

October 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Subject: Organization and Procedures of the Northern Marianas
Constitutional Convention

Pursuant to the provisions of Northern Mariana Islands Law 4-205 (Act No. 347-1976), the Pre-Convention Committee has met to discuss the organization and procedures of the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention. The members of the Pre-Convention Committee are: Vicente N. Santos, Jose R. Cruz (Chairman, Tinian Delegation), Jose P. Mafnas (Chairman, Saipan Delegation), and Benjamin T. Manglona (Chairman, Rota Delegation). This memorandum constitutes the report of the Pre-Convention Committee to the Convention.

1. The Pre-Convention Committee has decided that the Convention should convene at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 18, 1976. Attachment A to this memorandum is a proposed agenda for the first session of the Convention. As you will note, we recommend that the first session be limited to the formalities associated with the beginning of the Convention, to the election of officers, to the adoption of Rules of Procedure for the Convention, and to other basic organizational decisions. We propose also that the Convention schedule a meeting for 3:30 p.m. on Monday.

2. Attachment B to this memorandum is a set of proposed procedures for the Convention. These procedures deal with such matters as the officers of the Convention and their duties, the establishment of committees, and the transaction of the Convention's business. The Pre-Convention Committee recommends that these rules be adopted by the Convention at its first session.

3. The rules provide for the establishment of three substantive committees, whose members are to be designated by the President of the Convention and the three Vice-Presidents (one from each

municipal delegation). These committees will have a very important role in the Convention. They will be responsible for reviewing the briefing papers in their areas of responsibility, preparing constitutional provisions for consideration by the Convention, reviewing delegate proposals, and conducting public hearings. Because of the limited time available to the Convention, it would be desirable to have the committees appointed as quickly as possible and to begin work immediately. We recommend that the delegations meet before the opening session if possible to determine which committees the individual delegates wish to serve on. The rules provide that every delegate except the President can be assigned to a substantive committee and that a delegate can be assigned to only one such committee. If the 38 delegates (all except the President) are divided equally among the three committees, this would mean that the committees would consist of 13, 13 and 12 members. If the delegations submit their proposed committee assignments to the President before 12:00 p.m. on Monday, it may be possible for the President and Vice-Presidents to announce the committee appointments at the afternoon session.

4. The Pre-Convention Committee has discussed the need to organize the work of the Convention efficiently so that its work can be completed by December 6, 1976. We believe that the seven weeks available to the Convention should be allocated about as follows: three weeks for committee work (including any public hearings), three weeks for deliberations in the Committee of the Whole, and one final week for final revision of constitutional language and adoption of the constitution. A more detailed schedule is included with this memorandum as Attachment C. If the Convention desired, this schedule

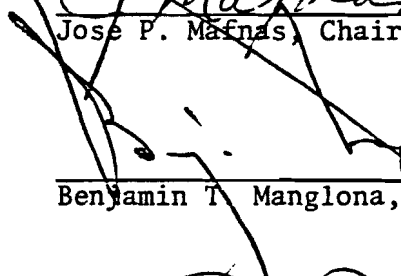
could be adopted by resolution at the opening session of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

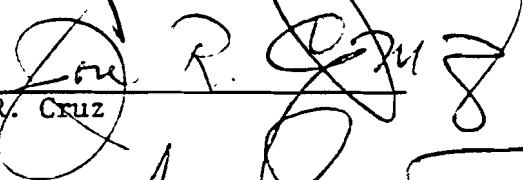
THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE



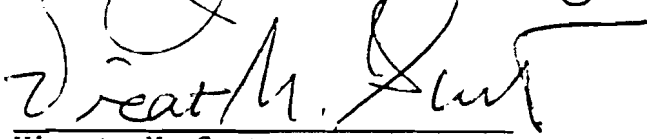
Jose P. Mafias, Chairman



Benjamin T. Manglona, Vice-Chairman



Jose R. Cruz



Vicente N. Santos

Agenda for First Session of the
Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention

Monday, October 18, 1976

9:00 A.M.

