

# Legislature building named after Mafnas DNA . . .

Continued from page 1

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday approved a bill naming the House of Representatives Building after the late Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas.



Jesus P. Mafnas

"Jesus P. Mafnas was one of the most important figures in our Commonwealth's recent history. It is fitting that we give him this honor," Tenorio said.

The House of Representatives Building, now officially known as Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, is occupied by both the House and the Senate.

Its previous official name was Building Number Nine.

Although it houses the legislature, the building is owned by the executive branch.

According to the approved House Bill 9-421, which has become Public Law 9-62,

Mafnas deserves recognition and honor since he was the first legislator to die while in office. He died last May 21.

Froilan allocated \$5,000 for the dedication of the building.—Rick Alberto

Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro again expressed disappointment over both parties. "I cannot take my lunch today. I lost my appetite. My blood pres-

sure goes way, way up. All you have to do is sit down and agree to come up with a specific date and submit it to this court," Castro said.

The judge pointed out that issues raised where—whether the inspection and search will include Hillbloom's ranch and medical records in Hawaii and San Francisco.

"They prepared a stipulation. And they came and asked the judge what they agreed with," said the visibly irked Castro.

David Lujan and David Nevitt, counsels for the petitioner and executor respectively, recently signed a stipulation indicating their cooperation over the test.

## Legislative... Continued from page 1

expressed doubts the voters are aware they would be confronted with this question when they go to the polling station next month.

A counterpart amendment approved by ConCon provided for a lower budget ceiling for the legislature.

ConCon set the ceiling at \$4.5 million annually, a corollary move to its proposal to reduce the number of Senate and the House representations.

The legislature initially pulled its proposal out of the political scene lest it would mix up with the related ConCon amendment. The ratification of ConCon amendments was then scheduled for the November general elections.

Last week, the legislature submitted PL 9-1 to the board of elections for public's approval, after Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio signed into law the bill rescheduling ratification of the ConCon amendments to March.

ConCon's counsel Howard Willens

said even if PL 9-1 is ratified in November, it will be "killed" by the ConCon's own amendment if such particular item is ratified in March.

"The latest amendment will supersede the last amendment," Willens said during a luncheon meeting with the press.

Also at the press briefing were Guerrero, delegates Esther Fleming and John Gonzalez.

Guerrero, for his part, believes the ConCon's version of Article II "is a hundred times better than of the legislature."

Nevertheless, Guerrero is not inclined to launch a "No" campaign against LI 9-1.

"I personally oppose such legislative initiative but it is not proper for me to conduct a public campaign against it," Guerrero said.

In the same manner, Guerrero said government agencies should remain neutral in any of the amendment issues.

He was reacting to a reported plan of the board of education to campaign for the rejection of proposed amendments

in Article III Section 13 which interchanges the functions of the education commissioner and the board of education.

"It is not proper for any government agency to take any position. If they oppose it, they can't do it publicly," the ConCon chief said.

Under the ConCon's proposed amendment, the board lost the power to formulate policies. This power has been transferred to the PSS commissioner appointed by the governor.

The board will instead become merely an implementing body.

Delegate Esther Fleming dismissed suggestions that the proposed setup would "politicize" the public school system.

"Even if the commissioner is appointed by the governor, he will still have to abide by the law," Fleming said.

She said the Convention entered provisions that will guarantee noninterference of politics in the school level.

In the first place, Fleming said the board members cannot complain now after they have ignored the ConCon's invitation for them to take part in public hearings.

"While we were in conducting hearings, not one from the education agency came to give opinion," Fleming said.

"The delegates came up with what they think are best for the community," Fleming said.

Now that the ratification has been moved to a later date, Guerrero said the post Convention committee will have more ample time to educate the voters.

## Save Water & Power

# NARITO NA ANG INYONG PINAKAHIHINTAY... PBA SA MCV!



## Legislative budget ceiling on Nov. ballot

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST two items in the proposed Constitutional Amendments of 1995 appear to be taking center stage as election campaigns start to heat up.

One hot item is related to the proposed increase in the legislature's budget ceiling, and the other, the proposed re-arrangement of the education department's hierarchy.

Simultaneous with the general elections on Nov. 4, CNMI voters will also be made to decide whether they would allow the legislature to raise its budget ceiling to \$8 million.

The proposed increase in the legislature's budget ceiling is contained in Legislative Initiative 9-1, an amendment to



Herman T. Guerrero

Article II section 16 of the Constitution. This was approved by the Senate and House of Representatives on March 10, 1994.

Constitutional Convention President Herman T. Guerrero  
Continued on page 8

Tenorio y...  
Tenorio y...  
Tenorio y...