

Con-Con seeks 100% budget hike

THE THIRD Constitutional Convention will begin on June 5.

This was decided by the pre-convention committee during its meeting yesterday.

At the same time, committee chairman Herman T. Guerrero Jr. said the committee would ask the Legislature to pass a supplemental budget of \$300,000 for the convention in addition to the \$300,000 earlier appropriated.

In an interview during a break in yesterday's meeting, Guerrero said the additional amount was reached

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after computing expenses for a convention that would last from 60 to 75 days.

He said Diamond Hotel, which was selected as the site for the convention, would be paid over \$50,000.

Bringing the eight delegates from Rota and Tinian to Saipan would cost almost \$100,000, according to Guerrero. This includes the daily per diem of \$85 for each of the delegates.

Guerrero said Rota delegate Victor B. Hocog, who chairs the subcommittee on administrative matters, was already discussing the need for additional funds with members of the Legislature.

Meanwhile, the committee selected Howard Willens and Deanne Siemer as lead counsels for the convention during the committee meeting at the Joeten Dan Dan Center Monday.

The selection represented a big savings for the convention, aside from the benefits of having Willens, who participated in the negotiations for the Covenant, work with this year's convention.

"Actually, we're not paying for his legal fees, we're only paying for his stipend and out-of-pocket expenses, not to exceed \$3,000 a month," Guerrero said.

He pointed out that Willens was also the legal counsel for the First Constitutional Convention.

Guerrero said his experience put Willens ahead of the other law firms that offered legal services to the convention. "It does and I think that's what some of the members (of the committee) felt, that his experience and knowledge of the Covenant itself gives him a better understanding of

the Constitution," Guerrero said.

For his part, Willens is also expected to benefit from working with the Third Constitutional Convention. "He and his wife are working on a book about the Covenant as well as the Constitution, so you can always say that he has also a vested interest in terms of how the Commonwealth is progressing and where it's heading since it started as a new commonwealth," he said.

Willens is a graduate of the Yale Law School. NPL

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ADOPTION CASE

NO. 07