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| I. | Call to Order of Convention | Resident Commissioner Erwin D. Canham (Acting President) |
| II. | Invocation | Monsignor Tomas A. Camacho |
| III. | Welcoming Remarks | Mr. Canham |
| IV. | Roll Call of Delegates | Mr. Canham |
| V. | Administration of Delegates' Oaths or Affirmations of Office | Mr. Canham |
| VI. | Election of President of Convention | |
| VII. | Adoption of Rules of Procedure | |
| VIII. | Election of Other Officers | |
| IX. | Organization of the Convention | |
| | A. Report of the Office of Transition Studies and Planning | Pedro A. Tenorio, Director |
| | 1. General Report of Services and Support of the OTSP | |
| | 2. Introduction of Consultants and Employees | |
| | B. Report of the Pre-Convention Committee | Jose P. Mafnas
Chairman, Pre-Convention Committee |
| | C. Other Business | |
| X. | Recess until 3:30 p.m. Monday | |

RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Chapter I. General Provisions

1. Resident Commissioner to Convene Convention. The Resident Commissioner of the Northern Mariana Islands shall convene the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention ^{*/} in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on October 18, 1976, ^{**/} at 9:00 a.m. The Convention shall adjourn no later than December 6, 1976. ^{***/}

2. Resident Commissioner as Acting President. The Resident Commissioner shall act as president of the Convention until the Convention shall elect a president from among its membership. ^{****/}

3. Delegates' Oath of Office. The Resident Commissioner shall administer the following oath or affirmation to the delegates en masse:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of delegate to the Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention and will, to the best of my ability, support the Constitution of the United States and the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America (so help me God)."

^{*/} NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LAW NO. 4-205, Act No. 347-1976 § 9(A) (1976) (hereinafter Enabling Act).

^{**/} See Enabling Act § 8(A) (5).

^{***/} Id.

^{****/} Enabling Act § 9(A).

4. Quorum of the Convention. A quorum of the Convention shall consist of twenty-eight (28) delegates, provided, however, that at least one (1) delegate from each chartered municipality must be present.^{*/}

5. Majority Necessary to Act. No constitutional provision shall be adopted by the Convention except by the affirmative votes of not less than three-fourths (3/4) of the delegates present in the Convention, with delegates voting only in person.^{**/} A majority of delegates present, a quorum being present, shall be sufficient for the taking of any other action except when the affirmative vote of a greater number shall be required by these Rules.

6. Organization of Convention -- First Order of Business. The first order of business at the first session of the Convention, following the call to order by the Resident Commissioner and the invocation, shall be the roll call of delegates and the election of the president of the Convention.

7. Admission to Floor -- Defined. No person, other than a delegate, officer, employee or consultant of the Convention, accredited news correspondent or person invited by the president shall be admitted on the floor of the Convention immediately preceding the time set for any call to order and immediately following adjournment. Only delegates, officers, employees, and consultants and such other persons as may be

*/ Enabling Act § 9(D).
**/ Id. § 9(C).

authorized by the president or the Convention shall be admitted to the floor of the Convention during the session. The phrase "floor of the Convention" means the room or chamber where the Convention sits in session, excluding the space designated for visitors and for the press.

Chapter II. Officers and Employees

1. Officers. The Convention shall elect a president from among its membership by roll call vote. The Convention shall also elect from among its membership by roll call vote three (3) vice-presidents, one from each chartered municipality.

2. Duties of the President. The president shall perform the following duties:

(a) The President shall have the responsibility for scheduling sessions of the Convention. He shall call the Convention to order and, except in the absence of a quorum, shall proceed to business in the manner prescribed by these Rules.

(b) He shall preserve order and decorum and, in debate, shall confine delegates to the question under discussion. When two or more delegates arise at the same time, he shall name the one entitled to the floor.

(c) He shall decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to the Convention. On every appeal he shall have the right, in his place, to assign his reason for his decision. In case of such appeal no delegate shall speak more than once.

(d) He may substitute any delegate to perform the duties of the chair, but for no longer period than two consecutive

Convention days, except by special consent of the Convention.

(e) When the Convention shall be ready to go into Committee of the Whole, he shall name a chairman to preside therein. The president may designate himself to serve as chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

(f) When necessary or required, he shall certify all official acts of the Convention with the date thereof.

(g) He shall declare the vote and announce the result according to the fact on all questions and divisions.

(h) He shall not be required to vote except in case of a tie.

(i) He shall serve as a member ex officio without a vote of the three substantive committees created by Chapter IV of these Rules.

(j) He shall, in consultation with the vice-presidents, exercise general supervisory responsibility over the work of consultants and employees, including the secretary, assistant secretary, journal clerks, sergeants-at-arms, and such other employees as are available to the Convention, none of whom except the secretary shall be a delegate to the Convention. The president shall, in consultation with the vice-presidents, have the authority to request the Office of Transition Studies and Planning to discharge any employee whose performance is unsatisfactory and to secure a suitable replacement.

