

# Marianas Statusers \$ Cut

News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN — The Marianas Political Status Commission is in line for \$95,000 of the \$165,000 it says it needs for the coming year. An appropriations bill for this amount was passed in the closing hours of the Mariana Islands District Legislature on Tuesday.

The measure was trimmed down from an original request of \$110,000.

"This appropriation is enough to allow us to do one more

round of negotiations and pay most of our consultants," said Sen. Edward DLG. Pangelinan yesterday.

Pangelinan, who is chairman of the commission, said he was "very much impressed by the interest of the members of the legislature.

"They had to sacrifice some important public projects in order to accommodate the commission's needs."

Exploring other avenues of funding will be Pangelinan's

next task. He indicated he still intends to bring the request before the Congress of Micronesia when it meets in January, although the Congress is funding its own status committee.

Yesterday Pangelinan made it clear the commission is also seeking solicitations from private sources at P.O. Box 825, Saipan, M.I. 96950.

The major cuts so far have been felt in the commission's travel budget, which was set at \$55,000. A lack of money has left it "no choice but to hold the next round of talks on Saipan," said Pangelinan.

"To do a decent job," he said, "we need travel funds."

Pangelinan added that commission members would to study U.S. military base foreign countries to assess social and economic impact the proposed Tinian base. He also would like to investigate the experiences of other territories, he said.

"Because of our limited funding we're deprived of chance to do some work should be studied carefully have to rely only on consultants."

Pangelinan also mentioned periodic meetings with Ambassador Franklin Ha Williams, visits to Washington and to the United Nations political education program a constitutional convention other areas for which commission needs funding.

He added that a special economic consultant to the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, Saul Silver, is in Saipan this week. A Washington economist is conducting preliminary studies of the Marianas commission request for U.S. financial support under its proposed Phase I transition to commonwealth of the United States.