

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1979

*Jiff: You should check with
our Counsel's office as to how
to eq. of someone in W.H.
staff serving as Commission
whose recommendations would
have priority.*

MEMORANDUM FOR STU EIZENSTAT

FROM:

JEFFREY FARROW *J.F.*

SUBJECT:

Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws

*KC: Katt
Best
Dunn*

The Covenant to establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands required the establishment of a seven member Commission on Federal Laws. The panel is to make recommendations as to which Federal laws should be applicable and which inapplicable within one year after the termination of the trusteeship. Four of the members are to be citizens of the Trust Territory.

Arnie Miller's office has asked for my recommendations on Interior's nominations and Paul Austin's recommendation of a Saipan businessman. I have consulted with Governor Camacho, the Washington Representative and legislative leaders as well as Interior staff. I have two reservations about the Interior list which I have discussed with Jim Joseph.

1. Jesus Sablan, recommended by the legislature, is objected to by the Washington Representative and the Governor. He works for the islands' largest business which is headed by J.C. Tenorio, who lost the governorship to Camacho by a slight margin.
2. Philip Sorensen, the former lieutenant governor of Nebraska, was suggested by friend Jim who was unaware at the time that brother Ted is involved with a major oil project hoping to locate in the N.M.I.

The Washington Representative supports as an alternative to Mr. Sablan former Senator Pedro A. Tenorio, who served on the N.M.I. Status Commission. The Governor suggests legislative staffer Joaquin S. Torres. I recommend Tenorio.

One possible alternative to Sorensen would be Joseph Screen, Austin's friend who is also associated with J.C. Tenorio. I would not recommend this, however, since I believe, as did Cecil Andrus in making his nominations, that we ought to fill the third U.S. slot with someone who has no "personal or professional prejudices concerning the Northern Marianas." I suggest, instead and immodestly, that I serve in view of the interagency nature of many of the concerns this committee will evaluate (such as the fishery law problem).

Logan

If you agree, I will draft an appropriate memo to Arnie.