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provision has been deleted

Delegate Mafnas: Then it is most appropriate to delete it too, from the

President: Are we ready for discussion?

President Guerrero: Yes, we are -- discussion on the amendment

Delegate Mafnas: I would like to further reduce the \$2.8 million.

President Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas, can we vote on the proposed floor amendment first before we go back to the main motion?

Delegate Mafnas: I yield for now.

The motion to adopt the proposed floor amendment as offered by Delegate Villanueva carried by voice vote.

President Guerrero: The motion to adopt the amendment as offered by Delegate Villanueva carried. Now, we are back to the main motion with amendment. Delegate Mafnas, continue please.

Delegate Mafnas: Thank you. Mr. President and fellow delegates -- I feel that \$2.8 Million dollars is still very high. Since the beginning of the Convention we flooded with the statement of deficits in the Commonwealth. Even the President attempted to secure additional funds for this Convention and he was partially successful. If the \$2.8 Million rather the \$2 Million is successive in my opinion, one, we have passed other reforms with respect to the Legislature. One, we reduced the number of session days; two, we passed the legislative bureau recommendation. I believe the Legislature would be able to function and would be able to deliver the required mandate in the Constitution if we reduce this to \$2.5 Million Dollars. I have copies of the listing of employees in the Legislature with me and I believe that by reducing to \$2.5 Million, I force the Legislature to hire only the necessary staff. Yesterday I consented or agreed that the Civil Service should not cover agencies instrumentalities. Under Section 16 of Article III of our Constitution under Committee Recommendation No. 25, many of the positions of the Legislature would be classified and would be comparable to those positions

necessarily spend, according to the Chairman, if it does not see the
to spend and because I have confidence on our legislature. I support
\$2.8 Million Dollars and I move for the previous question

There were several seconds to the motion

Delegate Torres: Privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have been waiting for you
to recognize me so that I may be able to ask some questions to Delega
Mafnas.

President Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas, are you willing to withdraw you
motion?

Delegate Mafnas: I so move to withdraw my motion, Mr. President.

Delegate Torres: Thank you Delegate Mafnas and Mr. President. I lik
idea of limiting the budget; however, I have to ask Delegate Mafnas w
he made, "extensive studies" on the budget ceiling. It seems that we
coming out with arbitrary figures here -- \$2.5 Million, \$2.1 Million,
Million and \$2.8 Million Dollars. Now, is there any logic behind the
numbers.

Delegate Mafnas: Yes, I made an extensive research on the \$2.5 Milli
My problem is that I failed or I refused to recognize the seven years
provision. So, it is a problem that when I made the research I said
would not need it, they would only need \$2.5 Million for the next sev
years and I refused to give that allowance to myself. So, that is wh
am supporting the \$2.8 Million Dollars because I am giving myself the
seven years allowance.

Delegate Torres: Delegate Mafnas, you also proposed the legislative
Now, do you think that the \$2.8 Million is sufficient to cover all of
professional staff of the bureau?

Delegate Mafnas: I believe it is morethan adequate.

Delegate Torres: Do you think that \$2.8 is high in view of the fact
will be attempting to reduce the composition of the legislati - of

32nd Day
July 19, 1985

CR No. 28

Delegate Nabors: (Read Committee Recommendation No. 24 making the

Delegate Villanueva: Motion for the adoption of CR No. 24

There were several seconds to the motion.

Delegate Villanueva: I have a floor amendment to CR No. 24, copies distributed to the members. On line 8, insert a period after the word "year" and delete lines 8 through 12 in its entirety.

Delegate Mafnas seconded the motion.

Delegate Villanueva: Mr. President, if I may continue -- this proposed amendment is to delete the inflationary adjustment -- for the information of the members.

Delegate Nabors: Mr. President, may I inquire on the motion? May I inquire of Delegate Villanueva why is it necessary to delete that sentence?

Delegate Villanueva: Mr. President, we have two other measures regarding the legislature -- one is to give them ninety days to meet which pass second reading and the other we have passed the legislative bureau and there is another one coming up that would reduce the members of the legislature -- both houses.

President Guerrero: Delegate Nabors, probably on point of information the Covenant that was just recently signed there is an understanding of the figure that they used as a basis for the legislature's spending and it might be in line with that thinking between our Government and the Government of the United States; therefore, it is best to delete that provision.

