

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE
P. O. BOX 929
SUSUPE, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

November 18, 1976

Dr. Francisco T. Palacios
Chairman, Committee on Personal Rights
Marianas Constitutional Convention
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In compliance with your instruction to have all suggestions and recommendations to the draft Constitution in writing, I hereby submit the following proposed amendments to the draft Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Page 3, Section 7 - This section is ambiguous and must be re-written to clearly reflect its intent.

Page 4, Section 12 - The word "compelling" must be defined to show exactly what "government interest" is being referred to.

Page 5, Section 2 - Contrary to my oral testimony yesterday, I suggest that the nine (9) membership composition of the senate be maintained because a lesser composition will be inadequate to cope with the workload of the senate. However, I strongly suggest that the composition of the House of Representative be reduced substantially from thirty (30) membership to not more than seventeen (17): Saipan 14, Tinian 1, Rota 2. This formula is based on population ratio and still insures a one man, one vote concept.

Page 6, Section 3, Subsection B - I suggest that the age limit qualification be changed from 21 to 25 years similar to that of the age qualification for the senate. The reason being that at this age a person is not only fully matured, but is more responsible and serious.

Page 6, Section 3, Subsection C - I suggest that Saipan be divided into three (3) electoral districts for election of representatives.

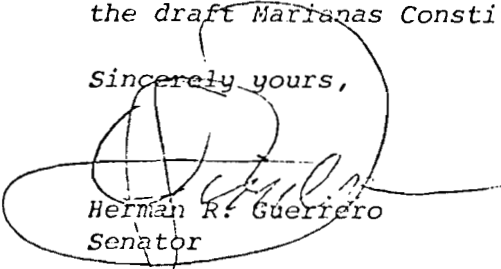
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Section 11, Section 12 - I suggest that legislative compensation shall be excluded from the Constitution. Give the Legislature authority to decide.

Page 14 - I suggest that the salary for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor be left to the Legislature to decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to express some of my concerns in the draft Marianas Constitution.

Sincerely yours,



Herman R. Guerriero
Senator