

Carl Proue

Carpenter Sees Two Big Problems In TT

By Pat Harrison

Daily News Staff Writer

Stanley S. Carpenter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Territorial Affairs, has been on Guam and the Trust Territories for the past two weeks on a fact finding and orientation mission.

The State Department official is on loan to the newly created Office of Territorial Affairs which replaced the Office of Territories in the Interior Department.

Carpenter, in an interview Saturday, stated that he found two problem areas that he hopes will be resolved—the political status of Micronesia with the U.S. and the crying need for economic advancement.

The future status of Micronesia has been discussed at previous meetings. The last discussions were held in October in Hawaii.

"There are several directions the Micronesian people can go," he stated, "complete independence, commonwealth status, or permanent ties with the United States."

The next dialogue of the Micronesian Joint Congress is to take place on Palau early in April says Carpenter, who will be attending the meetings.

Economically the Trust Territories will be working for the basic foundations on which to build a modern standard of living. Carpenter cited the perplexing transportation problems and the isolation within the insular group as some of the situations that hinder economic development to the people.

In his talks with the leaders of the Trust Territories, he was very impressed with their

intelligence and understanding. He went on to say that there is a basic need for vocational schools to teach skills and proposes to encourage new construction in this area.

Carpenter felt that Guam was most impressive in its tremendous business boom. He felt that this was partly due to good administration through the present governor's efforts.

The Deputy Secretary is traveling to Pohnpei, Trok and Kwajalein for more studies on the needs of the T.T. populace. After this he will continue his fact finding mission in American Samoa.

The Office of Territorial Affairs is involved with not only Guam, American Samoa and the T.T., but also the Virgin Islands, which will be Carpenter's next port of call.

SPEAKING OF EUCHEM

By Charles Denight

WHO WINS?

It's been said that the interplay between the various branches of our system of government insures that the citizens will be the eventual winners after all the arguments on an issue are presented. This way, say political writers, all views are aired—each with a favorable chance for acceptance—and eventually the best becomes law.

I had always assumed that when one party occupied the executive

chair and another party sat in the legislative branch, the system of checks and balances would work to the benefit of the people. But lately on the local political scene, the system of checks and balances is more a system of checks than balancing.

When the C and B system deteriorates, it is not surprising that the elected representatives spend so much time and money on their own rather than finding fault with what the executive branch is doing. If everyone is the loser, it is childish and somewhat unbecomingly of anyone who wants to earn the right to be elected to outgrow. Constructive criticism will be the key to the game.

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Once again, I would like to mention a good school publication in the Trust Territories. This is from the "Micro Treasure", an excellent effort from Pohnpei Islands Central School.

By Winton Salmon—The Congress of Micronesia

and are representing us in their meetings. They have been chosen by a majority vote, and we may notice that most of them have successful minds and good ideas. They know how to lead us and to discourse with the High Commissioner. They also dispute and decide on the Trust Territory budget.

Although we should keep our own minds, I believe that we are lucky to have as neighbor and friend a strong and rich country like the United States. We are now practicing methods and adopting the American way of a democratic government. We might even be able to improve on that in the future. But to be able to become better, we must now try to get as much education as possible.

I think that our government can improve very quickly and in excellent manner because many of our students will become Congressmen. I recommend to you students that you become Congressmen and lead us some day.

By Mathias Victor—Congress is now holding Micronesia between two courses—indpendence and free association. We cannot think that Micronesia is in good shape now and not worry about it twenty years from now. Think carefully because we are the ones who must make the decision about our future status, and about what will fit Micronesia in the future.

I know that Micronesia means small islands, and I also know that those small islands are not yet ready for independence. But I also don't think we can go the free association with the United States. One reason is that Micronesians love the land, and want to hold control of it. What can help us hold the land if we become associated with the United States and they need our lovely island for military bases someday? I don't think we could get away from this easily. It is important to keep this in mind when we tell our Congressmen what we want, for ourselves and our country.

It's true that Americans are really good people, but they also can be very tricky. I think we should remain where we are now, and let ourselves and our children decide later what new course we will take. It is not good for the children to suffer for what the fathers did very quickly and without thinking. (end)

For those who think of the Micronesian as a native in loincloth worrying about the coconut crop, this kind of writing should indicate that there are some very astute thinkers in the Trust Territory, even among the young.

It also indicates that as much as America is criticized in Micronesia, the education that the people there are receiving will do more to make them ready for choosing a political status than any of the pre-WW II, Japanese development ever did.

You may also notice there is a real fear of the American military and its plans for Micronesia. It may be just a communication gap or it may be that the people of Micronesia really have something to fear. Anyway, at least the juices are working.