

[VOL. V, October 13, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 107

Monday, October 13, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 10:58 a.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, called the session to order.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDENT: Please rise for the National Anthem.

Everybody rose for the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Cirilo A. Rigos.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

REV. RIGOS: Most merciful and loving God, whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts, we vow before Thy Majesty for Thy patience in guiding us all along the way, for pains that served to purge our souls, for victories that gave us a forestate of the joy which the world can never give, we give You thanks, O God. We offer unto Thee the product of our collective work; may it be a channel to Thy Grace and an instrument of Thy peace, and may it contribute to the healing of the nation and the building of a world where love and justice reign.

Above all, help us to offer ourselves, that we may overcome every tendency to be proud or self-righteous. Teach us to be humble and willing to learn from the lowly and to serve even the unloving. And as we continue to face the duties of our common life, may the fullness of Thy presence abide with us, until our eyelids close in death.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL DISPENDED WITH

MR. RAMA: I move that we dispense with the roll call.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the roll call is dispensed with.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal and approve the same.

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

MR. RAMA: 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, the President making the corresponding reference:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON FIRST READING

Proposed Resolution No. 551, entitled:

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN ORDINANCE TO BE APPENDED TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION APPORTIONING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN PROVINCES AND CITIES AND THE METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA.

Introduced by Hon. Davide, Jr., Azcuna, Sumulong, Calderon, Alonto, Jamir, Lerum, Guingona, Abubakar, Rodrigo, Aquino, Concepcion, de los Reyes, Jr., Garcia and Treñas.

To the Steering Committee.

At this juncture, the President relinquished the Chair to the Honorable Ricardo J. Romulo.

MR. RAMA: Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Romulo): The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 551
(Apportionment Ordinance for the House of Representatives)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

MR. RAMA: I move that we consider Resolution No. 551 as introduced by the Committee on the Legislative.

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

Consideration of Resolution No. 551 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary-General will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. Resolution No. 551, entitled:

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN ORDINANCE TO BE APPENDED TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION APPORTIONING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN PROVINCES AND CITIES AND THE METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA.

(The following is the whole text of the resolution)

RESOLUTION NO. 551

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN ORDINANCE TO BE APPENDED TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION APPORTIONING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN PROVINCES AND CITIES AND THE METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA.

Resolved by the 1986 Constitutional Commission in session assembled, to propose, as it hereby proposes, an Ordinance to be appended to the new Constitution as follows:

SECTION 1. For purposes of the election of Members of the House of Representatives of the First Congress of the Philippines under the Constitution proposed by the 1986 Constitutional Commission and subsequent elections, and until otherwise provided by law, the Members thereof shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities, and the Metropolitan Manila Area as shown in Annex "A" hereof. *

SECTION 2. The Commission on Elections is hereby empowered to make minor adjustments of the apportionment herein made.

SECTION 3. Any province that may hereafter be created or any city whose population may hereafter be increased to more than two hundred fifty thousand shall be entitled in the immediately following election to at least one Member or such number of Members as it may be entitled to on the basis of the number of its inhabitants and according to the standards set forth in Section 5 of Article _____ of the Constitution. The number of Members apportioned to the province out of which such new province was created or where the city, whose population has so increased, is geographically located shall be correspondingly adjusted by the Commission on Elections but such adjustment shall not be made within one hundred and twenty days before the election.

SECTION 4. The Ordinance shall be appended to the Constitution proposed by the 1986 Constitutional Commission, and shall be submitted to a plebiscite simultaneously with such Constitution, and shall take effect upon its ratification by a majority of the votes cast in such plebiscite.

Introduced by

The Committee on the Legislative
(Sgd.) Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

Chairman

(Sgd.) Adolfo S. Azcuna
Vice-Chairman

MR. RAMA: I move, Mr. Presiding Officer, that we dispense with the Rules and proceed to the Second and Third Reading on the resolution on redistricting.

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

MR. RAMA: I ask that Commissioner Davide, the chairman of the Legislative Committee, be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Romulo): Commissioner Davide is recognized.

MR. DAVIDE: Mr. Presiding Officer, may I request for permission for our COMELEC representatives headed by Director Vicente de Lima, and our committee secretary, Mrs. Rachele Agustin Caoile, to assist the committee at the front of the session hall at the sponsorship table. We need their services in the course of the discussion on the apportionment.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Romulo): The request is granted.

The Commissioner may proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF COMMISSIONER DAVIDE

MR. DAVIDE: Mr. Presiding Officer and my distinguished colleagues:

The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which this Commission approved yesterday, mandates that the House of Representatives shall be composed of not more than 250 Members, unless otherwise provided by law, who shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities and the Metropolitan Manila area in accordance with the number of their respective inhabitants and on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio and of Members who, as provided by law, shall be elected through a party list system of registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations. The party list representatives shall constitute 20 *per centum* of the total number of representatives including those under the party list. For three consecutive terms after the ratification of this Constitution, one-half of the seats allocated to party list representatives shall be filled, as provided by law, by selection or election from the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector. Each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory. Each city or each province with a population of at least 250,000 shall have at least one Representative. This is Section 5 of the Article on the Legislative. On the basis of a 250-seat House of Representatives, 200 seats would be for the regular legislative districts and 50 for the party list representatives of which 25 would, for three consecutive terms of the House of Representatives, be for the sectoral representatives. The Commission, upon motion of Commissioner Felicitas Aquino, decided to apportion the legislative districts to be incorporated in an ordinance to be appended to the new Constitution. The Committee on the Legislative forthwith prepared the ordinance which embodies the apportionment. This is covered by the proposed resolution which is the subject of our discussion and copies thereof had been distributed to the body. The ordinance fixes at 200 the number of legislative seats which are, in turn, apportioned among the provinces and cities with a population of at least 250,000 and the Metropolitan Manila area in accordance with the number of their respective inhabitants on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio. The population is based on the 1986 projection, with the 1980 official enumeration as the point of reckoning. This projection indicates that our population is more or less 56 million. Taking into account the mandate that each city with at least 250,000 inhabitants and each province shall have at least one representative, we at first allotted one seat for each of the 73 provinces; and one each for all cities with a population of at least 250,000, which are the Cities of Manila, Quezon, Pasay, Caloocan, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga. Thereafter, we then proceeded to increase whenever appropriate the