



SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
SAIPAN, CM 96950

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The Committee on Organization and Procedures has considered the questions raised yesterday relative to the appropriate procedures for committee reports, committee recommendations, etc. We have reviewed pertinent parts of our Rules, Robert's Rules of Order, and the Journals of the First Constitutional Convention. Our findings are as follows:

- (1) Generally, Delegate Villagomez's recommendations are accepted. However, the Committees have adopted their own approach to public hearings.
- (2) To expedite the plenary sessions, committee reports should be confined to substantive issues, i.e. actual proposed amendments.
- (3) The actual language for a proposed amendment should be set out as a committee recommendation attached to the committee report. The committee report should include a statement of the reasons why the committee is recommending the particular constitutional amendment and should indicate what delegate proposals were considered in making a decision.
- (4) A committee report should not be adopted by the Convention. It is automatically received when delivered to the Floor.
- (5) Committee recommendations for proposed constitutional amendments will automatically be placed under General Orders of the Day for the next session for discussion by the Committee of the Whole.
- (6) A committee recommendation for a proposed constitutional amendment can be introduced under Introduction of Proposals on the Order of the Day. If it is not formally introduced at that time, it will be considered to have been introduced when the committee report making the recommendation was submitted to the Convention.
- (7) Introduction of Delegate Proposals constitutes "First Reading". The process of introduction of committee recommendations and consideration by the Committee of the Whole under General Orders of the Day will be considered first reading of a committee recommendation.

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- (8) After approval of a committee recommendation by the Committee of the Whole, the proposed amendment will be calendared for Second and Final Reading, at the discretion of the President.
- (9) To expedite the work of the Convention, a committee recommendation should be as complete as possible, representing a complete constitutional amendment. However, adopted recommendations can later be combined with other adopted recommendations to be a single proposed amendment to be submitted to the voters for ratification. The Committee of the Whole can also recommend that a committee recommendation be approved and referred back to the committee for combination with related amendments on the same subject.
- (10) After all proposed amendments have been adopted on Second and Final Reading, the Committee on Organization and Procedures will review the proposed amendments for correctness and consistency of language and to ensure there are no conflicts between proposed amendments. The Convention then has one last chance to vote to approve the entire set. Until sine die adjournment of the Convention, any action of the Convention can be reconsidered pursuant to Rule 51.

The Committee on Organization and Procedures will continue to review the subject and report its findings to the Convention.

Herman T. Guerrero 6/29/85

HERMAN T. GUERRERO

8:15 AM

① Public Hearings - Coordination^{Public} Hearing

1. date, time, suby,
witness

Approval / coordination.

② - Policy for legal counsel assistance

③

File 9/1/1

Monday
1:00pm