BUG WANTS TO KNOW

Query: As a contrast to the backroom trade-offs the VI Democrats are planning in order to keep control of the senate, the executive branch and the delegate, behind closed doors, how about a BottomUpGovernment Front Porch deal?

What if?:

Dr. Sewer of St. John organized the three newly elected senators on St. Thomas and three newly elected senators on St. Croix, regardless of political affiliation, and teamed with incumbent senator-elect Kenny Gittens to elect him senate president in return for committee chairs and assignments and an agreement to pass progressive legislation in the 37th Legislature?

BottomUpGovernment asks for the following considerations by the incoming GVI:

1. Adopt a Municipal Corporations Act that establishes municipal governments for our four ancient unincorporated Towns of Christiansted, Frederiksted, Cruz Bay and Charlotte Amalie.

Our towns need a seat at the table where federal monies are distributed, their fair share of federal monies to be spent within each town's boundary limits, and a fresh start with elected town councils and mayors to advocate on behalf of the towns and their inhabitants.

2. Adopt a Territorial Energy Authority (TEA) Act that devolves WAPA customer interfaces into a trust holding company to reorganize those resources and assets into federally-entitled independent community rural utility cooperatives managed by boards of directors, elected from the members by the members.

3. Establish a study committee to take testimony to determine if there should be a referendum in 2028 to move the Capitol of the Virgin Islands of the United States to the Island of St. John and erect

suitable modest headquarters for the Office of the Governor, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, the Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands and the Delegate to the Congress of the United States, away from the corrosive seaside climate and entrenched political corruption embedded in its sister islands.

4. Establish a study committee to take testimony to determine if the Legislature of the Virgin Islands should re-organize itself into populated geographic districts on each island in the Territory, each represented by a single senator in order to create district boundaries for each district based on geographic and population census considerations and other distinguishing characteristics, where voters can vote for one senator living in their district.

And to determine if the 1954 Revised Organic Act, as amended, permits the senate to reduce the number of senators and create a second legislative body representing the inhabitants of the districts, with balanced populations determined from census data.

5. Ask the 6th Constitutional Convention to consider adding a second house so the USVI has a bicameral legislature like all but one US state, whose members represent the people, not the state, as senators are elected to do that.

6. Ask the National League of Cities/US Conference of Mayors to commit a task force of municipal government experts to advise the GVI and the four towns, in how to establish and operate municipal governments in the Territory.

7. Establish a Council of Economic Advisors with two members from STT, two from STX, and one from STJ. BUG suggests Warren Mosler and Raymond James from STX could recruit other suitable members with the knowledge and experience to construct an economic development plan for the Territory that will reverse the population decline anticipated by the Census Bureau, and develop a plan to structurally rebuild each island's economy for long-term planned growth and sustainability, led by thriving towns and communities throughout the Territory.