

INTERVIEW OF FELIX A. AYUYU

by Deanne C. Siemer

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- Siemer: We are going to talk, Mr. Ayuyu, about offices that you ran for before you ran for the Constitutional Convention.
- Ayuyu: That was the only office I ever ran for.
- Siemer: What made you decide to run for it?
- Ayuyu: Well, I feel that it is something that is very significant. And it is something where you can formulate how the government is going to be run afterwards.
- Siemer: What were you doing before then?
- Ayuyu: I was working for the TT [Trust Territory] government as the administrative officer for the Vocation Advisory Council. In fact, when this thing [the constitutional convention election] started to be politically oriented, and involved going out campaigning, I almost withdrew from the running.
- Siemer: There was a provision in the Con-Con bill that finally passed that delegates were not supposed to be listed on the ballot according to political party. But you often are listed as a member of the Popular Party?
- Ayuyu: Right, but when they do some campaigning, I said count me out. Politics is really not for me. I know what it's all about. The political maturity of the local population is bad now, but it was worse then.
- Siemer: What did you do after you worked for the TT government?
- Ayuyu: Shortly thereafter, there was this talk about the TT terminating and of course with TT terminating you are going to terminate employment, right. So I kind of adapted a little bit in advance and I found myself a position in the CNMI government.
- Siemer: What did you do there?
- Ayuyu: I started out in a section in the housing program. It's basically subsidized rental housing for low income families. There was a vacancy as Tenant Relations Advisor so I applied for that job. In fact I was meeting with the Advisory Council in Yap when they called to let me know I got the job [as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention].
- Siemer: So you transferred over to the CNMI.
- Ayuyu: From the TT to the CNMI.
- Siemer: What year?
- Ayuyu: April 1977.
- Siemer: Well before the Trust Territory was disbanded. Then how long did you stay with the CNMI government?
- Ayuyu: Actually it is the Mariana Islands Housing Authority [MIHA], which is an autonomous agency of the CNMI government. I am planning on retiring this December.
- Siemer: How big is your department?
- Ayuyu: The department employs 88 people.

- Siemer: What is your current title?
- Ayuyu: Chief of Program for the Housing Division. I also serve in place of the Executive Director when he is off-island. I am Chief of Program for the Housing Division/Assistant to the Director.
- Siemer: When you ran for the Constitutional Convention did you do any campaigning yourself?
- Ayuyu: Yes, but general.
- Siemer: How did you go about campaigning?
- Ayuyu: We went out in a group. It was full of politicizing by the parties. Territorial, Republican, Democrat, Popular. I don't remember the names.
- Siemer: It was Territorial and Popular at the time?
- Ayuyu: I don't remember what name it was, but I was in the Popular [Party], which is the Democratic Party. So they were having groups just like the usual campaign. Not as intense though as the regular local election for Legislature or Governor.
- Siemer: Did the campaign go from village to village and have village meetings?
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: One of the things I've noticed was that the Territorial convention was held a couple of weeks before the Popular convention, and the Territorial Party started campaigning right away before the Popular Party folks were even nominated.
- Ayuyu: I don't know what happened.
- Siemer: Did you go to the Popular Party convention?
- Ayuyu: Yes, that was held at the Civic Center, the old legislature building.
- Siemer: Did the Nominating Committee nominate you?
- Ayuyu: Nominating Committee and the committee out of San Roque. I think what they did was select two, and then the Committee would vote on which candidate to back. I was living in San Roque back then.
- Siemer: The Popular Party had an interesting approach. They had one delegate from every village and then elected the rest of them at large. Whereas the Territorial Party elected everybody at large.
- Ayuyu: I think that's how I got nominated. I came up from the [local] Committee's action and then the additional person [came] from the Party convention.
- Siemer: Do you remember who was on the Nominating Committee back then?
- Ayuyu: I was living in Garapan and I was married to a girl from San Roque. Then I stayed in San Roque where they had that nominating meeting. I don't really know the names of the people. I can remember a few of them. I know them by face, but not by name.
- Siemer: Were they the folks who were already serving in the Legislature? Were those the people?
- Ayuyu: No, local people from San Roque.
- Siemer: So the San Roque committee nominated you and then that went up to the [Popular Party] convention?
- Ayuyu: No, I got in and then there were some candidates that were elected through the convention.

- Siemer: You did very well in the vote totals. You got over 2,000 votes. At least that's what the certified results showed.
- Ayuyu: I think I was number 14 down the list of about 52 that ran. I was thinking back that maybe if I stayed back during the week when they had the rallies, I was in Palau at that time for the whole week. The council held meetings in different areas.
- Siemer: So you were working your job full-time while the campaign was going on?
- Ayuyu: Right, for that week I was in Palau and in fact I voted in advance because I wouldn't make it back for election day. I was in Palau when the news was broken to me that I got in.
- Siemer: So you were in Palau when you heard that you won the election?
- Ayuyu: Right. For the entire week.
- Siemer: Did you have family members who could campaign for you?
- Ayuyu: don't know, my wife didn't tell me that she went to the nightly campaigns. I don't really know what happened.
- Siemer: Have you run for anything since?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: Not anything?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: You were very successful then. Didn't that tempt you to run for something else?
- Ayuyu: Maybe with retirement I can go into public office eventually.
- Siemer: What do you recall about the organization of the [Constitutional] Convention at the time? Was there any meeting of the Popular Party delegates before the convention that you attended?
- Ayuyu: The only thing that I remember was the party members getting together nominating people for the Democratic Party slate. I cannot remember any specific thing that transpired during that meeting.
- Siemer: After you were elected and you came back from Palau, was there a meeting of the Popular Party people who had already been elected before the [Constitutional] Convention got together so that you could decide how you wanted to get organized?
- Ayuyu: I think there was that meeting. In fact, the chairman of the group was from the Democratic Party that won. In fact, I was appointed by the President of the Convention to head one of the committees or subcommittees and I was discouraged by the members of the Party.
- Siemer: Why?
- Ayuyu: Those things were so politicized. They [the Popular Party] felt they [the Territorial Party] were giving us the insignificant roles.
- Siemer: It's interesting because later, on as soon as the Convention got underway, Dr. Camacho began to complain that the Territorial Party had occupied all the committee chairmanships and they had the Secretary of the Convention and was complaining because Popular Party people had not been appointed.
- Ayuyu: I think its not to head one of the committees. I just don't remember that far back. Either vice chairman of a committee, not the chairmanship of a given committee, but the vice-chairmanship was discouraged as being insignificant.

