

Mangefel: Talks Accomplished 'Nothing'

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YAP (MNS)—Sen. John Mangefel of Yap feels that "nothing" was accomplished at the most recent round of negotiations on Micronesia's future political status.

The senator, who is a member of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status, commented on the talks during an interview at his Colonia office this week. "I am very upset about

the seventh round of talks," he said, explaining that he feels the position taken by the U.S. that "it" is negotiating for the future status of only five districts rather than all six is not right.

"Only the leaders in the Marianas have expressed their opinion on separation, but this is not yet official—and this should not give the U.S. the notion that the Marianas be excluded

from the talks," said Mangefel. He added that it is a "pre-judgment" for the U.S. at this point in the negotiations to decide to exclude the Marianas.

Asked about the financial part of the draft compact of free association and the fact that the U.S. did not agree to the Micronesian proposal on financial support, Mangefel said that the U.S. had earlier seemed in agreement on the figure of

roughly \$100 million in annual support, but changed their position in Washington. He stated that it is now up to the U.S. to figure out the amount of money it wishes to provide for the future Micronesian government, but said it should be "a figure somewhat closer to our figure." The Yapese lawmaker added that he is hopeful a new U.S. proposal will be forthcoming prior to

the start of the 1974 session on the Congress of Micronesia.

Mangefel has long been a supporter of the concept of free association with the United States for Micronesia, but he has lately become more critical of the way in which the U.S. has been conducting the status negotiations.

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