

[VOL. I, June 03, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 2

Tuesday, June 3, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 3:17 p.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, opened the session.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is called to order.

Everybody will please rise for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Gregorio J. Tingson.

Everybody rose for the Prayer.

MR. TINGSON: Let us pray.

PRAYER

Our Omnipotent and loving Heavenly Father, we are faced with the awesome task of writing the fundamental law of our country, so destitute, so deprived and so discouraged. We confess that we, who have been mandated to accomplish this work, are so weak and devoid of knowledge and understanding.

Help us, we beseech Thee, to understand the real needs of our people; that perhaps we do not need more material opulence but spiritual fulfillment; more compassion for the weak and the poor among us; and to realize that righteousness exalts the nation but sin is a reproach to any people.

Thank you, dear Lord, for giving us this enviable honor and privilege to be participants, not mere passive spectators in building, through this Constitution, a Philippines honored by man, blessed by God and a great hope for generations to come.

This is our heartfelt praise and petition through the matchless name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present	Monsod	Present
Alonto	Present *	Natividad	Present
Aquino	Present	Nieva	Present
Azcuna	Present	Nolledo	Present
Bacani	Present	Ople	Present

Bengzon	Present	Padilla	Present
Bennagen	Present	Muñoz	Present
Bernas	Present	Palma	Present
Rosario Braid	Present	Quesada	Present
Brocka	Present	Rama	Present
Calderon	Present	Regalado	Present
Castro de	Present	Reyes de	Present
Colayco	Present	los	Present
Concepcion	Present	Rigos	Present
Davide	Present	Rodrigo	Present
Foz	Present	Romulo	Present
Garcia	Present	Rosales	Present
Gascon	Present	Sarmiento	Present
Guingona	Present	Suarez	Present
Jamir	Present	Sumulong	Present
Laurel	Present	Tadeo	Present
Lerum	Present	Tan	Present
Maambong	Present	Tingson	Present
Villacorta	Present	Treñas	Present
		Uka	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 quorum.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: I ask that Commissioner Davide be recognized.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Davide is recognized.

MR. DAVIDE: I would like to present a couple of parliamentary inquiries. I notice in the Provisional Rules we have adopted that every session must begin with the National Anthem, followed by a prayer.

The second parliamentary inquiry, Madam President, is: yesterday, we elected the Secretary-General and the Sergeant-at-Arms, but we notice that they did not take their oath of office on the same day. So, may I move for an amendment to the Order of Business that before the referral to committees the two officers of the Commission take their oath of office.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

With respect to the first question regarding the singing of the National Anthem, may we refer to the Minutes of the caucus — whether the amendment presented by the Honorable Tingson also carried the singing of the National Anthem everyday or only during the first session day of the week.

The Minutes of yesterday's caucus are not yet finished, but the Secretariat recalls that the motion of the Honorable Tingson referred only to the Prayer everyday, not to the singing of the National Anthem because the rule, as is, refers to the singing of the National Anthem during the first session day of the week.

With respect to the second question, may we request the Secretary-General and the Sergeant-at-Arms to take their oath of office now.

At this juncture, the Secretary-General and the Sergeant-at-Arms ascended the rostrum and took their oath of office before the President of the Constitutional Commission.

OATH-TAKING OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PANUNUMPA SA KATUNGKULAN

Ako, si Flerida Ruth P. Romero ng Maynila, na hinirang sa katungkulan bilang Secretary-General ng 1986 Constitutional Commission ay taimtim na nanunumpa na tutuparin ko nang buong husay at katapatan, sa abot ng aking kakayahan, ang mga tungkulin ng aking kasalukuyang katungkulan at ng mga iba pang pagkaraan nito'y gagampanan ko sa ilalim ng Republika ng Pilipinas; na aking itataguyod at ipagtatanggol ang umiiral na Saligang Batas ng Pilipinas; na tunay na mananalig at tatalima ako rito; na susundin ko ang mga batas, mga kautusang legal, at mga dekretong pinaiiral ng mga sadyang itinakdang maykapangyarihan ng Republika ng Pilipinas; at kusa kong babalikatin ang pananagutang ito, nang walang ano mang pasubali o hangaring umiwas.