- Siemer: Who was the actual leader of the Popular Party in the Convention?
- Ayuyu: The person that stood up was the former Governor, Carlos Camacho.
- Siemer: Did Olympio Borja have a leadership role when you met to talk about issues?
- Ayuyu: Not really. They might have had a meeting, but I wasn't present. But I don't recall any significant meeting to do strategy or stuff like that.
- Siemer: Then, once the Convention got underway how did the Popular Party organize itself? Were there regular meetings of the Popular Party delegates?
- Ayuyu: There had been gatherings to reach consensus on certain provisions of the Constitution that would have beneficial side effects for the Party. One thing that I recall was the establishment of the election precincts. That was the only thing that I really recall that was significant. I think it was at that meeting that the members of the Democratic Party to the Convention were getting Oly Borja on our side, because he was sort of guy that swayed between the two.
- Siemer: He had thought about switching parties, had he not? Or did he just talk about it?
- Ayuyu: I don't know. Did he switch parties after all?
- Siemer: There was some talk at [Popular Party] convention time that Borja was thinking about switching. Felipe Atalig switched at that point and somebody else did too. Felipe ran and won, but the other person who switched ran and lost and I can't remember who that was. But at the Territorial convention, there was a big debate about people who had switched parties and whether they should nominate any of those people.
- Ayuyu: I think Oly Borja switched parties. They were like ping pong at that time.
- Siemer: I know he switched parties when he ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1977.
- Ayuyu: Also Ben Santos, I think he switched parties.
- Siemer: That's why its hard for us to figure it out without talking to people who were actually there.
- Ayuyu: Felipe Atalig is back to the original party.
- Siemer: Is he back to the Democrats now?
- Ayuyu: No. He was in the Democrats.
- Siemer: He was in the Popular Party and then he switched over to the Territorials.
- Ayuyu: He's still there, a Republican.
- Siemer: So now he's still a Republican.
- Ayuyu: Yes. A faithful one.
- Siemer: Is he still active in politics?
- Ayuyu: Yes, and in fact his brother is running for a seat in the Senate.
- Siemer: Who is he brother?
- Ayuyu: Jack.
- Siemer: Your name is very unusual. Are there not very many Ayuyu here?
- Ayuyu: Not many, just my family and one other family. We originated from Rota and some of them went to Guam.

- Siemer: How long has your family been here in Saipan?
- Ayuyu: My parents were here before the war. I was born in one of the Northern Islands, Alamagan.
- Siemer: How did your family get up there?
- Ayuyu: After the war they went up there. I don't know for what specific reason, but they went up there. There was a sizable number of families up there after the war. I was able to find out about people who were born up there. I happened to know that this guy who was born up there too, because about three months ago his wife came to work for me, and she mentioned that her husband was born up there.
- Siemer: There are not very many people up there now, are there?
- Ayuyu: No. In fact, in Alamagan way back in the 1960s there were maybe at least 12 families. In Pagan, there were much more.
- Siemer: Your family came from Rota to Saipan before the war and then went to Alamagan?
- Ayuyu: My father's family is from Rota. My father was born in Saipan and then they went to Rota. But his grandparents were from Rota. My mother's side is from Saipan. After the war they went up to the Northern Islands. When they moved up there, my mother and father were single. They married up there. The thing they do up there is basically to gather copra.
- Siemer: That was the big industry at the time?
- Ayuyu: Right, the only industry. Every six months the ship goes up there. If the ship doesn't come, then people have to go without rice. The local food is tapioca, yams, taro, bananas and stuff like that.
- Siemer: How old were you when you moved back here?
- Ayuyu: School age. I was about entering the first grade.
- Siemer: And your family has lived in Saipan ever since?
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: Do you still have relatives in Rota?
- Ayuyu: Yes, and some in Guam.
- Siemer: But there are only two families of Ayuyu here in Saipan?
- Ayuyu: I would say like three. A family of three branches.
- Siemer: Your father had how many brothers?
- Ayuyu: He has only one brother and six sisters. So the name won't show up, the last name Ayuyu.
- Siemer: It would show up in middle names.
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: At the Convention, Dr. Camacho was the principal leader as far as what kinds of positions ought to be taken and what the Popular Party ought to back and what it should oppose?
- Ayuyu: Yes. Dr. Palacios was in the Territorial Party. Remember him? I would say Dr. Camacho was basically the guy that steers things back then.
- Siemer: Who worked most closely with Dr. Camacho?

- Ayuyu: Actually we don't get together that often, except for that one meeting I remember about dividing up the island into election precincts.
- Siemer: Do you know why the Popular Party didn't win any seats on Rota or Tinian. I think they won one seat on Tinian, which was Joe Cruz. And they won the seat from the Northern Islands, which was Danny Castro. But there were 13 seats on Rota and Tinian and the Territorials took all of them other than Cruz. Do you remember why that was?
- Ayuyu: The people were divided up into parties. I think that back then even up to now, Rota is a stronghold for the Republican Party.
- Siemer: Tinian as well?
- Ayuyu: Maybe at the time. Tinian has a tendency to switch. Like now the sitting mayor is a Democrat, after so many years of Republican rule.
- Siemer: Do you remember the discussions [at the Convention] about the composition of the Legislature and how many senators and representatives there were going to be from Rota and Tinian?
- Ayuyu: I cannot recall any important details.
- Siemer: Do you remember what issue interested you the most at the convention?
- Ayuyu: Of course, I was a member of the Personal Rights and Natural Resources Committee. That was the subject that interested me.
- Siemer: Ben Fitial was head of that Committee?
- Ayuyu: No, it was Felipe Atalig.
- Siemer: Do you recall particular things that you were concerned about?
- Ayuyu: One thing that has to do with the Northern Islands. I always think about the people up there, whether they have representatives. They are in Election Precinct 3. And they don't have senators. They have a mayor. Until they reach a population of 1,000, but that is hard to come by, especially when all the people of Pagan and even Agrigan and Anatahan were evacuated. The Agrigan people were evacuated two or three years ago because of volcanic eruption. But some of them moved back. Anatahan is still not fully declared safe.
- Siemer: Was Pagan affected?
- Ayuyu: In Pagan, the volcano erupted in 1981. There are no people living up there. When the volcano erupted, they moved all the families. We applied for a federal grant which we used to house them. If you stay long enough in Saipan you might hear the name "Paganville," which is south of the CHC [Commonwealth Health Center].
- Siemer: Where is it?
- Ayuyu: Immediately south of the health center.
- Siemer: There is a group of yellow houses in there?
- Ayuyu: Actually in the subdivision there are more houses there now because we have the 52 units most recently completed. We have 48 temporary units. We use them for permanent housing.
- Siemer: Did you participate in the public hearings? Remember there came a time when there was a draft of the constitution that hadn't really been voted on but it had come from the committees and people were sort of satisfied with it and there were several days of

