

Activities Of The Local Governments & Their Officials

CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND CITY MAYORS HELD IN THE CITY OF MANILA, ON JANUARY 21-27, 1948.

PRESENT:

Hon. Manuel Cuenco—President
" Jose B. Lingad—Vice-President
" Perfecto Faypon—Secretary
" Ponciano Bernardo—Treasurer
" Manuel de la Fuente—Auditor

And all Governors and City Mayors present—Members.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 11:00 o'clock ante meridian.

RESOLUTIONS

No. 1

WHEREAS, the important unit of a real democratic government resides in the barrio under the leadership of a barrio lieutenant;

WHEREAS, the barrio lieutenant does much for the maintenance and enforcement of law, peace and order in his barrio;

WHEREAS, the barrio lieutenant is the best agent for the dissemination of news, orders, ordinances and practically all governmental requirements;

WHEREAS, the barrio lieutenant is the embodiment of a patriarch, a legislator, a judge, and a police officer; and

WHEREAS, the barrio lieutenant is responsible for the entertainment of his Mayor, Councilor and company who visit his barrio;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this barrio lieutenant be given tra-

vel allowance in recognition of his meritorious and sacrificial services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that municipal councils be granted autonomous powers to raise funds for the purpose.

Carried unanimously.

No. 2

WHEREAS, the address just delivered by His Excellency, President Manuel Roxas of the Philippines, before the Provincial Governors and City Mayors in convention assembled, is a brilliant and masterly exposition of the various important political, economic and social problems, both national, provincial and municipal, that are now confronting our administration and challenging our wisdom and devotion to public duty;

WHEREAS, in the same address, after a thorough and profound study of the said problems, the President has also proposed and suggested various means of solving them, which proposals and suggestions are not only timely, practical and effective but are possibly the best that any man of extraordinary experience and wisdom can possibly conceive of;

WHEREAS, for sometime now, the administration of President Roxas has been attacked in some quarters as a regime of dishonest and money-making officials and as a carnival of graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, these attacks would seem to indicate and imply that the President has blindly consented to the

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commission and perpetration of the supposed governmental irregularities when in truth and in fact he has not done this and far from having consented to these irregularities the President has undertaken and ordered one investigation after another of those officials who forgot their loyalty to public service, which investigations resulted in the prosecution and conviction of several persons irrespective of their party affiliation and of their friendship with the President;

WHEREAS, it is our humble and honest belief that the administration of President Roxas has been comparatively speaking a great success despite the fact that it occurred at a time when the Philippines was nothing but a handful of shambles and ruins, with a treasury practically empty, with an economy almost entirely dislocated, with industries totally paralyzed and with the people miserably poor and hungry and caught by the eddying currents of new social and political ideologies;

WHEREAS, it is our sincere opinion that no other man could have steered our small and feeble ship of state into such a comparatively safe and happy condition in which we find ourselves today except His Excellency, President Manuel Roxas;

WHEREAS, it is our impartial conclusion that only President Roxas could have devised and formulated the broad and far-reaching programs of Philippine rehabilitation and reconstruction and, consequently, it is also our conclusion that only President Roxas who can possibly prosecute and terminate these programs rapidly and successfully;

WHEREAS, it is our belief that the complete realization of these vast programs cannot possibly be accomplished during the short span of the first term of our President and we feel that a second term for him is not only our greatest desire but it is a great public necessity and is a present and loudest call of the entire nation;

WHEREAS, Honorable Elpidio Quirino, Vice-President of the Philippines, has in no small measure helped and assisted President Roxas in the suc-

cessful administration of our ship of state;

The Provincial Governors and City Mayors in convention assembled,

RESOLVED, to approve and indorse completely the address just delivered to us by His Excellency, President Roxas; to express and reiterate our faith and confidence in the present administration; to urge him and Vice-President Quirino to run for re-election next year and to pledge our wholehearted and unanimous support for their re-election.

RESOLVED FURTHER, to forward a copy each of this resolution to His Excellency, Manuel Roxas, President of the Philippines, and Honorable Elpidio Quirino, Vice-President of the Philippines, Manila, for their information.

Carried unanimously.

No. 3

WHEREAS, it is a fact that in the case of provincial and municipal prisoners serving sentences in the provinces, municipalities, and municipal districts, the provincial governors are always in a better position to know such convicts, the latter's character, conduct, etc;

WHEREAS, governors can better determine whether such convicts have improved and may still become good members of society and thus make up to become good citizens;

WHEREAS, it is a fact that provincial and municipal prisoners serving sentences in the provinces and municipalities are being maintained by the provincial and municipal governments;

WHEREAS, the maintenance of such prisoners carry big items in the provincial and municipal budgets, incurring big amounts of money that bring burden to provincial and municipal funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governors and city mayors now in convention to request of His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, so that the latter either asks the Congress of the Philippines, to act, or he (the President of the Philippines) delegates his power of pardon or parole, if this is possible, so that governors may exercise that same power towards provincial and municipal prisoners.

Done at the City of Manila, this 26th day of January, 1948.

Carried unanimously.

