

DEANNE SIEMER & HOWARD WILLENS
MACARANAS BUILDING 1ST FLOOR, GARAPAN
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Tel: 670/233-0465
Fax: 670/234-7530

DATE: February 29, 1996
Number of pages in this transmission: 2

If all pages are not received, please call the number above.

FOR: ALICIA GUERRERO

Tel: 235-0843
Fax: 235-0842

FROM: Dcanne Siemer

MESSAGE

Alice --

Here's the proposed final column in the Variety. Will you see if this is okay with Herman and Esther. Also consult anyone else on the Committee who is around. We discussed this generally at dinner last night with Herman, Esther, John Oliver and David, so I think it is okay.

Herman has okayed a similar column under his name alone for the Tribune, and we've done something similar already for the Star.

Thanks.

Dcanne

CON-CON COMMENTARY

by the Post Convention Committee: Herman T. Guerrero, Chair; Esther S. Fleming, Vice Chair; John Oliver DLR Gonzales, Secretary; David Q. Maratita (Tinian); and Justo S. Quitugua (Rota)

Our post-Convention activities conclude tomorrow with the election. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Convention, the public education program, the debate, and most of all the voters who will participate in tomorrow's election.

Thanks to those who gave testimony, ideas, and views

Our sincere si yuus maase and ghilisow to the more than 80 citizens who submitted proposals for constitutional amendment to the Convention. We considered every proposal carefully, and quite a few proposals from citizens are included in the amendments we have submitted to the voters. Our thanks also to the 47 people, including legislators, department heads, PTA presidents, educators, lawyers, community leaders, and citizens who testified or submitted written views at our public hearings and Convention sessions. And our thanks to the many, many citizens who contacted their elected delegates to express their opinions when our various draft amendments were published. You have made us very proud to be a part of the CNMJ democracy at work.

Thanks to the media

The newspapers, radio, and television media have covered our proceedings extensively and fairly. Our Convention proceedings were entirely open to everyone, and televised during nearly every session. Talk shows have allowed viewers to call in with their questions. The newspapers have made space available to us to explain our work to the voters. JR's column published explanations in both English and Chamorro to be sure to reach everyone. The radio stations have aired our public service announcements telling the voters where to come for village and employee meetings.

Thanks to our hard-working delegates and staff

We had 29 public meetings to discuss the proposed amendments, and each meeting was scheduled for two hours. Delegates devoted more than 200 volunteer hours to staffing these meetings so that the public could have their questions answered by delegates in person. Delegates from Rota and Tinian helped with the public education on Saipan, and delegates from Saipan traveled to Rota and Tinian for four public meetings held on those islands. Our hard-working small staff put out 11 different publications, made copies for the public meetings, and delivered copies to many destinations. They kept our telephone lines open 10 hours a day to receive requests and answer questions.

Thanks to our critics

We recognize those who asked us to change our approach to our explanations on radio and TV. They had a point, and we accepted it. The two critics who wrote newspaper columns also performed a public service by airing competing views and contributing to the public discussion. They and others have suggested areas where the Analysis to the Constitution had words or phrases that were unclear or typographical errors, and we have corrected those. We also extend our appreciation to those who took the time to write letters.

Thanks to the Legislature and the Governor

We are very grateful to the Legislature for its kind action in making available its chambers for our sessions, and for enduring our invasion of its phones, copiers, and offices. This excellent location was important in making the Convention open to everyone. We also thank the Speaker for lending us the services of Maya B. Kara, House legal counsel, who served on our legal team and helped with the drafting of our work, and we thank the Legislative Bureau for its support during our tenure in its quarters. We also thank the Governor for his assistance with the necessary funding for the Convention and the education program.

And our grateful appreciation to the voters

The Con-Con election will be an unusual one because no one is running for office. But it is also a very important election, because the voters must decide on how our government will work in the future. We thank all the voters who have taken the time to read our materials, to talk to us and to others about the proposed changes, and to understand why we have proposed these changes. And we thank everyone who will come to the polling places tomorrow to vote. Our democracy may be very young, but it is strong.

SI YUUS MAASE, GHILISOW, AND THANK YOU

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Alice --

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Thanks.

Deanne

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OK. — go ahead
Herman
2/29/96