

(PACE STEPS UP)

SAIPAN, JULY 30 (MNS) ⁷⁴ THE PACE OF ACTIVITY INCREASED TUESDAY (JULY 30), IN THE CURRENT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIAL SESSION, AS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED FIVE BILLS ON FIRST READING, AND THE SENATE APPROVED ONE BILL ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. File
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ON ITS WAY TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS A MEASURE THAT WOULD AMEND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-60) AS IT PERTAINS TO COMPENSATION FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES, (SB 349). THE TWELVE SENATORS PASSED THE BILL UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A REPORT FROM SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK), CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, EXPLAINING THE CHANGES MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BILL.

AS PASSED, THE MEASURE PROVIDES FOR COMPENSATION OF \$25 DOLLARS A DAY FOR EACH DELEGATE, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHO ARE DELEGATES WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR CONGRESSIONAL SALARY WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO SERVE AS DELEGATES WILL RECEIVE COMPENSATION ONLY IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO BRING THE AMOUNT THEY ARE BEING PAID UP TO \$25 DOLLARS A DAY INCLUDING THEIR GOVERNMENT SALARY. DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONVENTION AWAY FROM THEIR HOME DISTRICTS WOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PER DIEM AT STANDARD GOVERNMENT RATES, IN ADDITION TO THE DAILY COMPENSATION PROVIDED BY THE BILL.

THE FIVE BILLS PASSED ON FIRST READING IN THE HOUSE ARE ALL APPROPRIATION MEASURES. THEY INCLUDE: \$120,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COPRA WAREHOUSES IN EACH DISTRICT (HB 273); \$45,200 FOR THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION (HB 296); \$203,711 FOR THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES (HB 316); \$100,000 FOR MARINE TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS (HB 343); AND \$153,100 FOR HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL AND \$62,430 FOR HOSPITAL FEEDING PROGRAMS IN A SINGLE BILL (HB 347).

NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE TUESDAY INCLUDE A BILL THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO INITIATE AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE A GREATER SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY IN MICRONESIA (SB 349); AND A JOINT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD ASK THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ABOLISH THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD AND TRANSFER ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES TO COMPARABLE ENTITIES IN EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICTS (SJR 126).

FIVE BILLS AND THREE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE. THE BILLS ARE: AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW TO ALLOW THE TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP DELEGATES A VOTE IN THE CONVENTION (HB 349); A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR A TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO MICRONESIAN CITIZENS AND WHOLLY MICRONESIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE TT (HB 350); A MEASURE WHICH WOULD MAKE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THE SOLE JUDGE OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS AND, IN ADDITION, WOULD PROVIDE THAT NO DELEGATE CONVICTED OF A FELONY, EITHER IN THE TT OR IN ANY COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE SEATED OR ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION (HB 351); A MEASURE RELATING TO UNOBLIGATED BALANCES FROM APPROPRIATION BILLS IN PALAU DISTRICT (HB 352); AND A BILL APPROPRIATING \$20,000 FOR A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN CONNECTION WITH THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (HB 353).

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JOINT RESOLUTIONS OFFERED TUESDAY IN THE HOUSE WOULD COMMEND CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS SERVICE TO TINIAN ISLAND, IN THE MARIANAS (HJR 139); AND WOULD EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT PONAPE ISLAND BE THE SITE FOR THE CAPITAL OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA (HJR 141).

IN ADDITION TO THE FLOOR ACTION AND INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES, THE LAWMAKERS HEARD SPEECHES DELIVERED BY REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL (PALAU) IN THE HOUSE, AND BY SENATOR JOHN MANGAFEL (YAP) IN THE SENATE (SEE FOLLOWING STORY). THE TWO HOUSES WILL MEET AGAIN WEDNESDAY MORNING AT TEN.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(OLKERIIL DISCUSSES CON CON)

SAIPAN, JULY 30 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL OF PALAU URGED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TUESDAY TO CONSIDER WAYS THAT DISTRICT DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MIGHT MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CHOICES OPEN TO THEM AND THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE THEY WILL REPRESENT AT THE HISTORIC MEETING.

