

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

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

Monday, July 8, 1985

The Second Constitutional Convention of the Northern Mariana Islands was called to order at 2:20 p.m., Monday, July 8, 1985, at the Convention Hall - House of Taga, San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Herman T. Guerrero, President, presided.

A moment of silent prayer or meditation was observed.

The Convention Secretary called the roll, and all 24 delegates were present.

Secretary Nabors: Mr. President, there are 24 delegates present.

President H. Guerrero: We have a majority and a quorum to conduct the Order of Business. Floor Leader Lizama?

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. President, I move that we adopt the 10th Day's Journal.

Delegate Mendiola seconded the motion.

President H. Guerrero: It has been moved and seconded to adopt the 10th Day's Journal. I believe there's another one that's being passed out, the Summary Journal for the 20th Day. Would you like to consider that also?

Floor Leader Lizama: I haven't seen it, Mr. President, but if I've seen it I will move for its adoption as well.

President H. Guerrero: Yes.

Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. President, I would move that we adopt also the Summary Journal.

Delegate Mendiola seconded the motion.

President H. Guerrero: It has been moved and seconded to adopt both the 10th Day's Journal and the 20th Day's Summary Journal. Discussions? Before we vote, under the Summary Journal, any reference to Committee Report 15 should reflect Committee Recommendation.

There being no discussion, the motion to adopt the 10th Day's Journal and the 20th Day's Summary Journal was carried by a voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Recommendation No. 13, from the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources, recommending for adoption of Delegate Proposal Nos. 80-85 and 101-85. amendments to Section 1 of Article VIII of the Constitution regarding regular general election.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman Lizama?

Chairman Lizama: Mr. President, the Committee on Governmental Institutions has no written report to submit.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman Manglona?

Chairman Manglona: Mr. President, your Committee on Local Government has nothing to report today. Thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman Guerrero?

Chairman DL. Guerrero: Yes, Mr. President, your Committee, of course, likewise has nothing to report to this Convention today.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman King?

Chairman King: Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources would like to report to the Convention, Committee Recommendation No. 13.

President H. Guerrero: Can you restate your statement? I didn't hear that.

Chairman King: The Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources would like to report to the Convention, Committee Recommendation No. 13.

President H. Guerrero: Can you read the title of Committee Recommendation No. 13? Excuse me, we'll carry that later in the Order of Business. We'll get to read it during the Introduction and the First Reading.

Chairman King: Okay, thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Any other reports of committees?

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING AND REFERRAL OF PROPOSALS

Committee Recommendation No. 13: "A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 1 TO CHANGE THE DAY OF THE REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION TO SATURDAY."

President H. Guerrero: Chairman King?

Chairman King: Committee Recommendation No. 13 is to amend Article VIII, Section 1, to change the date of the regular general election to Saturday.

President H. Guerrero: Thank you.

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SECOND AND FINAL READING OF PROPOSALS

Committee Recommendation No. 16: "A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AMEND ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 5(a) TO ALLOW PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BE RATIFIED IN A SPECIAL ELECTION."

President H. Guerrero: Under Second and Final Reading of Proposals, we have Committee Recommendation No. 16. Can I call on the Secretary to read the title or the proposed amendment?

At this point, Secretary Nabors read Committee Recommendation No. 16 in its entirety.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate King?

Delegate King: I move that we adopt Committee Recommendation No. 16 on Second and Final Reading.

Delegate Mundo seconded the motion.

President H. Guerrero: It has been moved and seconded to adopt Committee Recommendation No. 16, to amend Article XVIII, Section 5(a) to allow proposed amendments to be ratified in a special election. Discussions? Floor Leader Lizama?

Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. President, there is a proposed amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 16 which has already been passed out to every delegate and the intent of this amendment is to provide for a special election for the purposes of ratifying constitutional amendments and to make it separate with the general election and also there will be at least 60 days for the general public to have a view on the proposed amendments but the general public also will not have to wait. They would not have to wait for more than a year before they could be given the opportunity to ratify the amendments. And I guess I'm thinking that the proposed amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 16 will alleviate the possibility of a problem in the future. And the one that I'm foreseeing, the problem that I'm foreseeing is that it might occur in the next 10 years. It is very possible or conceivable that a popular initiative may be called for, for instance, next year after this year's general election. And if that is the case, it means that the people might have a Constitutional Convention and then when it comes to ratifying the Constitutional Convention, the people would have to wait two years time to ratify the amendments. And so I don't know; it could be just a minor concern, but I think it's something to consider. And if I may ask the indulgence of the delegates to consider the proposed amendment based on its intent, I think that we could all agree that separating...

