

Constitution

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TONY PALOMO
...for delay

But questions over when to reschedule the ratification vote — and the chance to appear before live television cameras just weeks before the election — held up the decision by several hours.

The scheduling problems were ironed out amidst good natured teasing about lengthy oratories before the television cameras.

"You should be charged for that," a Democrat quipped to Republican Sen. Ben Ada after his second lengthy appearance before the cameras. Ada wore a blue shirt carrying the message "Re-elect Sen. Ben Ada."

Legislation allowing the delay eventually passed 19-0. Two senators were absent, Republican Sen. Eddie Calvo and Democratic Sen. Carl Gutierrez.

If the governor signs last night's bill, the Legislature must introduce legislation within 30 days funding a constitutional education campaign.

Constitutional Convention officials already have launched an education program anticipating a Nov. 7 vote but critics said voters still remain uninformed and confused about the 14-article constitution written between July and October last year.

A group called the Committee for a More Informed Vote on the Constitution organized the drive for a delay, prompting senators to hold hearings on the matter last week. Thirty-three persons said they wanted the constitution off the Nov. 7 ballot and eighteen said they did not at those hearings.

Committee spokesperson, Marilyn

Manibusan, yesterday said she hopes the Legislature provides that an independent agency, not the Constitutional Convention, conduct an objective voter education campaign.

Judi Guthertz, a Con-Con delegate who, like Manibusan, watched yesterday's action from the legislative gallery, said she was "disappointed" with the Legislature's action.

"I think this committee sort of jumped the gun. They didn't give us an opportunity to do our education campaign," she said.

Guam Rep. A.B. Won, sponsor of legislation convening the Con-Con, last night said he does not oppose the delay but thinks there was enough time to educate voters on constitutional issues.

"I just don't see what seems to be the cause for further delay," he said, expressing his support for the constitution's eventual adoption.

Won Pat will be on island until just after the Nov. 7 election in which he is unopposed.

Legislation enabling Guam to convene a Con-Con was passed by Congress and then signed by President Gerald Ford in October 1976.

Thirty-two elected delegates, representing Guam's 19 villages, were given from July 1 to Oct. 31 to complete the task of writing a constitution.

In June, the Guam constitution won the necessary congressional approval.

The constitution, if approved, will replace the Organic Act of 1950 as Guam's legal cornerstone.

It would become the first locally-drafted constitution to rule Guam.



Daily News photos by Rick Padden

FRANK SANTOS
...not time now



MARILYN MANIBUSAN
...sweet victory

Special session called to air prison bill

The Legislature will go into special session at 9 a.m. today to consider a \$1.2 million money vote to the Guam Penitentiary.

Gov. Ricky Bordallo, invoking his Organic Act powers to do so, ordered the Legislature into session saying some action must be taken to alleviate overcrowding at the penitentiary.

"I have been informed that some attorneys are considering a suit to have their clients released if the situation is not corrected," the governor said in a letter to the Legislature.

"We must not and cannot allow this to happen. We must take corrective action and do so immediately," he said.

Bordallo reminded senators of legislation he submitted Oct. 2 seeking \$1.2 million for temporary barracks to house 100 inmates.

Republican Sen. Jerry Rivera, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Criminal Justice, criticized the governor for attempting to introduce the bill when the Legislature was recessed.

"We've had this (prison) problem for months and months and months. Why did he transmit that (legislation) after we recessed," he said.

Rivera predicted the Legislature will vote to hold a public hearing early next week on the prison measure.

Expressing his feelings on the proposed \$1.2 million appropriation for the Mangilao prison, Rivera said: "I don't argue with the fact they need to provide temporary facilities (at the prison). The only thing I argue is the amount (of money needed)."

Prison officials said the Mangilao penitentiary currently houses 100 inmates. It is built to house 49.



JIM UNDERWOOD
...questions new date



HOWARD TRAPP
...lights, camera

