

Congress

The Congress of Micronesia, which met in January and February, was one of the busiest sessions in the Congress' nine year history. A total of 63 bills were passed and sent to the High Commissioner for approval. About 50 resolutions were also adopted by the two houses of the Congress.

The most important actions (other than those mentioned else-where in the Newsletter) include:

⊙Declaring the intention of the Congress to claim jurisdiction over the seas surrounding Micronesian islands,

⊙Urging the High Commissioner to have the business permit of the Bank of America revoked,

⊙Expressing disapproval of the Congress over recent actions of the Attorney General's office,

⊙Prohibiting members of the Congress from acquiring financial interest in projects funded by Congressional appropriations,

⊙Requesting the President of the U.S. to allow the Congress to play a role in selecting the next High Commissioner,

⊙Requesting the TT to provide annual reports on the activities of the military civic action teams,

⊙Requesting that one-third of the funds budgeted for economic development be earmarked for marine resources,

⊙Limiting the length of time any foreigner (i. e., American) may be employed under contract by the government,

Early in the session there was sharp discussion about issuing condolences on the death of Harry Truman since he was responsible for the Trusteeship Agreement under which Micronesia is ruled. A

heated debate that caused the adjournment of the House centered on the allocation of tax revenues. Some representatives of the Marshalls and Marianas wanted tax revenue allocated on the basis of percentage of revenue collected from each district.

At press time, the High Commissioner, who can veto any legislation, had only signed a few bills into law. He has 30 days to act.

NUUAN KILLED

Yap's former Congress of Micronesia senator, Frank Nuuan, died in a Guam hospital a short time after being struck by a car near the Naval Air Station in Guam. The car was driven by a Navy man.

The most complete report available on the tragic radiation contamination of the people of Rongelap and Utirik has just been released by the Congress of Micronesia.

GUAM STATUS

Carlos Camacho, governor of Guam, said "the time is ripe for Guam" to establish a new political status. Although he wants continuing ties with the U. S. he complained that Guamanians have to serve in the U. S. military but do not have the right to vote in U. S. elections, that Guam has no control over shipping and air transportation, and that there is little control over alien labor entering Guam. He said a continuation of the present status would "see us ultimately lagging far behind political and economic developments in Micronesia."

Recently, the Guam Legislature asked to be admitted as observers to Micronesian-U. S. political status talks.

The three-judge U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco has unanimously voided an agreement between the Navy and the Governor of Guam for the construction of a \$100 million ammunition wharf at Sella Bay on Guam's western coast. A district court in Guam had previously ruled that the governor could engage in land transactions without the approval of the Guam Legislature. This delays plans for the ammunition wharf but does not preclude construction of the wharf in another area nor is it certain that the Guam Legislature will not approve a deal with the Navy. One possible site for the wharf is Orote Point, an area already controlled by the Navy.