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31ST DAY - 2ND CON CON
JULY 18, 1985

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION NO. 61

Chairman Guerrero: In front of you, you have the corrected version of the Legislative Bureau. Secretary Nabors, can you read it?

Secretary Nabors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee Recommendation No. 61, A proposed Constitutional Amendment to amend Article II of the Northern Marianas Constitution by adding a new Section 16, relating to establishing a Legislative Bureau. Be it adopted by the Second Constitutional Convention: Upon ratification pursuant to Section 5 of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Constitution and Public Law No. 4-30, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is amended as follows: 1. Effective upon ratification, a new Section is added to Article II to read: "Section 16. Legislative Bureau. There is hereby established a legislative bureau in the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

a) The bureau shall be headed by a director to be appointed by the joint leadership of the legislature consisting of the presiding officers, vice presiding officers, floor leaders, and the chairmen of the standing committees.

b) The director shall employ all necessary staff, other than personal staff of the members of the legislature, pursuant to budgetary allocations. The staff members shall include legal counsel and other administrative staff.

c) The bureau shall provide all required services to the legislature in connection to duties and responsibilities during

sessions and committee meetings. It shall maintain all records, files, library and other documents of the legislature.

d) The director may be removed by a majority vote of the members of each house of the legislature with or without cause.

e) The bureau shall be free from any political harrassment or pressure."

The Chair recognized Delegate Lizama, who moved for the adoption of Committee Recommendation No. 61 on Second Reading. Delegate Mafnas seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Delegate Manglona.

Delegate Manglona: Mr. President, I only have one problem here on 16(a). Who's going to break a tie because I can foresee a tie when the house is one party and the senate is another party. Usually they will line up and sometimes they will not decide on ahead. So how do they foresee breaking up a tie?

Chairman Guerrero: I don't know. Will somebody answer that?

The Chair recognized Delegate Mafnas.

Delegate Mafnas: The intent here is to get this political influence, pressure, and things like that away from this. This is the reason why we are creating it -- one of the reasons or the intent of the proposal. I don't know, maybe I'm overestimating the

members of the Legislature, but I feel that the best candidate for the position will be selected. I also agree with you that probably there can be a tie, but I would like to leave that up to the wisdom of the members or the leadership.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Guerrero requested Secretary Nabors to take the roll for voting:

Delegate Calvo	Yes
Delegate Cing	Yes
Delegate H. Guerrero	Yes
Delegate L. De Leon Guerrero	Yes
Delegate Igisomar	Yes
Delegate Igitol	Yes
Delegate Inos	Yes
Delegate Kaipat	Yes
Delegate King	Yes
Delegate Limes	Yes
Delegate Lizama	Yes
Delegate Mafnas	Yes
Delegate Mendiola	Yes
Delegate Manglona	Yes
Delegate Mundo	Yes
Delegate Nabors	Yes
Delegate Ogumoro	Yes
Delegate Pangelinan	(Absent)
Delegate Reyes	Yes

Delegate Tenorio	Yes
Delegate Tomokane	Yes
Delegate Torres	Yes
Delegate Villagomez	Yes
Delegate Villanueva	Yes

Secretary Nabors: Mr. President, I have 23 affirmative votes and one absence.

Chairman Guerrero: Committee Recommendation No. 61 passed by unanimous votes of those members present.