(k) He shall serve as the chairman of the Committee on Organization and Procedures, which committee is described in Chapter IV, Rule 1.

3. Duties of the Vice-Presidents. The three vice-presidents shall draw lots to determine who shall serve as first vice-president, second vice-president, and third vice-president. The first vice-president shall have precedence over the second vice-president, and the second vice-president shall have precedence over the third vice-president for the purpose of determining who shall preside in the temporary absence of the president and for other purposes.

In the temporary absence of the president, or in the event of his temporary inability to preside, his duties shall devolve upon the first vice-president, or if he also be absent upon the second vice-president, or if he too be absent upon the third vice-president. For the purpose of this Rule, the terms "temporary absence" and "temporary inability" shall mean an absence or inability not to exceed ten (10) consecutive Convention sessions. "Convention session" shall mean any day on which the Convention meets. The vice-presidents shall also serve as members of the Committee on Organization and Procedures described in Chapter IV, Rule 1.

4. Vacancy in the Office of President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of president by death, resignation, the absence of the president from his duties for more than ten (10) consecutive Convention sessions, the inability of the president to discharge his responsibilities for more than ten (10) consecutive Convention sessions, or otherwise, the Convention shall, by majority vote of the elected delegates, elect a president to fill such vacancy. Such election will constitute

the delegates' determination that a vacancy exists in the office of president.

5. Vacancy in the Office of Vice-President; Temporary Absence or Inability of Vice-President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of any vice-president by death, resignation or otherwise, the Convention shall, by majority vote of the elected delegates, elect a new vice-president from the same chartered municipality as that of his predecessor in office.

In the temporary absence of any vice-president or in the event of the temporary inability on the part of any vice-president to discharge the duties of his office, he shall have the power to designate and appoint some other delegate of the same chartered municipality to discharge the duties of his office during his temporary absence or temporary inability.

6. Duties of the Secretary. Pursuant to the direction of the president, the secretary shall perform the following duties:

(a) He shall supervise the employees of the Convention.

(b) He shall keep a daily journal of the Convention proceedings, summarizing the matters considered and the actions taken by the Convention, and shall provide a copy of the journal for the preceding day on which the Convention met to each delegate before the start of each session.

(c) He shall distribute the agenda of the business of the Convention for each day that the Convention meets to the delegates or others as appropriate.

(d) He shall prepare for duplication all proposals

and other documents that are required to be duplicated under these Rules.

(e) He shall give a number to every delegate proposal for the Constitution when introduced, and the numbers shall be in numerical order. When a committee recommendation is reported, he shall give it a number, in separate series for each committee, which shall be known as the committee recommendation number. He shall keep the several proposals and recommendations on file in order by their numbers, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention. "Delegate proposal" and "committee recommendation" shall have the same meaning for the purposes of this Rule as they have for the purposes of Rule 17 of Chapter VI.

(f) He shall preserve all proposals, reports of committees and all other records, books, documents and papers of the Convention and after the adjournment of the Convention shall make such disposal of them as the Convention shall direct.

(g) He shall arrange for the recording of the Convention proceedings and the transcription of such recording.

(h) He shall call the roll at the opening of each session of the Convention, and the president shall announce whether or not a quorum is present.

(i) He shall supervise the use of all Convention rooms and equipment and perform such other duties as are assigned to him.

7. Duties of Other Employees. The following employees of the Convention shall have the duties specified below:

(a) Assistant Secretary: The assistant secretary shall

aid the secretary in performing the duties listed in Rule 6 of this Chapter and shall serve subject to the direction of the secretary.

(b) Sergeants-at-Arms: As the chief police officers of the Convention, the sergeants-at-arms shall assist the president in maintaining order in the Convention and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to them by the president.

(c) Journal Clerks: The journal clerks shall, under the supervision of the secretary, prepare the daily journal that is required by Rule 6 of this Chapter.

Chapter III. Delegates

1. Conduct of Debate. When any delegate is about to speak in debate or to present any matter to the Convention, he shall rise from his seat and address himself to "Mr. President"; he shall not speak until recognized, and when recognized he shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

2. Delegates Called to Order. The president or any delegate may challenge any other delegate who, on speaking, violates the Rules of the Convention. Upon such challenge, the president may order the speaker to sit down. The president's order to sit down, or the failure of the president to order the speaker to sit down, may be appealed to the Convention.

