

PLEBISCITE REGISTRATION BOARD MEETING

May 26, 1975

Present:

Edward T. Dela Cruz
William R. Reyes
Ricardo P. Villagomez
Pedro Manglona
Antonio R. DLGuerrero
Roman T. Tudela
Abel R. Olopai
Nicolas T. Palacios

Also Present:

David Maratita
Joaquin Torres

Mr. Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The Chairman informed the Board that he ^{had} received information from the Plebiscite Commissioner that Mr. Benigno Fitial had been appointed as a Board member to replace Mr. Alfonso Rasa but declined the appointment.

Mr. Chairman request Mr. Canham to introduce the Lawyer appointed to the Plebiscite. Mr. Canham introduce the Plebiscite lawyer Mr. John Craft.

Mr. Craft, expressed his opinion that section 6, paragraph C, authorized the Board to prescribe procedures on registration. He explained domicile status of the U. S. Permanent Residents on Guam, that they are still TT citizens and if they stated in affidavit the intention of making the Mariana Islands District their domicile, the affidavits are valid. He explained that the Domicile definition in Secretariat order has two bases 1) physical location; and 2) intention.
(meeting - 5/26/75.)

Mr. Reyes asked Mr. craft his legal opinion concerning the Board decision to reject the protest on Guam Permanent Residents. Mr. Craft explained that the Board decision was alright under the circumstances due to the lack of evidences submitted to the board in support of the challenge. Mr. Tudela asked to the validity of the document signed by Guam Permanent Resident to disqualify them to registration. Mr. Craft stated that it is difficult to base decision on that single document. Mr. Canham requested Mr. Craft opinion on the legality of the Board decision to reject the request to send members to Guam to investigate the domicile question. Mr. Craft informed the Board ^{that} it is the prerogative of the Board to send or not to send members to Guam. Mr. Chairman explained ^{the request was rejected because} it is the challenge obligation to provide the evidence.

Mr. Chairman pointed out ^{to} the Plebiscite Commissioner the provision of the Sec. Ord. requiring the Board to certify the list of registration. He also read the letter requesting the Plebiscite Commissioner to extend the Board term to allow the Board the time require to scrutinize the affidavits. Mr. Craft explained that the members of the Board are not required to go into individual affidavit themselves, the administrative staff can do the ascertainment of the affidavit's validity.

Mr. Chairman requested Mr. Craley to draft the letter of registration list certification for the Board's signature. He also requested Mr. Maratita to ready the final registration list for the Board certification and to make available the affidavits rejected by the Board.