- public hearings here? Some of the delegates participated in those and some did not. I can't remember if you were there.
- Ayuyu: I think they held some of the public meetings at the same place that the Convention was. I was there for some.
- Siemer: Do you remember the Chamber of Commerce came in and said that the Legislature is too large and too expensive. You should cut it down and you should make it smaller. This is going to cost us too much money?
- Ayuyu: I remember the debates there. Even the salary for the Governor. Who can attract quality people with that kind of salary?
- Siemer: What did you think about those issues?
- Ayuyu: I think it is still important. This place is very small to have that large number of representatives. It has gotten larger because they increased [the size of the Legislature]. Like Precinct 1 in Saipan they have more delegates—maybe five delegates, representing that area. Also Precinct 2. So it has gotten larger. I think we can operate more efficiently with fewer people.
- Siemer: What did you think at the time when you were a delegate? Were you persuaded that the size of the legislature ought to be cut down?
- Ayuyu: Yes. I think that was my position, but I sort of went with the majority.
- Siemer: Do you remember whether the Popular Party had a position on that?
- Ayuyu: I do not recall.
- Siemer: It seemed like they didn't. It seemed like some Territorials were in favor of it and some Populars were in favor of it. It looked like, from an outsider's point of view, it had to do more with whether you were a business administrator or a government administrator and therefore you could have some feeling for what the size of this meant. People who were not in business tended to think that the bigger size was okay.
- Ayuyu: I cannot recall any firm position as to which is better. A lot of concern too, of course, regarding the composition of the Senate.
- Siemer: Yes. I was going to ask you about that. You remember the debate about that?
- Ayuyu: Yes. Tinian and Rota had the veto power really.
- Siemer: What was your position on that [the size of the Senate] at the time?
- Ayuyu: The way I understand it is—is that in the Covenant?
- Siemer: No, it [the size of the Senate] is not in the Covenant.
- Ayuyu: So where did that idea [a large Senate] come from?
- Siemer: From Rota and Tinian's point of view, that was really their insistence. It was one of Ben Manglona's most important points.
- Ayuyu: Okay. And was that the cause of the walk-out?
- Siemer: No. He had already won the [size of the] Senate point. The cause of the walk-out—remember he wanted two representatives [in the lower house] and he didn't get his two representatives [for Rota].

- Ayuyu: Yes. I remember that and I guess the younger among the group stayed behind. The older folks left. I recall people that stayed behind were Pete Atalig, David Atalig, Greg Calvo, and Pete Dela Cruz.
- Siemer: One of the Rota people, I remember Pete Ogo, said that all of the Rotanese who stayed behind were actually people who were college-educated, married, and living in Saipan. Is that right?
- Ayuyu: Yes. That was the substance of it.
- Siemer: And that they were voting their personal judgments rather than voting the party line?
- Ayuyu: I think that's one of the main things, the composition of the upper house. Is there a provision in the Covenant about the bicameral legislature?
- Siemer: Yes. What was your feeling at the time about the restraints that the Covenant put on the Convention as far as choices?
- Ayuyu: That's one of the restraints, the guarantee of a bicameral legislature.
- Siemer: Did you feel at the time as a Convention delegate that you didn't have much maneuvering room because of the structure that was set up by the Covenant?
- Ayuyu: Yes, that's right.
- Siemer: How about the briefing papers, do you remember those? Remember those big volumes?
- Ayuyu: Yes. I didn't really have time to go through all those. I had enough work in having to go through the Personal Rights and Natural Resources Committee materials.
- Siemer: You folks had more delegate proposals, I think, than any other committee. Remember all those delegate proposals that kept flowing in? People would do one after another after another. I remember, as the staff person, it seemed like there were hundreds of them. Having to type them up. But a lot of them came to your committee.
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: Do you recall what your position was at the time with respect to the Rota and Tinian situation in the upper house? Were you worried about what might happen?
- Ayuyu: Yes. At that time, I can sense it because of the problem of having this veto power. In fact, that is what's happened right now about the process. Fiscal year 1993 passed without their compromising on the budget.
- Siemer: Would you do it differently now if you could?
- Ayuyu: Certainly, but I think it's something that (if I recall correctly) the delegates from Saipan gave to the delegates from Rota. It's a matter of trade. I think that's one of the things that was traded to get their votes over.
- Siemer: Was it in fact your sense that people from Rota felt that they needed protection from the dominance of Saipan? Or is this more on a political level that the political leaders on Rota wanted to have that control?
- Ayuyu: I guess it works both ways, but I always thought that when you put people up there, you put people up who are going to work for the good of everybody.
- Siemer: Regardless.
- Ayuyu: And I guess some people they say it's not that way, and that's why they insisted on it. That we are not going to be treated well. Now, the way the money is divided, they are getting

more than what they put into the Commonwealth. In spite of being given more than what they deserve, they want more.

Siemer: Plus you have a fair number of deadlocks now.

Ayuyu: Yes.

Siemer: Do you remember being worried about deadlocks back then—thinking there would be deadlocks? The population in Saipan is so much larger than the population of the two smaller islands.

Ayuyu: That was a concern at the time.

Siemer: There were a couple of other things that came up. One was the question about the mayor for the Northern Islands. Danny Castro kept bringing it up and saying everyone else has a mayor, I should do something for being elected. Do you remember taking a position, having been born up there, one way or another on that?

Ayuyu: Actually, I think my position at that time was mixed—that the population up there is kind of small and local government means another layer of expenditure. But I was kind of ambivalent on whatever procedure should be used.

Siemer: Are there actually many governmental functions up there with so few people?

Ayuyu: Right now I think all the mayor's staff from up there are down here. You go over there to the office on a daily basis, and you're lucky if you see the mayor around and even some of his staff.

Siemer: How often does the ship go up there?

Ayuyu: I think the ship hasn't gone up there since last year. I don't know because sometimes they have emergency trips just to deliver food and fuel for the generators that operate the equipment they place up there. The few trips up there are very irregular and infrequent.

Siemer: But the mayor is actually down here?

Ayuyu: The mayor is living here. Maybe he spends some of his time up there, but I don't know about that. His office is right here in Garapan. I have an uncle who is from up there employed by him and he doesn't show up for work at all. But he gets paid.

Siemer: One of the questions I have is how the people actually feel, as opposed to how the politicians feel, about the things that affect them.

Ayuyu: Take for example Rota, we have an office there.

Siemer: The housing department.

Ayuyu: The housing authority, we have a field office there. We have a permanent staff, one person, but then on a regular basis we get help from the Rota office. That's been happening since three years ago. And what it boils down to is the mayor's office in Rota hired people that they don't need. That's waste.

Siemer: They have some 60 people on the staff down there.

Ayuyu: They have more staff down on Rota and more staff on Tinian than the mayor's office here in Saipan dealing with 30,000 people. Each of them deal with the same population—about 2,000. But each of those offices down there has more employees than the mayor of Saipan.

Siemer: Did you think that would happen when you were thinking about this [local government] at the time of the Convention?

- Ayuyu: When you look at something and you start to think that, it leads you to precisely these results. Somebody that wants to be elected, to make the right connections, hires people so he gets the support. It amounts to a waste of public funds. People hired were getting paid and not showing up for work.
- Siemer: Do you remember the debate about whether there should be administrators from each department on Rota and Tinian? Did that ever affect your department; did you have to put a resident administrator there?
- Ayuyu: No. That basically covers the executive appointments and not the autonomous agencies.
- Siemer: You're an independent authority?
- Ayuyu: Yes, but we do have an office in each of the islands down there, and we have permanent employees there.
- Siemer: Did you think that idea of having a resident authority, resident commissioner . . .
- Ayuyu: Resident director.
- Siemer: . . . That's right, of each of the departments was a good idea at the time?
- Ayuyu: When you think of it, the islands are small and things are not that complicated. If you vote for the right person for mayor, I think you get things done.
- Siemer: Were you opposed to the idea of having the resident directors?
- Ayuyu: I was not in favor of that. I think that was one of the things that got traded. They [the Territorial Party delegates] meet and say give us votes for this and we'll give you votes for that. I remember the Popular Party felt kind of helpless. I remember also one of the things at that meeting—also like the caucus [before the Convention]. They try to invite some of the people from the opposite party to vote against a certain issue or provision that would favor the small islands.
- Siemer: And was that successful?
- Ayuyu: I don't remember anything. That means to me it's not really that important. I cannot recall.
- Siemer: Remember the debate about the special assistant for Carolinian affairs? There had been a long debate about representation for Rota and Tinian and Ben Fitial's committee had worked out a compromise. Then Ben said in essence: "Look, there are 4,000 Carolinians. We are talking about 2,000 people on Rota and less than a thousand people on Tinian and you have given those people all of these rights. I want something for my folks as well." And he made a considerable speech on the floor of the Convention asking for a number of things for the Carolinians.
- Ayuyu: I don't recall what position really I took on that particular issue. But most likely not in favor of that. I don't think its really necessary.
- Siemer: That it does not achieve the Carolinian objectives as well as political voting and political participation does?
- Ayuyu: I don't know anything significant that office has done. Even the Special Assistant for Indigenous affairs.
- Siemer: What's that?
- Ayuyu: Is that a constitutional office? Maybe by the Legislature. The position that John Rosario occupied for so many years, and I don't know what he did. He switched over to the

Democrats right now, after eight years under the Tenorio Administration, the second Governor, and maybe half the term of the present Governor. He occupied that position. I thought the same for Women's Affairs. That's not part of the Constitution?

Siemer: The Executive Assistant for Carolinian Affairs was [a part of the first Constitution].

Ayuyu: Maybe local legislation.

Siemer: Who occupied the [office of] Executive Assistant for Carolinian Affairs?

Ayuyu: I think it was Felix Rabauliman. Presently it is Rocco Chobili. And something happened, rather than appointed I think he was elected by the Carolinian community.

Siemer: The Carolinian Association?

Ayuyu: Yes. So he's the one sitting now.

Siemer: Where is Felix now? Is he on the island?

Ayuyu: I really don't know. But I learned about this because his wife was a member of the MIHA board maybe four years ago. But off and on they take trips to the mainland, maybe part of the year living there.

Siemer: At the time, were there any Carolinians who were elected as Popular Party delegates [to the Convention]?

Ayuyu: Yes.

Siemer: Do you remember who?

Ayuyu: I think Dr. Kaipat was.

Siemer: Let me take a look at my list [of Convention delegates]. No. I don't see him.

Ayuyu: What was the question again?

Siemer: Whether any Carolinians were elected as Popular Party delegates to the Convention.

Ayuyu: Was Herman Guerrero in?

Siemer: Which one? Herman Q. [Guerrero]?

Ayuyu: Herman R. [Guerrero].

Siemer: Herman Q. [Guerrero] was.

Ayuyu: Yes. So Herman R. [Guerrero] wasn't. No, I don't think so [no Carolinians elected as Popular Party delegates.]

Siemer: Let me show you the list of names here.

Ayuyu: One [Carolinian] guy ran, but he lost. That was Olopai.

Siemer: [Referring to the list]. These two columns—they are not divided by Territorial or Popular—these are people whose names I hadn't seen before, like yourself, who I hadn't seen run for anything before and these are people who had run for other things before.

Ayuyu: You know this guy? [Juan S. Demapan]

Siemer: No.

Ayuyu: This guy is President of the Senate right now. He tried running for Governor as well, as a Republican. When they had the primary, he ran. He didn't do well. He didn't have any running mate.

- Siemer: He's come a long way since those days.
- Ayuyu: And what happened here, I think, is that Inos, the former Senate President, got sabotaged. I think he parted ways with his colleagues from Rota and they booted him out. So you've got [the] opposition [Party] in.
- Siemer: Really.
- Ayuyu: Jose S. Borja is Saipanese. From As Teo.
- Siemer: Is Pedro Igitol a Carolinian?
- Ayuyu: I think, yes. More Carolinian than Chamorro. The way they speak [is Carolinian].
- Siemer: Limes is Carolinian right?
- Ayuyu: Yes. Pedro Atalig. I was talking to him over the weekend. We went fishing.
- Siemer: Where is he?
- Ayuyu: He is one of the justices of the CNMI Supreme Court.
- Siemer: How about David M. Atalig?
- Ayuyu: I think he has his own business. Mostly nightclubs.
- Siemer: Do you know where I can find him?
- Ayuyu: I really don't know. Look it up in the phone book. He has something to do with the Starlight Club over here. Check over there and maybe the people can give you a number.
- Siemer: Did you know Daniel Castro before the Convention?
- Ayuyu: Yes. He was from the Northern Islands.
- Siemer: Had he always lived up there?
- Ayuyu: I think his family stayed up there. They are some of the few people that stayed up there a long time.
- Siemer: Do you know if he is back here now?
- Ayuyu: Yes. I met him about two weeks ago.
- Siemer: Do you know where I can find him?
- Ayuyu: He lives in San Antonio. I don't think he's working. He's on his own time right now.
- Siemer: Had you known any of the Tinian delegates before you came to the convention?
- Ayuyu: I know this guy Steven King. Only him.
- Siemer: Did you know [Vicente] Manglona?
- Ayuyu: I had seen him around but not talked to him until the Convention.
- Siemer: How about the Rota delegates?
- Ayuyu: I knew Pete Atalig. I knew Pete Dela Cruz.
- Siemer: Where is he now?
- Ayuyu: He lives on Rota.
- Siemer: How about Calvo?
- Ayuyu: Calvo. You know the gas station past the CDA office on the right.

- Siemer: How about Leon Taisacan?
- Ayuyu: He used to work for the Civil Service Commission. So try the Personnel Office. He used to be with the Republicans. I saw him the other night campaigning on Rota on TV.
- Siemer: He is now a Democrat?
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: Writing a history of the Mariana Islands that has anything to do with politics is very difficult.
- Ayuyu: Especially us, being learners.
- Siemer: I think some of your folks are extraordinarily sophisticated. I think they are deal-makers extraordinaire. They trade things back and forth; they are very sophisticated about who owes what to whom. In some respects, the Manglonas from Rota have done a very good job for themselves in the political sense.
- Ayuyu: Right.
- Siemer: As an outsider, it is hard for me to judge whether the people on Rota have benefited a great deal from that.
- Ayuyu: I hear from people they want to monopolize business down there. Of course you know what happens when there is a monopoly. Whoever runs the business gets rich. So big developments would benefit people in general—I have heard this from people I have talked to down there—that they try to stop other businesses from coming in. I don't think that's happening anymore. You see several grocery stores popping up. I think they are the same size as what Manglona used to have.
- Siemer: Do you get to Rota often?
- Ayuyu: I go to Rota quite often on job-related trips.
- Siemer: How is the Rota economy doing compared to Saipan?
- Ayuyu: I think Saipan is hurting, but I think it is hurting more down there [in Rota].
- Siemer: In the housing area, for example, how does Rota fare in housing?
- Ayuyu: I would try to accommodate them as much as possible. Our staff takes trips down there for loan interviews to help people build their own houses through MIHA's assistance. You have to do a number of things. For example, available contractors. Of course, the site would have to be approved, depending on which institution is making the money available. For example, the farmer's home loan program, they would not put up the house on the land where it doesn't have existing water and power—they won't allow that. We try to accommodate them as much as possible.
- Siemer: Is there an Article 12 problem in Rota as there is in Saipan?
- Ayuyu: I think that's the sense. I don't know whether you heard the debate up in the Legislature. For example, one of the guys, at least from the newspaper account, the area that he is trying to develop I think they've lost maybe \$30 million already because of delay, delay related to land.
- Siemer: What did you think about the land alienation provisions at the time you were in the convention?
- Ayuyu: Going back to Article 12, maybe some portion of the land was affected, but the main thing is that part of the area is claimed by a family. They are trying to work that out. Certainly

Article 12 would have some effect on many others, because its not entirely popular and they are going to develop the private properties that are around in the vicinity, they get put in the total.

Siemer: Do the people who get assistance from the housing authority have Article 12 problems as well—do they have to show clear title?

Ayuyu: MIHA entered into a loan purchase agreement with Guam Savings and Loan. The program was just started this year. We haven't had any problem. There is a problem right now and that's with the title insurance. Not really on the Article 12 issue. They want the MPLC [Marianas Public Land Corporation] to make clear the transfer of land from the government to MIHA and then you enter into the agreement, because up to now we have been doing it through a memorandum of understanding whereby MIHA would process an application of a homesteader in the permit stage so when the application is approved the MPLC pursuant to this MOU would transfer land to MIHA.

Siemer: And then you transfer the land to the landowner?

Ayuyu: Right. So those are the questions that the title company asks.

Siemer: Does the Authority then buy the loan back—the bank funds the loan and you buy it back?

Ayuyu: Actually MIHA finances the property and then sells the loan to the bank.

Siemer: So you package the loans and sell them. Are they sold just to the bank in Guam or are they sold on the open market?

Ayuyu: We sell it to Guam Savings & Loan. So I don't know at that time what happens to it—do they go further or whether it is possible to sell it to others.

Siemer: Were you concerned at the time, in the convention, about the land alienation provisions?

Ayuyu: My inclination at the time was for keeping lands with the local people. And basically because a lot of people don't have the sophistication; and a lot of us have never seen large amounts of money; and then somebody comes with maybe \$3,000 to buy a five-hectare property. In the end people will be here with their land.

Siemer: That was not a particularly partisan issue, was it? The Territorials had the same position that the Popular Party had?

Ayuyu: I think its something that they feel important—they feel that its very important to protect and keep the land too.

Siemer: And there wasn't opposition in the public hearings either about the land alienation provisions. That was generally supported, wasn't it?

Ayuyu: Yes. There were a few. In fact, one guy, I think John Tenorio, brought out the former governor, Pete Tenorio—why should he be restricted from selling his land. So I guess he was against it. But my feeling was and still is that keeping it in the hands of local people was good.

Siemer: And you think that's worked out well?

Ayuyu: Well, I think that there's no problem with that. The only problem I think is with the lawyers trying to get around it and, I don't know, devise ways to circumvent it.

Siemer: The economy here has done very well though.

- Ayuyu: Well, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, yes.
- Siemer: Well, I mean you folks who were in the Constitutional Convention must feel some satisfaction at what you did. This place has done so well compared to anything in the Pacific and compared to a lot of States in the United States.
- Ayuyu: For a short time the amount of development that went in made it phenomenal growth. The amount may not be high compared to those types of things in the United States, but here more people say that it is phenomenal growth in a short span of time.
- Siemer: And very attractive growth as well. I was here in 1976 for the Convention and then I didn't come back again until last year. When I got off the plane and I drove down Beach Road it was apparent these people have done extraordinarily well. The place looks clean, it looks very prosperous, the kinds of buildings that have been put up are very attractive.
- Ayuyu: There are some things that came with it that are rather negative. We have a large influx of people from FSM [Federal States of Micronesia]. They can go into programs right away. I guess most of the people resist local versus FSM. Because first I think you have to stay here a certain number of years to qualify for housing programs. In fact they [FSM] are over-represented.
- Siemer: They are?
- Ayuyu: Yes. They are not all accepted. Not all housing programs—federally subsidizing housing programs.
- Siemer: Even if they've just arrived?
- Ayuyu: Yes. Being from FSM because of the Compact of Free Association.
- Siemer: So those people can come here and qualify for housing here, and you folks have to subsidize them?
- Ayuyu: Anytime, right. It's a Section 8 program and we cannot refuse them. And right now they are over-represented in the Section 8 program, maybe 40%.
- Siemer: Did you think at the time in the Convention that there would be such a large influx—not just FSM people but a lot of aliens like Filipinos and others?
- Ayuyu: Well we didn't know, I think what makes the free entries possible. I don't know what's in the Compact of Free Association, but that's the culprit.
- Siemer: They must have negotiated for that—that they could come here.
- Ayuyu: Yes. They can also go to Hawaii to live and work.
- Siemer: But that's only FSM?
- Ayuyu: FSM, right. Palau, no restrictions about them. I don't know—the island is of course developed, but like now where I live [we have] water only one hour a day.
- Siemer: And even [in this building] here, water is only some hours a day.
- Ayuyu: Is that good or bad? Maybe the improvements that the government has been able to make up to this time, maybe even if the population hasn't increased we wouldn't be able to satisfy everybody. But with all these people coming in, tourists, workers, government workers, and like that, it has negative effects.
- Siemer: The tourist industry has grown very steadily and has been very prosperous for the islands as well. And you've managed to allow all of those tourists to leave their money here and go home.

- Ayuyu: It would have been better I guess if more of it stays. Look at the tours, and who owns the hotels. Most of it goes to the buses, the restaurants. You know, they get package deals. I guess most of the money just goes out.
- Siemer: Well, in theory they all are suppose to be paying rent to people of Northern Marianas descent, right?
- Ayuyu: Well, most of the operations are Japanese-owned or are owned by an outsider, so its just like a big cloud that comes and only leaves a few drops here.
- Siemer: That's true, but at the time of the Convention you knew that most of the investment would come from outside the islands. Your goal was to try to control it and to try to channel it into something that was productive for the people here?
- Ayuyu: I don't know. Really it would be a challenge if someone were to do a study on this tourist business—how much benefit is really there compared to the damage.
- Siemer: Because you think it doesn't kick off enough benefits?
- Ayuyu: I don't think so. We are just like service people really, basically. And we have to import workers. I guess they get the cheap rates.
- Siemer: That was one thing I was surprised at when I came back—the number of alien workers here.
- Ayuyu: I think the local residents are worried about that number right now. [There are] more aliens than local people here.
- Siemer: What do FSM people have to do in order to qualify to vote here?
- Ayuyu: I think they have to meet that requirement in the Constitution, right?
- Siemer: Well if they're under free association, they don't have U.S. citizenship, do they?
- Ayuyu: I don't think they can vote here, because I think only those people that meet those requirements, born here prior to a certain time, domiciled you know.
- Siemer: Right, but there wasn't any provision in the FSM free association deal that would allow them to come here . . .
- Ayuyu: And vote, no. No, I don't know of any.
- Siemer: I had a couple of other things I wanted to ask you about. OTSP (the Office of Transition Studies and Planning); Pete A. [Tenorio] was in charge of that at the time?
- Ayuyu: Yes.
- Siemer: There was some discussion in the press at the time that OTSP was exercising too much influence on the Convention. Do you remember anything about that?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: Do you remember feeling there were budgetary restrictions or administrative restrictions or anything like that? I was unsure of what the press was talking about.
- Ayuyu: If there was something, it was something that I wasn't very much aware of. What concerns me is that they have developed these plans, and I don't know what became of them.
- Siemer: How about the education and environment issues—did you get involved in those very much?
- Ayuyu: No.

- Siemer: How about the right to bear arms and criminal prosecutions [bill of rights issues]—did you get involved in those at all?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: Then there was a discussion about how the Governor was going to relate to the mayors of the various municipalities and there was a compromise at one point about the Governor being able to delegate some functions to the mayors. There was a long involved compromise that finally came out with the Governor “may” delegate. That sort of sat for a while. Then right at the end of the Convention there was another uprising and the Rota and Tinian folks wanted the Governor to be required to delegate his functions to the mayors. At that point I think there was quite a division between the Popular Party, where most of its delegates were from Saipan, [and the Territorial Party]. Many of Popular Party people seem to be considerably worried about the Rota and Tinian power problem. It seemed at that point that the Popular Party delegates sort of put their foot down and said that’s enough. We are not going to compromise this any more just to get a Constitution done. Do you remember that whole issue and how that was discussed among the Popular Party?
- Ayuyu: I cannot recall.
- Siemer: Do you remember the day that Ben [Manglona] and his colleagues walked out?
- Ayuyu: I remember that walk-out.
- Siemer: Did you think that the walk-out would hurt the chances of the Constitution being approved?
- Ayuyu: I was concerned because I guess to pass it you have to have certain number of votes, right?
- Siemer: 60%.
- Ayuyu: 60%, so of course it was a concern spending all the time and in the end not being able to come up with something.
- Siemer: Did you think at the time that more compromises needed to be made?
- Ayuyu: Compromises in terms of . . .
- Siemer: Well, there was a reporter who worked for the *Marianas Variety*—Uludong, Sisco?
- Ayuyu: Cisco.
- Siemer: And his thesis—he wrote several stories about this—his thesis was that at the beginning of the Convention the Territorial Party had made a deal. And it had made a deal to support maximum local government for Rota and Tinian. In Uludong’s view, they had given away the store at the beginning. And they had promised things that they could not deliver because the Popular Party wouldn’t support as much local autonomy as the Territorial Party had promised. At least that’s what he kept writing about, and that’s what he thought. That’s what I was trying to get at. It’s one thing to have somebody who’s a reporter writing down what he thinks is going on. He may be talking to one guy who doesn’t know anything about this. As opposed to the people who were actually there.
- Ayuyu: What I kind of sense—I even heard the word—like somebody betrays somebody. Maybe at some point in time they were making deals—support me on this and I’m going to support you on that. And when this person realizes that he’s given away too much, he held back. At least that’s what I heard. Some of the things that were promised the people

of Rota and Tinian weren't given. Maybe because of this realization that we have already given you enough.