3. Times Delegate May Speak. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, no delegate may speak more than once on the same question without leave of a majority of those present

and voting, unless he be the mover of the matter pending or chairman of the committee that reported it, in which case he shall be privileged to speak twice. Notwithstanding this provision, however, each delegate who speaks to an issue shall have three (3) minutes to rebut responses to his statement.

4. General Limit on Debate. Except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates then present and voting, no delegate may speak longer than fifteen (15) minutes without being required by the presiding officer to yield the floor, provided, however, that any delegate shall be privileged to yield his turn to another delegate, whose remarks shall be limited to the time yielded. The restriction imposed by this Rule shall not be applicable to chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees when they are presenting reports of their committees to the Convention or to the Committee of the Whole, and the same exemption from the requirement of this Rule shall also be applicable in the case of the chief spokesman for a majority report of a committee of the Convention.

5. Seating. Delegates shall be seated in the Convention chamber by alphabetical order, beginning with the first row from right to left as they face the president's chair. The Convention may authorize variations in this seating arrangement for the vice-presidents.

6. Contest of Election or Appointment.^{*/} No protest or petition contesting the election or appointment of any

*/ See Enabling Act § 6(D).

delegate shall be received or considered unless filed within ten (10) days after the adoption of these Rules or within ten (10) days after the election or appointment of that delegate. The Convention shall promptly resolve such protest or petition by roll call vote.

7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of any elected delegate shall be filled by the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes in the election of delegates from the same electoral precinct. If the next delegate in line refuses or is not available to serve, and, if the runner-up list is exhausted, the mayor of the municipality from which the successful delegate was elected shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. ^{*/}

Chapter IV. Committees

1. Committee on Organization and Procedures. The Committee on Organization and Procedures shall consist of the president and three vice-presidents of the Convention. This committee shall prepare agenda for the Convention, appoint members of committees, oversee the drafting of constitutional provisions, coordinate the work of the substantive committees, and be responsible for the general business of the Convention.

2. Substantive Committees. Three (3) substantive committees shall be created with the following subject area responsibilities:

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>General Subject Area</u>
Governmental Institutions	Executive Branch, Legislative

*/ Enabling Act § 7.

Name of Committee

General Subject Area

	Branch, Judicial Branch, and Washington Representative
Personal Rights and Natural Resources	Bill of Rights, Eligibility to Vote and Election Procedures, Land Alienation, and Natural Resources
Finance, Local Government and Other Matters	Taxation and Finance, Local Government, Constitutional Amendment, Education, Corpora- tions, and Other Matters

3. Assignments of Committees. Delegate proposals shall be assigned by the president to the appropriate committee for consideration. Notwithstanding the above allocation of subject area responsibilities to committees, the Committee on Organization and Procedures may reassign matters among the three committees as seems appropriate to accomplish the work of the Convention efficiently.

4. Discharge of Substantive Committees. If one-third of the elected delegates shall so request, an issue under consideration by a substantive committee shall be taken from its jurisdiction and placed before the Convention.

5. Membership of Committees. Each delegate shall be a member of one and only one (1) substantive committee. In naming delegates to committees, the Committee on Organization and Procedures shall strive to appoint committees whose geographic composition is proportional to that of the Convention as a whole. The substantive committees shall be of roughly equivalent size.

6. Proxy Vote and Representation. A member of a committee who will be absent from a meeting or meetings of the

committee may provide a written proxy to the chairman of the committee, who shall cast the absent member's vote as directed by the proxy. In the alternative and notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 5 of this Chapter, a delegate who will be absent from a meeting or meetings of the committee to which he belongs may, by written proxy delivered to the committee chairman, authorize another delegate (whether or not a member of the committee) to speak and vote at such meeting or meetings on his behalf.

7. Committee Officers. Each substantive committee shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from its membership by a majority vote of those voting. The vice-chairman shall act as chairman during a temporary absence or temporary inability of the chairman. "Temporary absence" and "temporary inability" shall have the same meaning for the purposes of this Rule as they have for the purposes of Rule 3 of Chapter II.

8. Meetings During Sessions of the Convention or the Committee of the Whole. No substantive committee shall meet during a session of the Convention or of the Committee of the Whole except with the permission of the president.

