



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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REXFORD C. KOSACK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 30, 1985

Joaquin S. Torres
Coordinator
Post Convention Committee
J M Building, Garapan
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Torres:

In response to your letter of August 20, 1985, the Governor's letter of August 13, 1985, clearly provided that "the Office of the Attorney General will provide assistance in drafting the analysis of those amendments approved by the voters during the November General Election".

In view of our limited staff, we will have a difficult time complying with the Governor's request, and it will be impossible for us to prepare any "analysis" of all 44 proposed constitutional amendments, prior to the November General Election. We just do not have the necessary attorneys, nor the time, nor was that the direction we received from the Governor. Mr. Joe Guthrie, who assisted at the Constitutional Convention, will be leaving the island the first part of October, 1985, and there are no funds allocated to replace him. All of the other attorneys are busy performing their normal constitutional and statutory duties of prosecuting crimes, advising department heads, writing opinions, attending legislative hearings, attending cabinet meetings, meeting with department directors, etc., in addition to attempting to cope with the backlog of written opinion requests that developed during the Constitutional Convention. In addition, the Attorney General is off-island until September 18, 1985.

In summary, we will not be able to prepare any analysis of all 44 proposed constitutional amendments prior to the November election. It would take a full-time attorney several weeks to study all of the 44 proposed constitutional amendments, and then write a coherent analysis of the same.


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We suggest that you hire local counsel experienced in the history of the Constitution, to assist you. We may be able to provide a written analysis of the three or four proposed amendments that you consider the most important, but not all 44.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call the undersigned.

Sincerely,



DONALD F. HERRON
Acting Attorney General

cc: Governor