

[ VOL. V, October 15, 1986 ]

**R.C.C. NO. 109**

Wednesday, October 15, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

*At 9:42 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 for the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

THE PRESIDENT: Almighty God of the Universe, Lord of wisdom and light, we have felt Your Divine Presence in our midst during these past four months while we pursued and labored as instruments of Your divine wisdom to complete a fundamental law for our people, a Constitution that will serve as the foundation of a just, humane and democratic society for Filipino generations to come.

Today, an important chapter of our work is done.

We are confident in our hearts and minds that the document we have written is imbued with Your beneficent influence and blessings and will bring love and peace to our troubled land.

Lord God, another chapter remains to be met.

We implore You to come to our aid once more when we appear before our people and present to them the new Constitution for their approval.

Let the light of this document shine forth clear and bright so that our people may see in it the hope for a promised land of peace and prosperity.

In the Book of Genesis it is written, and I quote:

God saw all he had made, and wished it was very good. . . Thus, heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work He had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work He had been doing.

Yes, we have completed our work, having reached our own Sabbath Day. But can we rest, O Lord, after today? You said: "My father goes on working and so do I." Thus, Lord, there can be no rest for each of us nor for our people because there is still work to be done.

After its ratification, we pray that this covenant of the people be not shattered by evil forces as it was when Moses at Mount Sinai broke the tablet of Your Ten Commandments at the sight of evil among his people.

Merciful God Almighty, I thank You most especially for the completion of the Constitution on this 15th day of October, 1986, in the year of Our Lord, the Feast of St. Theresa of Avila, First Woman Doctor of the Church, whose way of perfection and that of St. Therese of the Child Jesus have been my constant inspiration since I was a child.

We glorify Our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, for she willed that our mission be completed in the month of October, dedicated to the devotion of the Holy Rosary which is the key to peace for mankind.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, cover with the benediction of Your love each and everyone of the Members of the Constitutional Commission and their loved ones; the sick, the weary, the disillusioned, and the hopeful amongst us; bless the Filipino people and our leaders in government, bless most kindly our brothers fighting in the hills that we may all be reconciled in love, peace and unity for the survival of the Filipino nation and for Your greater glory here on earth.

With all my being, I exult and praise You, my God, for the grace You have bestowed upon this Your humble daughter to be part of our struggle to liberate the nation from despotism and tyranny, and now again, to be Your instrument towards regaining our rights and freedom.

Dear Lord, remember the day when You cleansed ten lepers and only one came back to thank You and You said: "Where are the other nine?" Today, not only one but all the 47 men and women stand before You and lift their hearts in gratitude for giving them this day in history, the day when we stamp our signatures on the Charter You kindly helped us to frame.

All for the glory of God Almighty. 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	Present
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	Present
Lerum	Present *	Uka	Present
Maambong	Present	Villacorta	Present
Monsod	Present	Villegas	Present

The President is present.

The roll call shows 44 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journals of the sessions of October 12 and 13.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection to the motion of the Floor Leader? (*Silence*)  
The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNALS

MR. RAMA: I move, Madam President, that approve the Journals of October 12 and 13 sessions.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we approve the Journals of October 12 and 13? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

MR RAMA: I move, Madam President, that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we proceed to the Reference of Business? (*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 Resolutions on First Reading and Communications, the President making the corresponding references:*

### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

Proposed Resolution No. 549, entitled:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE FLOOR LEADER AND HIS ASSISTANTS FOR THEIR DISTINCTIVE AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND STEADFAST LEADERSHIP WHICH ENABLED THE COMMISSION TO FINISH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FRAMING THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW.

Introduced by Hon. Romulo, Treñas, Rigos, Abubakar and Aquino.

To the Steering Committee.

Proposed Resolution No. 550, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE HIGH REGARD AND APPRECIATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION FOR ITS ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENT, THE HONORABLE CECILIA MUÑOZ PALMA, FOR THE WISE, ABLE, FAIR AND DIGNIFIED MANNER BY WHICH THE BUSINESS AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED.

Introduced by Hon. Padilla, Rama, Aquino, Bengzon, Jr., Concepcion, Bernas, Monsod, Villegas, Rodrigo, Romulo, Tan, Nieva, Gascon, and Suarez.

To the Steering Committee.

Proposed Resolution No. 552, entitled:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF ALL COMMITTEES FOR THEIR DISTINCTIVE AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND STEADFAST LEADERSHIP WHICH ENABLED THE COMMISSION TO FINISH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FRAMING THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW.

Introduced by Hon. Sarmiento, Lerum, Maambong, and Aquino.

To the Steering Committee.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Telegram from the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Assumption College, Iloilo City, congratulating the Constitutional Commission for its magnificent achievement.

(Communication No. 1104 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Archives.

Letter from Honorable Ramon A. Diaz, Deputy Minister, Presidential Commission on Good Government, expressing, on behalf of the PCGG, deep appreciation for the vote of confidence shown during the session of the Constitutional Commission on October 7, 1986.

(Communication No. 1105 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Archives.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: I move that we take up the matter of the approval on Third Reading of the proposed Constitution of 1986.

I ask that Commissioner Guingona, chairman of the Committee on Sponsorship, be recognized.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Commissioner Guingona is recognized.