9. Public Hearings. The following Rules shall be applicable to any public hearing conducted by a committee, including the Committee of the Whole;

(a) A committee of the Convention may hold public hearings as and when it so determines.

(b) The chairman of the committee shall give public notice of each public hearing as far in advance as is practicable.

(c) Said public notice shall be made by delivering a

copy thereof to the president, and the president shall deliver or forward immediately copies thereof to all representatives of the news media.

(d) A copy of said public notice shall be posted prominently in the Convention chambers.

(e) Said public notice shall include the date, time and place of the public hearing, and a concise description of the subject matter or proposal to be considered.

(f) All persons wishing to testify before a committee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to do so.

(g) Expert witnesses shall be invited to testify whenever the committee deems it necessary or desirable.

(h) Witnesses shall be requested, where practicable, to submit written statements of their testimony, but the lack of such written statements shall not be used to deny any witness the opportunity to testify.

(i) Witnesses shall limit their oral testimony to fifteen (15) minutes, unless otherwise restricted or extended by the committee.

(j) For the purpose of public hearings, the members of the committee attending shall constitute a quorum. Prior to convening a public hearing authorized under these Rules, each committee conducting such hearing shall designate a member to sit as the presiding officer. If the presiding officer is not present at the public hearing the members attending shall designate a presiding officer. The presiding officer shall maintain order and decorum, and rule on all procedural questions

arising during the course of the hearing. Rulings of the chair may be overruled by a majority vote of the committee members present. In the event a ruling of the chair is appealed, the presiding officer shall vote only in the event of a tie.

(k) All public hearings shall be recorded and transcribed. Copies of the transcription of each public hearing, together with any exhibits and other related materials as the committee may direct, shall be made, and a copy thereof shall be made available to each delegate as soon as practicable.

Chapter V. Committee of the Whole.

1. Formation. The Convention may upon motion resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of delegate proposals and committee recommendations for provisions of the Constitution and for the transaction of other business.

2. Limitation of Debate. Before a proposal shall be considered by the Committee of the Whole, any delegate (the chairman of the substantive committee in charge of the proposal having prior right) shall be privileged to move a limitation upon the time of debate and consideration by the Committee, and the Convention may fix in advance of consideration a time for the Committee to rise and report.

3. Consideration of Business. Upon a delegate proposal or committee recommendation being submitted to the Committee of the Whole, the same shall be read by the secretary or another person designated by the chairman of the Committee of the Whole and debated as may be determined by the Committee. All amendments made to reports, resolutions, and other matters submitted to the

Committee of the Whole shall be noted and reported. After the report by the Committee of the Whole, the proposal may be debated and amended on the floor of the Convention.

4. Rules. Except as otherwise provided by these Rules, the Rules of the Convention shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole so far as they are applicable. In cases when the Rules contain no applicable provisions, the proceedings shall be controlled by Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Quorum. A majority of the total number of elected delegates shall be a quorum for the Committee of the Whole to do business; and if the Committee finds itself without a quorum, the chairman shall cause the roll of the Convention to be called, and thereupon the Committee shall rise, the president resume the chair, and the chairman shall report to the Convention the cause of the rising of the Committee.

6. Rising of the Committee. A motion for the rising of the Committee of the Whole shall always be in order unless a member of the Committee is speaking or a vote is being taken, and shall be decided without debate.

Chapter VI. Transaction of Business

1. Order of Business. The order of business of the Convention shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to order and preliminary matters;
- (b) Silent prayer;
- (c) Roll Call;
- (d) Reports of committees;

- (e) Introduction and first reading and reference of proposals;
- (f) Second and final reading of proposals;
- (g) Motions and resolutions;
- (h) Unfinished business;
- (i) Special orders of the day; and
- (j) General orders of the day.

2. Recording in Journal. No memorial, remonstrance or petition shall be read or recorded in full in the journal unless ordered read or recorded by the affirmative vote of a majority of those present and voting.

3. Stating Motions. When a motion is made, it shall be stated to the Convention by the president; or, if in writing, it shall be handed to the secretary and read aloud to the Convention before being debated.

A "Motion" within this rule includes only the privileged motions listed in Rule 5 of this Chapter or a motion of merely procedural character, such as to take from the table or to send a sergeant-at-arms for absentees. All other matters (except delegate proposals and committee recommendations) shall be presented as resolutions.

Every resolution, other than a proposal, shall be submitted, read by title, and referred as appropriate. If the Rules are suspended to permit immediate consideration of a resolution, the resolution shall be read in full to the Convention before it is considered.

