

JOURNAL NO. 139

APERTURA DE LA SESION

Se abre la sesión a las 3:35 p.m., bajo la presidencia del Presidente, Hon. Claro M. Recto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lease la lista de Delegados.

MR. ESCAREAL: I move that the reading of the list be dispensed with.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? *(After a pause.)* The Chair hears none. There is a quorum.

APROBACION DEL ACTA

El Secretario lee el acta de la sesión anterior, la cual es aprobada.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lease la Resolucion de gratitud al Presidente y Congreso de Jos Estados Unidos.

EL SECRETARIO:

CONVENCION CONSTITUCIONAL

P. R. C. C. No. 75

Sometido por los Delegados Kapunan, Reyes J, Grafilo, Gullas,
Nepomuceno R., y Abella

R E S O L U C I O N

Expresando la GRATITUD Y APRECIO DE LA CONVENCION CONSTITUCIONAL Y DEL PUEBLO FILIPINO AL GOBIERNO Y PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, POR LA APROBACION DE LA LEY QUE CONCEDE LA INDEPENDENCE A FILIPINAS.

Por cuanta, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos de America, el 24 de marzo de 1934, aprobo la ley No. 1227, conocida por Ley Tydings-McDuffie, qué concede la completa independencia de las Islas Filipinas y dispone la adopcion de una Constitucion para dichas Islas: For tanto.

Se resuelve: Qué la Convencion Constitucional exprese como por la presente expresa, en su nombre y en el del pueblo filipino, su profunda gratitud al Gobierno y pueblo de los Estados Unidos, y a todos cuantos ban defendido la causa de la libertad del pueblo filipino, por la oportunidad qué se le ha ofrecido de escribir su Constitucion y ser una nacion independiente.

Se resuelve también, qué se envíe copia de esta Resolución, por conducto de los Comisionados Kesidenies, al Presidents y Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a esta Resolución? (*Silencio.*) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Aprobada por unanimidad.

Lease la siguiente Resolución.

CONSTITUCIONAL CONVENCION
P. R. C. C. No. 110

Introduced by Delegates Ventura and Gullas

RESOLUTION

APPOINTING A COMMITTEE TO GO TO WASHINGTON, D. C., TO FORMALLY PRESENT THE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION.

RESOLVED, That Hon. Claro M. Recto, President of the Convention, and Hon. Manuel Roxas, Delegate for Capiz, together with such other members of the Convention as may be designated by the President thereof, be appointed as a Committee to go to Washington, D. C., to formally present the Constitution of the Philippines adopted by the Convention, with a view to securing action thereon as provided in Public Act Numbered one hundred and twentyseven of the Congress of the United States, approved March twenty-fourth, nineteen hundred and thirty four.

PAULINO GULLAS
Delegate from
Cebu

Francisco Ventura
Delegate from Ilocos Norte
Manila, February 6, 1935.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Delegado por Ilocos Norte, Señor Ventura.

DISCURSO DEL SR. VENTURA

MR. VENTURA: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention: We are assembled on this occasion to perform the last solemn act of our task. Within the next few moments we shall sign our names on the Constitution, an act that will be consecrated in the hearts of the Filipino people. And as we affix our signatures let it be with fervent prayer upon our lips that it shall endure through the ages as the bulwark of the rights and liberties of our people, and that it will be the last Constitution that they will adopt and swear to uphold and defend. Let the signing be a solemn pledge from each one of us—with these magnificent walls that reechoed many a passionate cry for independence as mute witnesses — that there will be no

turning back from the straight, narrow and rugged path we have chosen toward absolute and complete independence.

This occasion is memorable. It will go down in history as marking the birth of a new nation. The Constitution we have drafted is the fruit of our peaceful fight for independence for the last twenty-eight years since the establishment of the first Philippine Assembly. It embodies the dreams, aspirations and ideals of a liberty-loving people. Every line of it is a testimony that we have kept faith with our forebears who offered their lives on the altar of freedom.

thus we are here today silhouetted against an epic past, with the historic Barasoain Church as the setting. There thirty-six years ago, when the people were still suffering from the ravages of war that suppressed the tyranny of Spain in these Islands, the revolutionary convention met and drafted a constitution that gave birth to the first Republic in the Orient. That constitution, consecrated by the blood of those who had fallen on the fields of battle, has been to us a constant inspiration for a peaceful but unremitting campaign for the restoration of our independence.

Today the Constitution which bears the impress of our faith and solidarity as a people and of our unswerving loyalty to the independence cause, is nonetheless consecrated because it has come into being under an atmosphere of peace and mutual confidence with the American people. It is inspired and consecrated by the same spirit that sanctified the Malolos Constitution; it is doubly consecrated by the spirit of self-sacrifice, tolerance and patriotism of the Members of the Convention who set aside personal ambitions, sectionalism, and party prejudices to make this Constitution a real expression of the character, life and will of the whole nation.

Mr. President, we have chosen this solemn occasion to present this resolution that will designate the Members of this august Body, who will formally present the draft of our Constitution to the President of the United States. It is meet, since we have finished our task and we are about to sign the Constitution, that we make a formal designation of the official representation of the Constitutional Convention in the Parliamentary Mission which will depart tomorrow for the American to discuss the future relations between the United States and the Philippines. Two outstanding leaders of the country, Sen. Claro M. Recto and Representative Roxas, were chosen members of the mission to represent the Philippine Legislature. Inasmuch as they are also Members of the Convention, we shall have the best and happiest choice if we designate them the official representatives of this august Body to present the draft of the Constitution to the President of the United States.

Mr. President, the Gentleman from Batangas, the Honorable Claro M. Recto, was a Member of the Independence Mission to the United States in 1925. The Gentleman from Capiz, the Honorable Manuel A. Roxas, was thrice a member of the Independence Missions to the United States. On the pages of Philippine contemporary history is emblazoned their brilliant and patriotic work for our national cause. They were sent to the Convention by opposing banners. But Delegate Roxas supported the election of Delegate Recto as the President of the Convention. Brushing aside all party prejudices, he pledged his unstinted cooperation with President Recto. With the best interests of his country uppermost in his heart, Delegate Roxas cooperated, as no other man ever did, with every one in the Convention thereby making our work a success and producing a Constitution that will promote the peace, prosperity and happiness of the Filipino people.

In preparing the Constitution, President Recto directed the work of the Convention with singular ability. Delegate Roxas, as a member of the Committee of Seven and other committees, contributed to the drafting of the Constitution the best of his experience as a legislator and statesman.

President Recto followed every step in the preparation of the Constitution. He discussed important provisions of the Constitution not only with the leaders of both parties of the Convention but also with almost every member thereof so that doubtful questions were clarified and conflicting views reconciled. In elucidating the ideas and principles involved in the provisions of the Constitution, he showed his perspicacity as a jurist and his broad vision as a statesman. He guided the delegates in the policies to be adopted and in the principles to be upheld.

Delegate Roxas, both in the committee meetings and on the floor of the Convention, expounded principles of constitutional law or political science with admirable mastery. He defended or opposed propositions or precepts in the Constitution with force and irresistible logic. Gifted with peerless wit, eloquence and forceful logic of a seasoned parliamentarian. Delegate Recto always carried the Assembly in deciding fundamental issues. Both President Recto and Delegate Roxas went over every line in the Constitution as they helped in the revision work of the Committee on Style. Both are familiar with the motive, the principle or philosophy underlying every precept in the Constitution. In them surges the same spirit that pervades the whole Constitution, and it cannot be otherwise because the same spirit has always animated them in the libertarian labors for our country.

Because of his long contact with American political leaders, Delegate Roxas is familiar with their reaction to new theories or political philosophies embodied in our Constitution. President Recto, with his unequalled tact, will undoubtedly help overcome any possible objections to the novel provisions in our Constitution. Both are lawyers, gifted with eloquence, experienced as legislators, statesmen of vision, patriots of untarnished devotion to the great cause of their country. Delegate Recto and Delegate Roxas will make the ablest and happiest team in presenting to the President of the United States the views of the Convention on the provisions of the Constitution. With them as our official representatives in the Mission we can be sure that they will secure an early and favorable action on our Constitution by the President of the United States, thus hastening the establishment of the Commonwealth.

For these considerations, I request approval of the resolution by unanimous consent of the Convention.

MR. BUENO: Mr. President, for a parliamentary inquiry. Will the travelling expenses of Members designated by the President to go with the official nominees of the Convention be defrayed by the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: The inquiry is unnecessary, Delegate from Ilocos Sur. The Chair has nothing to state regarding the inquiry.

EL PRESIDENTE: Leanse las Resoluciones.

EL SECRETARIO:

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Submitted by Delegate (-----)

A RESOLUTION

TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRINTING OF THE JOURNAL AND THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Convention be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to take charge of the printing of the Journal and Record of proceedings of the Constitutional Convention under the supervision of the President after adjournment thereof.

Adopted.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Introduced by Delegate Nepomuceno

RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE MINUTES OF THE SESSION OF TODAY FEBRUARY NINETEEN, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE, TO HAVE BEEN READ AND APPROVED.

RESOLVED, that the President be, as he hereby is, authorized to review and approve the minutes of the session of today, February nineteen, nineteen hundred and thirty-five, and that upon approval by him said minutes shall be as valid and effective for all purposes as if they had been approved directly by this Constitutional Convention.

Adopted.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

R. NO. 38

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, TODAY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY NINETEEN, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE.

RESOLVED, That the Constitutional Convention be. bs it hereby is, adjourned today, Tuesday, February nineteen, nineteen hundred and thirty-five, to meet again at the call of the President of the Convention as may be required in accordance with law.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Governor General be, as he hereby is, advised of the adjournment of the Constitutional Convention, with the request that he inform the President of the United States that the Constitutional Convention has adjourned today, Tuesday, February nineteen, nineteen hundred and thirty-five, after the