

participate in the constitutional convention in Saipan," read the proclamation in part. It was widely disseminated in the Marshalls, including over the radio and from the pulpits of many churches. Just what effect it will have on Marshallese participation in the convention remains to be seen, however. Since the law providing for the constitutional convention provides for an election in each district, officials in the Marshalls will have to conduct the election even if there are no candidates. Thus the possibility exists that "write-in" candidates could be elected. At the same time there are certainly those in the Marshalls who favor participation in the convention. One is Congressman John Heine, who said he himself is considering running for convention delegate, and who told newsmen on Saipan last week that at least two others in the Marshalls congressional delegation agree with him that the Marshalls should take part in the convention.

#### SALII GIVES VIEWS ON CON CON

The Chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status, Senator Lazarus Salii of Palau, last week gave his views on the upcoming constitutional convention in an interview conducted by a member of the Congress staff. The interview was to be duplicated and sent to all districts for broadcast on local radio stations.

"It is still possible to design a constitution that will not only safeguard district interests, but also be acceptable and beneficial to them and to Micronesia as a united nation," the Senator said.

He pointed out that the convention is more important than any other event in the history of Micronesia. In drafting the constitution, the delegates will be building the new Micronesia state and setting up its form of government. As they do this, they will have to address the question of Micronesian unity.

"Because of the many problems facing us today on the question of unity," said Senator Salii, "Problems over control of land, over revenue-sharing, and on separate negotiations on future political status, the suggestion for a loose federation between the districts on matters strictly or predomonantly internal to the districts deserves serious consideration by all of us." He also stated that it must be recognized that if any district wishes to stay out of the new Micronesian nation, no matter how the constitution is structured, "we must be prepared to accomodate that situation."

The Palau lawmaker said that only the delegates to the convention themselves can decide such questions as the final form of the constitution, or whether the new nation will include all the six districts. "The time to decide, and to let our desires be known to our fellow Micronesians whether we want to be part of a new nation or not, will be at the convention," he stated.

#### ACTION TAKEN ON SEVERAL BILLS

Several more bills from the Second Regular Session of the Fifth Congress (January-February, 1974 on Saipan) were acted upon by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston last week. By the end of the week only three bills remained on his desk of the 46 that were passed during the session.