4. Withdrawal of Motions. After a motion has been

stated by the president or read by the chief clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Convention, but it may be withdrawn by the maker at any time before being amended or put to vote.

5. Privileged Motions. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but:

- (a) To amend the agenda;)
- (b) To fix the time to which to adjourn;)
- (c) To adjourn;)
- (d) To take a recess;)
- (e) To reconsider;) Neither
- (f) To call for the Orders of the Day;) amendable
- (g) To lay on the table;) nor
- (h) For a Call of the Convention;) debatable
- (i) To limit debate;)
- (j) To move the previous question;)
- (k) To postpone to a day certain;)
- (l) To postpone indefinitely;)
- (m) To commit; and) Debatable but
- (n) To amend.) not amendable

The motions listed in this Rule shall take precedence in order in which they stand arranged, with (a) taking precedence over (b), (b) over (c) and so forth. All of them shall be decided by the vote of a majority of those present and voting, except that any motion to postpone indefinitely shall be decided by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the delegates to the Convention. When a recess is taken while a question is

pending, consideration of such question shall be resumed when the Convention reassembles, unless it determines otherwise. No motion to postpone to a day certain, or to commit, having been decided by the Convention, shall again be in order on the same day or at the same stage of the question. Whenever a proposal is being considered and a motion is then made, either to postpone indefinitely or to commit, amendments to the pending proposal shall first be in order before any vote is taken on any such motion.

6. Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order to except when a motion to fix the time to which to adjourn or a motion to amend the agenda is pending.

7. Motion to Take from the Table. After one day's notice, days upon which the Convention does not sit not being counted, any matter laid on the table may be taken therefrom on motion, provided that the business of the class of the matter to be taken from table would then be in order.

8. Order of Putting Questions. All questions shall be put in the order in which they are moved, except in the case of privileged motions.

9. Amendment Must Be Germane. No motion or proposition relating to a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of an amendment or substitute.

10. Amendments to Be Distributed. No amendment to any committee recommendation shall be considered unless it is submitted in writing and a copy thereof delivered to the floor

desk of each delegate prior to the time the amendment is offered.

11. Division of Question. Any delegate may call for a division of the question, which shall be divided if it includes propositions that are so distinct in substance that when one is removed or deferred, a substantive proposition remains for the decision of the Convention. A motion to strike out and insert shall not be subject to division within the meaning of this Rule.

Whenever a question has been divided, no final vote shall be taken on any division until all of the divisions thereof have been considered for amendment, after which further amendments to any division shall be in order, and thereafter each division will be put to final vote.

12. Calling for Previous Question. The method of ordering the previous question shall be as follows: Any delegate may move the previous question and, unless otherwise stated, the motion shall apply to the pending question only. The presiding officer shall put the question, "Shall the main question now be put?" This shall be ordered only by a majority of the delegates present and voting. After the seconding of a motion for the previous question and prior to the ordering of the same, a Call of the Convention may be moved and ordered, but after ordering the previous question nothing shall be in order prior to the decision of the pending question or questions, except demands for the ayes and nays, points of order, appeals from the decision of the chair, and a motion to adjourn or to take a recess, all of which shall be decided without debate. The effect of ordering

the previous question shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Convention to a direct vote upon the pending question. When a motion to reconsider has been taken under the previous question and decided in the affirmative, the fact that the previous question had been ordered shall have no operation or effect with respect to the question for which reconsideration has been ordered. If the Convention refuses to order the previous question, it shall resume consideration of the pending subject as though no motion for the previous question had been made.

13. Sine Die Adjournment. A motion to adjourn the Convention sine die shall not be voted upon until at least forty-eight (48) hours after notice is given to the delegates; and to pass this motion requires an affirmative vote of a majority of all the delegates to the Convention.

14. Reconsideration in Convention. (a) Any question finally adopted or rejected by the Convention may be reconsidered on motion of any delegate at any time before the Convention adjourns sine die.

(b) No question may be reconsidered more than once, except if the reconsideration is moved by direction of the Committee on Convention Organization and Procedures or by the committee which reported on the matter to be reconsidered, or if moved after submission of a petition signed by thirty (30) delegates to the Convention.

(c) A motion to reconsider in Convention may not be called up until the second session day after it is moved, and

shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates to the Convention.