Siemer: That's what I was really asking you. As a delegate, did you ever sense that they had been given enough and that you didn't have to compromise any more?

Ayuyu: Well, that's why I cannot say much on that, because I was not in on the details as to why this is needed. You get on the floor—things don't get discussed like they do on committees or during the meetings.

Siemer: Well it would also change a fair amount. I remember that people would ask me to write one thing and then 20 minutes later they'd be back asking me to write something else.

Ayuyu: Right.

Siemer: They wanted a resolution to do this and then they wanted a resolution to do that. We tried very hard to just write down whatever anybody wanted, so that you folks could make up your mind, but there was a flurry of proposed resolutions about how to deal with this.

Ayuyu: Yes, I wasn't involved like some of the people that had to discuss things in detail. I wasn't in on that. When I finished work over here, I just went home.

Siemer: Who were the people in the Popular Party who were more centrally occupied with the political issues?

Ayuyu: [Carlos] Camacho certainly, he would be one. [Vicente] Attao, he was in.

Siemer: Let me just go back to my list. Jose Borja, he was a young guy at the time, right?

Ayuyu: Yes.

Siemer: So he was not a part of the structure. Antonio Camacho, is he a relative of Carlos Camacho?

Ayuyu: I think somehow they are related.

Siemer: Then how about Magdalena Camacho?

Ayuyu: I think they are related too.

Siemer: And how about Juan DLG Demapan?

Ayuyu: He's a character; he switches sides. He is the type of person who would get into lively discussions about those kinds of things.

Siemer: How about Herman Q. [Guerrero]?

Ayuyu: He would be one of those people. Herman has been with politics a long time. Until the last election; he didn't win that one.

Siemer: How about David Maratita?

Ayuyu: David in the Territorial, I don't know.

Siemer: David was in the Popular Party.

Ayuyu: David in the Popular [Party]?

Siemer: At that time he was. At least he ran as a Popular at the time.

Ayuyu: I don't know David. Oscar Rasa, what was he, Territorial?

Siemer: Oscar was in the Territorial at the time, yes. How about Jesus Villagomez?

Ayuyu: Jesus Villagomez, I think is on the Republican side, right? With his brother Ramon?

- Siemer: How about Ray [Villagomez] at the time, was he heavily involved in the politics of the Convention?
- Ayuyu: Ray might have been, but I don't really know. He was a lawyer at the time. I guess people would look to him for advice. But I don't really know anything else, and I've never seen that. What I suspect is that people would gather after [the sessions] and discuss things in more detail—what actions to take.
- Siemer: At the time that Ben [Manglona] and [Pete] Ogo and Joe Cruz and others walked out at the very end, were you concerned that it was going to fall apart or did it seem that the votes were there even if they walked out?
- Ayuyu: I wasn't really concerned, you know, of not getting the necessary number of people to approve that. In fact Greg [Calvo] was sitting beside me. I saw him look at one of the others. It's a good thing they decided to stay. Did one of them who left come back to sign the document or did all of them that left not sign?
- Siemer: One of them came back, but most of them did not sign. Then there was one person from Saipan who didn't sign. I think it was Juan DLG Demapan, who was upset about the Executive Assistant for Carolinian Affairs. He just didn't think that that was appropriate and so he didn't show up to sign. He wasn't opposed to the Constitution but I think he just didn't show up to sign because he was annoyed by that. After the Convention was over, did you work at all on the referendum?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: Did you have any doubt at the time that it would be approved?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: It seemed pretty sure to go through?
- Ayuyu: Yes.
- Siemer: How about after that, did you work on any of the political campaigns in 1977?
- Ayuyu: No. I don't really go for politics. In fact, when they tried to put together a ticket for the Party, I asked to withdraw.
- Siemer: Were you satisfied with the Convention overall?
- Ayuyu: I think it was okay. We were not able to come up with the perfect document, but they were always changing it. They had a second convention too.
- Siemer: Did you think about running for the second one?
- Ayuyu: No. I'm sort of like the private type of person. I'd rather go fishing or go to the farm than get involved in this type of—well, I like to be involved really but genuinely, not the usual politics, no.
- Siemer: Did you feel that there were other people at the Convention, other delegates at the Convention, who like yourself were not regular politicians and who were not interested in the normal day-to-day politics, but were just there for the Constitutional Convention because it was kind of a special thing?
- Ayuyu: Yes. Like Pete Atalig. Maggie Camacho—she hasn't run for any political office since. That was the only thing.
- Siemer: Who?
- Ayuyu: Maggie Camacho. Joe Borja.

- Siemer: What does he do now?
- Ayuyu: I don't know. At that time I think he was working as a mariner or something—transportation.
- Siemer: He came back and went into the transportation department?
- Ayuyu: I saw him the other day but, after a number of years, we don't really know each other.
- Siemer: How about David Atalig, was he politically active?
- Ayuyu: No I don't think David is like that. David is like me.
- Siemer: And how about Mr. Attao?
- Ayuyu: Ben is a politician.
- Siemer: He is.
- Ayuyu: He in fact is running right now for one of the seats in the Legislature. And guess where he is running?
- Siemer: Where?
- Ayuyu: Opposite side.
- Siemer: Has he changed sides again?
- Ayuyu: He originally ran as a Territorial.
- Siemer: He was a Republican at the time, so he's a Democrat now?
- Ayuyu: Yes.
- Siemer: It's actually very helpful to know that because I have a hard time. [keeping the party affiliations straight]. Mr. Benavente, he was a politician at the time?
- Ayuyu: Luis A. No?
- Siemer: Yes.
- Ayuyu: He is not really a politician, but I guess he runs for office maybe for what good he sees in it. I guess he wants to help people. But I don't think he's a regular politician.
- Siemer: Does he have a business that he runs?
- Ayuyu: No. Not right now. His wife passed away I think last year or this year and I think he left Saipan shortly after John Babauta got in [elected], and he now works for the Washington Rep office.
- Siemer: How about Greg Calvo? Was he a regular politician?
- Ayuyu: No. Greg has his own business right now.
- Siemer: What does he do?
- Ayuyu: I don't know whether he's into forming another retail store.
- Siemer: But he's over on Rota?
- Ayuyu: He's on Saipan.
- Siemer: He's here in Saipan?
- Ayuyu: Yes.

