

Week in Review

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SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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ELECTIONS FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

The results of the Congress of Micronesia elections held this past week are still unofficial until the election commissioners in the various districts certify the tallies, but on the basis of the figures reported thus far, it is evident that there will be a lot of new faces in the Congress of Micronesia which convenes on Monday, January 8, 1973. There were some incumbents who were defeated who had been expected to win re-election. Others who had been expected to have stiff competition did indeed have that competition, and lost their bids for re-election.

On the basis of results reported to the Headquarters Legislative Liaison Division by Friday, this is the way the various races shaped up: In the Marianas, a three-way race for the Senate saw incumbent Olympio T. Borja win re-election to his seat. Borja withstood the strong challenge of Territorial Party candidate Oscar Rasa and that of Pedro A. Tenorio, who ran as a concerned citizen in the Marianas. In the races for the House of Representatives, incumbents Felipe Atalig and Herman Q. Guerrero were returned to office, but Congressman Carlos Shoda was defeated by Territorial Party Candidate Pedro P. Tenorio. Shoda's defeat came as a surprise to some people, because he was running as the Popular Party's candidate in an area which is normally considered a Popular Party stronghold.

In the Marshalls District, incumbent Senator Dr. Isaac Lanwi was defeated by Wilfred Kendall. Kendall had lost to Lanwi in the election for the Senate seat four years ago by a fairly small margin, and this time Kendall reversed the results. Two of the four Marshalls Representatives--Charles Domnick and Ataji Balos--ran unopposed, and will rejoin the Congress in January. Elsewhere in the Marshalls, however, House Floor Leader Ekpap Silk barely won over challenger Bilimon Amram. The unofficial totals showed Silk with just a 12 vote margin of victory. Meanwhile, the Vice-Speaker of the House, Henry Samuel, was defeated in his re-election bid. Samuel lost to challenger John Heine, who had been questioned about his eligibility to run for the Congress. Heine is a permanent resident of the United States, but says he is a Micronesian and is therefore qualified to run for the Congress. It is possible that Heine's credentials as a duly elected Congressman may be challenged when the Congress convenes two months from now.

In Palau, incumbent Senator Lazarus Salii and the three incumbent Representatives--Timothy Olkeriil, Polycarp Basilius, and Tarkong Pedro--

were all successful in their campaigns for re-election.

In Ponape District, Bailey Olter was re-elected to the Senate over two challengers. Representatives Joab Sigrah and House Speaker Bethwel Henry ran unopposed, and in the two other races for Representative seats for Ponape, incumbents Heinrich Iriarte and Olter Paul were both defeated. Iriarte was bested by Resio Moses. Sungiwo Hadley defeated Paul.

In the Truk District results, all but one of the incumbents will be members of the Fifth Congress. Senator Tosiwo Nakayama and representatives Raymond Setik, Sasauo Haruo and Masao Nakayama all ran unopposed, while incumbent Endy Dois withstood the challenge of three other candidates. However, incumbent Representative Hans Wiliander--the outspoken advocate of independence for Micronesia and a leader in the Independence Coalition--was defeated by Machime O'Sonis.

In Yap District, former Congressman Luke Tman ran for the House unopposed and was elected to the seat vacated by Congressman John Mangefel. Mangefel had decided to run for the Senate seat held by incumbent Rafel Moonfel, who also decided to run for re-election. Mangefel won that contest. In the election for the other Representative seat in Yap, incumbent John Rugulimar of Yap outer islands ran unopposed, and was thus re-elected to his position in the Congress.

And so new Senators Wilfred Kendall of the Marshalls and John Mangefel of Yap will take their seats in the Senate of the Fifth Congress when the members convene on January 8. And the new members of the House of Representatives will include Pedro P. Tenorio of the Marianas, John Heine of the Marshalls, Resio Moses and Sungiwo Hadley of Ponape, Machime O'Sonis of Truk and Luke Tman of Yap. As we indicated, election results at this point are subject to final certification of election commissioners in each district. Also, the members of the Senate and the House must officially approve the credentials of the newly-elected members before they can finally take their oaths of office.

A decision about where that next session will be held may be forthcoming in the next few days. Late in the week, it was announced that the Congress leadership will fly to Guam to meet on November 14 to make decisions about the location of the first regular session of the Fifth Congress. Formal invitations to the Congress have come from Ponape, Truk, the Marianas and Palau Districts.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH MADE NEWS IN THE PAST WEEK:

One person died as the result of a traffic accident on Saipan early on Sunday morning, November 5. A car went out of control and ran through a house and a grandmother died when she was pinned under the car. Two other young grandchildren suffered injuries. Saipan had gone more than two years without a traffic death, and in 1972, two people have died in just a matter of a few weeks in traffic-related incidents.

A news report from the Honolulu Advertiser says that a nation-wide search for a rare type of blood has been underway for a Marshallese girl about to undergo spinal surgery. The corrective surgery was to be performed at Tripler Hospital in Hawaii. Only two donors for the rare blood were found, and a supply is being built up in preparation for the operation.

Three Micronesians have been awarded State Department Leader Grants for travel in the United States. They are Hermes Katsura, Speaker of the Truk District Legislature, Ignacio Benavente, presiding judge of the Marianas District Court, and Kabua Kabua, presiding judge of the Marshalls District Court. A similar grant had been announced earlier for the Nahmwarki of Uh Municipality in Ponape, Johnny Moses.

Resources and Development has announced that Sterling N. Skilling, a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii, has joined the Economic Development Division as an assistant to the business advisor. Skilling is from Kusaie, and he holds a bachelors Degree in Business Administration.

And finally, there is news about newspapers. Guam Publications, Inc., has opened an office on Saipan to augment its coverage of Trust Territory and Saipan news in the newspaper Pacific Dateline. Two reporters have been detailed to the office and direct Telex (teletype) communications between Saipan and the paper's Guam offices have been established. The move is an intensified effort to improve circulation of Pacific Dateline in the Territory, and to provide more comprehensive news coverage of Trust Territory events for TT and Guam readers alike.

Also, Koror's Micronesian Occupational Center has begun to publish a newspaper. It is called the Micro-Backbone, and is under the direction of Editor Ioanes Pretrick. The Micro-Backbone is to be published twice each month, at MOC.