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EL PRESIDENTE: Lease la lista de Delegados.

SR. GRAFILO: Señor Presidente, pido que se dispense la lectura de la lista.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objecion? **(Silencio.)** La Mesa no oye ninguna. Se dispensa la lectura de la lista. Hay quorum.

**APROBACION DEL ACTA**

SR. GRAFILO: Señor Presidente, pido igualmente que se dispense la lectura del acta, y que la misma se de per aprobada.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objecion? (Silencio.) Le Mesa no oye ninguna. Aprobada. Tiene la palabra el Delegado por Laguna.

**DISCURSO DEL SR. GUEVARA**

MR. GUEVARA: Mr. President, by virtue of the mandate of our Legislature, I shall sail in a few day for the United States to assume the duties I have been assigned to perform in the American Congress. Therefore, with profound regret, I have to leave my post in this Constitutional Convention, thus depriving myself of the pleasant association with its members and of the constructive experience from their patriotic and intelligent labors. In my post in the United States or here in the Philippines, I wish to assure the members of this Constitutional Convention of my definite purpose to cooperate and do my best to attain success in the sacred aspirations of our people and to work for their welfare and prosperity to which they are entitled.

In the life of a nation, there arise many complicated problems that should be dealt with wisely. The old and contemporary history of mankind has given enlightening examples of nations and individuals going up and down in the midst of the applause or cries of the suffering world. China is writhing in pain. Cuba is suffering from political convulsions caused by its economic dislocation. Many South-American republics are on the verge of collapse because of social, political and economic disturbances. The newly organized independent nations of Europe, like Poland, Finland, Latvia, and Lithuania, are struggling for survival.

For better or for worse, the geographical location of our Motherland will make her a factor in the mad race for the mastery of the Pacific, which is now under way. On the one hand, it is natural for the Filipino people to struggle for the salvation of their spiritual standard, culture, and civilization. On the other, her economic structure has to be built on a more permanent and endurable basis, on which the people will keep pace with the life they have been living and thus follow the course it has taken in the last four centuries.

For the Filipino people, the great need of the times is to learn seeing themselves as others see them. They must posses, and I have no doubt they do possess, the genius for logical and unsentimental appreciation of facts and circumstances in order

that they may reach, as near as possible, a sound judgment as to their future destiny.

I am proud to say that our people represent the elements of courage, endurance, and aggressiveness which make them self-confident and self-conscious of the fact that what they sought in the past was freedom, freedom meaning freedom for their own ideas. We should not forget, however, that the life of the nation is so interwoven with that of others, thus compelling her to choose the association which is best suited for or fitted to her own interests.

As the years go by, it seems as though the world is becoming less and less safe for democracy, the ideal for which the European continent was drenched in blood in the war that took place twenty years ago. This very ideal made people of all races adhere to the cause for which those bloody battles were fought, but all was in vain, and we see now a new scene of international tyranny and despotism developing under the banner of the so-called need. In these days of suffering, everything seems to find justification, even the killing of women and children living peacefully in defenseless towns and cities, and the invasion of territories under the slightest pretext.

The sanctity of treaties is now but a dream. The principle of self-determination has become a mere toy in the hands of powerful nations. International self-fishness is now more acute than ever, and what we see as just and right, others see and understand as unjust and wrong.

The League of Nations, organized for the purpose of peacefully settling international differences, is now proving less than useless to the cause of Mankind. Let us hope, however, for the best and look forward to the dawn of a new day when nations will again stand for the cause for which they fought in the past.

As I said, Mr. President, I am sailing for the United States and it seems opportune for me to say that the Filipino people have all the reasons to be grateful to the United States for the things accomplished in the Philippines in the last thirty-six years. It would not be amiss to recall that in my twelve years' service in the Congress of the United States, my association with its members has been not only pleasant but also fruitful. I found them friendly and sympathetic to the cause of the Philippines. I am sure that the American people have for us the highest regard and only desire to be helpful in the promotion and insurance of our prosperity and welfare.

