

DPS braces for elections

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety will deploy enough police officers at the polling places to maintain peace and order during tomorrow's midterm elections.

In an interview yesterday, Lino S. Tenorio, DPS deputy commissioner for operations, said 27 officers will be fielded to ensure security of the voters and ballot boxes.

Tenorio said two officers will be assigned at every polling

27 cops to be fielded at polling places

places. Three cops, however, will be deployed at some schools that have two precincts like Garapan Elementary School.

He disclosed that three to four officers will watch the Multipurpose building in Susupe where the tabulation of ballots will be held.

On the other hand, three to four will also serve as roving officers assigned to temporary

replace those taking a break from the polling places.

Some officers will be tapped not only to conduct regular traffic and patrol operations but to monitor the polling stations as well, said the deputy commissioner.

Tenorio claimed that they want to make it clear to the officers that they are not allowed to be utilized by members of either party or people managing

the polling places.

"They will be solely there for security of persons and ballots," he emphasized.

Tenorio said all officers will convene on Saturday at 5 a.m. at the DPS to discuss specific instructions to be enforced.

Tenorio said they are awaiting for other instructions from the Board of Elections following a general meeting scheduled last night.

Some 10,870 voters in the CNMI will troop to polling places to choose from among 72 candidates vying for 33 positions in the Legislature, municipal councils and the Board of Elections.

Tenorio said they are expecting an orderly elections.

"I don't foresee big chaos going on. We haven't received a threat. I think it's gonna be very peaceful," he said.

Elections in the CNMI are generally characterized as peaceful and orderly.

Tenorio: Vote Democrats!

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday urged the general public to vote Democrat in tomorrow's midterm congressional elections so that his administration could accomplish more in the remaining two years of its term.

According to the governor, it is important that Democrats take majority control of at least one house of Legislature if the government's plans and policies were to be implemented without snags.

He lamented how the current Republican Legislature refused to cooperate with his administration giving him the impression that such opposition is designed to his performance as governor.

"Not only are they a 'do-nothing' Republican Legislature, they are obstructionists. So I'd like to tell our people to vote Democrats. I need the cooperation of the Legislature."

"It seems that since the late Vice Speaker Jess Mafnas passed away, the Republicans would not give me any help, any cooperation. Unfortunately, when the vice speaker died, that was the end of any cooperation from the Legislature," he lamented.

The governor made the state-

ment as the Commonwealth gears up for tomorrow's elections for members of Legislature.

A total of 10,870 registered voters are expected to show up at the polling centers to select 18 House representatives, three senators and members of the Board of Education and of the island municipal councils.

The governor said that as much as he likes to work with the Republicans, the latter have shown that they're not willing to work with his Administration.

"So I am asking the people to vote Democrats in this election. Just give me two years of cooperation from the Legislature and I can assure them that we will do everything that we can and in fact, I am sure we can deliver a lot of services for the people," said Tenorio.

But in fairness to the GOP, the governor said he understands why the Republicans are opposing him.

"For example, if Diego T. Benavente has ambitions to run for governor or lieutenant governor that will be primarily the reason why he does not want to help me. He may feel that if he helps me and we do a lot, then of course it will be easier for me or any other Democrat to get elected in 1997," said the governor.

"So I can understand that, how Republicans in general are feeling the same way as the speaker. But look they were in power for 12 years. They may have done a lot but now it is my turn, the Democratic Party's turn to do something and whether we do a good job or not, the people must still decide in 1997 whether we should be kept in office or we should be kicked out," he added.

The chief executive also pointed out that the administration needs to provide a lot of services now that previous Republican administrations didn't need four years ago.

That is why we have to generate additional revenues for government, he said.

"The Republicans have shown that they don't like my programs but they don't have their own programs either. So the only solution, I am afraid, is for the Democrats to control if not both houses of Legislature, at least one of them."

"So I am asking the people. Majority of the people voted for Jessie and me in the last election, now I am going to ask them to do the same thing this election to please vote Democrats so that the Legislature and I can work together for the next two years," he said.

Senate legal counsel bats for initiative

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A SENATE legal counsel yesterday batted for the approval of Legislative Initiative No. 9-1, in the process lambasting the Post-Convention Committee and a group of citizens opposing the proposed constitutional amendment increasing the annual budget ceilings of the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau.

Stephen C. Woodruff, in a press statement, said his campaign for the approval of the proposed constitutional amendment, which will be subject of a referendum in tomorrow's midterm elections, was being made on his own.

"Although I am Senate Legal Counsel, I am speaking out on this issue not on the instructions of my client but personally as a citizen and resident of the Commonwealth," he said.

As senate legal counsel, Woodruff is an employee of the Legislative Bureau.

In calling for support for the amendment, Woodruff said that if the budget of the Bureau, which is fixed annually at \$800,000, is not increased, the agency—which is charged with providing all the professional and administrative support for the legislature—would be in a "crisis situation."

"This year it has reached the point where only \$4,000 is available for general expenditures. Everything else is obligated," he said.

"Obviously, the Bureau cannot operate effectively under these conditions," he added.

Woodruff said the Bureau's fixed budget had been unchanged since 1989.

He said that if the identities of the oppositor Citizens for a Fiscally Responsible Legislature and All-Powerful Governor were known, they would reveal themselves to be actually Citizens for a Weak Legislature and All-Powerful Governor.

He suspected that members of the citizens' group were the same ones constituting the Post-Convention Committee, which is chaired by



Herman T. Guerrero

Herman T. Guerrero, president of the Third Constitutional Convention.

Woodruff criticized the Third Con-Con's proposal on the legislative budget ceiling, which he said would have the executive branch controlling the Bureau, since the lieutenant governor would have a role in selecting the Bureau director.

He claimed the Con-Con proposal cuts the allowances for individual offices of legislators so that they "will not be able to obtain the professional support necessary for them to function as independent members of the legislature."

"Instead, they will be almost entirely dependent on the Legislative Bureau controlled by the Executive Branch," he said.

Woodruff said the Bureau has not been able to provide the Legislature competent advice to make an independent judgment of the governor's budget commissions because it could not hire professionals such as budget analysts, economists, researchers and archivists because of lack of funds.

The Bureau also lacked computers, he said.

He said other functions like public information, communications, reference services and records management also suffered because of lack of funds.

Woodruff said the Legislature's budget for 1995 is under \$183,000, far below the \$1 million provided with the nearly \$1 million member for the California Legislature.



Governor Froilan C. Tenorio signs proclamation declaring November as CNMI Education Month. Witnessing yesterday's signing are Education Month Celebration chairman John M. DL. Guerrero (left) and Frances M. Sablan, chairperson of the program committee.