KASIHAN NAWA AKO NG DIYOS. (Applause)

OATH-TAKING OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS PANUNUMPA SA KATUNGKULAN

Ako, si Roberto M. San Andres ng Quezon City, na hinirang sa katungkulan bilang Sergeant-at-Arms ng 1986 Constitutional Commission ay taimtim na nanunumpa na tutuparin ko nang buong husay at katapatan, sa abot ng aking kakayahan, ang mga tungkulin ng aking kasalukuyang katungkulan at ng mga iba pang pagkaraan nito'y gagampanan ko sa ilalim ng Republika ng Pilipinas; na aking itataguyod at ipagtatanggol ang umiiral na Saligang Batas ng Pilipinas; na tunay na mananalig at tatalima ako rito; na susundin ko ang mga batas, mga kautusang legal, at mga dekretong pinaiiral ng mga sadyang itinakdang maykapangyarihan ng Republika ng Pilipinas; at kusa kong babalikatin ang pananagutang ito, nang walang ano mang pasubali o hangaring umiwas.

KASIHAN NAWA AKO NG DIYOS. (Applause)

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: I move for the reading and approval of the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection?

Mr. Bengzon is recognized.

MR. BENGZON: Madam President, this afternoon we have received this Journal No. 1. May I invite the attention of my colleagues to page 9, the portion with respect to the approval of the Provisional Rules of the Commission, which is Appendix No 1. On page 1, line 6, of the Provisional Rules, there is a conflict between what was approved or provisionally adopted and what has been appended. Under the Rules that has been provisionally adopted there are supposed to be three Assistant Floor Leaders to be elected. The understanding we had yesterday was that this would be left as it is until after a discussion by the Steering Committee will have been finished.

So, there is either a typographical error or a mistake by the Secretariat in mimeographing Appendix No. 1. I, therefore, would like to raise that point, and I object to the motion to approve the Journal.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it the Chair's understanding

that Mr. Bengzon is presenting a motion to amend the Journal as prepared? We will have the Journal read first after which we can present motions to amend or correct it.

MR. BENGZON: In that case, Madam President, if it is not yet the proper time, I am willing to wait. I am just calling the attention of the Chair to this matter.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

MR. DAVIDE: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Davide is recognized.

MR. DAVIDE: Madam President, we have already been furnished with copies of the Journal. I move to dispense with the reading of the Journal.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (Silence) The Chair hears none; the reading of the Journal is dispensed with.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE PRESIDENT. We will first take up the point raised by Commissioner Bengzon.

MR. BENGZON: Madam President, I move that we correct page 1 of Appendix No. 1.

MR. DAVIDE: Anterior amendment, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Davide is recognized.

MR. DAVIDE: The anterior amendments are on pages 3 and 4.

On page 3, line 3, under the headings "The National Anthem" and "Invocation," after the word "purpose," insert a comma (,), the word NAMELY and a colon (:), then the names of the five religious leaders who delivered the invocation.

On page 4, second paragraph, under the heading "Entry of the President," insert between the words "Body" and "gave" AND THE AUDIENCE. On line 1, under the heading "Address of the President," add GRANTED TO after the word "authority"; and on line 2, insert the article THE between the words "and" and "complete."

I move for the approval of the proposed amendments.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection to the amendments proposed by Commissioner Davide?

MR. DE LOS REYES: Madam President, may we request that the lines, as corrected, now be read. We cannot understand all these amendments.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General will please read the particular lines as amended.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: On page 3, the first paragraph reads: "Thereafter, the National Anthem was played, followed by the Invocation led by five religious leaders who were invited for the purpose, NAMELY: REVEREND CIRILO RIGOS, RICARDO CARDINAL VIDAL, BISHOP ADRIEL O. MEIMBAN, BISHOP SOTERO MITRA, AND PROFESSOR ABDUL RAFFIH SAYEDY."

On page 4, under the heading "Entry of the President," the second paragraph should read: "The Body AND THE AUDIENCE gave the President a standing ovation."

Under the heading "Address of the President," the first line should read: "The President underscored the full authority GRANTED TO and THE complete independence vested in the Constitutional Commission."

THE PRESIDENT: Is Commissioner de los Reyes satisfied?

MR. BENGZON: Madam President, will the Secretary-General please repeat the last amendment?

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL: The last amendment reads: "The President underscored the full authority GRANTED TO and THE complete independence vested in the Constitutional Commission."

MR. BENGZON: I am not an authority on grammar, but I think it does not sound right.

THE PRESIDENT: Actually, this is just a brief summary of the speech of Her Excellency, President Aquino.

MR. RODRIGO. Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Rodrigo is recognized.