(d) A motion to reconsider in Convention may be laid on the table independent of the question to be reconsidered; but a motion to reconsider moved by direction of a committee or pursuant to petition of the required number of delegates as provided above shall be in order without regard to the tabling of any previous motion to reconsider.

15. Quorum Calls. A call of the Convention may be ordered if there is an absence of a quorum.

16. Procedure. The roll of the Convention shall be called by the secretary and the absentees noted. The sergeants-at-arms may, upon motion, be dispatched after the absentees. In such case, a list of the absentees shall be furnished by the secretary to the sergeants-at-arms, who shall bring such absentees to the floor of the Convention with all possible speed. In case the sergeants-at-arms shall require assistance, the president, upon motion, may deputize as a special assistant sergeant-at-arms any person properly qualified. The Convention may proceed to business under a Call of the Convention pending the arrival of any absentees.

17. Introduction of Proposals and Recommendations. Any suggestion, proposition or draft intended to become a part of the Constitution, or amendment thereto or schedule to be attached thereto shall be called a delegate proposal or a committee recommendation. A proposal introduced by a delegate shall be designated a delegate proposal, and a proposal submitted by a

committee shall be designated a committee recommendation. A delegate proposal shall be endorsed by the delegate or delegates introducing it, and a committee recommendation shall be endorsed by the chairman of the committee submitting it. Five (5) copies of every delegate proposal or committee recommendation shall be delivered to the secretary, who shall cause the same to be suitably numbered and distributed as promptly as possible. No delegate proposal shall be introduced after November 10, 1976, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

18. Order of Consideration. The prescribed order in which proposals introduced in the Convention are to be taken up or acted upon shall be as follows:

- (a) Introduction, first reading by title, reference to a committee by the president, and ordered duplicated and distributed unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the delegates present;
- (b) Report of the committee and placing on the General Orders;
- (c) Consideration by the Committee of the Whole in order of their reference;
- (d) Report by the Committee of the Whole and reference to the responsible committee or the Committee on Organization and Procedures for preparation of an appropriate draft provision;
- (e) Report of the responsible committee or the Committee on Organization and Procedures to the Committee of the Whole;
- (f) Second reading and passage of draft provision;
- (g) Reference to the Committee on Organization and Procedures for incorporation in final draft of the Constitution;
- (h) Report by the Committee on Organization and Procedures to the Convention regarding the draft Constitution; and
- (i) Consideration by the Convention of the draft Constitution.

19. Agenda. The Committee on Convention Organization and Procedures shall prepare an agenda for each session of the Convention. The agenda shall be furnished to the secretary, who shall distribute it to the delegates before the time set for the next session of the Convention. The Convention, at any time or from time to time during a session, may, by the affirmative vote of a majority of those present and voting, adopt, reject or modify the daily agenda presented to it.

20. Unfinished Special Orders. Any subject matter that has been made a special order for a particular day, but which is not reached on that day, shall then come up for consideration under the order of "Unfinished Business" at the next succeeding session of the Convention.

21. Reading. When the reading of a paper, including the journal, is called for and an objection is raised to such reading, the Convention, by a majority vote of delegates present and voting, shall determine without debate whether or not the paper shall be read.

22. Presentation and Endorsement of Petitions. Petitions received by an officer of the Convention or by any delegate may be initialed by the recipient and handed directly to the chairman of the committee that has the subject matter of the petition under consideration. The chairman of the committee, on behalf of the Convention, shall give appropriate notice of the receipt of the petition.

23. Calls of Convention -- Ayes and Nays. Upon Calls of the Convention, and in taking the ayes and nays upon the

question, the names of the delegates shall be called alphabetically.

24. Putting the Question. The president shall put all questions substantially in this form: "As many as are in favor of (as the question may be) say 'aye'"; and after the affirmative vote is expressed, "as many as are opposed say 'nay'." If the president is in doubt as to the vote, he may order a roll call vote of the Convention.

A roll call vote of the Convention may be had upon the demand of ten (10) delegates.

25. Recognition During Roll Call. After a question has been stated by the president, and the call of the roll has... been started by the secretary, the president shall not recognize a delegate for any purpose except upon points of order, until after the announcement of the vote. The secretary shall enter upon the journal the names of those voting "aye" and the names of those voting "nay."

26. Roll Call. At the roll call to be taken at the opening of each session and upon Calls of the Convention, the names of the members shall be called by the secretary and the absentees noted.

27. Appeals. (a) On all appeals from decisions of the chair, the question shall be "Shall the judgment of the chair stand as the judgment of the Convention?"

