

MEMORANDUM

TO : Chairman, Committee on Finance & Other Matters,
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention
THRU : Director of Natural Resources
FROM : Chief of Animal Health & Industry

DATE: 6/27/85

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Proposal Nos. 4-85, 108-85, 6-85,
and 41-85

1. Proposal No. 4-85: The undersigned fully supports this proposal for obvious reasons. It will require the Legislature to adopt a code of ethics which shall apply and shall govern the conduct of all appointed and elected officers and employees of the Commonwealth, including members of boards and commissions. This requirement is considered necessary in order to establish and maintain honesty, integrity, order and discipline among government employees and public officials, and to protect the public interest. A code of ethics is mandatory in order to prohibit and discourage dishonest practices, corruption in government service and conflicts of interest. This is a most welcome proposal and one that I recommend immediate adoption.
2. Proposal No. ~~108~~-85: The undersigned is not opposed to having a new official seal and flag for the Northern Marianas Commonwealth if they merit such change and consideration. However, he fails to see any need for a change at this time, especially since such an undertaking would prove too costly in terms of their worth or utility.

This proposal should be thoroughly reviewed and considered before the Committee comes up with a recommendation. Factors or conditions to look for or look into should include the following: 1. What are the reasons for proposing the change? 2. Is the proposed change worth the cost? 3. Is the change really necessary? 4. What is wrong with the present flag and seal? 5. Are they deficient in any significant way or manner? 6. Do we have the necessary funds to make the changes? 7. How much will it cost the government to go through with the changes?

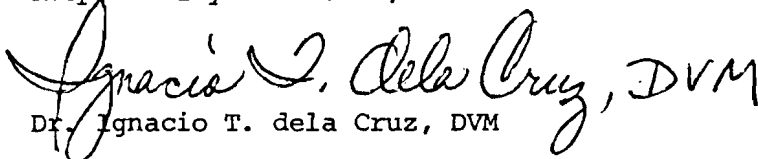
3. Proposal No. 6-85: The undersigned believes that there is an abundance of merit in this proposal. Public bidding should be required on goods, services, supplies and materials for purchase and use by the government. Furthermore, the additional stipulation that no government officer, member of the Legislature or any member of their immediate family should have or hold any interest in any bid or contract to furnish such goods or services is quite proper. These requirements are necessary in order to avoid conflicts of interest situations, and in order to establish a sense of fairness to all tax-paying businesses.

Public bidding, however, should not be required on goods and services amounting to less than \$5,000 on a single purchase order. To require public bidding on all government purchase orders regardless of their sums would prove not only too costly but severely burdensome and extremely cumbersome as well. This requirement will foster unnecessary

government bureaucracy, and will most certainly create a stifling condition for government operations. It will greatly impede and stagnate government activities. Public bidding, although necessary, should be limited only to certain amounts of the purchase order, depending on the type of goods or services to be purchased, below which it should not be required.

4. Proposal No. 41-85: The undersigned agrees that the mayors of Rota and Tinian should have a lot of input regarding CIP projects and funds for their islands. As to who should control the funds, I believe the Governor is ultimately responsible for the control of all CIP funds. He should, however, work closely with the mayors and be sensitive and responsive to their needs and wishes, all good things considered. The Legislature appropriates funds for specific CIP projects. Once appropriated, such funds should not be reprogrammed.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Ignacio T. dela Cruz, DVM

cc: Director of Natural Resources
Governor's Special Assistant
for Programs & Legislative Review

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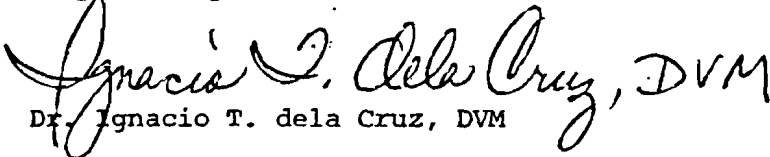
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