, requesting inclusion in the Constitution of the following proposed provision: "In the interest of national security and for the common good, no foreigner shall be allowed to sit in the governing body of public utilities nor shall any foreigner or foreign corporation, association or entity be allowed to be involved, through a management contract or other means, in the management, administration, operation, and control of public utilities."

TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

Communication No. 583 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Ms. Marie Francesca Yuvienco of St. Paul College, Quezon City, urging the retention of the United States military facilities in Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base

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

Communication No. 584 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Rev. Henry Habon of Tarlac, Tarlac, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the provision on the inviolability of the separation of the church and the state, as embodied in the 1973 Constitution

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 585 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from the Sangguniang Bayan of Rosario, Agusan del Sur, signed by the Municipal Mayor-Designate Ruperto V. Bermudez, seeking the disbandment and/or abolition of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and the Integrated Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 586 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from the Concerned Women of the Philippines, signed by fifteen members, reiterating its stand on "the sacredness of the family as a basic unit of society" and "the right to life of the unborn child which begins from the moment of conception"

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

Communication No. 587 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Jose P. Dimalanta, Jr. of Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao, requesting reconsideration of the Constitutional Commission's decision refusing the mechanism of limiting reelections thru a process of effectively barring elective officials from running for the same public office after two or three terms, saying that, at this crucial stage in our history, there is a compelling need to apply the brakes to unlimited reelections and, perforce, to unabated abuse of power; otherwise, there will be a larger break from the sociopolitical mainstream that will be the breeding ground for future internecine civil strife

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 588 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from Mr. Ramon Y. Sy, UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati, Metro Manila, submitting his position paper containing policy recommendations on the settlement of our foreign debt

TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

Communication No. 589 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from Ms. Christina M. Liamzon, National Coordinator, Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, submitting a position paper on the proposed amendments to Sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Article on Social Justice, expressing hope that these statements be given sufficient attention in the deliberations of the sections

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE