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*Defense Dept.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Jaep</u>	DATE <u>FEB. 26 1987</u>
RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____	TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
USCAR FOR TTPI LNO
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN
(CONGRESS IN FINAL WEEK)

PALAU, FEB. 22 (MNS)---THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS IN ITS FINAL WEEK. THE LAWMAKERS RETURNED TO THEIR DESKS FOLLOWING A HOLIDAY WEEKEND TUESDAY (FEB. 22), WITH JUST SEVEN WORKING DAYS REMAINING BEFORE THEY MUST ADJOURN AT MIDNIGHT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

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DURING TUESDAY'S SESSIONS IT WAS EVIDENT IN BOTH HOUSES THAT COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN BUSY. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 11 COMMITTEE REPORTS WERE ADOPTED, WHILE IN THE SENATE THERE WERE SEVEN. ALTHOUGH THE TWO HOUSES TOOK LITTLE FINAL ACTION ON BILLS TUESDAY, THE NUMBER OF REPORTS WOULD INDICATE THAT NUMEROUS BILLS WILL BE REACHING THE FLOOR FOR SECOND READING IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THE ONLY MEASURE PASSED AND SENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TUESDAY WAS A HOUSE BILL MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1973 THE HOUSE TOOK FINAL ACTION ON THIS BILL BY VOTING TO ACCEPT SENATE AMENDMENTS TO IT.

THE HOUSE ALSO PASSED ON SECOND READING A MAJOR BILL CALLED THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT. THIS MEASURE IS A SENATE BILL THAT DATES BACK TO THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION. SINCE THE HOUSE HAS PROPOSED SOME CHANGES IN IT. IT MUST GO BACK TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, THE HOUSE ADOPTED A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SEEK A NEW LOCATION FOR THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN PALAU. THE COMMITTEE

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REPORT ON THE MEASURE NOTED THAT DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS: OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT LOCATION OF THE PLANT FROM PALAU CITIZENS WAS UNANIMOUS AND QUITE VEHEMENT. THE PLANT IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE MALAKAL CAUSEWAY BETWEEN KOROR AND

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MALAKAL. THE JOINT RESOLUTION URGING REMOVAL OF THE PROJECT TO ANOTHER SITE MUST NOW BE CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE.

OTHER HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED TUESDAY INCLUDED A MEASURE CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT; A RESOLUTION ASKING THAT PLANS AND COST ESTIMATES FOR ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN AREAS NOT SERVICED BY GOVERNMENT WATER SYSTEMS PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ADEQUATE WATER CATCHMENT TANKS; AND A MEASURE REQUESTING THAT SALARIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS IN THE SUB-DISTRICTS BE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

THE HOUSE MEMBERS ALSO ADOPTED A HOUSE RESOLUTION THAT REQUESTS THE DRAINING OF LAKE SUSUPE ON SAIPAN.

IN THE SENATE TUESDAY, FINAL ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THREE SENATE BILLS, ALL OF THEM NATURALIZATION MEASURES. THEY WILL BE SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THE MEMBERS DEFERRED ACTION ON A BILL RELATING TO TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN

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LAND ON THE DEATH OF THE OWNER, AND REFERRED A BILL RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT WORKERS BACK TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS.

THREE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND TWO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY THE SENATORS. THE HOUSE MEASURES, WHICH HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, WERE: A MEASURE REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 TO PERMIT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO DELAY REAPPORTIONING ITSELF UNTIL 1974; A MEASURE ASKING THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH FISH AND BEEF CANNING INDUSTRIES IN MICRONESIA; AND A MEASURE ASKING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO SOLVE THE CRITICAL WATER AND POWER SHORTAGES OF PALAU DISTRICT.

THE SENATE RESOLUTIONS CONCERN NON-CITIZEN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATION IN BUSINESS VENTURES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHIP REPAIR FACILITY ON THE ISLAND OF PELELIU.

NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED AT TUESDAY'S SENATE SESSION INCLUDED TWO BILLS AND TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THE BILLS ARE AN APPROPRIATION MEASURE CALLING FOR \$600,000 FOR LOW-COST HOUSING LOANS, AND A NATURALIZATION MEASURE. THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE

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ONE AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO ATTEND THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATORS IN HONOLULU IN MAY AS OBSERVERS, AND ONE EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA OVER THE PROPOSED INCREASES IN THE RATES AT THE PORT OF GUAM AND URGING THAT THE NEW RATES NOT BE ADOPTED.

BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE WILL MEET AGAIN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. WHICH WILL BE THE 45TH DAY OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

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