

June 5, 1995

Memo for the Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected
Offices

From: Legal Team

Re: Issues before the Committee with respect to Article XV,
Education

This memorandum lists the issues raised by Article XV in order ranked by their apparent complexity or controversial nature, with the least complex first. The order also suggests issues that may logically flow one to another.

As of June 5, 1995, counsel had received 9 proposals to amend Article XV.

The categories of issues are:

1. Northern Marianas College: One proposal suggests deleting the College from the Constitution altogether. Another proposal suggests increasing the allocation of general revenues from 1% to 5%.

2. Executive Department versus School Board: One proposal suggests abolishing the school board altogether and returning the school system to the executive branch, to be headed by a superintendent.

3. Elected versus appointed School Board: Four proposals deal with whether the school board should be appointed rather than elected.

4. Size, composition, and qualifications of the School Board: Several proposals include suggestions that the size of the school board be increased and that the composition and qualifications be changed.

5. Decentralized school system: One proposal suggests that the entire school system be decentralized, and that separate superintendents be appointed for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

6. Free and compulsory primary and secondary education: Two proposals suggest doing away with the free education system so that students could be charged educational fees in the public schools, and doing away with compulsory education so that non-citizen families would not be required to send their children to

school.

7. Other issues: The delegate proposals received thus far include several other issues related to education such as Chamorro language requirements in the primary and secondary schools, prohibition of funding for religious schools, open government provisions applied to the school board, changes in the allocation of the general revenues to the public school system, and granting the school board the right to levy taxes.