

ists from Japan. The local legislature on Yap recently passed a bill to create a 3 per cent hotel-room tax. The American-appointed district administrator, Leonard Aguigui, vetoed the bill because he thought the Yapese "might be trying to keep tourists out."

Along with the influx of new Japanese and American money, U.S. government officials have attempted to increase Micronesian reliance on American largesse. Thousands of Micronesians have been added to the American payroll, and local self-help projects are discouraged. Virtually no money has been spent on agricultural or fishing projects in the 30 years of American rule, although during Japanese times Micronesia actually exported food.

A VERY successful local construction cooperative in Ponape has been told that it can no longer engage in government projects. Instead, the government has just brought in 150 South Koreans to complete projects begun by the local people. The cost to the local company is three times as great and there have been significant delays in completion of the contract.

So far few of the new hotels employ any more local people than necessary. Management is all imported, largely from Japan. Menial help is often brought in from the Philippines, Taiwan or Korea.

Here, in Saipan, many of the local people are eager for material gain, although they do not like the way they are being pushed around. Most

other Micronesians, however, are less enthralled by the prospect of hordes of tourists.

Ponape and Yap (in the Carolines chain) have successfully fought off foreign hotel developers for the time being. At any time, though, the government might issue a permit to one of the hotel chains eager for a slice of the Micronesian market. The Yapese have tried a number of remedies to keep tourists out, including the passage of a law requiring tourists to wear knee-length clothes.

PONAPE HAS been building a number of small, very pleasant locally-owned hotels in hopes of keeping out the big interests. Chances are that both islands will lose so long as the Department of the Interior remains adamant about "Americanizing" Micronesia through the military-tourist route.

One local leader on Ponape summed up many peoples' feelings: "None of us want either the military or the tourists, but if we had to make a choice we would take the tourists. At least they don't kill people.

"But the sad fact is that we don't really have a choice since the military and the tourist people are trying little by little to grind us into our own land. There must be some Americans who care about Micronesia, but we don't seem to meet very many of them."

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