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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/HICOMRY OKINAWA NOT ADDEES PASS INFO CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS USCAR FOR TTPI LNO SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN (CONGRESS--37TH DAY) PALAU, FEB. 15 (MNS)---THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRO-NESIA CONTINUED TUESDAY (FEB. 15) TO EMPHASIZE THE CONCERN WHICH THE MEMBERS FEEL FOR THE WELFARE OF THE RECOLE OF

WHICH THE MEMBERS FEEL FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTERIK ATOLLS IN THE MARSHALLS. THE TWELVE SENATORS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AND SENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

PAGE THREE RUHGSAA4537 UNCLAS A BILL WHICH WOULD CREATE A SPECIAL, THREE-MEMBER JOINT COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE MEDICAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND REHABILITATION OF THESE PEOPLE, WHO WERE ACCIDENTALLY EXPOSED TO RADIATION FALLOUT FROM U.S. ATOMIC TESTING IN THE PACIFIC NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO. SENATOR BAILEY OLTER (PONAPE), IN RECOMMENDING PASSAGE OF THE BILL SAID HIS COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HAD AGREED THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA "SHOULD PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE HELP AND ASSISTANCE TO THESE PEOPLE." THE BILL INCLUDES AND APPRORIATION OF \$10,000 TO FUND THE COMMITTEE'S WORK, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY ENABLE THEM TO BRING IN EXPERT CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST. PARTICULARLY IN MAKING MEDICAL EVALUATIONS. THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BF APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE IF THE BILL IS SIGNED INTO LAW.

IN OTHER FINAL FLOOR ACTION TUESDAY, THE SENATE ADOPTED TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS, ONE CONFIRMING AN AP-POINTMENT TO THE MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE OTHER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO "POPO THE CLOWN" FOR HIS ENTERTAINMENT OF MICRONESIAN CHILDREN DURING THE PAST

PAGE FOUR RUHGSAA4537 UNCLAS SEVERAL WEEKS. THE SENATORS ALSO APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE A MOTION

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TO RECALL HOUSE BILL 122, WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED AND SENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9. THE BILL RELATES TO FUNDING OF THE DISTRICT FINANCE AND TAX OFFICE, AND WAS RECALLED BECAUSE OF AN OPINION BY THE TRUST TERRITORY ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF THESE OFFICES ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OFFICES CAN THUS BE FUNDED OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUDGET.

FIVE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND THREE BILLS WERE INTRO-DUCED AT TUESDAY'S SESSION. AMONG THE RESOLUTIONS WAS ONE WHICH WOULD GIVE INCREASED FLEXIBILITY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

ANOTHER JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO AMMEND PORTIONS OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 TO ALLOW THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CERTAIN CASES. BASICALLY, THE RATHER LONG RESOLUTION WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE CONGRESS

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BE ALLOWED TO OVERRIDE. BY A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY VOTE THE VETO OF THE HICOM ON ANY LEGISLATION WHICH IS NOT "IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH AN EXPRESS PROVISION OF TREATIES OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES APPLICABLE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY, EXECUTIVE ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ORDERS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, OR SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 12 OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE."

OTHER JOINT RESOLUTIONS OFFERED INCLUDED ONE TO ENCOURAGE MICRONESIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOBBY OF AMATEUR RADIO, ANOTHER TO NOMINATE BELHAIM SAKUMA OF PALAU FOR CONSIDERATION FOR A POST ON THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION, AND A RESOLUTION WHICH, IF PASSED COULD BECOME SOME SORT OF LEGISLATIVE MILESTONE. IT WOULD PROVIDE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRO-NESI' FOREGG THEIR SALARIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 1973 IN THE INTERESTS OF MAKING MORE AND AVAILABLE FOR DISTRICT PROJECTS.

THE BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE TUESDAY INCLUDED AN AMENDMENT TO THE INCOME TAX LAW, A BILL RELATING TO

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PAGE SIX RUHGSAA4537 UNCLAS ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, AND A MEASURE THE MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED TO ALL CITIZENS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AT ALL MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OPERATED BY THE TT GOVERNMENT BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE.

IN THE HOUSE TUESDAY, A SIGNIFICANT BILL THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE RETURN OF 50 PER CENT OF ALL REVENUES COLLECTED UNDER THE INCOME TAX LAW BE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS CAME UP FOR FIRST READING. THE MEASURE IS CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THE DISTRICTS APPEAR TO BE SHARPLY DIVIDED ON IT. THOSE DISTRICTS WHICH ARE GENERATING THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF INCOME AND BUSINESS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUE SUPPORT THE MEASURE, WHICH THOSE WITH LESS TAX REVENUE TEND TO BE OPPOSED. AFTER BRIEF DEBATE ACTION OF THE BILL WAS DEFERRED.

THERE WAS ALSO DEBATE IN THE HOUSE ON A SENATE BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW THE DISTRICTS TO SET THEIR OWN REGULATIONS REGARDING ABORTION. ACTION ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL MEASURE WAS ALSO DEFEREED, ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MANGEFEL (YAP), IN A PREPARED STATEMENT, HAD ARGUED STRONGLY FOR THE BILL'S PASSEGE, SAYING THAT THE OPERATION IS ALREADY BEING

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/HICOMRY OKINAWA NOT ADDEES PASS INFO CNABERRA FOR POL SECTION COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS USCAR FOR TTPI LNO SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN IN MANY DISTRICTS, AND THE DISTRICTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS THEIR OWN LAWS ON SUCH A SENSITIVE SUBJECT WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL CUSTOMS AND MORAL BELIEFS. REPRESENTATIVE OLTER PAUL (PONAPE), IN A STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT, OPPOSED THE MEASURE SAYING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD LEGISLATE IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT AREA AND "AVOID DEALING WITH THE ISSUE,"

PAGE THREE RUHGSAA4538 UNCLAS

AS IT WERE, BY PASSING THE DECISION-MAKING ON TO THE DISTRICTS. THREE BILLS WERE GIVEN SECOND AND FINAL READING AND PASSAGE TUESDAY IN THE HOUSE, AND GO TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. ONE RELATES TO PROTECTION OF MICRONESIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ANOTHER APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES OF DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS, AND THE THIRD RELATES TO APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS PERMITS.

