

ple Marianas

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Dr. John P. Wheeler, Jr.
 1 Hedgerly Close
 Cambridge, C. B. 3-OEW
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Dear Dr. Wheeler:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the Northern Marianas with me last Friday evening.

I am particularly glad that you will be available to consult with us as we begin the planning for the Constitutional Convention this summer. I would like to suggest Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4 and 5, for our meeting here in Washington. Please let me know if these dates are convenient for you and if my office can be of assistance to you in making any arrangements. I propose that we begin on Tuesday, May 4, at 10:00 A.M.

I would appreciate any thoughts you have about an agenda for our meeting which would make it of maximum value to us. By the time you arrive, of course, I expect to be somewhat better informed about the problem than I am at the present. I see at least three broad areas which I would like to explore with you:

1. Our most immediate need is to make certain that we have assembled, or made provision to draw upon, the appropriate professional skills to serve the client. As I may have mentioned, we expect to have the services of four or five lawyers from this firm, including at least one other partner in addition

to myself, to carry the major responsibilities for preparation of briefing papers and constitutional drafting. We would appreciate your views regarding any additional kinds of professional skills which should be drawn upon, so that we can be confident that we have drawn fully upon the experience of other constitutional conventions, have prepared the most useful briefing papers, and are able to assist the client in bringing the convention to a successful conclusion. We would particularly appreciate your judgment as to the professional needs during the pre-convention period as contrasted with those during the convention itself. As you reflect on our personnel needs, I might alert you to the fact that the convention has a fairly limited budget.

2. The second area we would like to explore with you next month relates to the briefing papers which we plan to prepare in advance of the convention. I assume by now there is a fairly standard format for state constitutional conventions and, to the extent possible, I think we should draw upon this for use in the Northern Marianas. My initial thinking is that we would prepare somewhere between ten and twenty briefing books, dealing not only with the standard provisions (e.g. executive, legislative and judicial branches of government) but also with some issues of unique importance to the Northern Marianas (e.g. land alienation restraints, relations between the island municipalities and the central government, etc.). Based on our experience during the past three years in assisting this client, I am assuming that each briefing book would review the relevant literature on the subject, identify the principal alternatives along with a discussion of the pertinent arguments pro and con, and encourage the delegates to consider those alternatives which seem most appropriate. We would appreciate your suggestions regarding the number and contents of the briefing materials to be prepared, as well as any thoughts you have for the review of any such materials by consultants.

3. The third area we would like to discuss relates to the general administration and management of the convention. No one in the Northern Marianas has any truly pertinent experience and the client will be looking to its consultants to advise the responsible officials how to prepare for an efficient and productive convention. I have your 1961 volume entitled "The Constitutional Convention - Manual on its Planning, Organization and Operation" on order and it may answer all our questions. It would be very helpful if we could develop a proposal regarding the management of the convention for consideration by the client and your assistance in this regard would be most appreciated.

Although I may not have mentioned it in our telephone conversation, we are prepared to compensate you for your time at your normal consulting fee. Please let me know what consulting fee you have been receiving in recent years and what charges you believe are appropriate in connection with any future participation by you in the project as a consultant to this firm.

I look forward to seeing you next month.

Sincerely,

Howard P. Willens