

4-14-74

4-14-74
Coconut Bill

Becomes Law

SAIPAN (MNS) -- Four additional bills were signed into law late Thursday afternoon by Trust Territory Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman. The Deputy HiCom also disapproved of one bill Thursday, returning it to the congress, the fifth bill to be vetoed.

One of the bills signed is among the major economic development measures to be passed by the congress this year. It is an act which establishes a government authority to engage in the business of processing, manufacturing and selling products derived from the coconut tree, and appropriating \$300,000 for this purpose.

Also signed was an appropriation of \$80,000 for the district fishing authorities; a bill to redesignate and renumber certain sections of public law 4C-68 to eliminate the requirements in this Marshall Island's funding law that the Nitijela provide matching funds; and a bill permitting the Trust Territory government to grant the use of public land on Pagan Island and in the Kagman and Marpi areas of Saipan in the Marianas for such public purposes as the erection of schools, stores, churches and hotels.

The Deputy High Commissioner vetoed a bill that would have exempted non-public schools from the payment of gasoline and diesel fuel excise taxes.

In his veto message to the congress leadership, Coleman said a portion of the bill was "too broad," and could be construed to apply to private, profit making organizations which could provide some vocational training in conjunction with their business. He also said there are, at present, no exceptions to these gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and, "since most of the non-public schools within the Trust Territory are operated by religious institutions, it would be difficult to identify the gasoline and diesel fuel being used for school operations as opposed to other activities."