Delegate Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President.

Delegate Mafnas: Mr. President, does the agreement that was signed by the inflationary -- the composite index provision?

Delegate Mafnas: Under the assumption that the people would perhaps
that one way or the other and under the assumption that we do not know
position or how the Convention is going to react to Committee Recommendation
No. 65 I believe that and it is very unfortunate that we are now
approving Committee Recommendation No. 24 that is for a \$3.0 million
\$2.8 Million Dollars because I do not know how the Convention is going to
react on Committee Recommendation No. 65 (reducing the composition of
members to both houses of the legislature).

Delegate Torres: Is \$3.0 Million Dollars acceptable to you?

Delegate Mafnas: That is too excessive.

President Guerrero: Delegate Torres, for your information, I was expecting
that under the Covenant negotiation that is the figure that our special
representatives used in negotiating with the United States Government
they would not increase their budget more than \$2.8 Million dollars.

Delegate Torres: I do recognize that, Mr. President, but you know I
question the rationale behind \$2.8 Million. We may have a different
rationale behind the Covenant negotiators. So, if I could be enlightened
on the rationale of the Covenant negotiators -- all the better.

Delegate Nabors moved to end debate; the motion was seconded and
carried by voice vote.

The motion to pass Committee Recommendation No. 24 on second and
final reading carried by roll call with 18 members voting "yes"; one
member voting "no"; and five members were absent.

(Transcript from Committee of the Whole tape -- 2nd ConCon re Legislative Budget Ceiling)

32nd Day July 19, 1985 CR No. 24

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Arria

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Delegate Nabors (Read Committee Recommendation No. 24 making the Legislative Budget Ceiling at \$1.5 Billion)

Delegate Mendez: I object for the adoption of CR No. 24. There were several seconds to the motion.

Delegate Villanueva: I have a floor amendment to CR No. 24, copies distributed to the members. On line 8, insert a period after the word "year" and delete lines 8 through 12 in its entirety.

Delegate Mafnas seconded the motion.

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Delegate Nabors: Thank you, Mr. President.

Delegate Mafnas: Mr. President, does the agreement that was signed has the inflationary -- the composite index provision?

President Guerrero: I understand from the Lieutenant Governor that that provision has been deleted.

Delegate Mafnas: Then it is most appropriate to delete it too. From this President Guerrero: We are ready for discussion.

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President Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas, can we vote on the proposed floor amendment first before we go back to the main motion?

Delegate Mafnas: I yield for now.

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President Guerrero: The motion to adopt the amendment as offered by Delegate Villanueva carried. Now, we are back to the main motion with amendment. Delegate Mafnas, continue please.

Delegate Mafnas: Thank you. Mr. President and fellow delegates -- I feel that \$2.8 Million dollars is still very high. Since the beginning of the Convention we flooded with the statement of deficits in the Commonwealth. Even the President attempted to secure additional funding for this Convention and he was partially successful. If the \$2.8 Million, rather the \$2 Million is successive in my opinion, one, we have passed other reforms with respect to the Legislature. One, we reduced the number of session days; two, we passed the legislative bureau recommendation I believe the Legislature would be able to function and would be able to deliver the required mandate in the Constitution if we reduce this to \$2.5 Million Dollars. I have copies of the listing of employees in the Legislature with me and I believe that by reducing to \$2.5 Million. It will force the Legislature to hire only the necessary staff. Yesterday I consented or agreed that the Civil Service should not cover agencies and instrumentalities. Under Section 16 of Article III of our Constitution and under Committee Recommendation No. 25, many of the positions of the Legislature would be classified and would be comparable to those positions.

