

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

TENTH DAY

February 25, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Tenth Day, First Regular Session on Friday, February 25, 2000, at 10:23 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), all eighteen members were present.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Tenth Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-98: A Bill for an Act to establish the “Beachfront Lease Act of 2000”; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and one other

Referred to: Committees on Natural Resources and Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-99: A Bill for an Act to amend PL 9-22 Section 1507 to redistribute the revenues received from the licensing of poker machines; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Chair recognized Rep. Palacios.

Rep. Palacios: Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, may I beg for the indulgence of my distinguished colleagues to introduce a very unique resolution for review and disposition in subsequent days? It is a measure urging the members of the U. S. Congress to settle down and look into their own backyard to see if what they have labeled against CNMI on a melon fold worst the way of indentured children slavery and child prostitution. The text of this resolution is taken out of the February 17th, news article in the San Francisco Journal, a copy of which also effect your indulgence for inclusion in the House Journal. The article that I wish to submit for inclusion in the House Journal pertains to an estate prepared by Mr. Steven Moore of Hoover Institution, titled, “Immigration and the rise and crime of American citizens”. A close unity of the essence of this essay simply sounds refuted in no ways than one. All the flooded reports prepared by the U. S. Department of Interior and validates its finding in recent issuance of a report of the General Accounting Office and Arm of U. S. Congress the point in both documents speaks of a simple lesson in old that have been labeled against CNMI. Make sure that you brush your own teeth before you addressly accusing others of bad mouth orders. And, may I be permitted to read the resolution, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Palacios: A House Resolution urging proponents of a federal takeover of the NMI of the Glass House Syndrome of indentured slavery and child prostitution in the U. S. Mainland; urgently requesting the father of NMI’s federal takeover, Congressman George Miller, et. Al., to include federalization of all major cities, states and territories where the millennium’s form of slavery exist.

H. R. NO. 12-18: A House Resolution urging proponents of a federal takeover of the NMI of the Glass House Syndrome of indentured slavery and child prostitution in the U. S. Mainland; urgently requesting the father of NMI’s federal takeover, Congressman George Miller, et. Al., to include federalization of all major cities, states and territories where the millennium’s form of slavery exist.

Offered by: Rep. Norman S. Palacios and one other
Referred to: Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations

Speaker Fitial: Further introduction of resolutions? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, just to comment on the recently introduced resolution, I hope we can have copies right away it seems to be – according to the back ground of the resolution it looks much favorite interesting to read the context.

Speaker Fitial: We are still under Item 4, Introductions of Resolutions. If none, let us proceed down to Item 7 although there is nothing listed under Item 7.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

Speaker Fitial: I would just like to inform you that I received a communication from Representative Benavente, requesting on behalf of the staff that I do not call sessions on weekends and holidays. I just want to inform the members that we have a thirty-day session during the First Regular Session and today's our Tenth Day. If we are to meet in session, only on weekdays the thirty-day session will be over at the end of March, I believe March 29. There is a scheduled meeting with Philippine Airline officials on March 25th. That is already been fixed, March 25th and possibly also with President Joseph Estrada. This meeting is to discuss Philippine Airline's interest in providing direct flights service between Philippine and Saipan, CNMI. Like I said, March 25th will fall on our thirty-day Regular Session so besides looking at the legislations that have already been introduced and are now being reviewed by the Standing Committees, we will be quite very busy beginning next week considering those bills. I know the Committees are working very hard to report these bills out beginning next week. So, it will be very, very tight to accomplish all that we want and all that we need to accomplish during the thirty-day Regular Session if we only meet during weekdays. So, I beg the indulgence of the members to consider meeting on weekends and also holiday's if need be. Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: I guess I now understand why we are trying to hold sessions on weekends. I would like to request though if possible, that maybe we go into the Committee of the Whole and have our legal counsel's assist us in the definition of the thirty-day session as provided in our Rules or in the Constitution because I believe that that does not necessarily mean that we are meeting for thirty straight days. I believe that the provision of the thirty-day session in the Constitution or in the Rules would provide for the authority of members of the Legislature to legally act on matters and I think it tends towards Committee actions. Again, unless I can be proven wrong right away, I hope that maybe we can ask our legal counsel to assist us in this discussion in the Committee of the Whole. Because as I have said and done in the past, if there is an urgent matter for us to discuss on weekends, I am sure that there is no problem with any member here, certainly not a problem with me, but I believe we can entertain major legislations four or five of them in one day if the Committee provide that and not necessarily have sessions or meetings everyday. So, may I request a comment from the legal counsel on the definition of the thirty-days?

Speaker Fitial: If there is no objection –

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker, there is no objection.

There was no objection raised.

The House resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:34 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House dissolved to plenary session at 10:43 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: We are back to our plenary session and we will go right down to Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Fitial: Any miscellaneous business this morning? Everybody confirmed for our Rota Session on Monday? Any problem? Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Just to advise the members, Mr. Speaker, that we will be holding our session at Rota Resort, restaurant area at 1:30 p.m., and at anytime, we are up until five o'clock,

that is the dateline that we can use the vicinity. We are confirmed for 1:30 Monday afternoon at the Rota Resort, restaurant area. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I ask the indulgence of each Committee's to prepare and complete the Committee Reports that we will be considering in Rota. No further miscellaneous? Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, I move to recess until 1:30 Monday afternoon in Rota.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives