



Department of Finance
Office of the Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, CM 96950

CABLE ADDRESS
GOV. NMI SAIPAN

July 5, 1985

Delegate Juan T. Lizama
Chairman, Committee on
Governmental Institutions
Second Northern Marianas
Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CM. 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to submit my comments on the following Delegate Proposals:

1. Proposal 8-85. I do support the intend to reduce the composition of the Senate membership from the present three to two from each senatorial district. I believe that any measure to reduce cost of representation is needed. Even one from each senatorial district may be sufficient.

Scarce funds can be put into better public roads, education, water, power, and other essential public projects than paying for the cost of public service.

The propose composition of the House of Representatives leaves much to be desired. I do believe the intend here is again - cost reduction. While I agree with the intent of cutting cost of government, I do not support the mechanism being proposed. We need to address the question of equal representation (emphasis added).

To meet the tests of equal representation and the need to reduce the cost of running a Legislature, I offer the following suggestion:

"Since the composition of the House of Representatives is generally base on population, to reduce its membership and yet maintaining representation, I recommend that for every two thousand population one representative. This would roughly mean that Saipan will have about seven representatives and Tinian and Rota will combine and have one representative"

Let us not advocate an ideal of separation of islands. Whether you are elected from Saipan, Tinian, or Rota, you are a citizen of the CNMI, nothing more, nothing less. Each elected official must have as his paramount duty is to serve the people of the Commonwealth - not just Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

2. Proposal 9-85. I do not support the proposal for the following reasons:
 - a. I am satisfied with the way it is now. I don't see the need to change it.
 - b. Since the Legislature is full-time, probably they should be meeting five times a week except when a public hearing is held. If this is too much, we should consider a part-time Legislature at possibly half the cost.
- 3.. Proposal 10-85. I support the proposal. I believe such restriction enhances the integrity of the legislative body.
4. Proposal 15-85. I do not support the proposal. Every elected official is sworn to uphold applicable laws. There are federal laws that are now applicable in the CNMI without substance. I believe that local legislation will enhance its application. I fail to see the merit of the proposal.
5. Proposal 21-85. I do not support the proposal. Again, I fail to see the merit of the proposal.
6. Proposal 24-85. I do not support the proposal. Please refer to my comments on Proposal 8-85.
7. Proposal 39-85. I am indifference on the proposed amendment. I will only offer the following questions:

- a. Do we have an abundance of skilled and technical people?
 - b. Isn't there other avenues to discourage political influence of the appointing authority?
 - c. Does political appointee means cabinet level only? Or does it include contract employees and those appointed to any board? In other words, would it mean that a person can be appointed to only one board?
8. Proposal 46-85. Please refer to my comments on Propoal No. 9-85.
9. Proposal 47-85. I do support the proposal; but how about adding some of the following:
- a. Any legislator who failed to attend a session or hearing without an approve absence shall have his/her pay duct.
 - b. Any legislator who failed to attend fifty percent (50%) of the sessions or hearing without an approved absence shall be terminated and lose the balance of his/her salary.

I do believe each public servant must be accountable for his/her time. Public servants are paid from precious public funds. We shouldn't have to wait until the next election year to rid non-responsive public servant.

10. Proposal 51-85. I support the proposal.
11. Proposal 52-85. I support the proposal.
12. Proposal 53-85. Please refer to my comments on Proposal 5-85.
13. Proposal 54-85. Again, please refer to my comments on Proposal 5-85.
14. Proposal 54-85. Please refer to my comments on Proposal 5-85.
15. Proposal 57-85. I support the proposal.
16. Proposal 60-85. I support the proposal.

17. Proposal 68-85. I submit a copy of my comments on this proposal as entertained by the Committee on Finance and Other Matters.
18. Proposal 79-85. I support the proposal.
19. Proposal 103-85. Please refer to my comment on Proposal 5-85. In regards the additional role of the Lt. Governor, I am indifference - whether it's left in or out.
20. Proposal 114-85. I strongly support the propose amendment. Whether or not such limitation will be upheld in court is an issue worth looking into. However, since the Covenant provides for land alienation, this provision may also be valid. Moreover, since we are given internal affairs control, I do think that this may be allowable.
21. Proposal 181-85. I most certainly oppose this proposal. In my opinion, this propose addition to the Constitution infringes on the concept of Separation of Powers. Moreover, this provision can and will retard or stifle executive actions solely on the wisdom of the Legislature. The court exist as a recourse to anyone for any wrong-doing.

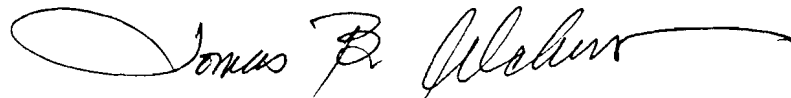
The possibility that I do not understand why this is being proposed may merit the following:

- a. The proposal should be more specific.
 - b. Would it require a simple majority for a veto?
 - c. Would the Governor has recourse of such a veto? If so, what?
22. Proposal 186-85. I do not support the proposal if funds under Section 702 will continue to be provided as lumpsum. However, if said funds is provided by project, I will support the proposal.
 23. Proposal 187-85. I am in support of any effort to reduce the cost of public service while maintaining efficiency and effectiveness.
 24. Proposal 192-85. I support the proposal since we have had several interpretations on the issue of continuing resolution funding. This proposal will certainly solve the continuing dilemma.

25. Proposal 198-85. No comments; except, I wonder whether this belong in the Constitution or should it be through legislation if not provided already.
26. Proposal 201-85. I support the proposal.
27. Proposal 208-85. I do not support the proposal. The present law is fine with me.
28. Proposal 211-85. I support the proposal.
29. Proposal 213-85. I support the propose addition.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Tomas B. Aldan
Director of Finance

Attachment: Comments on Proposal 68-85.



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June 28, 1985

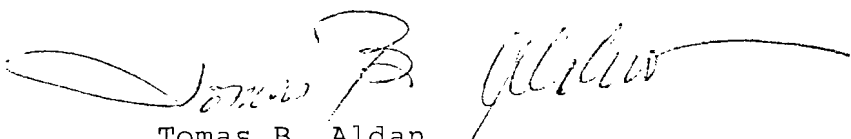
Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero
Chairman, Committee on Finance
and Other Matters
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Our comments on Proposal No. 5-85 reflects our position
for Proposal No. 68-85.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Tomas B. Aldan
Director of Finance



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June 28, 1985

Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero
Chairman, Committee on Finance
and Other Matters
-- Second Northern Marianas Constitutional
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Dear Mr. Chairman:

We do support the intent of Proposal No. 5-85 to limit the budget of the Legislature. However, we do not support the concept of "whichever is greater". We strongly urge that for the next sever years, the legislative budget shall not exceed \$3,000,000.

Additionally, the propose method of funding distribution is suspect. We recommend the following distribution base on a Three Million Dollars budget:

- A. For the operation of the House of Representatives
\$1,300,000
- B. For the operation of the House Minority Office
\$100,000
- C. For the operation of the Senate
\$1,300,000
- D. For the operation of the Senate Minority
\$100,000
- E. For the Office of Rota Delegation
\$100,000
- F. For the Office of Tinian Delegation
\$100,000

In the event a Minority Office is not needed, such funding allocation shall revert to the operation of the House which does not have a Minority.

Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero
June 28, 1985
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We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tomas B. Aldan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tomas B. Aldan
Director of Finance