

SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
of the
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Convention Hall - House of Taga
Saipan, CM 96950

SUMMARY JOURNAL

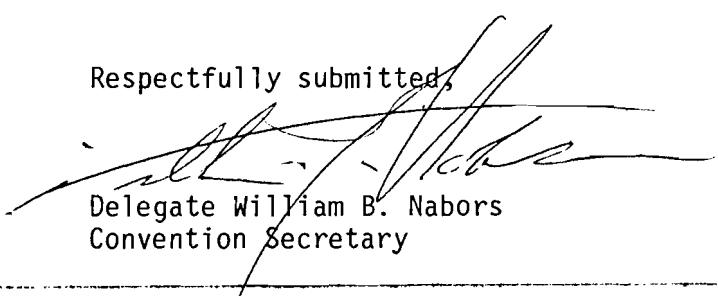
Friday, July 5, 1985

The morning session got underway at 9:35 a.m. with all 24 delegates present. The Convention Journal for the 9th day was adopted by voice vote. There were no committee reports. Secretary William Nabors of Tinian read a proposed amendment to Article XVIII, Section 2(a) which would "require that voters be asked within ten years whether there should be another constitutional convention." The amendment had been earlier passed on first reading and had been approved by the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources. Tinian Delegate Esteven King offered a friendly amendment to the proposal, with the rationale that "the opportunity for comprehensive review of the constitution would be guaranteed permanently... As the (proposal) is presently worded, the mandatory submission of the question to the voters would expire in ten years unless this provision is amended again. If the voters said 'no', or if a new convention did not amend this provision, the public then would have to depend on either legislative or popular initiative in order for the constitution to be amended or a constitutional convention called." The delegates unanimously adopted the ^{proposed} amendment ^{as amended} on second and final reading on a 24-0 voice vote, with Saipan delegate Ramon Villagomez congratulating the Convention on adopting the first proposal for consideration by the voters in the November election.

Roll call
During the consideration of miscellaneous business which followed, Tinian Delegate William Nabors read from a printed statement which he had distributed to the delegates and others attending the session. Delegate Nabors aired his concerns that he had been allowed to speak during a Wednesday hearing of the Committee on Governmental Institutions. Delegate Nabors said the Chairman of the Committee had not allowed him to ask questions of witnesses. (Delegate Nabors is not a member of the committee.) The Chair stated that any delegate who is not a member of a substantive committee who is conducting public hearing cannot demand that he be allowed to ask questions. The chair further urged all chairmen to extend and accord courtesy to all delegates to ask questions who are not members of their respected committee. Committee Chairman Juan Lizama observed during discussion that he preferred non-committee members testify during public hearings rather than question witnesses. Convention President Herman T. Guerrero urged that delegates give each other the widest possible opportunity to comment on matters being considered by the Convention and urged that "righteousness and personality problems" be parked outside the door. Saipan Delegate Jesus Mafnas was among those commenting on the matter, saying he would vote against any proposal he doesn't have a say in. Mafnas was among members who commented that some witnesses at public hearings have been ill-prepared. Saipan Delegate Juan Lizama registered a similar complaint.

After further discussion of miscellaneous business, the session adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Delegate William B. Nabors
Convention Secretary