TAKING THE CONGRESS TO TASK FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "HASTILY ADOPTING" THE CONVENTION BILL WITHOUT CAREFUL PREPARATION DURING THE FINAL HOURS OF THE LAST REGULAR SESSION IN MARSH, OLKERIIL TOLD THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN A SPEECH THAT THE CONGRESS "COULD LEARN FROM THIS MISTAKE I FEEL WE MADE." "THIS TIME," HE ADDED. "WE STILL HAVE TIME TO DO WHAT WE FAILED TO DO BEFORE.

"THE CONGRESS IS STILL DOING MANY GOOD THINGS, BUT IT IS ALSO GETTING CARELESS IN ITS WORK," SAID OLKERIIL. "WE ARE GETTING CARELESS IN THIS HOUSE, AND ONE RESULT IS THAT WE ARE BECOMING MORE EASILY MANIPULATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, THE PALAU CONGRESSMAN SAID "OUTSIDE PRESSURE", INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT A \$400,000 APPROPRIATION FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS MIGHT LAPSE, CAUSE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ADOPT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL, AND PUT ASIDE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY SEVERAL DISTRICTS THAT MORE TIME AND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE MEASURE.

"WE LET THE ADMINISTRATION 'RAILROAD' THE BILL THROUGH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN EXACTLY THE FORM IT WISHED," HE SAID "WITH NO PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL PREPARATION AND WITHOUT EVEN ANY SERIOUS DEBATE."

OLKERIIL INDICATED THIS WAS DONE ALTHOUGH THE CONGRESS WAS AWARE THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WERE UNINFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUES INVOLVED, AND THAT MANY OF THEM DID NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OR WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.

"FINALLY," HE SAID, "MOST OF US WONDERED WHY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT SHOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN THE DRAFTING OF A CONSTITUTION FOR A MICRONESIA THEY WERE COMMITTED TO LEAVING. YET, AS IN THE PAST, WE DID NOT HAVE THE COURAGE TO BRING THIS TOUCHY QUESTION OUT INTO THE OPEN."

OLKERIIL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE CONVENTION BE POSTPONED OR DELAYED.

"I ONLY ASK THAT WE THINK CAREFULLY HOW WE, IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, CAN ASSURE THAT THE DELEGATES FROM EACH DISTRICT KNOW BEFORE THEY COME HERE TO SAIPAN WHAT THEIR OWN PEOPLE WANT, AND THAT THEIR PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS FULLY UNDERSTAND THE

CHOICES WHICH LIE OPEN TO THEM. EVEN MORE," HE CONTINUED, "I HOPE THAT WE CAN ALL LEARN FROM THIS MISTAKE I FEEL WE MADE. THIS TIME, FORTUNATELY, WE STILL HAVE TIME TO DO WHAT WE FAILED TO DO BEFORE. ANOTHER TIME WE MAY NOT HAVE A SECOND CHANCE."

OLKERIIL SAID IN ITS EARLIER DAYS THE CONGRESS WAS UNITED AND STRONG, AND PULLED MICRONESIA TOGETHER INTO "A NEW AWARENESS OF ITSELF AS A NATION" AND BY DEMANDING A VOICE IN MICRONESIA'S OWN POLITICAL FUTURE, "SINGLE-HANDEDLY UNDERMINED THE U.S. STRATEGY FOR ANNEXATION."

"WE BEAR A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR NATION AND ITS FUTURE," OLKERIIL SAID, CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS. "WE MUST LEARN ONCE AGAIN TO ACT RESPONSIBLY."

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MANGEFEL SAYS SALARY PLAN UNFAIR)

SAIPAN, JULY 30 (CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)---THE FAIRNESS OF THE PRESENT SALARY PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SPEECH IN THE SENATE TUESDAY BY SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP.

IN HIS REMARKS, SENATOR MANGEFEL FIRST VOICED HIS OPINION ON LEGISLATION REGARDING CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LOCALLY HIRED OR ARE CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID THAT HIS ONLY POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER WAS THAT: "NO NON-MICRONESIAN SHOULD EVER BE HIRED WHEN THERE IS A QUALIFIED MICRONESIAN AVAILABLE... CONVERSELY, WHERE THERE ARE NO QUALIFIED MICRONESIANS AVAILABLE, WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO HIRE THE BEST APPLICANT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO OUR PEOPLE."

