

## THIRTY-FIRST DAY

Wednesday, February 7, 1973

The House of Representatives of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1973, was called to order at 10:04 a.m., Wednesday, February 7, 1973.

Speaker Bethwel Henry presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Chief Clerk called the roll. Nineteen members were present; Representatives Basilius and Domhick were excused.

Floor Leader Silk moved to suspend reading of the Journal; Vice-Speaker Dois seconded; there being no objection, the motion carried.

## COMMUNICATIONS

No High Commissioner Communications were reported.

No Departmental Communications were reported.

Senate Communication No. 23, transmitting S.B. No. 23, SD1, declaring certain matters public records.

Senate Communication No. 24, transmitting S.B. No. 96, SD1, relating to abandonment of motor vehicles.

No Miscellaneous Communications were reported.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee Report No. 8, submitted by the Committee on Education and Social Matters, re H.B. No. 46, "Amending Subsection (1) of Section 31 of Title 41 of the Trust Territory Code to require Department of Education assistance to school feeding programs, and for other purposes."

Chairman Sigrah moved for adoption of the report; Floor Leader Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

## ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Speaker called attention to Referral Sheet No. 20 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures.

## BILL CALENDAR

Representative Sigrah moved for passage of H.B. No. 46; Floor Leader Silk seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title, "Amending Subsection (1) of Section 31 of Title 41 of the Trust Territory Code to require Department of Education assistance to school feeding programs, and for other purposes."

The Chair recognized Representative Tman.

Representative Tman: Point of information, Mr. Speaker. Would this also extend the school feeding program to elementary schools?

Representative Sigrah: Mr. Speaker, the intention of the bill is for that purpose.

The motion to pass H.B. No. 46 on First Reading carried by voice vote.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 138

Introduced by: Rep. Dois (by request)  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

To amend Public Law 4C-49, relating to the Trust Territory Merit System, by adding new subsections to Section 9, and amending Subsections (10) (e) (viii) and (10) (e) (ix) of Section 10.

H.B. No. 139

Introduced by: Rep. Tenorio  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Making Catalino T. Cangco of the Republic of the Philippines eligible for naturalization as a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

H.B. No. 140

Introduced by: Rep. Tenorio  
Assigned to: Appropriations

Appropriating \$100,000 to be used as an agricultural loan fund for Trust Territory farmers.

H.B. No. 141

Introduced by: Rep. Olkeriil  
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for construction of the Babelthuap Road, Palau District and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 142

Introduced by: Rep. Haruo  
Assigned to: Appropriations

To add a new Subsection (6) to 73 T.T.C. Section 205 to permit direct loans of the Social Security Retirement Fund and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H.J.R. No. 35

Introduced by: Rep. Balos  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Requesting that the President of the United States of America and the United States Congress grant a role to the Congress of Micronesia in selecting and appointing the High Commissioner.

H.J.R. No. 36

Introduced by: Rep. Balos  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Requesting the Secretary of the Interior to appoint Micronesians to the High Court of the Trust Territory.

H.J.R. No. 37

Introduced by: Rep. Pedro  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Requesting the High Commissioner to make a cost of living study for Micronesia and revise the Trust Territory Pay Plan to conform to the results of that study.

H.J.R. No. 38 Introduced by: Rep. Olkeriil  
Assigned to: Resources and Development

Requesting the High Commissioner and the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning to set aside funds to pay for sewerage connections from secondary sewerage lines to individual houses.

H.J.R. No. 39 Introduced by: Rep. Sigrah  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Requesting the High Commissioner to establish Kusale Island as an administrative district in the Trust Territory and requesting the Secretary of the Interior to amend Secretarial Order 2918, as amended, to that effect.

The Chair recognized Representative Balos.

Representative Balos: Mr. Speaker, I have a very important resolution to introduce and, with your permission, before I submit this resolution I would like to make a few remarks.

Speaker Henry: Representative Balos, you have the floor.

Representative Balos: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

"Mr. Speaker, the people of Roi and Nimur are still homeless after more than a quarter of a century. These people have been forced off their islands, and have never been paid. Now the only choice is for the people of Roi and Nimur to return physically to their homeland and resettle there. I will lead the people of Roi and Nimur back to their true land.

"I ask for your support.

"Thank you very much."

The Chief Clerk accepted the following resolution:

H.J.R. No. 40 Introduced by: Rep. Balos  
Assigned to: Appropriations

Creating a House Committee of One on Roi-Nimur, and for other purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Hadley: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to introduce to the House a man from Ponape, Mr. Paul Luke, President of the Ponape Fishermen's Cooperative.

