

## Gambling, District Voting

# Referendum Bill Withdrawn

By Dave Hendrick  
Daily News Staff Writer

A bill asking the addition to Tuesday's ballot of five referendum issues — including two on gambling and one on district voting for senators — was withdrawn yesterday at the Legislature.

After heavy criticism by other senators, the bill was withdrawn by its sponsor, Sen. Adrian Sanchez.

The proposed bill would have allowed voters to state their preferences on legalizing slot machines and casino-style gambling, on district voting for senators, changing terms of office for senators from two years to four and having the Micronesian islands merge with the Territory of Guam.

Sanchez said the questions should be posed to voters in this election because a special referendum would be too costly.

Sen. Joe Ada led the opposition to the bill by declaring that the questions posed in it should be asked, but not now.

The voting public, Ada said, is not educationally prepared to decide on these issues, especially gambling.

Ada also questioned whether the Department of Public Safety effectively could tackle an organized crime syndicate if it came to Guam for the gambling business.

Saying that people must be better informed of the pros and cons of the issues, Ada offered a motion to place the bill in the unfinished business file until the next legislative session Dec. 2.

Sen. Ricardo Salas said the Legislature should vote on the five issues. A referendum would be "passing the buck" to voters on decisions that should be made by the Legislature, he added.

Sen. Jerry Rivera echoed Ada's sentiments.

Sanchez withdrew his motion to place the bill in the voting file during a speech against the measure by Sen. Vicente Ada.

In other legislative action yesterday, a bill to regulate the taking of live coral was passed.

The measure prohibits taking live coral out to the 10-fathom contour line surrounding the beaches on Guam unless licenses are acquired through the director of the Department of Agriculture.

Both commercial and noncommercial licenses are required.

An amendment to the bill offered by Sen. Paul J. Bordallo and passed provides that the transfer of all submerged lands owned by GovGuam must be approved by the Legislature. Bordallo said this would ensure that such lands would be safeguarded.

A second amendment, introduced by Sen. Carl T.C. Gutierrez, would appropriate not more than \$24,000 for contractual services for the University of Guam's Bicentennial Commission.

Gutierrez said that the money is available and is included in the commission's budget, but that specific items must be spelled out before the funds can be used. The money would provide for office space rental, maintenance of office equipment, communications and printing.

The bill passed 15-0. Sens. George M. Bamba, Paul M. Calvo, Bill Flores, Jerry Rivera, Allen A. Sekt and Edward S. Terlaje were absent.

Three resolutions also were passed yesterday.

The first, introduced by Speaker Florencio Ramirez and supported by all other senators, sends the condolences of the people of Guam to the family of Frederico T. Gutierrez, a former chief commissioner who died Saturday night of heart failure in his Agana Heights home.

Sen. Ramirez called Gutierrez "truly a great person."

Judge Paul J. Abbate was acknowledged and certified as presiding judge of the Superior Court of Guam in the second resolution. Abbate fills the seat vacated by Judge Joaquin Perez, who has assumed the role of chief justice of the Supreme Court of Guam. However, that court has been declared nonexistent because of a District Court ruling.

The third resolution commends John F. Kennedy High School Air Force Jr. ROTC for receiving an "Honor Unit Award" for the second consecutive year.

Three persons were reappointed to the Civil Service Commission.

Vicente P. Perez was reappointed chairman and Herman T. Ada and Gregorio D. Taitague were reappointed members.