SENATOR MANGEFEL THEN TURNED TO THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF THE SINGLE SALARY PLAN FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, A PLAN WHICH HE HAD OPPOSED PRIOR TO ITS PASSAGE IN 1973.

"MY VERY SERIOUS CONCERN WHICH I HAVE EXPRESSED IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS DEALS BASICALLY WITH THE GAP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR LOWEST PAID GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND OUR HIGHEST PAID WORKERS..." HE SAID.

THE SENATOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GAP HAD INCREASED BECAUSE OF THE RISING COSTS OF GOODS SO THAT "THE ONES THAT ARE HURT THE MOST. ARE THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE LEAST."

THE YAP SENATOR SAID THAT THE PLAN WAS GOOD BECAUSE IT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF PREVIOUSLY EXISTING PAY PLANS, BUT THAT THE PLAN WAS "COMPLICATED" AND DID NOT "FIT INTO WHAT I THINK SHOULD BE DICTATED BY THE LIFESTYLES AND REALITIES OF MICRONESIA".

HE NOTED THAT HE HAS HEARD MANY TIMES IN THE CONGRESS THAT MICRONESIA SHOULD NOT ADOPT SYSTEMS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE AMERICAN OR BECAUSE THEY ARE NEW.

"DESPITE THESE WORTHY COMMENTS, WE HAVE GONE AND ADOPTED A PAY PLAN WORTHY OF AN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY WHICH IS NEITHER EQUITABLE NOR MICRONESIAN ORIENTED: A PLAN THAT HAS CAUSED MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO GO AND QUIT THEIR JOBS OR GO ON STRIKE OR BE DISSATISFIED AND DISCONTENTED WITH THEIR WORK."

"IT SEEMS TO ME," HE CONTINUED, "THAT RATHER THAN ENACTING A SALARY PLAN FOR MICRONESIANS--WHO CONSTITUTE 90 PER CENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES--WE HAVE PASSED A LAW WHICH FOR THE MOST PART IS CONCERNED WITH THE SALARIES OF THE 10 PER CENT CON-MICRONESIANS IN OUR GOVERNMENT."

THE YAP SENATOR THEN QUESTIONED "WHO IS DOING MORE FOR MICRONESIA?" IS IT THE WORKER, WHO IS SWEATING BUILDING ROADS, DOCKS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, OR WHO IS CATCHING SOME OF HIS OWN FISH AND GROWING SOME OF HIS OWN FOOD? OR IS IT THE BUREAUCRAT GETTING \$16,000 A YEAR, A FREE HOUSE, FREE UTILITIES AND OTHER BENEFITS AND WHO COMES TO WORK LATE, SPENDS TWO HOURS OVER LUNCH WITH COCKTAILS, AND LEAVES FOR HIS HOME EXACTLY AT 4:30 OR A LITTLE BEFORE. I ASK YOU...IS THIS KIND OF GAP FAIR? I THINK NOT," SAID SENATOR MANGEFEL.

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WHILE THE CONGRESS WAS NOT NOW CONSIDERING THE PAY PLAN, THAT IT WAS A GOOD TIME TO RAISE THE ISSUE AND THAT HE WOULD WORK DURING THE NEXT CONGRESS TO SEE THAT THE GAP IS NARROWED.

"FURTHERMORE, SINCE WE WILL HAVE A NEW GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA IN THE FUTURE, I THINK WE NEED TO REEVALUATE AND SEARCH DEEPLY INTO OUR HEARTS AS WE STUDY THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WE NOW HAVE," HE CONTINUED.

"IF WE DO NOT THEN WE WILL BE GUILTY OF PERPETRATING THE SAME BANKRUPT POLICIES WHICH WE HAVE TODAY. I WOULD SERIOUSLY SUGGEST THAT EACH AND EVERYONE OF US GIVE THE MATTER SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS," SAID SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP.

(HICOM SAYS MARIJUANA STILL PROHIBITED)

SAIPAN, JULY 30 (MNS)---EVEN THOUGH A RECENT TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT RULING INVALIDATED ALL TT STATUTES PROHIBITING THE USE OF MARIJUANA, HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON SAID TUESDAY (JULY 30) THAT THE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA REMAINS AN OFFENSE.

