

JOURNAL NO. 73

Wednesday, September 3, 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. Teodoro C. Bacani, to wit:

"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 search for the fullness of truth as we work, argue and debate together.

Help us 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 with one another even while we are not hospitable to their 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

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

Alonto, A. D.
Azcona, A.S.
Bacani, T.C.
Bengzon, J. F. S.
Bennagen, P. L.
Rosario Braid, F.
Calderon, J.D.
Jamir, A.M.K.
Laurel, J.B.
Monsod, C.S.

De Castro
Calayco, J. C.
Concepcion, R. R.
Davide, H.G.
Foz, V.B.
Gascon, J. L. M. C.
Guingona, S.V.C.
Rigos, C.A.
Rodrigo, F.A.
Sarmiento, R.V.

Nolledo, J. N.
Padilla, A. B.
Muñoz Palma, C.
Rama, N.G.
Regalado, F.D.
De los Reyes, R.F.

Suarez, J. E.
Sumulong, L. M.
Tan, C.
Uka, L.L.
Villacorta, W.V.
Villegas, B. M.

With 34 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

The following Members appeared after the Roll Call:

A.M.

Abubakar, Y. R.
Aquino, F. S.
Bernas, J. G.
Garcia, E. G.
Lerum, E. R.
Maambong, R. E.

Natividad, T. C.
Ople, B. F.
Quesada, M. L. M.
Tadeo, J. S. L.
Tingson, G. J.

Messrs. Rosales and Treñas were sick.

On September 1, 1986, Mr. Alonto, who was on official mission, was inadvertently marked absent.

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 RESOLUTION AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

Proposed Resolution No. 543, entitled:

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

Introduced by Honorable 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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE

Communication No. 693 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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 of historically and jurisprudentially in the Philippines

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 694 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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

TO THE ARCHIVES

Communication No. 695 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Telegram from Sheik Ibrahim Nader, President, Federation of Islamic Arabic Schools, Poonabayabao, Lasur, requesting vehemently the grant of autonomy to Mindanao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Communication No. 696 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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

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

Communication No. 697 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from the Kapunongan sa Kapilya sa Kristohanong Katilingban (4 K's) and Maayong Panglawas ng mga Surigawnon, signed by eighty-five (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 prenatal 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

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 698 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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 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"

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Communication No. 699 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication signed by Mr. Gerardo C. Enriquez and twenty-three (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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY

Communication No. 700 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from one hundred fifty-three (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

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

Communication No. 701 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication signed by four hundred thirteen (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

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

Communication No. 702 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from one hundred sixty-nine (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

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

Communication No. 703 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

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

TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Communication No. 704 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from the Alliance Evangelical Church, Cotabato City, signed by its Chairman, Rev. Jose V. Empleo, and twenty-one (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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

Communication No. 705 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Communication from the Community Evangelical Church, Dadiangas Heights, General Santos City, signed by its Chief Elder, Roberto Y. Cania, and fifteen (15) other offices, 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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PROVISIONS

REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION ON A
QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

On motion of Mr. Rama, the Chair recognized Mr. Romulo on a question of privilege relative to news stories which appeared in the day's newspapers alleging that some Members of the Commission are "moles for multinationals".

Upon inquiry of the Chair, Mr. Romulo informed that the matter could not wait for Friday, following the Rules of the Commission, as it involves the integrity of some Members.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF MR. ROMULO

Mr. Romulo expressed regrets that he had to take up the time of the Commission to deliver a privilege speech and regale the Body with his professional activities on account of the canard and misrepresentations made by a special interest group concerning his actuations in the Commission. He said that it was alleged that his law firm represents some foreign investors and that he should, therefore, abstain from