



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention

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July 29, 1995

Dr. Carlos S. Camacho
Delegate, Third Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Dr. Camacho:

I have attached a list of all of the materials about Article 12 that have been included in the Daily Journal. At one point in the proceedings, I had these materials collected for my use in a red folder. You requested that I duplicate my red folder for distribution to the delegates. When I handed it over to the staff for that purpose, they pointed out that everything in my folder, except notes and drafting materials, was already in the Daily Journal.

At the next meeting of the Committee on Land and Personal Rights, I brought my notebooks and my red folder so that anyone on the Committee could examine those materials and satisfy themselves about what they were. You were not at that meeting. I told the Committee that you had requested that these materials be duplicated again. The Committee decided not to do that. We are already running short of paper. I thought that decision had been communicated to you. Apparently it had not. My apologies; I should have done that myself. We have been working very hard on final committee reports and constitutional amendments and, with very limited resources, some things just have not gotten done.

The staff has followed the Convention's rules with respect to materials put into the Daily Journal. Rule 14(e) provides that the Daily Journal is to contain an accurate transcription of the session proceedings. Rule 58 provides that materials sent by persons outside the Convention to an officer of the Convention or to any delegate may be initialed by the recipient and handed directly to the chair of the committee that has the subject matter of the petition under consideration. The chair of the committee then decides what, if anything, to do with these materials. In some cases, the chairs of the committees have just handed the materials over to the staff for inclusion in the Daily Journal.


There are only two items, initialed by you, that were submitted for inclusion in the Daily Journal. As neither of those were a letter to an officer of the Convention or a delegate, you asked that they be included in the Daily Journal by consent of the Convention and that was done.

This procedure for dealing with letters coming in from outside lawyers and others with interests to pursue with the Convention was approved unanimously by the delegates and, so far as I am aware, there has never been any dispute about this procedure. The Convention is under no obligation to make every piece of paper that comes in the door a part of its official record.

That kind of rule would not make any sense and would result in the accumulation of a lot of paper that might not add anything to the Convention's deliberations. Any delegate is, of course, free to circulate to other delegates any papers that might be considered useful for some purpose.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanne Siemer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Deanne C. Siemer