ACCORDING TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE U.S. FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, WHICH MAKES THE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA AN OFFENSE, IS FULLY APPLICABLE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE HICOM ALSO SAID THAT TT ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD I. MIYAMOTO HAS FILED AN APPEAL WITH THE HIGH COURT ASKING FOR A REVERSAL OF CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT'S DECISION. IT WAS FILED THURSDAY (JULY 25).

IN THE MEANTIME, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SAID THAT OTHER TRUST TERRITORY LAWS PROHIBITING THE USE OR SALE OF OPIUM OR HEROIN, AS WELL AS THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT, WILL CONTINUE TO BE "VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED", BY THE TRUST TERRITORY POLICE.

THE HICOM SAID HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE OPINIONS HE HAS HEARD THAT DRUGS WERE NOW WITHOUT CONTROL IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS NOT SO.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO SAID THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE RESULTS OF THE COURT'S DECISION. THESE CONGRESSMEN, HE SAID, HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PASS APPROPRIATE DRUG ABUSE LEGISLATION DURING THE CURRENT SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND SUCH LEGISLATION WILL SOON BE READY FOR CONSIDERATION.

(SEAFOOD FIRM ISSUED PERMIT)

SAIPAN, JULY 20 (MNS)---THE MARSHALL ISLANDS SEAFOOD ENTERPRISES COMPANY HAS BEEN ISSUED A TRUST TERRITORY BUSINESS PERMIT, ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

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THE COMPANY HAS INDICATED THAT IT WISH TO DEVELOP A SEAFOOD COMPANY IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT. THEY HOPE TO DEVELOP TUNA, LOBSTER, AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES, THEIR APPLICATION SAID.

KABUA KABUA, A MARSHALLESE PARAMOUNT CHIEF, IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY. LAWRENCE EDWARDS, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

(FERRO-CEMENT BOAT LAUNCHED)

TRUK, JULY 31 (MNS)---THE FIRST FERRO-CEMENT FISHING BOAT CONSTRUCTED IN MICRONESIA WAS LAUNCHED JULY 26 IN TRUK, IT WAS REPORTED BY NOHA RUBEN, TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER.

THE 37-FOOT NOMWIN FISHING CO-OP, NFC, BOAT WAS CHRISTENED BY MRS. RAYMOND SETIK, WIFE OF THE TRUK REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE NEW BOAT WAS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE TRUK BOAT BUILDING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. IT WAS BUILT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DENIS BRADSHAW, MANAGER OF HONIARA SHIPYARD AND MARINE IN THE LOLOMON ISLANDS, AS PART OF THE BOAT BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM BEGUN IN 1972. EIGHT OF THE TRAINEES ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL BOATS, ANOTHER 37 FOOTER AND A 28-FOOT "C-BURRO" FISHING BOAT. THE TWO LARGER BOATS ARE DESIGNED FOR OPEN-OCEAN TRAVEL, WHILE THE SMALLER BOAT WILL BE USED PRIMARILY FOR LAGOON FISHING.

THE NFC WILL BE TESTED IN THE TRUK LAGOON BEFORE IT MAKES ITS MAIDEN SEA VOYAGE TO NOMWIN IN THE HALL ISLANDS WHERE, ACCORDING TO RUBEN, "THE BOAT WILL BE PUT TO WORK EARNING A LIVING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HALLS".

(AMA PRESIDENT TO VISIT TT)

SAIPAN, JULY 30 (MNS)---TWO DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL DOCTORS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN A VISIT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO TT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI.

DR. MALCOLM C. TODD, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA), AND R. ADM. JOHN S. COWAN (USN RETIRED), ARE SLATED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (AUGUST 1). THEY WILL MEET WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON THURSDAY.

ACCORDING TO DR. KUMANGAI, THE TWO VISITORS WILL VISIT THE TT TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROGRESS AND NEEDS OF TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SERVICES AND SEE WHAT ASSISTANCE THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CAN PROVIDE TO THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THEY ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL, BOTH HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICTS, AND WILL ALSO VISIT VARIOUS HEALTH SERVICES FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT CENTERS. THEY ALSO PLAN TO VISIT SOME OUTER ISLAND DISPENSARIES.

THEIR SCHEDULE CALLS FOR THEM TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN THURSDAY, DEPART THE NEXT DAY FOR PALAU FOR A THREE DAY VISIT AND THE TOUR TRUK FOR ONE DAY.