No. 4

WHEREAS, in the wake of the last WAR we see the Philippines a picture of ruin, destruction and desolation;

WHEREAS, in the Enemy's orgy to kill, destroy and foray men, women and children were wantonly slaughtered; cities, towns and villages razed to the ground; properties carted away and/or destroyed;

WHEREAS, not only was the Enemy responsible for the destruction of property, albeit in the most part they were, but also our own forces were constrained to destroy for reasons of military expediency;

WHEREAS, as a consequence of all these said fortunes of war the Filipino people is suffering from a dwindling economy for which counts today's unrest, suffering and misery;

WHEREAS, in the last debacle nowhere was loyalty to America and steadfast adherence to democratic tenets and principles more manifested and exemplified than in the Philippines and by the Filipino people—resistance movements readily organized and were in operation right in the eyes of the enemy;

WHEREAS, the WDC has been created to look into the damage claims of the Filipino people and consequently to serve as a good instrument to facilitate the much needed rehabilitation of this country, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, to suggest to the WDC that priority be given to small claims which are apparently of the poor and needy, and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, to furnish copy of this resolution to the WDC, Manila, Philippines.

Carried.

No. 5

WHEREAS, it is a fact that the so-called "pork barrel" has heretofore been always given to Congressmen, who in turn determine the allocation of the same in their respective districts including the projects to which the amounts shall be expended;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that in many instances the disposition

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of such "pork barrel" has been abused by some indiscreet politicians, using the amounts only to promote political objectives, thus bringing criticisms and attacks that seriously cast doubts in the honesty of the government;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, in this convention of governors and city mayors, that this important matter be brought to the knowledge of His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, with the request that steps be taken so that whatever amount or amounts intended for "pork barrel" for provinces or congressional districts be given direct to the general funds of the provinces or districts concerned for the Provincial Board to dispose in accordance with law and to their best judgments for the welfare of the People.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency, President Manuel A. Roxas; the Honorable, Secretary of the Interior; the President of the Senate of the Philippines; the Speaker, House of Representatives; and all other Departments of the National Government.

Carried.

No. 6

WHEREAS, it has been the commitments of the past as well as the present Administration to pay the three years back pay of all government pre-war employees;

WHEREAS, pre-war members of Congress and other high government officials have already and justly received their packpay as those who already received theirs;

WHEREAS, this act if carried, is compatible with equality, good-will and justice, and conducive to peace on the restless, and restoration of confidence in and respect for the government and the Administration;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the governors and city mayors in convention assembled to request as they hereby request the President to take adequate steps to authorize the payment of the backpay of deserving officials and employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President be authorized to issue government bonds if necessary to meet the backpay in question and owners

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allowed to negotiate them with banks or private individuals.

Carried unanimously.

No. 7

WHEREAS, the policy of granting greater local autonomy to the provincial and municipal governments, as enunciated by His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, is expedient and timely in order that this young nation on its way to prosperity and security will firmly and steadily march on with the progressive nations of the world along that direction;

WHEREAS, the enunciation of such policy has already met with popular acclaim in all quarters of the Republic;

WHEREAS, the election of Members of the Provincial Board in the specially-organized provinces, as recently authorized in an executive order issued by His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, has further advanced the exercise of local autonomy in said provinces, and that, as manifested in the last elections, the constituents of these provinces are well prepared for and well deserving of, such political concessions;

WHEREAS, in order to effect complete political autonomy in these special provinces, namely Bukidnon, Cotabato, Lanao, Mountain Province and Sulu, the offices of provincial governors thereat should be made elective as soon as conditions in these said provinces warrant the proposition and in order to bring them up in level with the rest of the provinces in this country; and

WHEREAS, a definite date or time should be fixed by law for such eventuality to give ample time for these provinces to prepare and get ready;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, by the Provincial Governors and City Mayors in convention at the City of Manila, this 26th day of January, 1948, to request His Excellency, President Manuel A. Roxas, to proclaim that the offices of provincial governors in the specially-organized provinces of Bukidnon, Cotabato, Lanao, Mountain Province and Sulu, be made elective and that the first provincial elections in said provinces shall be held together with

the next general provincial elections in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-one.

Carried.

No. 8

WHEREAS, in order that this Body of Governors and City Mayors can with success achieve the aims and purposes for which it had been called;

WHEREAS, in successful accomplishment of the aims and purposes of this Convention, it is necessary that His Excellency, the President be consulted and informed of the desire of this Body of Governors and City Mayors;

WHEREFORE, this Body of Governors and City Mayors in Convention today in the City of Manila

RESOLVED, as it hereby resolved, to create and organize a Committee of Governors and Mayors composing of nine Members to arrange for an appointment with the President to inform him of the desire of the Governors and to vitalize on important measures to be taken up by this Body.

Carried unanimously.

No. 9

WHEREAS, a Committee of nine members to arrange for an appointment with His Excellency, the President of the Philippines and to inform him of the desire of the Governors and City Mayors has already been created;

WHEREAS, these Islands are composed of three major geographical divisions, namely—Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, in order that these major geographical divisions of these islands would be equally represented in the composition of the Committee of Governors and City Mayors thus created for the purpose cited above;

WHEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Committee should compose of three members from Luzon, three from Visayas and three from Mindanao, as follows:

LUZON

Governor Jose U. del Gallego—Camarines Sur

Governor Jose B. Lingad—Pampanga
Governor Enrique Braganza — Pan-
gasinan