

Committee on Finance, Local Government, and  
Other Matters, Meeting No. 1

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Time: 10 a.m., October 19, 1976  
Place: Conference Room 1  
Present: All members, Chairman Fitial, Vice-Chairman  
Dela Cruz, consultants Mantel and Major.

After chairman Fitial opened the meeting, he introduced the consultants, Howard Mantel and Bob Major, to the delegates. Chairman Fitial then distributed a copy of the Administrative Organization memorandum to each delegate. This memorandum listed the various alternatives open to the Committee regarding its organization, the order and presentation of the briefing papers, the Scheduling of discussion, public hearings, minutes, reports and agenda. Mr. Mantel briefly discussed the options to acquaint the delegates with what decisions were to be made. Chairman Fitial raised the question whether the list precluded the use of subcommittees, and Mr. Mantel suggested that the Committee might first proceed as an entire committee to see if that organization was unwieldy. Vice-chairman Dela Cruz and Delegate Tenorio both suggested that the Committee could easily proceed without breaking up into subcommittees and this decision was adopted by general assent.

Delegate Rasa suggested that in order to do the Committee work expeditiously, those subjects that were likely to be less controversial might be treated first. He specifically mentioned Constitutional Amendment and the order

was then decided to be Constitutional Amendment, Education, Corporation, Taxation and Finance, and Local Government. The matter of scheduling was discussed briefly, and Chairman Fitial assumed responsibility for devising a schedule.

The manner of presenting the briefing papers was discussed next, and Chairman Fitial observed that since the delegates were responsible for reading the briefing papers, extensive review by the consultants would be unnecessary. The Committee thus decided to proceed to the ordered subjects, although the consultants would be available to receive and pose questions as the delegates desired.

After a brief discussion of public hearings, agenda, minutes and reports, Mr. Mantel, upon the Chairman's direction, proceeded to outline generally the principal issues to be addressed in the subjects within the Committee's jurisdiction. A number of questions were posed by the delegates, and Mr. Mantel and Mr. Major accordingly responded.

During the discussion, Mr. Howard Willens entered the room and was briefly introduced to the delegates. Mr. Willens took a seat and the discussion resumed. After the subjects had been outlined by Mr. Mantel, Chairman Fitial adjourned the meeting to October 20, 1976, and requested that the delegates and consultants be prepared to begin with the subject of Constitutional Amendment on that day.