

ConCon rewriting past amendments

IT SEEMS that most of the amendments approved by the Second Constitutional Convention are being trashed by the delegates of the Third Constitutional Convention.

According to Third ConCon president Herman T. Guerrero, most of the submitted proposals in the current convention are to revise or rewrite new provisions to amend Second ConCon amendments.

In a news release issued early this week, Guerrero said the delegates have approved 10 of the 12 articles in the Constitution on the first reading as of the first week of July. He said the delegates decided to pass the proposals on first reading only to provide them and the public with ample time to reflect on the issues until they are finally approved.

The release said the committee on organization and procedures has decided to have all articles considered on first reading before proceeding to any of them on second reading. This meant that the Convention delegates and the public will have an opportunity to see all the proposed amendments to the Constitution before the delegates go to a final vote on any of them. "This will help us avoid some of the mistakes of the 1985 convention," Guerrero said.

Also in the release, Guerrero said, "At this point, it looks like almost every amendment made in 1985 is under attack. I think there are delegate proposals to either delete or change every one of them. But this time, the delegates have a longer focus. They want this Constitution to last for more than 10 years."

The Second ConCon adopted 44 proposed Constitutional amendments affecting all articles except Articles VII, IX, XIV, XVI and XVII. The former ConCon also added new articles related to the Code of Ethics and on gambling, the official seal, flag and languages.

Guerrero said the Third ConCon received nearly 600 suggestions for amending the Con-

stitution. He said, "We have received proposals from individual citizens, from several government agencies such as the Carolinian Affairs Officer, the Civil Service Commission and the Office of Personnel Management, the Retirement Fund, the Public Defender, and the Attorney General. We also got proposals from the legislature and individual legislators, from two of the mayors, and from organizations such as the Derechon I Natibu Movement."

Also, according to Guerrero, all delegates submitted proposals, some of whom submitted five or more. "Our rules provided for a

very open Convention, and that is why we got so many proposals. Anyone who wanted to sponsor a proposal just had to send it in, and it would be put into official forms for consideration by the delegates along with every other proposal."

Guerrero said there were proposals which dealt on similar subjects. "For example we had nearly 150 proposals to change the legislature, but a lot of them were about the budget, the continuing resolution, and downsizing the legislature. So we were able to combine these when they were considered by the committees."

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