

FOURTH DAY

Monday, January 26, 1981

The Senate of the Eleventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1981, convened at 11:30 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by Reverend Kim On Chong, retired Chaplain of Mid-Pacific Institute, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senator Kobayashi who was excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Third Day.

HOUSE COMMUNICATION

A communication from the House (Hse. Com. No. 2), transmitting House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which was adopted in the House of Representatives on January 23, 1981, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Mizuguchi, seconded by Senator Anderson and carried, H.C.R. No. 2, pertaining to the Governor's address to the Legislature assembled in joint session, was adopted.

Senator Anderson then rose to state as follows:

"Mr. President, if I may, the Republicans have seven more bills we'd like to lay on the Clerk's desk--two from Senator Yee, three from Senator Ajifu and two from Senator George--under the same conditions, if I may."

The President so ordered.

At this time Senator Anderson rose on a point of information as follows:

"We're now approaching the second week of this somewhat disorganized eleventh session and it's more than embarrassing, really, to have the public out there, once we adjourn, continually ask us 'what's happening,' 'what's going on,' 'can we have some meetings,' 'can we introduce some bills,' 'can we come and testify.' The senior citizens want to move, the teachers want to move, we have some educational problems. It's embarrassing as Senators, Mr. President, to sit here everyday to be part of the electoral process, so to speak, and not be able to give

the constituencies any answers.

"Now it appears that what we know--most of us anyway--is what we read in the papers and most of that is hearsay, gossip and innuendos. We would like to be informed, Mr. President, if somebody can inform us in this body, just what the hell is going on. Is somebody talking to somebody; are the 17 Democrats meeting; are there any caucuses--open door, closed door? What do I tell my constituency on the Windward side when they want to come down and testify on the bills or want some bills introduced? When is the Governor coming down with his budget and his presentation?

"Gentlemen, it isn't just a Democrat process or a Democrat problem. The problem is that we are all Senators and we are all being criticized. The people on the street aren't saying, 'those damn Democrats,' they're saying, 'you damn politicians' and we're all getting some of the rub-off, Mr. President. This isn't only to you on the Majority side; we're all paying a price for this; we all have to go back to our constituencies sooner or later and we really want to get going.

"Now I saw five interesting faces on TV last night being interviewed and if I were to take away the subtitle of anti-Wong or pro-Wong, they sounded like five sensible, reasonable men. If I read the Hilo Tribune, statements attributed to various Senators, you wouldn't believe that there's a problem here; it's for the people, by the people and everything is motherhood. You get into these halls, and it's entirely different.

"Now I really suggest, Mr. President, that if there are not five Democrats in this body who want to come across the hall in a responsible manner and join forces with us to get going, then I would really urge that the 17 of you, if you want to assume the responsibility, go into a room and close the door and get down to business.

"We just cannot continually accept and explain to the public that we're spending the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars when there's crime, education, unemployment, economy and all kinds of problems that we have to get to. We cannot continually ignore them. The responsibility is yours and you have said any number of times

that it is the Majority party and you want to resolve it among the 17 of you. Then please, Mr. President, resolve it."

The President then answered as follows:

"Senator Anderson, for the public's information and your information, the Democrats are trying to resolve the problems. It's very difficult and all of us seated in this chamber understand what some of the problems are. They are not something that is simply resolved and I ask patience from the Minority; I ask patience from the general public.

"It's always been my philosophy that since the people of Hawaii elected the Democrats as the Majority here in the State Senate, it is our responsibility to organize the Senate. What is more important is that as we are responsible for organizing the Senate, we should be held accountable for whatever action takes place in this body. This will be reflected in the elections forthcoming two years from now. We understand what the consequences are if we don't resolve our problems and I think we should be willing to suffer those consequences when the will of the people is made known to us two years from now.

"We are trying, Senator Anderson. I hope that we can resolve our differences and we will keep the Minority informed."

Senator Anderson then stated:

"Mr. President, to correct a misnomer, I haven't liked it for years and I don't like it today. I don't sit here as a Minority member, Mr. President. I don't have the mentality of a minority member. I sit here equal as a Senator and while your designation may be as a Minority party, I happen to feel that I and my colleagues, those behind me and alongside of me, are as equal... to participating equally to any of the Majority. Many of our members on the Republican side out-poll many Democrats in their own particular district, so while we have had this old fantasy of Majority, Minority, Republican, Democrat, I'd like to think that maybe for the first time under the title or subtitle of 'new politics,' Mr. President, that you might redefine your thinking and your definition."

At this time, Senator Abercrombie rose on a point of information as follows:

"Mr. President, does Senator Anderson, the previous speaker, mean that he is releasing each of the Republicans to go his own way?"

Senator Anderson then replied:

"I don't have any Republicans to release, Senator. The Republicans caucused together, organized and have directed me to do certain things on their behalf. The Republicans stand free to break, run, be independent, any time they so desire."

Senator Kuroda then stated:

"Mr. President, I'm one of those five reasonable Senators who appeared on TV but I'm not reasonable enough to accept Senator Anderson's invitation to join in their group. But I do have a pleasant announcement to make, Mr. President, and that is, it was Senator O'Connor's birthday, yesterday, and it was Super Bowl Day, so after we adjourn I'd like to invite my colleagues to extend a 'Happy Birthday' to Senator O'Connor. With this pleasantry, I'm sure that Senator O'Connor and I, although on opposing sides, would gladly join the negotiation team so that we can get the act together. Thank you."

The President then remarked:

"Of course, the Chair would entertain any more discussion but I would like to put this matter to rest by just answering Senator Anderson in terms of definition of the 'new politics.' It's very simple. Under my presidency, it's been trying to treat everyone fairly. That's the essence of the new politics and I would like to continue in that particular spirit. I think the Senate should be a body in which each individual senator--his decisions or his comments--is treated fairly. That's all we can ask of any bipartisan type of arrangement here in the Senate.

"As most of you know, as president for the past two years, I have tried to attain that particular goal of being fair to each and every member of this Senate. And if you agree that being fair is the essence, then I would want to be able to continue as president and I hope you keep me in the job."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:47 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Mizuguchi, seconded by Senator Anderson and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 1981.