(b) No delegate shall speak on the question of an appeal more than once without leave of the Convention.

(c) An appeal may be laid on the table but shall not

carry with it the subject matter before the Convention at the time such appeal is taken.

28. In all cases not inconsistent with these Rules, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

Chapter VII. Suspension of Rules

1. Procedures for Temporary Alteration, Suspension or Rescission. (a) A Rule of the Convention shall not be temporarily altered, suspended or rescinded unless one Convention day's notice shall be given of the motion therefor; provided, however, that such notice shall not be necessary on the last day of the Convention.

(b) A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present shall be required to effect such alteration, suspension or rescission.

(c) The notice and the motion shall each specify the object of the temporary alteration, suspension or rescission and in the case of the adoption of such motion, it shall be held to apply only to the object specified therein.

(d) Such notice shall be given and such motion made under the order of business in which the matter proposed to be affected by such alteration, suspension or rescission stands.

2. Temporary Alteration, Suspension or Rescission. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 1 of this Chapter, a Rule of the Convention may be temporarily altered, suspended or rescinded by unanimous consent.

3. Notice and Vote. (a) A motion to amend a Rule of

the Convention shall not be made on less than five (5) Convention days' notice.

(b) A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present shall be required to effect such amendment.

Chapter VIII. Miscellaneous Rules

1. Language. All proceedings of the Convention and its committees shall be conducted only in English.

2. Notification of Resident Commissioner. When a Constitution is drafted and approved by the Convention, the Convention, through the president, shall so notify the Resident Commissioner, ^{*/}

3. Place of Meetings. The Convention and the Committee of the Whole shall meet only in Saipan.

4. Registration and Regulation of Lobbyists. The Convention, by resolution adopted by a majority of all the delegates, shall have authority to issue rules or regulations with respect to the registration and appearance before it, or before any of its authorized committees, of any person engaged or hired, for a fee, salary or other compensation, to promote, advocate, influence or oppose any matter that is pending before, or which might come before, the Convention or any of its committees. Such rules and regulations may include requirements that such persons register with the secretary and file such report of expenditures as may be required by such rules and regulations.

*/ See Enabling Act § 10.

5. Radio and Television Coverage. Live radio and television coverage of all sessions of the Convention and the Committee of the Whole shall be permitted. The other committees shall have discretion to allow such coverage.

6. Subpoena Power. The president and the chairman of any committee shall have the power and authority to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of books, documents or other evidence in any matter related to the purpose of the Constitutional Convention. Any subpoena or other process issued under the authority of the Convention shall run in the name of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and shall be addressed to any police officer or other duly authorized agent. Such subpoena or other process shall be signed by the president or chairman, shall contain a reference to Section 9(E) of Law No. 4-205, and shall set forth in general terms the matter or questions with reference to which testimony or other evidence is to be taken. Any person to whom the process described in this Rule is directed, if within the jurisdiction of the Northern Mariana Islands, shall forthwith serve or execute the same upon delivery thereof to him without charge or compensation; provided, however, that any person serving or executing such subpoena or process shall be compensated for his actual expenses, if any, in connection therewith.^{*/} A person serving or executing a subpoena under this Rule shall cause a return of service to be made to the secretary of the Convention.

^{*/} Enabling Act § 9(E).

7. Witnesses' Oaths.^{*/} The president or the chairman of any committee may administer oaths to witnesses in any matter under examination by the Convention.

^{*/} Enabling Act § 9(F).

Draft Schedule

October 18, 1976	Commencement of Convention
October 18-19, 1976	Organizational Meetings of Committees
October 19-21, 1976	Substantive Meetings of Committees
October 22, 1976	Reports of Committees to the Committee of the Whole
October 23-26, 1976	Meetings of Committees
October 27, 1976	Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
October 28-31, 1976	Meetings of Committees
November 1, 1976	Meeting of the Committee of the Whole and Reports of Committees
November 2-7, 1976	Meetings of Committees
November 8-20, 1976	Meeting of the Committee of the Whole to Consider Reports of Committees and All Outstanding Matters and to Prepare Draft Constitutional Language
November 21-28, 1976	Meeting of the Committee of the Whole: Resolution of Outstanding Issues and Approval of Draft Constitutional Language
November 29-December 5, 1976	Final Revision of Constitutional Language and Convention Adoption of the Constitution
December 6, 1976	Closing Ceremonies