

Pipe Dreams



By Joe Murphy

Sen. Frank Santos, talking to the Press Association last week, asked for suggestions on needed legislation. I suppose I could have pointed out that I have been making such suggestions daily for the past eight years.

Right now I do have a suggestion to make, because I'm tired of being ripped off by people who take my money, and then leave the island. This has happened three times in a little over a year on a variety of different business transactions. And if this can happen to me, a shrewd, sophisticated wheeler-dealer myself, you can imagine how often it can happen to the ordinary guy.

The problem is that we need a consumer law with teeth, then a better extradition system. I can't remember anybody ever been extradited back to Guam for any kind of fraud. Yet, over and over again these birds come out with a fancy scheme, take payment, and skip the island.

Mother-of-mercy, did you see the figures being bunted around in that CAB hearing in Washington, on the number of Japanese that the airlines plan to bring to Saipan?

At issue, the reports said, is a new international route which will permit air traffic between Saipan and Japan. Since 430,000 Japanese are expected to make that trip each year—the report noted—it is expected that the new route will produce profits. 430,000 Japanese? We assume they are talking about both Guam and Saipan. Otherwise, we're afraid that a half-million Japanese tourists would completely inundate Saipan, a place with 10,000 people, half of whom are kids, and the other half of whom are already working.
