



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Public Safety

Saipan, CM 96950

Tel: 6333/6431

July 09, 1985

DPS:L85-178

Lorenzo T. Guerrero
Chairman, Committee on
Finance and Other Matters
Second Marianas Constitutional Convention
Saipan, CNMI 96950

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7/9/85

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for allowing me to testify before your committee with regards to Proposition 246-85, "To prohibit gambling in all forms for a period of ten [10] years".

Mr. Chairman, I do not know by what means we have established for determining this provision, whether by legislative means or by constitutional means. Irregardless as to how this could become law, I wish to emphasize the fact that I do not approve of any form of organized, or sophisticated gambling to be authorized in the CNMI.

The known facts, as experienced by police administrators internationally, are that criminals [in all their forms and elements] mobilize according to the opportunities to commit crime. The environment provided by sophisticated gambling provides just this desire and opportunity.

To legalize gambling in the Commonwealth in sophisticated forms is to establish and create opportunity, then desire, then mobilization of all forms of criminal elements; as experienced in the United States and Europe, where casino gambling was legalized.

Serious crimes are associated wherever casino gambling takes place. These are serious crimes with extreme motivation, and are always associated with many other criminal offenses.

There is currently an increase within the Commonwealth of felonies, without the additional influence of association with sophisticated gambling. Allowing casino gambling in the Commonwealth will only multiply the number of existing crimes, together with issuing an open invitation to organized crime.

The current crime rate in Guam, our close neighbor, is largely attributed to its desirable location for transshipment, and [thus] illegal trafficking of hard drugs. The step from transshipment to being a final destination of drugs would seem to have been inevitable.

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As a result of transshipment and drug trafficking in Guam, there has been a marked increase in serious crimes being committed. Examples of these crimes are: homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, and prostitution, to name a few. Guam is not a legal casino gambling state, yet these problems continue to increase. The Commonwealth Islands present a similar temptation purely due to their geographical location.

Should we legalize sophisticated gambling in the Commonwealth, the road of criminal activities will be paved directly to the Commonwealth. Organized crime from Southeast Asia, Japan, Honolulu, and all points, will target the CNMI...because we will have established the atmosphere of desire and opportunity. We will have initiated a direct invitation.

Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee, we live in a small community, and we expect peace within it. Not only must we be ever on our guard against the criminal element who would destroy this peace, but we must also guard against this destruction within ourselves. If we cannot look at our fellow man and grant to him the same degree of peace that we demand for ourselves, then none of us are truly free.

Again, Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee, the question is not where these elements will be situated in the Commonwealth. The question is whether we wish to mobilize an international criminal element.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee.



FELIX B. CABRERA
DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY

cc: Chief of Police
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