Representative Tman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit a prepared statement to be appended to the Journal. For the record, the prepared statement is expressing in summation my concern for the denial of funding for the Yap Community Action Program by the Office of Economic Opportunity. Thank you very much.

Representative Tman's prepared statement follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few brief remarks about a most unfortunate situation which has developed in my district and which is of grave importance to the people of Yap. The matter of which I am speaking is the recent refusal by the United States Office of Economic Opportunity to refund its grant to the Yap Community Action Program. The Office of Economic Opportunity, or OEO as it is called by most, refused to renew its grant to the Yap Community Action Program after the end of 1972, giving as its reasons the continuing lack of internal staff leadership and the inadequacy of bookkeeping within the Yap agency.

"The Board of Directors of the Yap Community Action Program, often referred to as Yap Cap by written communication, and verbally during a hearing held on Yap in early December 1972, all but begged the OEO Region IX officials to reconsider their decision to deny refunding

to Yap Cap. I have read the written communications that were sent to OEO, and I attended the hearing that was held in Yap last December as an observer. The Yap Cap board members made it abundantly clear to the OEO officials that they were willing to do whatever was necessary to save the Yap program which consisted of establishing vegetable and hog farming and fishing operations within the villages of Yap as a means of producing some cash income for the villagers. It was pointed out to OEO that the remote villagers of Yap had only recently come to fully accept and believe in the Yap Community Action Program and that the program's goals were, therefore, finally being realized after a long and hard effort. OEO was made aware that the termination of the program at that point would amount to a tragic breach of faith in the eyes of the villagers and would mean that all of the past effort invested in the Yap program had gone for naught.

"The Board of Directors of Yap Cap expressed to OEO its willingness to have the entire Yap Cap staff replaced, from top to bottom, in order to save the program. The board even went so far as offering to have Yap Cap placed under the administration of some other Micronesian community action agency, such as the one in Palau, if this would gain refunding from OEO for the Yap agency. Apparently all of the arguments, and indeed pleas, of the Yap Cap Board of Directors fell on deaf ears in San Francisco, as Mr. Thomas H. Mercer, OEO Region IX Director, by letter of December 27, 1972, informed the Chairman of the Yap Cap Board of Directors that his decision not to refund Yap Cap had 'been finalized.' Mr. Mercer stated in that letter that 'the Community Action Agency concept at this time is not an effective means of providing for the needs of the Yapese.'

"An apparent inconsistency in the position of OEO vis-a-vis Yap Cap was created by the December 1972 letter from Mr. Mercer, as up until that final denial of refunding, the reasons given by OEO were the alleged inadequate bookkeeping and lack of staff leadership within Yap Cap. The December letter from Mercer was the first indication that OEO considered the very 'concept' of a Community Action Agency unsuitable for Yap. Unfortunately, no explanation whatsoever was given as to how or when that determination was made, and we are left to speculate on this point. We may never know the real reason for the denial of refunding to Yap Cap.

"The United States, under Article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement, has a genuine legal obligation to 'promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants' of the Trust Territory. By its very name the Office of Economic Opportunity would seem the appropriate agency of the United States Government to fulfill that Government's legal duty to improve the economic lot of all Micronesians. I consider it manifest that OEO is shirking its responsibility to the people of Yap by denying refunding to Yap Cap without going the extra mile, so to speak, to help that agency operate an effective program for the villagers of Yap. I consider OEO's decision calamitous.

"Senator Petrus Tun of Yap, my colleague in the Senate of the Congress, has introduced a resolution in that body outlining the situation that I have described and urging the Office of Economic Opportunity to reconsider its unfortunate decision and to refund its grant to the Yap Community Action Program before all of the accomplishments in Yap are completely lost. I, of course, am hopeful that Senator Tun's proposed joint resolution passes the Senate and can thus be considered by this House. If it does pass the Senate, I very seriously and strongly implore my fellow members of this House to give their close and favorable attention to the resolution. As I have said, this is an extremely important matter for Yap, and I am hopeful that OEO may listen to the wishes of this Congress even though it has paid little heed to the wishes of the Yapese people.

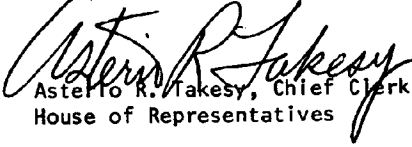
"Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Haruo announced a public hearing of the Committee on Resources and Development at 1:30 p.m., February 7, 1973 in the House Chamber to consider H.B. Nos. 51 and 76.

There being no further announcements, Floor Leader Silk moved that the House stand in recess. Vice-Speaker Dois seconded and the motion carried. The Speaker declared the House recessed at 10:12 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 8, 1973.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives