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A PROPOSAL

TO AMEND ARTICLE VI OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS REGARDING LOCAL GOVERN-  
MENT.

BE IT ADOPTED BY THE SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1 Section 1. Subsections 3 a), b), c), ~~c)~~ f) and h) of Article  
2 VI are hereby repealed in their entirety, and subsections d) and h)  
3 are renumbered a) and b) respectively.

4 Section 2. Subsections 3 f) Article VI is hereby amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 "A mayor may, with the approval of the municipal council  
7 expend for local public purposes revenues raised by local taxes  
8 and those appropriated by the Commonwealth for public services  
9 that are designated by law for those purposes." ~~After the~~  
10 ~~expenditures are authorized by the legislature or by the affir-~~  
11 ~~native vote of a majority of the members of the legislature re-~~  
12 ~~presenting the island or islands served by a mayor.~~

13 Section 3. Subsection 3 g) of Article VI is hereby amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 "A mayor <sup>shall</sup> ~~may~~ appoint, with the advise and consent of the  
16 Municipal Council, all resident department heads ~~supervise and~~  
17 tenure whose employees as are provided by law to ~~assist in the~~  
18 performance of municipal responsibilities/ the delivery of public  
19 services.

20 Section 4. Municipal Councils. There are hereby established  
21 municipal councils for Rota, Saipan and Tinian, which shall consist  
22 of <sup>more</sup> no than eleven (11) members for Saipan, and three (3) members  
23 each for Rota and Tinian. Candidates for the municipal council  
24 shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a resident of

1 the municipality for five (5) years, and shall run without any  
2 reference to political party affiliation.

3 Section 5. Powers; meeting; compensation. The Municipal  
4 Councils shall meet in regular session no more than twice a month,  
5 and shall be paid \$50.00 per meeting. The Mayor, however, may call  
6 for a special session of the council as often as needed. The  
7 powers of the municipal council shall extend to all lawful matters  
8 of a predominately local nature not reempted by the Commonwealth  
9 Legislature, and shall include but not be limited to the following:

10 a) Formulate, in consultation with the mayor, the annual  
11 budget delineating the local needs. Provided, however, the budget  
12 shall not contain any category and "all other".

13 b) to have sole authority, upon the request of the mayor,  
14 approve or disapprove reprogramming of funds in the approved budget,

15 c) to confirm all resident department heads; and

16 d) the speaker of the council shall be the acting mayor  
17 when the mayor is off-island.

18 e. To levy local taxes and use the same for local public  
19 purposes.

20 Section 6. Section 6 of Article VI is hereby amended to read  
21 as follows:

22 "a) ~~The chartered municipality form of local government shall~~  
23 ~~cease to exist on the effective date of this Constitution.~~ Local  
24 taxes paid to the chartered municipal governments on Rota, Saipan  
25 and Tinian shall remain in effect until otherwise provided by law  
26 and may be expended for local public purposes on the island or  
27 islands producing those revenues ~~if authorized by the Legislature~~  
28 ~~or by the alternative vote of a majority of the members of the~~  
29 ~~Legislature from the applicable senatorial district.~~ Ordinances  
30 and other regulations enacted by municipal councils on Rota,  
31 Saipan and Tinian that are consistent with this Constitution shall  
32 remain in effect until superceded by Commonwealth law or local

1 ordinances or regulations enacted under this Constitution."

2 Section 7. Section 6(b) of Article VI is hereby repealed in its entirety.

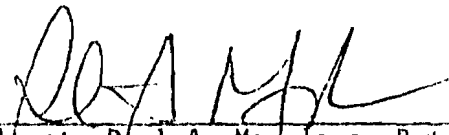
3 Section 8. Section 17(b) of Article III is hereby amended to read as follows:

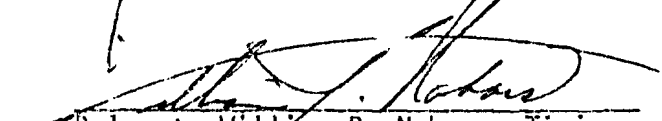
4 "Section 17: Public Services.


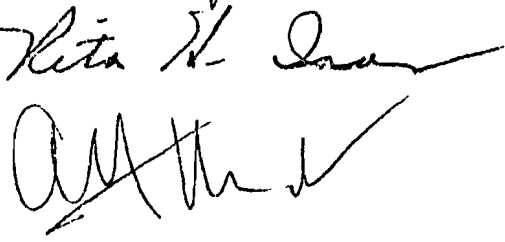
5 "b) Public services on Rota and Tinian shall be supervised by  
6 a resident department head in the departments providing the services  
7 appointed by the head of the executive branch department with the advice  
8 and consent of the majority of the members of the legislature from the  
9 senatorial district in which the resident department head shall serve.

10 These arrangements shall apply to the islands north of Saipan when the  
11 population of these islands exceeds one thousand persons."

13 Date: 6-22-85

12 Offered by:   
14 Delegate Paul A. Mangiona, Rota

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16 Delegate William B. Nabors, Tinian

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18 Rita H. Inoué  
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