I know very well that the stability and security of the Philippine Islands deeply concern the American government and people. It is high time now to remove from the mind of any Filipino the belief that the last act of the Congress of the United States was prompted by selfish reasons and motives. That act, analyzed in the light of prevailing conditions and circumstances, will draw the inescapable conclusion that it was greatly in response to the demands of the Filipino people and a defeat of selfish interests. The government of the United States is solemnly committed to correct any inequality, imperfection, or injustice that may result from the operation of Public Act 125, 73rd Congress, taking into consideration the best interests of the Filipino and American peoples alike.

Knowing as I do know the prevailing sentiment among the American people, I

assured them that I would convey to my fellow countrymen that the United States is their best friend and that she is always willing to be of service. Also, I solemnly acknowledged the fact that the American people have at heart the best interests of the Filipinos.

I also assured them that I should ask the people of the Philippines to regard American interests as theirs and that we are eternally grateful for the blessings of liberty we have enjoyed and are still enjoying under the American flag.

No matter what the future may have in store for us, it is evident that the achievements of the Filipino people in the last thirty-six years under American leadership will go down the annals of history as one of the most glorious chapters of human endeavors.

Now, Mr. President, as I said at the outset, I am about to sail, leaving behind me the labors of this Constitutional Convention which I regard as a great democratic experiment in this part of the world. It is the beacon of hope to which the oppressed peoples will turn their eyes for inspiration. It is, therefore, my sincere conviction that the success or failure of this Convention will have a very significant reflection on other peoples, who, like the Filipinos, are struggling not only for their national freedom but also for their individual liberties. The United States has given an inspiring example to the world that progress can be attained only through democratic institutions. Will the Filipino people live up to their historical responsibilities in the enjoyment of the new franchise they have received from the United States? This question can be answered only by the result of the labors of this Convention and by the future deeds of the Filipino people when they begin to exercise the right of self-government.

It will be the greatest test that our national conscience has to go through the supreme call to our sense of responsibility. The fate of our future generations will entirely depend on the manner we act at this time. We have now in our hands the instrumentalities for our salvation or for destruction. No greater responsibility could have been placed upon the shoulder of any generation of the Filipino people.

I am sure that we shall have enough courage to meet the responsibility wisely and patriotically.

Now, Mr. President, allow me to lay before this Convention some suggestions as to the nature of its labors. I am profoundly convinced that the chief concern of the Filipino people, at this time of confusion, is to see established and inaugurated the Government of the Commonwealth. The Convention should, therefore, be most careful in drafting and formulating a Constitution, translating into realities new social, economic, and political ideas. These are often very controversial, and we should not forget that the President of the United States has to determine whether or not the Constitution we are about to formulate is in harmony with the letter and spirit of Public Act 127, 73rd Congress. We should not, in my opinion, insert any provision in our Constitution with the view to experimenting on new social economic, and political ideas, in the expectation that it will agree with the point of view of the President of the United States. This may delay the establishment and inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth, for in the event that the President should determine that these provisions are not in conformity with the letter and spirit of Public Act 127, 73rd Congress, the Constitution has to be recommitted to this

Constitutional Convention for further deliberation and consideration. I believe that we shall be acting wisely if we postpone our desire to experiment on new social and economic ideas until the establishment and inauguration of the Commonwealth Government, meeting in this way the natural wishes of our constituents. The way to reach this goal is, to my mind, to draft and formulate a Constitution as simple as it can be.

There are many fundamental problems that can be dealt with only by the Government of the Commonwealth; hence, no proper settlement as to our economic relations with the United States can, at this time, be made by the present Philippine Government. Its very provisional character renders difficult the solution of these serious and transcendental problems at the threshold of the inauguration of the Commonwealth. Our foreign trade relations should also be built on a firm and sound policy, and it cannot be done by a government whose existence is limited to but a few months. The most that it could do is to lay the foundation upon which the Commonwealth might base the future settlement of all these problems. Such a policy will mean a fulfillment of a duty, and at the same time it will leave the Government of the Commonwealth free to adopt any policy that it may see fit.

