

Johnston Petition Presented

5/1/69

WASHINGTON, (UPI)—The House Interior Committee yesterday received a request from the Mariana District Legislature for the removal of High Commissioner of the Pacific Trust Territory Edward E. Johnston, a committee source reported.

The source said the request came in the form of a resolution passed by the Mariana Islands Legislature Feb. 24 and transmitted March 10. It was directed to the President, the Secretaries of State and Interior and the House and Senate Interior Committees, the source added.

Johnston, a former Honolulu insurance executive and Hawaiian state Republican chairman, was named to the post in May, 1969.

The resolution charges that "during the past two years (Johnston) has continued to refuse to meet with the Mariana District Legislature," and that he has "conducted himself in a hostile manner and conveys the impression that he is superior to the people of the Mariana Islands," the source said.

It also charges that he "has used his office to support his various business interests and the business interests of his friends and associates in Hawaii and elsewhere to the detriment and harm of the people of the Marianas."

It charges that Johnston supported the link up of Continental Airlines with Air Micronesia in order to "further his financial interest in Aloha Airlines."

Charging that Johnston frequently is absent from Micronesia not on official business, the legislature stated, "the people of the Marianas have no confidence in or respect for Edward E. Johnston, because he consistently misrepresents the views of the people of the Marianas in Washington, D.C."

The office of Sen. Hiram L. Fong, R-Hawaii, said it was not aware of the charges brought against Johnston.

Rep. Patsy T. Mink, D-Hawaii, who serves on the House Interior Committee's territorial and insular affairs subcommittee was not available for immediate comment.

There are six district legislatures in the Pacific Trust Territory which has been administered since World War II by the United States under a U.N. trusteeship.

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