

[VOL. IV, August 29, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 69

Friday, August 29, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:52 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 to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Ambrosio B. Padilla.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

MR. PADILLA: Almighty God, our Creator and Lord: With infinite wisdom, You have given us Your Sermon on the Mount, which, in part, reads:

Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye: (Matthew 7:1-5)

Dear Lord, we pray that in the arduous process of formulating the fundamental law, we invoke Your heavenly wisdom to guide us, human mortals with finite minds, in expressing our views with ample latitude for respect for contrary views.

The constitutional guarantee of the freedom of speech was explained by Justice Holmes:

When men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition in the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out.

Let us hope that through the remaining sessions of this Constitutional Commission, we will all invoke Divine Providence in enlightening our minds in drafting the 1986

Constitution which will fulfill the ideals and aspirations of all the Filipino people as one united nation. 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	Absent
Bacani	Present	Padilla	Present
Bengzon	Present	Quesada	Present
Bennagen	Present	Rama	Present
Bernas	Present	Regalado	Present
Rosario Braid	Present	Reyes de los	Present *
Brocka	Absent	Rigos	Present
Calderon	Present	Rodrigo	Present
Castro de	Present	Romulo	Present
Colayco	Present	Rosales	Absent
Concepcion	Present	Sarmiento	Present *
Davide	Present	Suarez	Present
Foz	Present	Sumulong	Present
Garcia	Present	Tadeo	Present
Gascon	Present	Tan	Present
Guingona	Present	Tingson	Present
Jamir	Present	Treñas	Absent
Laurel	Present *	Uka	Present
Lerum	Present *	Villacorta	Present
Maambong	Present *	Villegas	Present
Monsod	Present		

The President is present.

The roll call shows 34 Members responded to the call.

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

MR. CALDERON: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Assistant Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. CALDERON: I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session? (Silence) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. CALDERON: Madam President, I move that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session? (Silence) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

MR. CALDERON: Madam President, I move 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 Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from the Alliance Biblical Seminar, 101 Dangay St., Veterans Village, Project 7, Quezon City, signed by its President, Rodrigo D. Tano, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the new Constitution a provision that the separation of the Church and the State shall be inviolable as embodied in the 1973 Constitution.

(Communication No. 652 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Communication from 18 signatories of the Concerned Women of the New Families Movement, suggesting that the provision in the Constitution for the protection of life be not only to protect life from the moment of conception but even up to the point of natural death.

(Communication No. 653 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from 835 signatories, all from Cebu, requesting inclusion in the Constitution of a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 654 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Letter from His Eminence, Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal, President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, P.O. Box 3601, Manila, supporting the provision in the Constitution allowing the teaching of religion in the public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours by teachers designated or approved by the religious authorities of the religion to which the children belong.

(Communication No. 655 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication from 581 signatories with their respective addresses, seeking to include in the Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 656 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, P.O. Box 3601, Manila, signed by its President, Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal, extending whole-hearted support to the provision in the Constitution that upholds and promotes the unity, stability and development of marriage and the family, and the provision seeking to equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 657 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A. urging the Constitutional Commission to include a provision that would make a natural-born citizen of the Philippines who has lost his Philippine citizenship a transferee of private lands.

(Communication No. 658 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communication from the Central Visayas Ecumenical Fellowship, 49 Mabini St., Cebu City, signed by 339 signatories, expressing opposition to Proposed Resolution No. 289, entitled: "Resolution providing in the new Constitution the teaching of religion in public elementary and secondary schools under certain conditions.

(Communication No. 659 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Mr. Cesar L. Legayada, National President, Federation of Unions of Rizal, Philippines (FUR)-TUCP, 247 Quirino Avenue, Baclaran, Parañaque, Metro Manila, endorsing a proposed constitutional provision on industrialization, economic

protectionism and Filipinization of the economy.

(Communication No. 660 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Letter from Mr. Rustico Durante of Budeos, Quezon, expressing opposition to the retention of foreign military bases in the country.

(Communication No. 661 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from the Mayors League of Zambales, Iba, Zambales, signed by its President, Porfirio F. Elamparo, and other officers, requesting for the retention of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

(Communication No. 662 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from the Wesleyan Church of Cabanatuan City, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the provision that the separation of the Church and the State shall be inviolable as embodied in the 1973 Constitution and as understood historically and jurisprudentially in the Philippines.

(Communication No. 663 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Bengzon is recognized.

MR. BENGZON: Madam President, yesterday I announced that the Order of Business for today would be a continuation of the consideration of the Article on National Economy and Patrimony because we felt then that the committee meeting would be finished. We indeed finished the meeting, Madam President, but we have not yet quite completed our reconciliations. So, I would like to propose that the Article on Education, Science, Technology, Arts and Culture be considered this morning in the period of sponsorship and debate. Should we finish with the Article on National Economy and Patrimony in the committee level this afternoon, then we can go back to it.

Madam President, I move that Commissioner Villacorta be recognized, together with the rest of the members of the committee for the sponsorship of the Committee on Human Resources.