Executive Branch. For example, a Planner/Researcher position \$13,000
Secretary in the Legislature is paid at \$18,000. Committee
secretaries \$17,000. Committee assistants - \$16,000. System Six Supervisor
- \$15,000. The cost of a Xerox operator - \$10,000. I do not know how many
employees are operating the System Six. If we have only one employee operating the System Six then they should
be a supervisor. Committee secretaries - \$13,000. Plain secretaries
another \$13,000. Researcher - \$12,000. Community workers - \$11,000.
Xerox operator - \$10,000; Account Technician - \$10,000; janitor - \$9,000;
Page Clerk - \$6,000. Page Clerk is the one similar to the one we have here
whose responsibility is just to pass out bills, resolutions, and other
documents received by the Legislature. Fellow delegates, an assistant
maintenance receives \$8,000 per annum; another janitorial position - \$8,000.
Fellow delegates, I am very confident that a \$2.5 Million Dollars is more
than adequate for our Legislature to operate and I feel that we can divert
the \$300,000 for other essential public programs or services such as the
medical referral, such as additional teachers for the Department of
Education, such as to fund the Community College that we have. So, I ask
everyone and if there is objection, Mr. President, I would like, on line
7, to delete the word "eight" and insert the word "five". I so move.

Delegate Nabors objected to the motion.

Delegate Inos: Mr. President, I have a question.

President Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas, we cannot entertain that -- there is
objection raised and you need a unanimous consent without having a written
floor amendment.

There was a motion for a short recess and the motion was seconded and
carried by voice vote.

The Convention reconvened.

Delegate Mafnas: Mr. President, I would like to retract my statements on
what I stated regarding the \$2.5 Million Dollars since you allow me to have
the Floor at that time. I would like the record to reflect such request.
Mr. President, if I may continue -- during the recess, I was convinced by
the Chairman and his influential committee members that the \$2.5 Million

Dollars is very reasonable and I believe that the Legislature would not necessarily spend, according to the Chairman, if it does not see the need to spend and because I have confidence on our legislature, I support the \$2.8 Million Dollars and I move for the previous question.

There were several seconds to the motion.

Delegate Torres: Privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have been waiting for you to recognize me so that I may be able to ask some questions to Delegate Mafnas.

President Guerrero: Delegate Mafnas, are you willing to withdraw your motion?

Delegate Mafnas: I so move to withdraw my motion, Mr. President.

Delegate Torres: Thank you Delegate Mafnas and Mr. President. I like the idea of limiting the budget; however, I have to ask Delegate Mafnas whether he made, "extensive studies" on the budget ceiling. It seems that we are coming out with arbitrary figures here -- \$2.5 Million, \$2.1 Million, \$2.0 Million and \$2.8 Million Dollars. Now, is there any logic behind these numbers.

Delegate Mafnas: Yes, I made an extensive research on the \$2.5 Million. My problem is that I failed or I refused to recognize the seven years provision. So, it is a problem that when I made the research I said they would not need it, they would only need \$2.5 Million for the next seven years and I refused to give that allowance to myself. So, that is why I am supporting the \$2.8 Million Dollars because I am giving myself the seven years allowance.

Delegate Torres: Delegate Mafnas, you also proposed the legislative bureau. Now, do you think that the \$2.8 Million is sufficient to cover all of the professional staff of the bureau?

Delegate Mafnas: I believe it is more than adequate.

Delegate Torres: Do you think that \$2.8 is high in view of the fact that will be attempting to reduce the composition of the legislature?

Delegate Mafnas Under the assumption that the people would perhaps decide one way or the other and under the assumption that we do not know the position or how the Convention is going to react to Committee Recommendation No. 53 I believe that and it is very unfortunate that we are now approving Committee Recommendation No. 54 that is \$3.0 million dollars because I do not know how the Convention is going to react on Committee Recommendation No. 55 (reducing the composition of members to both houses of the legislature).

Delegate Torres: Is \$3.0 Million Dollars acceptable to you?

Delegate Mafnas: That is too excessive.

President Guerrero: Delegate Torres, for your information, I was explaining that under the Covenant negotiation that is the figure that our special representatives used in negotiating with the United States Government -- that they would not increase their budget more than \$2.8 Million dollars.

Delegate Torres: I do recognize that, Mr. President, but you know I have a question the rationale behind \$2.8 Million. We may have a different rationale behind the Covenant negotiators. So, if I could be enlightened on the rationale of the Covenant negotiators -- all the better.

Delegate Nabors moved to end debate; the motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The motion to pass Committee Recommendation No. 24 on second and final reading carried by roll call with 18 members voting "yes"; one member voting "no"; and five members were absent.

Office of the Attorney General
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, CM 96950

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