

Constitution vote delayed

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A Nov. 7 ballot asking voters whether they approve of Guam's proposed constitution appears headed for the paper shredder.

The Legislature last night delayed a referendum on the document, altering an earlier position, was said likely to approve the action.

"The governor would go for the delay as long as there are significant elements in the community who feel that they don't have enough education on the constitution," a governor's spokesman said.

Democratic Sen. Dick Taitano, a Bor-

dallo adviser, said: "I can't see why he (Bordallo) wouldn't sign it (legislation calling for the delay) in view of the limited education campaign." Bordallo several weeks ago said there had been adequate information to the public on the contents of the constitution, a matter now in dispute.

With Bordallo's approval of last night's legislation, a ballot seeking voter ratification or rejection in the territory-drafted constitution is likely to end up in a locally-drafted constitution in a printer's wastebasket.

"No problem," Al Carpuillido when mission Director said he would do with the thousands of ballots already printed. A

printer will cut the referendum part off the Nov 7 ballot or "We'll have to ignore that portion of the ballot," he said. Some 450 absentee ballots have already been sent out but those will not be tabulated, he said.

As senators assembled at the Legislature yesterday — once again under the glare of television lights — the vote for a delay seemed assured. Overwhelming support for shelving the document voiced at recent public hearings had led most senators to support before yesterday's session to support the delay.

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Oct. 18, 1978 Wed. Vol. 9 No. 259