

(CON CON MEASURE SPARKS DEBATE)

PILB

SAIPAN, AUGUST 1 (MNS) ¹⁴A MEASURE THAT WOULD AMEND THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW TO GIVE ALL DELEGATES VOTING RIGHTS IN THE CONVENTION, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RULES FOR THE REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION, SPARKED A LENGTHY FLOOR DEBATE IN THE SENATE THURSDAY (AUG. 1), THE TENTH DAY OF THE CURRENT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN.

THE CONTROVERSIAL BILL, (SB 351) WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), AIMS TO DO AWAY WITH THE CONCEPT OF NON-VOTING DELEGATES, GIVING BOTH ELECTED AND APPOINTED DELEGATES FULL VOTING RIGHTS IN THE CONVENTION, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY EXPECTED TO BE HELD EARLY IN 1975. THE BILL WOULD ALSO AMEND THE LAW TO REQUIRE THAT THE REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION BE CONDUCTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PLEBISCITE ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, AND THAT IT BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ALL DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. FURTHER, THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE THAT, IN ORDER FOR THE CONSTITUTION TO BE EFFECTIVE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MICRONESIANS VOTING WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE IT AND, IN ADDITION, A MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING IN AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SIX DISTRICTS, OR IF KUSAIE IS A DISTRICT AT THE TIME, FIVE OF THE SEVEN DISTRICTS, WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE OF THE DOCUMENT. THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD ALSO AMEND THE LAW TO PROVIDE THAT THE CONSTITUTION WOULD NOT TAKE EFFECT IN ANY DISTRICT UNLESS AT LEAST ONE-FOURTH OF THE VOTERS APPROVE IT, EVEN ASSUMING THE OTHER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET.

ONLY ONE SENATOR, JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP, OBJECTED TO GIVING VOTING RIGHTS TO THE APPOINTED TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP DELEGATES, AND HE DID SO ON GROUNDS THAT MICRONESIA'S TRADITIONAL LEADERS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO THE KIND OF POLITICKING THAT COULD DEVELOP AT THE CONVENTION. IT WAS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS THEMSELVES, AT A CONFERENCE THIS YEAR IN PONAPE, HAD ASKED FOR THE VOTING RIGHTS.

THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE REFERENDUM CAUSED THE MOST TROUBLE. AS WRITTEN, THE BILL WOULD ALLOW THE CONSTITUTION TO BE IMPOSED ON A DISTRICT EVEN THOUGH A MAJORITY OF THAT DISTRICT'S VOTERS DID NOT APPROVE OF IT, IF THOSE DISAPPROVING DID NOT CONSTITUTE AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS OF THE VOTE. SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA AND SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, BOTH OF THE MARIANAS, OBJECTED TO THIS PROVISION. DURING A RECESS, SEVERAL OTHER SENATORS ALSO ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RATHER COMPLICATED FORMULA FOR DETERMINING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CONSTITUTION CONTAINED IN THE BILL.

FINALLY, ON MOTION OF THE BILL'S AUTHOR, SENATOR SALII, ACTION ON THE COMMITTEE REPORT CONCERNING THE BILL, AND HENCE ON THE BILL ITSELF, WAS DEFERRED FOR ONE DAY TO GIVE THE SENATORS MORE TIME TO STUDY BOTH THE REPORT AND THE BILL.

THE ONLY FINAL FLOOR ACTION TAKEN IN THE SENATE THURSDAY WAS ADOPTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION ASKING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN FISHERIES TO THE TRUST TERRITORY (SJR 122). THIS MEASURE NOW GOES TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

IN THE HOUSE, A BRIEF SESSION THURSDAY SAW ONE BILL PASSED ON FIRST READING, A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR MICRONESIA (HB 357). NO FINAL FLOOR ACTION WAS TAKEN ON EITHER BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS.

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IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, THE MAJOR ADMINISTRATION DRUG BILL WAS INTRODUCED BY REQUEST. THE 54-PAGE BILL, WHICH HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON HAS ENABLED THE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION BY VIRTUE OF A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE LAWMAKERS EARLIER THIS WEEK, WOULD REPLACE CHAPTER SEVEN OF TITLE 63 OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY, SUBSTITUTING A NEW CHAPTER ON MEDICINES AND DRUGS TO BE KNOWN AS THE TRUST TERRITORY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (SB 362 AND HB 359). PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE BILL ARE EXPECTED TO BE HELD WITHIN A DAY OR TWO BY THE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO WHICH THE BILL WAS ASSIGNED. SOME LEGISLATIVE OBSERVERS EXPRESSED DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH SUCH A LARGE AND COMPLICATED MEASURE IN THE SHORT TIME REMAINING TO THEM DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION.