Amendments to Public Act 127, 73rd Congress, otherwise known as the Tydings-McDuffie Law, should be sought by the government of the Commonwealth, for not until the law is in full operation will inequalities, imperfections or injustices be found. The situation of our sugar, tobacco, coconut oil, hemp, embroidery, and other industries the products of which are exported to the United States, calls for an immediate revision of the economic provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, but this cannot be done unless we can prove by actual facts to the Congress of the United State the existence of such inequalities, imperfections or injustices in the law.

One of the most important questions that our country is confronted with is that which refers to its tariff policy. Once the Government of the Commonwealth is inaugurated, it can easily formulate a definite policy on this question, upon which will depend the strength of our economic life. We should not forget that the government revenue will be one of the most outstanding problems that have to be solved. The same may be said as to whether or not we should have our own currency system as advocated by the former Secretary of Finance, now Delegate from Ilocos Sur, the Honorable Vicente Singson Encarnacion. These are some of the reasons that make the inauguration of the Government of the Commonwealth very urgent. The present Government cannot in justice be blamed for postponing the action on these problems.

Last but not least is the vital question of whether our Government should be represented in foreign nations in order that it may promote our foreign trade and make a full survey of the world market. Whether or not the Tydings-McDuffie Law authorizes the Government of the Commonwealth to be represented in foreign nations is very doubtful, and your representatives in the United States cannot discuss this question with the proper authorities of that nation unless the Commonwealth Government is fully established and inaugurated. In case the Tydings-McDuffie Law contains no provision as to the authority of the Commonwealth to appoint its own representatives in foreign nations, we can take the necessary steps.

Now, Mr. President, the general situation of the Philippines appears to be cloudy on account of the latest development of international events. Which have placed the

United States in a delicate position as to her trade relations with our country. The Naval Conference soon to be held seems to be an essential factor. The attitude of the Filipinos on this fundamental question is likewise of decisive importance. It is, however, a challenge to the national morality of the American people. It is also a call to the sense of reality of the Filipinos. Any misunderstanding of the situation should be in time clarified and the issues frankly outlined. This is an additional reason why the Government of the Commonwealth should be immediately inaugurated.

I deeply regret I cannot discuss at length this very important topic, and I appeal to my fellow countrymen that they do their best to facilitate the work of their leaders in order that they may be able to find a fair and just solution to our problems. Without the inspiration and support of the Filipino people, the leaders will find difficult the task they have now in their hands.

I believe that I have discussed to the best of my ability the fundamental problems of our country, and I hope that, with your full support, we shall successfully reach the harbor of our salvation and security. I bid goodbye to all of you, assuring again that nothing will make me happier than to be ever of service to my country and people.

SR. MORALES: Señor Presidente, el Comité de Reglamentos recomienda que se extienda hasta el miércoles por la tarde, el tiempo señalado para la discusión de la resolución sobre el sufragio femenino en vista de que muchos no han podido todavía hablar como descan.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se ha pedido por el Comité de Reglamentos la extensión hasta el miércoles por la tarde, de la discusión sobre el sufragio femenino. ¿Hay alguna objeción (Silencio.) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Así se acuerda.

SR. LAPAK: Señor Presidente, ya que uno de nuestros compañeros, el Honorable Pedro Guevara se marcha para cumplir su misión como Comisionado Residente, propongo que se apruebe una resolución instruyendo al Delegado y Comisionado Pedro Guevara para que transmita al Presidente y Congreso de los Estados Unidos el ardiente deseo de esta Asamblea de que se acorte el período transitorio fijado en la Ley Tydings-McDuffie.

EL PRESIDENTE: La resolución, por su naturaleza, debe ponerse por escrito, y la Mesa ruega al proponente que así lo haga.

SR. ABELLA: Señor Presidente, pido que el tiempo de los oradores se limite a diez minutos cada uno.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción? (Silencio.) La Mesa no oye ninguna. Aprobada.

SR. ABELLA: El primer orador de esta noche, de los que favorecen la resolución sobre el sufragio femenino, es el Honorable Rafael Palma, Delegado por Manila.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Caballero de Manila.

#### DISCURSO DEL SR. PALMA

SR. PALMA: Señor Presidente, Caballeros de la Convención: parece que, después de