

# ConCon race heating up

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WITH THE opening of the Third Constitutional Convention less than a month away, the race for the presidency has become much more exciting as speculations reach high levels.

Convention insiders told the Variety that another darkhorse contender has surfaced to make way for a four-cornered contest for the presidency of the Constitutional Convention.

Delegate Juan S. Tenorio has been said to be slowly garnering support for the June 5th ConCon election and may be staging a surprise presidential bid.

Tenorio has not so far publicly disclosed any presidential ambitions but indications are he will make a go for it.

As of late, three top contenders for the presidency, namely Delegates Herman T. Guerrero, Victor B. Hocog and Carlos S. Camacho are said to be dominating the field, with the latter being dubbed by some political pundits as the darkhorse candidate.

Guerrero, Hocog and Tenorio are all close advisers of Governor Froilan C. Tenorio.

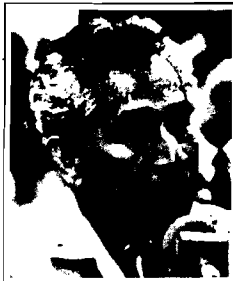


Juan S. Tenorio

Camacho, the first governor of the Commonwealth, chaired the Democratic Party that helped Governor Tenorio win the governorship in the 1993 elections.

He has been lately observed to have distanced himself from the governor after he resigned from the Democratic chairmanship last year.

Asked for a comment yesterday, Camacho said there is indeed a four-cornered fight, but it involves Guerrero, Hocog, him and Delegate Jose Lifofoi and



Carlos S. Camacho

not Juan S. Tenorio.

"Everybody is aiming for the presidency. But I think in the long run it might be between me and Victor (Hocog). Right now, I foresee Victor getting seven votes, Jun Pan five votes and the rest may be mine. But there is a move to split the Saipan vote," said Camacho.

According to the former governor, however, nobody can guarantee victory in the presidential race as prior commitments do not assure a win.

"We should learn from the experience we had during the Pre-Con Convention elections. That is a first-hand lesson we delegates learned," said Camacho.

For their part, Guerrero and Victor



Victor B. Hocog

may also be starting to get support from delegates for their separate bids.

Although at one time rumored to be the strongest candidates, neither Guerrero nor Hocog could ascertain victory. That is why ConCon observers are saying both may opt at the last minute to find a mutually acceptable candidate so as not to split the votes.

And Tenorio might be it.

"There are those who say Dr. Camacho is the darkhorse. I believe there is even a darker horse," Hocog said when contacted for comment yesterday, obviously referring to Tenorio.

"I would not be surprised if John (Tenorio) becomes president," "He's got the needed influence among the delegates," he

added in a telephone interview.

But although he gave indications he would like to see Tenorio sit as president other than himself, Hocog maintained he is still in the running for the top convention post.

"I still want the presidency but of course the seat is up for grabs. I know John is also interested. The only question is the polarity vote if the convention convenes with a three-way divided vote," added Hocog who said there is 14 votes needed for the presidency.

But whoever wins the presidency, Hocog said he is certain the Third ConCon will do its job to the utmost.

"Whoever becomes the president, I personally feel the delegates would make a very good team because everyone of us is very open-minded," said Hocog.

"We share the objective to complete our tasks as soon as practicable. We are one in saying that we will produce a good and long-lasting document to guide the Commonwealth for many years," he added.

Guerrero, when contacted yesterday, refused to comment, except saying that "anything is possible."

Tenorio could not be reached for comment as of yesterday afternoon.

## Fetus in bottle found by beach

A BOTTLE believed to be containing a possible human fetus was found at Pau Pau Beach area Monday afternoon, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

The alleged fetus was found along the beach area by a male person who then called up DPS Central Monday at 3:16 p.m., DPS Information Officer Cathy Sheu said.

It was immediately taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for examination, the information officer told reporters during the regular press briefing.

No other details were given in the police report.

Meanwhile, a 38-year-old man was arrested after he allegedly chased another man with a stainless spear the other night in Lower Miha.

Sheu said William Chin Mariur, of Lower Miha, was arrested for dis-

turbing the peace and assault with a dangerous weapon.

In Chalan Kanoa, a man from Susupe was picked up for allegedly assaulting two persons at Tokyo Tower yesterday midnight.

The arrestee pushed a man on the back out to the exit door of the club and punched another man on the chin, police report indicated.

Also in Chalan Kanoa, an unidentified person or persons broke inside a residence and stole five gold rings, two necklaces, and \$40 cash Monday morning.

The Chalan Kanoa burglars on the other hand, struck anew the other night and took two left rear tires from two vehicles parked at the Korea Association office.

A window on the right passenger side of one vehicle was likewise damaged, according to the report. (FDT)

## Dela Cruz to help ConCon

Retiring CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz has expressed readiness and enthusiasm to work as part of the legal team for the Third Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention with lead counsel Howard P. Willens and Deanne Siemer, according to Saipan Delegate Dr. Carlos S. Camacho, Chairman of the Pre-Con Legal Subcommittee.

Chairman Camacho made his presentation during the Pre-Con Committee regular meeting Tuesday morning (May 9) at the Joeten Dandan Center and strongly recommended that the Convention take advantage of the Chief Justice's offer to assist.

The Pre-Con Committee,

chaired by Delegate Herman T. Guerrero (Jun Pan) voted unanimously to hire Justice Dela Cruz with several members commenting favorably on the high respect that the Chief Justice enjoys within the Commonwealth.

Dela Cruz, 47, will be retiring from the bench on May 14, 1995. His compensation will be finalized at a later date, according to Chairman Guerrero.

Dela Cruz has been the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court since May 1989. Prior to that, he was the Associate Judge of the CNMI Trial Court since March 1985.

Dela Cruz received his law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley, in 1974. He

became a staff attorney and later a directing attorney at the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation at the Marianas Office from 1974-79. From 1979-81, Dela Cruz was the General Counsel for the Marianas Public Land Corporation.

He also served as liaison attorney for the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws from 1979-83 which reviewed federal laws and made recommendations to the U.S. Congress as to which federal laws should be made applicable to the Northern Marianas.

He then went into private practice with the Borja and Dela Cruz law firm from 1983 until he was nominated as Associate Judge.