Proposals: Constitution rewritten every 10 years

Continued from Page 1 Gonzales, on the other hand, vants a constitutional provision that would require the people's approval through a popular ini-tiative before funds from public FOCUS, land leases are spent.

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Adoptions proposals A number of proposals want

constitutional provisions on adoption changed. Gonzales proposed that a child who is neither Chamorro nor Carolinian should not be considered of Northern Marianas de

scent if adopted by Northern Marianas descendants.

Adopted children could only own land only if they received it by inheritance from their adoptive parents who are of Northern Marianas descent, according to another proposal, from dele-gate Juan S. Tenorio.

Marylou Sirok proposed to change the requirement for peo-ple to qualify as Northern Mari-anas descendants.

Bloodlines

The constitution says a person of Northern Marianas descent must have 25 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood and Sirok said that should be reduced to 6.5 percent.

Sirok's proposal means that up to fifth-generation children from a Northern Marianas descendant married to a non-Chamorro or non-Carolinian would qualify as a person of Northern Marianas descent.

Juan S. Tenorio has another proposal that says any percent of Chamorro or Carolinian blood makes one a Northern Marianas descendant.

He proposed to institute a registry system within the Immigration Division so that everyone who claims to be of Northern Marinas descent can be listed.

During the campaign for constitutional convention delegates. many candidates raised issue related to Article 12 of the CNMI constitution, which allows only people of Northern Marianas descent to own land.

But so far, only about two Article 12-related proposals have surfaced.

One of them was from Guerrero

It seeks to delete a 1985 amendment that now allows non-Northern Marianas descendants to own condominium units from the second floor or higher floors.

Taxpayer lawsuits

Taxpayer lawsuits that ques tion government spending, such as the case filed last year by lawyer Jeanne Rayphand against Gov. Froilan Tenorio, will not be allowed if an amendment proposed by Guerrero succeeds.

Guerrero, who is a close advi-sor of the governor, proposed to delete "the constitutional provision for taxpaver actions to enjoin expenditure of government funds.

Delegate Benjamin Manglona wants to delete the phrase, "un-

der United States law" from the commonwealth constitution, "to support the official CNMI position on ownership of marine resources.

Various proposals have been submitted that would affect the way the three branches of government operate:

Executive proposals

Delegates Gonzales, Mandona, James M. Mendiola and Joev P. San Nicolas want to take away the governor's authority to appoint the attorney general. Gonzales also does not want

the governor to appoint a public auditor. He wants an elected public auditor

Guerrero wants to delete the residency requirement for the attorney general's position.

Juan S. Tenorio proposed to grant the governor authority to ppoint members of the Board of Education instead of allowing the people to choose through an elec-

Guerrero has another propo al that says if the legislature fails to act on the governor's budget proposal after 90 days of submission, the budget will be con-

Mayors will have spending au-thority for all funds for his or her island, under a proposal subunit-ted by Rota delegate Manglona.

Guerrero wants to delete provisions in the constitution re lated to the Women's Affairs Office and the Office of Indigenous Affairs.

Local court proposals

Guerrero proposed to substi-tute the commonwealth Supreme Court with a commonwealth appeals court.

He proposed to grant the governor the power to appoint special judges whether the com-monwealth Supreme Court chief justice approves or not.

Another proposal wants the next senior judge to become acting chief justice if the top chief justice is absent or if he quits.

Legislative proposals

Delegate Joaquin Villagomez proposed that the legislature will no longer be allowed to function ar-round.

He wants a one month legislative session in the spring and another one month session in the fail of each year

Gonzales and Sirok proposed to reduce the number of consmen from 18 to 11.

Lillian A. Tenorio and Guer-rero proposed to limit each legislative bill to one subject.

The Northern Marianas holds a constitutional convention everv 10 years, but another proposal from Guerrero says the commonwealth would need less frequent rewriting of its constitution after this convention.

Guerrero said the constitutional convention should be held every 25 years and not as often as every decade.

He was also president of the second constitutional convention.



Convention delegates, from left, Marian Plerce, former Lt. Gov. Benjamin T. Mangiona and Tinian's David Maratita take a break during Monday's convention opening.