IN THE SENATE, OTHER BILLS INTRODUCED THURSDAY WERE: A MEASURE TO DECLARE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT NULL AND VOID, RE-DRAW SOME OF THE DELEGATE DISTRICT LINES, AND PROVIDE FOR A NEW ELECTION (SB 363); A SIMILAR BILL THAT WOULD DECLARE THE ELECTION IN SOME OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATE DISTRICTS VOID, PROVIDE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT RE-DISTRICTING, AND PROVIDE FOR A NEW ELECTION (SB 364); AND TWO APPROPRIATION MEASURES, ONE OF \$348,000 FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT (SB 365), AND ONE OF \$30,000 TO PROVIDE SPECIAL POLICE TRAINING (SB 366).

SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL (YAP) INTRODUCED ANOTHER OF HIS HUMOROUS RESOLUTIONS, THIS ONE ASKING THE ALMIGHTY TO ROLL BACK THE PAGES OF HISTORY IN MICRONESIA TO A LESS COMPLICATED TIME BEFORE THE COMING OF FOREIGNERS TO THE ISLANDS (SJR 128).

IN ADDITION TO THE DRUG BILL, THE MARIANAS GENERAL FUNDING BILL WAS ALSO INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY (HB 360). HOUSE MEMBERS ALSO OFFERED THREE JOINT RESOLUTIONS, ONE REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A ONE DOLLAR PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE, AND A FIFTY PER CENT WAGE INCREASE FOR LOW INCOME POSITIONS IN MICRONESIA, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS (HJR 144); ONE ASKING THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO DELAY THE REQUIREMENT FOR REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW AND PERMANENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA (HJR 145); AND A MEASURE CONGRATULATING CY WEISBROT, FATHER OF CONGRESS STAFF MEMBER DAVID WEISBROT, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 44TH BIRTHDAY (HJR 146).

BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL TEN FRIDAY MORNING. FIVE DAYS REMAIN IN THE SPECIAL SESSION, WHICH IS TO END NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT TUESDAY, AUGUST 6.

(CRALEY URGES RESOLUTION OF MARIANAS QUESTION)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 1 (MNS)---THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, N. NEIMAN CRALEY, JR., SAYS THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MARIANAS IN THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS A "CLOUD OVER THE CONVENTION."

SPEAKING ON THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT RADIO PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA," CRALEY SAID THAT HE HOPES THAT QUESTION OF MARIANAS PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION CAN BE RESOLVED SOON. BUT, HE SAID, ONLY THE MARIANAS PEOPLE CAN SETTLE THE

ISSUE WHEN THEY VOTE IN A POLITICAL STATUS REFERENDUM.

ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION OF THE UN TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, HE SAID THAT HE FEELS A TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE ACTION BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AS WELL AS APPROVAL BY THE PRESIDENT AND THEN APPROVAL BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

A FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN, CRALEY STATED THAT HE PERSONALLY FEELS AN ELECTED MICRONESIAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD HELP KEEP MICRONESIA UNITED. ONLY THE CONGRESS, HE SAID, IS ELECTED BUT EVEN ITS MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP OF VOTERS. AN ELECTED HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD PROVIDE A BROADER ELECTORAL BASE AND PROVIDE MICRONESIANS WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONALISM, CRALEY STATED.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION DRUG LEGISLATION PRESENTED DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, HE SAID HE DOES NOT FEEL THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OF IT PASSING DURING THIS SESSION.

CRALEY ALSO SAID THAT THE BILL BEFORE THE CONGRESS ABOUT SALARIES FOR LOCAL HIRE PERSONNEL IS NECESSARY AS MANY LOCAL HIRES IN HEALTH SERVICES AND EDUCATION MAY RESIGN BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT LAW, WHICH REQUIRES THAT THEIR SALARIES BE REDUCED.

CRALEY IS THE THIRD GUEST TO APPEAR ON THE PROGRAM. OTHERS HAVE BEEN CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATORS EDWARD PANGELINAN AND LAZARUS SALII. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO INTERVIEWED CRALEY WERE JON ANDERSON OF THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE, JOAN KING OF PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, AND ABED YOUNIS OF THE MARIANAS VARIETY. THE PROGRAMS ARE DUPLICATED AND DISTRIBUTED FOR BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY. THE NEXT GUEST ON "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA" WILL BE SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK, WHO WILL DISCUSS THE LAW OF THE SEA.

(BUSINESS LAW CALLED UNFAIR)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 1 (MNS)---THE FIRST MICRONESIAN CITIZEN TO FILE A REPORT FOR A FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMIT AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC LAW 5-85, MRS. ROSA C. CARPENTER, STATED THAT THE LAW IS UNFAIR AND THAT SHE IS BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE SHE IS A MICRONESIAN CITIZEN.

MRS. CARPENTER IS MARRIED TO RAY CARPENTER, A U.S. CITIZEN. SHE FILED A REPORT FOR A FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMIT FOR THE CAMACHO/CARPENTER FAMILY ENTERPRISES, AN AGRICULTURALLY RELATED REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RENTAL BUSINESS ON SAIPAN.