Delegate Mafnas: Mr. President, point of order.

President H. Guerrero: State your point, Delegate Mafnas.

Delegate Mafnas: Why are we discussing the proposed amendment? The principal motion has not been amended. The motion is to adopt Committee Recommendation No. 16. Or is that 18?

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President H. Guerrero: Committee Recommendation 16 for Second and Final Reading.

Delegate Mafnas: 16.

Delegate Villagomez: I agree.

Floor Leader Lizama: So, at least, Mr. President, I'm offering the proposed amendment to be considered. If no one would second the proposed amendment, then that's it. But if it will be seconded, then be it.

President H. Guerrero: Can you state your motion?

Floor Leader Lizama: The motion is to amend the proposed amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 16.

Delegate Nabors seconded the motion.

President H. Guerrero: Does everybody has a copy of that proposed amendment? Discussions? Delegate Villagomez?

Delegate Villagomez: The proposed amendment is a bad amendment and I strongly oppose such an amendment.

President H. Guerrero: Why? Delegate Lizama?

Floor Leader Lizama: The proposed amendment, as I already tried to explain, would assure the voters to be able to vote on the amendments at least 60 days, no earlier than 60 days after the amendments date then adopted by the Convention and, at the same time, it would allow the voters to be able to vote on the amendments no later than one year. And the proposed amendment is suggesting that a special election be had rather than having to await for the general election to take place before the voters could be able to consider the amendments. That is the main point on this proposed amendment. Because, for instance, we have now the Constitutional Convention and, of course, under the law which created this Convention, the voters would be able to vote on the amendments, the by-products of this Convention by this year's general election. However, if there is a popular initiative next year for a Constitutional Convention and it so happen that a Constitutional Convention is held in March, for instance, there would not be any general election next year in November. The next general election will be sometime in 1987 November. Now, if that is the case, the voters are not going to be able to quickly take action on the amendments. That is the points of this proposed amendment. I don't think it's fair for the people to wait for two years before they could be given a chance to vote on a popular initiative for the Constitutional Convention's by-products.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Guerrero?

Chairman DL Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. President. Listening to the author or the delegate that is proposing this amendment, I believe that the basic concern is already covered under the Committee's recommendation. It also allows that should there be any requirements, then a special election has to be held. So to me, the language of the recommendation made by the committee is pretty in line with the intent of the voters as well as the Legislature should they decide to hold a special election.

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President H. Guerrero: Delegate Lizama?

Floor Leader Lizama: Actually, if we look at the existing provision of the Constitution, there's really nothing wrong with this provision. I'm of the opinion that the Legislature would never enact a law for a Constitutional Convention if the law will not meet requirements of the existing provision of the Constitution. But with the proposed amendment, with the committee's recommendation under Committee Recommendation No. 16, it leaves doubt in my mind that the people would have a quick time to make review of the constitutional amendments. And that's why I'm proposing or I'm suggesting the proposed amendment to Committee Recommendation No. 15 itself. I don't have any problem with the existing provision because I know, I'm pretty sure that the Legislature is just not going to enact a law establishing a Constitutional Convention if it's not going to meet the 60 days time for the people to be able to educate themselves on the proposed amendments.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate King?

Delegate King: Thank you, Mr. President. If Delegate Lizama has no problem with the existing provision or the language of Committee Recommendation No. 16, then I believe that he is supporting the Recommendation No. 16. In addition to that Recommendation No. 16, it gives the Legislature the flexibility to help the people in the Commonwealth to look over the proposed amendments by the Convention. And in line to that, I hope that we should not try to tell how and what the Legislature to do with the special election. So I believe that Delegate Lizama is in full support with our recommendation and I would like to ask him to withdraw his motion.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Lizama, are you willing to entertain Delegate King's suggestion?

Floor Leader Lizama: I would still ask that we consider the proposed amendment and I disagree that Committee Recommendation No. 15 is similar to what we have now. If it is similar, then why do we change it? At least in the existing provision the Legislature could pass a law for a Constitutional Convention in January of this year, for instance, and that would assure, of course, that the people would have the say in November whether they would ratify the amendments. But under the Committee Recommendation No. 16, there's no such assurance.

Delegate Mafnas: I move to end debate.

It was seconded from the floor.

The motion to end debate was carried by voice vote.

The motion to amend Committee Recommendation No. 16, as proposed by Delegate Lizama, was defeated by 4 for and 12 against the motion.

President H. Guerrero: Discussions on the main motion? Delegate Nabors?

Secretary Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to reiterate a concern raised earlier on this proposal. As I read it, the proposed amendment has written the flexibility under the language of the Constitu-

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tion as is presently written. The language from the present Constitution provides that a proposal shall be submitted by the Convention in the next regular general election that is held at least 60 days after the amendment is proposed. Under the amendment, there is no such 60-day statement. If the Legislature does not provide for a special election, then any amendment drawn by the Constitutional Convention or by initiative shall be submitted to the voters in the next general election, even if it's a week away. And I believe that it is unwise to remove the 60 days limitation and substitute it for a nebulous and probably an unenacted special election law by the Legislature. I would ask that you give this thought a matter of serious consideration because once it is adopted then we are going to be stuck with the possibility again of a proposal to amend the Constitution having to be voted on by the electorate with conceivably no time at all to have any political education. And we know that there are several ways in which the Constitution can be amended. It does not have to be by Constitutional Convention, and we are just leaving ourselves vulnerable to that possibility and I think it is very unwise. Thank you, Mr. President.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Villagomez?

Delegate Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. President. The concern raised by Delegate Lizama and Delegate Bill Nabors indicates to me that they are suspicious or they don't trust that the Legislature would provide for adequate time for preparation and they used the word nebulous and unenacted special election. The flexibility that is given in the present proposed constitutional amendment of course, is based on the trust that we should give to our Legislature. If the Legislature feels that 30 days is sufficient time for between the proposed amendment and the election, then why should we restrict the Legislature from giving it 30 days and require instead that it be 60 days. What if under the initiative there is only one question in the Constitution to be proposed for amendment and during the course of the initiative, the people become fully aware of the issue and how it's going to be proposed, are you going to give the people six months and wait that long in order for them to be presented at the next election? It might be only 15 days needed to allow the people to be prepared to vote. On the other hand, if the amount of proposed amendments is so great and the amount of time between the Convention and the election is only one month, the Legislature can then establish a special election that would be six months or more after that time. So all the concerns are actually covered except the concern of the Legislature may not act. In that respect, I want to point out that we're talking about possibly 10 years from now before we have the next Constitutional Convention. I think it's very unlikely that a Constitutional Convention would be done or constitutional amendment would be done by the initiative because there has to be something very dramatic that happens in the CNMI that would require a large majority of people to push for an amendment to the Constitution. Within the last seven years we have not seen any opposition to any portion of the Constitution. In fact, we are having a hard time deciding how we are going to amend our Constitution because the Constitution is a good document. It's a working document and we're having a hard time figuring out how we're going to amend it because it really doesn't need that much amendment. And so the possibility of an amendment by initiative is very unlikely. If the next Constitutional Convention is 10 years from now, we cannot say, what kind of a Legislature we're going to have, or we can't predict that it would be better than what we have now because we have the

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tendency to grow and mature and be more educated and establish a better pattern of legislation. And so all the concerns that are raised are covered, and I will not draft a Constitution based on mistrust on what the Legislature would do 10 years from now. Thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Can I ask a clarifying question with Delegate Villagomez? Are you saying that if we have a strong Legislature we should have a weak Constitution? Is that what you are implying on what you've just said?

Delegate Villagomez: I don't remember saying anything about strong Legislature.

President H. Guerrero: You're making reference that the Legislature will enact the legislation and so forth, but I was trying to find out whether you're implying in your statement when you're saying that if we have a strong Legislature we should have a weak Constitution.

Delegate Villagomez: No, I'm not saying that and I'm not implying that, and it wouldn't make any sense to make that kind of a statement.

President H. Guerrero: I was only asking a clarifying statement.

Delegate Villagomez: Okay.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Ogumoro?

Delegate Ogumoro: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the proposed amendment that the committee is putting forth to us going to have any bearing on the amendments that we are proposing now?

President H. Guerrero: No.

Delegate Ogumoro: It would have no bearing. My only concern with this proposed Committee Recommendation or the Committee's Recommendation is not putting a timetable for the Legislature to act. Experiences in the past have indicated to us that problems may arise if we do not put a time or a deadline for the Legislature to act. Supposed that the Legislature decide not to take any action on the proposed amendments until just a few days before the general election and no special election law was established, how are we going to do with that in terms of public education on whatever amendments are proposed by the Convention?

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Villagomez?

Delegate Ogumoro: Are we going to then again do a rush job and hold a special session just to deal with that concern, or is that taken into consideration by the committee when they were deliberating on the measure?

Delegate Villagomez: Yes, that consideration was taken into by the committee and that was asked during the committee's deliberations. The position of the committee is if the Legislature establishes a Convention and under the law that establishes the Convention the Convention would end, let's say, two weeks before the general election, it is our believe that the Legislature would establish a special election for the adoption of the proposed amendments if it deems that two weeks period is inadequate.

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quate. And so if it's a general, open convention for the delegates to again search in the Constitution for something to change that they would establish a special election perhaps three months after the general election, as an example, and they would put that in the law that creates the Constitutional Convention, the enabling act.

Delegate Oquimoro: What is the difference really between the amendment that the committee is recommending and the provision of our Constitution, Section 5 of Article XV?

Delegate Villagomez: The difference is, we're stucked with the 60 days before the general election. Let's say that the Convention ends 30 days, right, 30 days before the general election. We cannot present it to the voters at the next general election because we would violate the 60 days restriction. And the next time that they will be presented to the voters would be over two years later. And so the proposed amendments will be sitting for over two years before they are presented to the voters, more than two years later. To prevent that, we're giving the Legislature the authority to establish a special election for purposes of ratifying the proposed amendments and we're eliminating the 60 days because there maybe situations where only one proposed amendment to the Constitution is done, let's say, by initiative. Let's say there's an initiative done by the public that says "we shall eliminate the Public Land Corporation". And then through initiative, that's to be presented in the next general election and that's the only question to be presented. That's only one question. You may not need 60 days; you may just need 30 days or 20 days in order to do that. So we're giving the Legislature the flexibility to determine how many days we need prior to the general election or after the general election.

Delegate Oquimoro: Why hasn't the committee just simply take the present language of the Constitution and simply add on the phrase "at a special election established by law?" I'm just throwing that out.

Delegate Villagomez: Yes, we thought about that because if we did that we are still stucked with the 60 days. So even if there is one simple amendment to be made to the Constitution, we still have to wait 60 days even though we don't need the 60 days. Let's say there's going to be a proposed amendment to the Constitution to prohibit abortion period, by initiative. We feel that we don't need 60 days to educate the people, that's just an example, on one simple amendment; we may need just 30 days. In that case, we can have the proposed amendment presented at the next general election which is only 30 days away. If we keep the language as it is now in the Constitution, we can't do that. You have to wait for over two years until the next -- or if we add your recommendation, then it would be after the general election and it would be at a special election. So we're taking away the 60 days because we may not need 60 days and we're adding a special election because we may need more time than 60 days.

Delegate Oquimoro: Thank you, Mr. President.

Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. President, it's just no way that I can play God and say that we would never or we may not need to have 60 days before we should ratify an amendment. The Constitution of any sort is so important, so crucial to a government, to the state, to the people. In the area of Constitution, I disagree that that's an area so simple that it could be

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resolved in a matter of 30 days or 60 days. It has taken the Legislature over two or three years before they even decided to consider passing a legislation with respect to prostitution and still have not pass any. I really think that we should give the general public, we should always think that the general public needs more time to consider constitutional amendments, and 60 days to some of us maybe too long but I think for the general public I think 60 days is too short at times, or oftentimes, I mean. I don't know I've never encountered in my readings of a constitutional amendment that has a ratification period of less than 60 days. And for that reason, I have to say that we got to have something to assure the voters that they have at least time to prepare themselves on voting on the amendments and at least also time for them to be able to decide one way or the other rather than just leaving it up to the Legislature. Since the beginning of this Constitutional Convention, I've never criticized the Legislature and I've always believed that the Legislature is doing a good job. I've a lot of faith on the Legislature. I'm glad to hear that Delegate Villagomez now is saying that he has faith on the Legislature and this is one instance where he has expressed it. And if I may make you recall the statement yesterday by Delegate Mafnas, Delegate Mafnas strongly stated that the people should not have to ratify the amendments during general election. If he's changing his position now, then I'd like to hear from him what is rationality.

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas?

Delegate Mafnas: Well, Mr. President, thank you. The proposed amendment calls for either the general or special election. Maybe I was one of those delegates who castigated the Legislature. If I did, then I did it again prematurely. I relied on the wisdom of the Legislature. I do not want to sit here and continue to say that they are inactive, they are unresponsive. The constitutional amendment or amendments are very crucial to our people. I would like to leave this decision to the wisdom of the Legislature. The concern that I have is on the amendments to be ratified during the general election. Let's say, Mr. President, that we have 45 amendments or 20 amendments, for that matter, to be ratified during the general election. This is the general election. We have candidates for the gubernatorial and for the legislative branch. The voters will probably place less attention on the proposed amendments. Maybe I am underestimating the voters, but I'm afraid that if the amendments are presented during the general election, less emphasis will be put by many of the voters. The political leaders, like yourself, Mr. President, and me and many of us will probably be very busy campaigning for their favorite candidates and we will not go out and try to explain the amendments to our people. It's unfortunate that these amendments that we are proposing will be placed in the general election. To avoid this situation that we will be facing in November, I do not see any problem with Committee Recommendation No. 16. I think we will solve the same problem in the future. There's nothing we can do now about the general election, we just have to individually continue on to explain to our people why a particular amendment must be voted "yes." I do not intend to answer my Chairman's concern or question why am I changing my position. I don't think I have changed my position. Thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Before I call on Delegate Manglona, I'll call on Delegate Guerrero; he had his hand up earlier.

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Delegate DL Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, any amendment to the Constitution has to be a very genuine one. We cannot simply to pay for any general election or special election just because you want to amend something in the Constitution that is not very important to our people. And for that reason, Mr. President and fellow delegates, I think the proposed recommendation by the committee is so appropriate that should any genuine proposed amendment to be posed before the people, I think they can hold a special election at any time. I think the provision of lifting up the 50 days provision is pretty well taken by the committee and I think the committee's recommendation is appropriate, Mr. President.

President H. Guerrero: Thank you, Chairman Manglona. I'll call on Chairman Manglona.

Chairman Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I agree with everything in this amendment; I have no problem except for one. I would like to ask the committee if they look at Article XVIII, Section 2(c). If we notice in this Convention, the voters approved by more than two-thirds to hold a Convention but they did not act promptly to convene a Convention. So with this amendment, a Convention can be held indefinitely even one, or two, or three, or four, or five years after two-thirds of the Commonwealth has approved to hold a Convention. So I'd agree with this proposed amendment if they change Article XVIII, Section 2(c), and say that the Legislature shall convene upon two-thirds of the vote, affirmative approval, a Convention within two months or three months, or specify a time. That way, a Convention will be held promptly. If we just leave this word "promptly" here, then this amendment will allow for a convention to be held at any time because the only definite period here or controlling period here is the special election. When is the special election? It can be three years down the line after the approval of two-thirds. Thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Thank you, Delegate Manglona, and I'm sure that there is always the recall procedure in terms of recalling your legislators if they are not doing their job. And they can always do that by initiative.

Delegate " " : I move to end debate.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The motion to adopt Committee Recommendation No. 16 (Section 5(a), Article XVIII re Regular General Election) on Second and Final Reading was voted on by a roll call vote, as follows:

YES: Delegates Vincent Calvo, David Cing, Herman Guerrero, Lorenzo Guerrero, Alonzo Igisomar, David Igitol, Rita Inos, Benusto Kaipat, Esteven King, Luis Limes, Juan Lizama, Jesus Mafnas, James Mendiola, Aniceto Mundo, Karl Reyes, Joaquin Tenorio, Francisco Tomokane, William Torres, Ramon Villagomez and Ignacio Villanueva. (20 votes)

NO: Delegates Paul Manglona, William Nabors and Felicidad Ogumoro. (3 votes)

ABSTAIN: Delegate Maria Pangelinan. (1 vote)

The motion was carried.

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INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION AND REFERRAL

RESOLUTION NO. 7-85: "A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE CERTAIN DELEGATE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE DEEMED AS APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO TAKE ACTIONS THEREON.", introduced by the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources. (Prefiled on 7/7/85)

President H. Guerrero: Delegate Villagomez?

Delegate Villagomez: I hereby introduce Resolution No. 7-85, authored by the members of the Personal Rights and Natural Resources Committee and ask that it be referred to the proper committee for committee consideration.

President H. Guerrero: Can you read the title please?

At this point, Delegate Villagomez read the title of Resolution No. 7-85.