- Siemer: How about Antonio M. Camacho?
- Ayuyu: He's an incumbent in the House of Representatives. He ran as an independent.
- Siemer: Really?
- Ayuyu: And won.
- Siemer: As an independent?
- Ayuyu: It's catching on right now.
- Siemer: Is it?
- Ayuyu: Mafnas ran as an independent.
- Siemer: Yes, I saw that.
- Ayuyu: So you see you have a number of our candidates running independent now.
- Siemer: How about Castro?
- Ayuyu: Daniel. I don't think so.
- Siemer: Joe Cruz was a politician at a time?
- Ayuyu: Oh yes. Of course.
- Siemer: Pedro Dela Cruz?
- Ayuyu: Dela Cruz, I think he tried a shot at the mayor's office in Rota and he lost. He didn't get the mayorship so he worked as a consultant for the mayor. But then he quit. I think he's running his own business right now.
- Siemer: How about Hilario Diaz from Tinian?
- Ayuyu: Hilario Diaz. That guy is living on Saipan.
- Siemer: Has he been in politics?
- Ayuyu: No. I don't think he ever ran for office. I don't know. He's from Tinian so, if he gets involved, I don't know what involvement he has down there. But I don't think so.
- Siemer: Ben Fitial has been in politics all along, and Herman Q. [Guerrero] has?
- Ayuyu: Ben quit politics. I guess he's the right-hand man of Willie Tan right now.
- Siemer: Larry Guerrero's been in politics all along?
- Ayuyu: After the Convention I think he stayed behind for a while, then he ran for Governor.
- Siemer: How about Henry Hofschneider? You remember him?
- Ayuyu: Henry, yes. I remember he was a member of the committee that I was in.
- Siemer: Yes.
- Ayuyu: I don't know if he's running for office down in Tinian right now, but he used to be working for PSS, Public School System, as a liaison between the office over here and Tinian.
- Siemer: How about Pedro Igitol?
- Ayuyu: Pedro is with the Marianas Visitor's Bureau. I don't know where he works at. He's not a regular politician. I think people at the Commonwealth Port Authority might be able to help you get in touch with him.
- Siemer: How about Steven King?

- Ayuyu: Steven King I think is running this year. He lives on Tinian. I don't know where he works at.
- Siemer: How about Limes?
- Ayuyu: Luis retired from government, and he tried running against Guerrero, the present mayor. He lost.
- Siemer: What did Mafnas do after the convention? I remember he was Police Chief at the time we were here.
- Ayuyu: He went into politics. A Senator from Tinian.
- Siemer: And did he stay in politics?
- Ayuyu: He's now with immigration. He is the Chief of Immigration.
- Siemer: Ben Manglona I know. Prudencio Manglona, is that his brother?
- Ayuyu: Yes, Prudencio is Rota's mayor. He cannot run for another term, so his son is running.
- Siemer: Who's that?
- Ayuyu: Vincent. His son is a current senator.
- Siemer: How about the Vicente Manglona from Tinian?
- Ayuyu: Vicente Manglona, he tried, I think, running for mayor at one time. I don't know.
- Siemer: Pete Ogo. Was he in politics?
- Ayuyu: I don't think he ran after that Convention. I've been to Rota several times but I haven't seen him. But he used to be the principal in the school there.
- Siemer: He used to work for PSS [Public School System]?
- Ayuyu: Yes.
- Siemer: Leon Taisacan. Was he a politician at the time?
- Ayuyu: I don't really know. The guy's from Rota and recently I met him, I guess last year at the Personnel Office. I don't know when he started working there.
- Siemer: Who does he work for?
- Ayuyu: Try the Civil Service Commission or the Personnel Office.
- Siemer: How about Juan P. Tenorio?
- Ayuyu: Juan P. Tenorio. What I heard is the guy was going to run for Senate this year. I don't know if he ran after the Constitutional Convention.
- Siemer: Was he regarded as a politician at the time of the Convention?
- Ayuyu: The guy has run for public office, aside from the Convention, well that's not public office, I mean political office, maybe once or twice. Maybe a politician, but not quite as much as the others.
- Siemer: How about Manual A. Tenorio?
- Ayuyu: Manual A. Tenorio. He's running this time. Former Lieutenant Governor's brother.
- Siemer: Joaquin Torres? Is that Jack Torres?
- Ayuyu: He's Director of Commerce and Labor.
- Siemer: Was he a politician at the time?

- Ayuyu: No, I don't think so. Because of the sentiment at the time, people thought that's a very important document [the Constitution] setting up the government of the islands. People [elected those] that have gone to college and are educated, so to speak.
- Siemer: This [Convention] was not just a gathering of politicians. It was an unusual group of people and it brought in some people like yourself who were not interested in regular politics and brought in some people who were.
- Ayuyu: The veterans.
- Siemer: How about Jesus Villagomez?
- Ayuyu: Jesus Villagomez. I don't think is [a politician]. The guy retired from government and I guess he's basically doing his own thing. Farming and helping a lot with the church. I went to mass one time and he was giving communion. Maybe he's a Deacon right now.
- Siemer: Good.
- Ayuyu: He's become a saint. Nice guy though.
- Siemer: It was an unusual group of people because you had sort of the slice of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and then you had the slice of Territorial and Popular Party and then you had another slice of professional politicians and non-politicians. A very interesting group.
- Ayuyu: Yes. The veteran politicians you have and people that got some college education—I guess people that stood up for themselves, going to school, and how they perform in school, and stuff like that. But some of them are not politicians. I am one of them.
- Siemer: I think that was a strength at the time because there were enough people who could be viewed as simply applying common sense and not applying political principles necessarily. Perhaps it's one of the reasons that the Constitution was approved by such a high majority. But it's an interesting task that we have trying to really describe the group of people and how the group of people operated.
- Ayuyu: Yes.
- Siemer: When I get done with the transcript I will give it to you so you can look it over and see what you think. But if I might, I will call you if I have a question about somebody or how something works since you have a non-partisan view of things which is very helpful.
- Ayuyu: Even up to now you know, I never showed up at these political gatherings. Of course, when I vote, I know who to vote for.
- Siemer: Is anybody in your family politically active?
- Ayuyu: No.
- Siemer: Thank you very much for this interview.