THREE NEW MEASURES WERE INTRODUCED TUESDAY, ONE BILL, ONE JOINT RESOLUTION AND ONE RESOLUTION. THE BILL IS AN APPROPRIATION MEASURE FOR CERTAIN CHANNEL BLASTING PROJECTS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, PONAPE, TRUK, THE MARIANAS AND PALAU. THE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ALLOW THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE AND TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS WHEN NECESSARY. THE HOUSE RESOLUTION SEEKS TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE RECENT REORGANIZATION OF MICRONESIAN INTEROCEAN LINE, INC. (MILI).

BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE ADJOURNED UNTIL WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (FEB 16)

PAGE FOUR RUHGSAA4538 UNCLAS SATUS RESOLUTION) PALAU, FEB, 15 (MNS)---A JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE



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OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TUESDAY (FEB. 15) COULD HOLD THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF FUTURE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. THE RESOLUTION WOULD ALLOW THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, ENABLING IT TO SEEK A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON FUTURE STATUS WHICH "IN ITS OPNION" IS BEST SUITED TO THE NEEDS, INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, INTRODUCED THE RESOLUTION WITH REMARKS TAKEN FROM A LETTER TO THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WHICH WAS SIGNED BY ALL TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE. THE LETTER READS:

"AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS IS CLOSE TO AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES AFFECTING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRO-NESIA. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE OPERATED WITHIN THE BROAD GENERAL GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE CONGRESS IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOW, HOWEVER, REACHED THE STAGE WHERE FLEXIBILITY RATHER THAN RIGIDITY, IS DEMANDED."

#### PAGE FIVE RUHGSAA4538 UNCLAS

ACCORDINGLY, THE LETTER CONTINUES, THE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED TUESDAY WOULD RELAX THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE THIRD CONGRESS ON THE COMMITTEE. BASICALLY, THAT RESOLUTION PROVIDED THAT THE COMMITTEE MUST RECEIVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AT EACH SESSION OF THE CONGRESS FROM THE CONGRESS ITSELF. THE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SALII WOULD ALLOW THE COMMITTEE "TO CONDUCT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT FURTHER SPECIFIC DIRECTION FROM THE CONGRESS, HAVE UNLY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE OBJECT OF ARRIVING AT A TENTATIVE SOLUTION BEST SUITED TO THE NEEDS, INTERESTS, AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

THE JOINT RESOLUTION, IF PASSED, WOULD ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO APPROACH THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN APRIL WITH THE ABILITY TO COMPROMISE, IF NECESSARY, ON SUCH AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. AS THE QUESTION OF TERMINATION OF ANY STATUS COMPACT. THE LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT "THIS AUTHORITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND REQUIRED FOR THE SWIFT COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT AITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA." (WILLIANDER SPEECH)



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PALAU, FEB. 15 (MNS) --- CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVE HANS WILLIANDER OF TRUK TOOK THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE TUESDAY (FEB. 15) TO CALL FOR INCREASED EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC OF MICRONESIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND MARINE RESOURCES.

WILLANDER SAID FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS FOCUSED ITS EMPHASIS ON "ACADEMIC EDUCATION, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND OF LATE TOURISM, AT THE EXPENSES OF DEVELOPMENT IN BASIC RESOURCES." HE ADDED THAT AGRICULTURE AND MARINE DEVELOPMENT COULD WELL HAVE BEEN MOVING FORCES IN ESTABLISHING A SOUND ECONOMIC HAS HAD THESE POTENTIALS BEEN GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITIES.

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN CONCERNTRATED HIS REMARKS ON AGRICULTURE QUOTING AT LENGTH FROM A TWO-YEAR-OLD REPORT PREPARED BY JAMES HIYANE, WHO IS PRESENTLY AN AGRICULTUREIST IN PONAPE. HIYANE HAD CALLED ATTENTION IN HIS REPORT TO THE LOW PRIORITY GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAD SAID THAT THERE IS AN "URGENT NEED" TO ELEVATE THIS PRIORITY. WILLANDER SAID IT IS IRONIC THAT "APPARENTLY THE ADMINISTRATION IS UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDA IONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF ITS OWN PEOPLE." HE WENT

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/HICOMRY OKINAWA NOT ADDEES PASS INFO CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS USCAR FOR TTPI LNO SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN ON TO SAY THAT IT IS "REALLY A SHAME" THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT HAS HAD TO GO TO A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND TROUBLE RECENTLY TO DEVELOP A REPORT, PART OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, WHICH "REACHED MORE OR LESS THE SAME CONCLUSIONS" AS JAMES HIYANE DID TWO YEARS AGO.

WILLIANDER SAID HE HOPES THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WILL

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"COME TO ITS SENSES AND GIVE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THE ATTENTION THAT IT DESRVES." HE CONCLUDED BY RECOMMENDING THAT DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE BE FOCUSED ON SMALL AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND SMALL, PRACTICAL PROGRAMS SUITED TO THE INDIVIDUAL FARMER.

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