President H. Guerrero: Thank you.

Delegate Villagomez: Mr. President, copies of the resolution have been passed out.

President H. Guerrero: Thank you. Any other resolution? If none, we're under Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

None

GENERAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President H. Guerrero: Any announcements? Chairman Lizama?

Chairman Lizama: Mr. President, the Committee on Governmental Institutions will have a public hearing tomorrow at nine o'clock here.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman King?

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Chairman King: Your Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources will meet tomorrow here at nine o'clock to join with the Committee on Finance and Other Matters on the hearing scheduled at nine o'clock tomorrow.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman Guerrero?

Chairman DL. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee on Finance and Other Matters at this time is happy to announce that a public hearing will be conducted again tomorrow morning at nine o'clock right here in the this Chamber. I hope that it will not be in conflict with the other committee hearings. I think there is a joint hearing at 12:00 of the Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources. And immediately after adjournment, I would like to have the committee members meet also regarding some of the committee assignments.

Chairman Lizama: Mr. President, point of information.

President E. Guerrero: Yes, Delegate Lizama.

Chairman Lizama: May I ask Chairman Guerrero where his public hearing is going to be conducted? Because we've been having some problems and I thought we've made that agreement that the Committee on Finance and Other Matters is supposed to be using the Senate Chamber and all of a sudden the Finance Committee is now taking this place up and we've been hampered in the last two or three days from conducting our public hearings because of the misunderstanding right now that we face.

Chairman DL. Guerrero: Mr. President, that's an incorrect statement. There's no misunderstanding on our part. The Committee on Finance and Other Matters changed the schedule and places of conducting public hearing simply because of some inconveniences. Down at the Senate Chamber, as you know, it's hot at all times. There's no airconditioner. And furthermore, we are only announcing our public hearing should there be no other committee that is going to use this particular area in the Convention Chamber. Now, should your committee is going to conduct a public hearing here, we have no problem down in that small space. We've been conducting our public hearing there. This morning it may be in conflict, but we did reschedule ourselves since last week because of the bulk of witnesses that want to appear before the committee. Thank you.

Chairman Lizama: Mr. President?

President H. Guerrero: Yes, Chairman Lizama.

Chairman Lizama: I appreciate that, Chairman Guerrero, because tomorrow's matters are so important that we need to have this place tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

President H. Guerrero: Chairman Manglona?

Chairman Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee on Local Government is, once again, happy to announce that there will be a public hearing tomorrow at Garapan Elementary School regarding Proposal No. 109-85. This is with regards to commissionership. Another public hearing earlier tomorrow morning will be held at the District Court in Nauru

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Building regarding Proposal Nos. 160-85 and 162-85. Also on tomorrow's public hearing at Garapan Elementary School, we will be covering Proposal Nos. 250-85 and 251-85. Proposal 250-85 is with regards to the Office of the Mayor of the islands north of Saipan to replace it with an elected House of Representative member. Proposal 251-85 is with regards to abolishment of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and to replace it with village commissioners. The members of your Local Government Committee will be meeting right after this Convention's session. Thank you.

President H. Guerrero: Any other announcements? If none, the Chair is ready to entertain adjournment. Floor Leader Lizama?

Floor Leader Lizama: Mr. President, I move that we adjourn until tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock.

Delegate Mendiola seconded the motion.

President H. Guerrero: The Chair would like to convene at 2:00 o'clock. Yes, Chairman Guerrero?

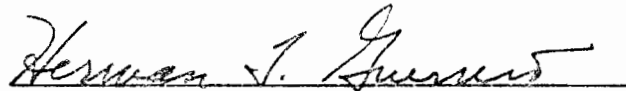
Chairman DL. Guerrero: Point of clarification, Mr. President. You know, there's a sad experience we have been encountering on these public hearings and I have another public hearing tomorrow. As you can see it, your Committee on Finance and Other Matters has a lot of reports that we have to report to the Convention. By allowing us up to three o'clock, an extra hour, that would certainly assure us at least that by tomorrow we will have some reports.

Delegate Mafnas: The motion, Mr. President, is for three o'clock. We are ready to vote on that motion.

The motion to adjourn and to reconvene the next day at 3:00 p.m. was carried by voice vote.

The Convention adjourned at 3:14 p.m. and to reconvene on Tuesday, July 9, 1985, at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED:


Herman T. Guerrero, President
Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention

William B. Nabors
Convention Secretary