THE CARPENTERS HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM SAIPAN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. UPON RETURNING TO MICRONESIA, THEY HEARD THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD PASSED PL 5-85. THEY FEEL THAT THE LAW "DISENFRANCHISES" MICRONESIANS FROM THEIR OWN COUNTRY, SHE SAID THIS WEEK.

MR. CARPENTER STATED THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE REASONING BEHIND THE LAW AND STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THE FACT THAT HIS WIFE IS NOT RECEIVING EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW THAT IS GUARANTEED TO ALL MICRONESIANS. HE SAID THAT HE FOUND IT "ALARMING" THAT A LEGISLATIVE BODY COULD ENACT SUCH A LAW.

BECAUSE THEY PLAN TO LEAVE SAIPAN SOON, THE CARPENTERS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT CONTEST THE LAW'S REQUIREMENTS. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNDERSTAND A CLASS ACTION SUIT WILL BE FILED SHORTLY AGAINST THE LAW.

MRS. CARPENTER STATED THAT SHE WOULD FILE A REPORT

AS REQUIRED BY THE LAW IN ANTICIPATION THAT IT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE FOUND INVALID BECAUSE OF ITS "DISCRIMINATORY" NATURE.

(SIX PREPARE FOR WORKSHOP)

TRUK, AUGUST 1 (MNS)---SIX REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN IN PONAPE AND THE MARSHALLS DISTRICTS MET WITH TRUK COMMUNITY LEADERS LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING "HUMAN RESOURCES WORKSHOP" THEY WILL ATTEND IN BANGKOK, THAILAND.

ACCORDING TO NOHA RUBEN, TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, THE SIX WILL ATTEND THE "DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN RURAL ASIA WORKSHOP" FROM AUGUST 4 TO THE 26. IT IS SPONSORED BY SOCIAL ECONOMIC LIFE IN ASIA, A JESUIT ORGANIZATION.

THE SIX, RUBEN SAID, STOPPED IN TRUK TO LEARN THE VIEWS OF TRUKESSE SINCE NO ONE FROM THAT DISTRICT WAS ATTENDING THE MEETING. FATHER FOGELSANGER OF TRUK'S SOCIAL ACTION CENTER SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP IS TO "PROVIDE A FORUM FOR RURAL LEADERS SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE A VOICE AND ABILITY TO CONTROL CHANGE."

THE TRUKESSE LEADERS TOLD THE REPRESENTATIVES, RUBEN REPORTED, THAT THEY "WERE DISTURBED BY THE DRASTIC CHANGES THAT HAVE AFFECTED THEIR LIVES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, ESPECIALLY THE INCREASED DEPENDENCE ON MATERIAL THINGS AND MONEY."

THE WORKSHOP DELEGATION IS MADE UP OF SISTER DOROTHY NOOK AND MIXA NIMRIK OF THE MARSHALLS, THE REV. KOROBIN KERMIN, CATHOLIC DEACON OF ROI; AND YASUO YAMADA, NARCISO KOSKA. WENDILIN SUO AND FATHER JOSEPH CAVANAGH OF PONAPE.

(SAIPANESE APPOINTED TO MARITIME ACADEMY)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 1 (MNS)---EDMUND RABOULIMAN OF SAIPAN HAS RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT TO THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY, ANNOUNCED GORDON TYDINGCO, MANAGER OF THE TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION THIS WEEK.

RABOULIMAN, A GRADUATE OF MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL, PLANS TO BEGIN A NAUTICAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM AT THE ACADEMY THIS FALL. HE WILL BE STUDYING UNDER A FULL TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP.

ACCORDING TO TYDINGCO, APPROXIMATELY \$35,000 IN TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS IS AWARDED EACH YEAR TO MICRONESIANS FOR MARITIME STUDIES.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(MARIANAS CON CON HEADS ELECTED)

SAIPAN, JULY 31 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS ISLANDS DISTRICT DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTED OFFICERS AT AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON SAIPAN LATE TUESDAY.

LORENZO LG. CABRERA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION FOR MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION, AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATOR OLYMPIO T. PORJA WAS VOTED VICE CHAIRMAN, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER.

BOTH DELEGATES, WHO WERE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY. ASKED

FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IN FULFILLING THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, ACCORDING TO SENATOR BORJA, AND SAID FURTHER STAFF APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE MADE AS NEEDED. THE CONVENTION IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD ON SAIPAN EARLY IN 1975.

THE MARIANAS DISTRICT DELEGATES INCLUDE: LORENZO LG. CABRERA, CHAIRMAN; SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA, VICE CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTING THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; JOSE R. CRUZ; LUIS LIMES; JOAQUIN I. PANGELINAN; FIDEL MENDIOLA; AND DR. FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS.