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Micronesian view ^{Adv.} 2-10-73

A speech reported on the opposite page today by Tosiwo Nakayama, president of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, bears careful attention.

NAKAYAMA'S DISCUSSION of the problems, worries and hopes of the people of Micronesia at this time in their political history is valuable for several reasons.

First, it outlines the state of the relationship between American and Micronesian negotiators who are attempting to hammer out a new relationship between the United States and the Trust Territory.

Second, it provides a good insight into the thinking of Micronesian political leadership at a time when new international attention is focused on this area. A four-member United Nations mission is currently touring the islands and will report its findings to the U.N. Trusteeship Council in May and June.

Third, Nakayama underlines the crucial task facing the Congress of Micronesia this session, which is to create legislation to ease the transition from a trusteeship into a new political entity. Three bills (which would set up an office on governmental transition, call for a constitutional convention and set up a "commission

on national unity") have already been introduced. It is encouraging that leadership in the Congress has given these matters top priority.

FINALLY, Nakayama's speech indicates a trend of thinking among many Micronesians which could become increasingly important in the months and years ahead.

This trend is the feeling that while Micronesia has progressed socially and economically under the American trusteeship, it has failed to learn how to stand on its own. In a sense, U.S.-sponsored education, training and construction has created a new kind of dependence. As Nakayama points out, the Micronesians stand in danger of being too much like Americans, even when it does not suit the unique Micronesian situation.

There is an irony in this. For years, the U.S. stood accused of neglect in its treatment of the Trust Territory. Now American largess has in its turn created another problem.

The emphasis on independence in the sense of Micronesian solutions to Micronesian problems can be seen as a healthy sign. This, plus the legislation aimed at easing the period of transition (if it passes) points to success for Micronesia's new political status — whatever it turns out to be.

Micronesian:

'time to be self-reliant'

The following story discusses a recent speech by Tosiwo Nakayama, president of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia. Nakayama, an advocate of independence for the Trust Territory, detailed the problems and hopes facing Micronesia at a crucial period in the progress of those islands toward a new political status.

Nakayama, who studied at both the University of Hawaii and at the East-West Center, has been an assistant district administrator for public affairs in his home district of Truk.

By Micronesian News Service

SAIPAN—With a call upon his fellow Micronesians to "wake up" from 26 years of sleeping and dreaming, Truk's Senator Tosiwo Nakayama, president of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, set forth his plans and hopes for this session of the Congress Jan. 31. He spoke at the conclusion of a Senate session here.

Nakayama, who was elected president early in January at the beginning of the current session, did not deliver an opening address at that time. His speech last month, at nearly the halfway point in the session, was his first major statement since he assumed the Senate leadership.

"For the past 26 years, we Micronesians have been sleeping," Nakayama said. "We have lived a happy and soft life. We have done little for ourselves. We have asked for help — and we have been given help. We have asked for money — and we have been given money. We have asked for jobs — and we have been given jobs. We have always asked and we have always been given. This is why we have been sleeping. It is time to stop sleeping. We must now wake up!"

THE SENATE PRESIDENT also said Micronesians have been dreaming, by living an expensive, Western-style life that is not suited to Micronesia. This, he asserted, is wasteful. "We have not used our money,

our time, our efforts, and our energy for things which would really help ourselves and our country," he said.

"Because we have slept, because we have dreamed, we have lost something," he continued. "We have lost our habit of doing things for ourselves and for each other and for our country. We have forgotten many of our own laws, many of our own customs and many of our own ways."

Nakayama said the major reason for this situation is that, since the "foreign" people came to Micronesia, the people of these islands "have been made to feel ashamed of our Micronesian laws, our Micronesian customs and traditions, and our Micronesian cultures." But Micronesians have nothing to be ashamed of, he emphasized, and it is time that this fact was widely recognized.

"It is time that we stop wasting our time complaining and criticizing others. We must look into ourselves. We must criticize ourselves. We must criticize ourselves for our mistakes and learn from those mistakes. We must do things our own way. We must quit following the example of others," the Trukese lawmaker said.

One way to change is to stop asking others to do things for us, Nakayama said, and another is to stop wasting money and resources.

"WE MUST NOW start thinking about our lives and our families," he said. "We must think of what we want to do to help ourselves, help our families and help our country. It is time to stop asking and time to start doing . . . It is time we started working and stopped complaining. Many times we in this Congress and other Micronesians complain about what the United States is doing—or how it is doing something here in Micronesia."

He also turned his critical comments on the Congress itself, following his own

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suggestion of self-criticism. "We in this Congress have also committed a sin of having a false pride," he said. "We have just followed examples of leadership we have seen or learned about from the United States. We have copied somebody else's laws, we have passed legislation which in many cases does not help our people and our country. We have passed laws which our people neither know nor understand. We have spent our revenues for small projects which do not really help our people."

NAKAYAMA SAID he does not mean to suggest the Congress has done nothing to help the Micronesian people. It has, but more is needed. "We need to lead the way to the future through our actions . . ."

"In this respect, I ask the Senate and this Congress to get on with the work of laying the foundation of a future Micronesia in two areas: our future government and our future economy," said the Senate president. He said Congress must make plans for the development of Micronesia and, in the area of government, must provide for a constitutional convention and for government at all levels more responsive to the desires and wishes of the people.

By this, Nakayama said he means "we must have an interim governmental structure that will allow our people to practice more self-government before the trusteeship ends . . ."

"At the territorial level," he said, "we must extend the provisions of the Advice and Consent Act to cover the chiefs of the various divisions of the Trust Territory Government. At the district level, we must now organize district governments."

"**DISTRICT CHIEF** executives and their deputies should be elected and the district department directors and division chiefs should be appointed with the advice and consent of the district legislatures."

Bills to accomplish these things are presently being considered by the Congress, and Nakayama said he is aware there will be problems to overcome. But

he added, "I am also sure that the United States will welcome our own efforts to insure a smooth and easy change to a new government."

"In fact," Nakayama continued, "I personally feel that the United States will feel very happy and proud when we ourselves make a governmental structure and economic programs that fit our needs and limitations. And I believe that even if in the end, we so choose a political status that may be against its desire, the United States will still be happy for it has taught and allowed us to exercise our right of self-determination."

In its efforts during the coming months, Nakayama said the Congress will need the advice and help of all Micronesia. "Tell us what you think and what you feel should be done to make Micronesia better for the future," he urged his countrymen.

"**IF YOU THINK** we are not doing something good for Micronesia, let us know. Do not be afraid to criticize us. Let us work together to plan for the future of Micronesia. This Congress is here to serve you. Together we can make Micronesia a better place for all of us."

Nakayama pointed out that Micronesia will still need the help of the United States in many ways. But he said it is now time for America to "stop trying to put its ways upon Micronesia." This, if asserted, is like "making a person wear clothes which do not fit him." It is time, he said, to stop "taking ideas from the United States for granted."

"We must start changing American patterns to fit our own," Nakayama said. "We must stop changing ourselves and our ways to fit American patterns. Now we must do things ourselves . . . Only through hard work on our part, and with assistance from the United States and its citizens here, can Micronesia become what we Micronesians want it to be . . ."

"It is time to roll up our sleeves . . . and build a proud and self-reliant nation," Nakayama concluded.