

Among the new public laws last week are Public Law 5-85, which provides that Micronesians who are married to non-Micronesians or who have adopted non-Micronesians must apply for foreign business permits before going into business in the TT, and Public Law 5-86, relating to administrative law. The foreign business permit law was one which the HiCom had earlier disapproved, but the Congress overrode his veto and re-passed the measure. In a message to the congressional leadership the HiCom said he still disapproves of the bill and feels it is discriminatory, but cannot justify sending it to the Secretary of Interior. There is some indication the bill will be challenged in court.

Among veto actions taken last week were the following: Senate Bill 276, the salary plan bill, was disapproved because the Congress through the bill was advocating the lowering of salaries for certain Micronesian employees of the executive branch, while raising salaries for its own Micronesian employees, and because the administration could not accept provisions of the bill providing for regular rotation of district administrators and extending the advise and consent powers of the Congress to certain division chiefs; House Bill 197, providing a procedure for the disposing of abandoned watercraft, disapproved because, in the words of the HiCom's veto message, the bill is "cumbersome, duplicative, inconsistent and unessential"; House Bill 249, making certain amendments to the environmental protection law to provide, among other things, for the filing of "environmental impact statements" in certain situations, disapproved because it would have the effect of limiting the authority of the congressionally established Environmental Protection Board, and because it was opposed by the chairman of that board as well as by the Attorney General; and Senate Bill 242, to provide for education of exceptional children, disapproved because it would "usurp" the powers and duties of the Board of Education and the Director of Education.

The three remaining bills are all expected to be acted upon before the end of this week.

BRIEFLY, HERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS THAT MADE NEWS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK:

The people of Kusaie Island have selected a 38-member "political status commission" which is making plans for the January, 1977 transition of the island to district status. Kusaie is presently part of Ponape District, but a law passed by the Congress of Micronesia and signed by the High Commissioner this year will change that.

A boat missing for four days on a six-hour trip from Lib to Ebeye in the Marshall Islands was recovered following an aerial search. The boat was located on the Kwajalein reef, its nine occupants in good condition.

Following a sharp increase in the number of small boat accidents and other incidents in recent weeks, Military Liaison Office on Saipan, Lt. Cmdr. Alan Pendleton issued instructions last week to all District Administrators on how to handle requests for assistance. He also pointed out that aerial searches are expensive, and that most boating incidents could be prevented if even the simplest safety measures were practiced. He urged all districts to set up boating safety programs.