

(THREE MORE BILLS TO HICOM)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (MNS) - <sup>4</sup>THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL BE RECEIVING THREE MORE BILLS AS A RESULT OF ACTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (AUG. 8), WITH ONE MORE DAY REMAINING IN THE CURRENT SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN.

A TOTAL OF FIVE BILLS HAS NOW BEEN SENT TO THE HICOM. THE LATEST THREE ARE ALL APPROPRIATION MEASURES, IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS: \$304,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN YAP DISTRICT (HB 252); \$70,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THE PRESENT DOCK IN MAJURO (HB 200); AND \$40,000 FOR THE JALUIT SUPER DISPENSARY (HB 102). MINOR

AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN MADE IN ALL THREE BILLS BY THE SENATE, AND THE HOUSE ACTION ACCEPTING THOSE CHANGES COMPLETED LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON THE MEASURES.

MUCH OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION IN THE HOUSE WAS DEVOTED TO A DISCUSSION OF A REPORT BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF SIX NAMED EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY THE HOUSE SPEAKER TO INVESTIGATE THE REVENUE-SHARING QUESTION. THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY PALAU REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL, BROUGHT IN A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE REVENUE COLLECTED UNDER THE TERRITORY'S INCOME AND GROSS RECEIPTS TAX LAW BE SPLIT WITH THE DISTRICTS ON THE BASIS OF 70 PER CENT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND 30 PER CENT TO THE DISTRICTS FROM WHICH THE REVENUE WAS COLLECTED.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK (MARSHALLS), WHOSE DISTRICT CONTRIBUTES MOST OF THE TERRITORY'S TAX REVENUE, SAID THE 30 PER CENT AMOUNT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. HE SAID HIS DELEGATION HAD ATTENDED THIS SPECIAL SESSION, DESPITE A NITIJELA RESOLUTION URGING THE DELEGATION NOT TO TAKE PART IN ANY FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CONGRESS, BECAUSE OF INDICATIONS FROM OTHER DISTRICT DELEGATIONS THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PASS REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION. HE STRONGLY URGED THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE 50 PER CENT TAX REVENUE SHARE THAT THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT HAS BEEN SEEKING.

PALAU CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS SUGGESTED THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE RESUME ITS DELIBERATIONS, BUT THIS TIME WITH THE ENTIRE MARSHALLS DELEGATION INVITED TO SIT IN (REPRESENTATIVE AJAJI BALOS IS THE MARSHALLS MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE) AND WORK OUT A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE, HE SUGGESTED APPROVING THE 50 PER CENT SHARE BUT MAKING THE EFFECTIVE DATE 1976 OR 1977 BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE BY THE CONGRESS FOR THE FUNDING OF OTHER PROJECTS.

REPRESENTATIVE RESIO MOSES (PONAPE) FINALLY MOVED THAT ACTION ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT BE DEFERRED, THE MOTION CARRIED, AND NO FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN CONCERNING REVENUE SHARING.

IN OTHER ACTION IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY, ONE BILL WAS PASSED ON FINAL READING SENT TO THE SENATE. IT IS A MEASURE TO CONTROL THE POSSESSION AND USE OF CERTAIN DRUGS (HB 359). THIS IS THE MAJOR ADMINISTRATION DRUG CONTROL BILL THAT WAS INTRODUCED DURING THE SESSION AFTER HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AMENDED THE CALL TO ENABLE THE CONGRESS TO DEAL WITH THE MEASURE. ONLY ONE DISSENTING VOTE WAS CAST ON THE BILL, BY PONAPE'S CONGRESSMAN MOSES. A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE HOUSE COMPLETED ACTION ON THE BILL, THE SENATE PASSED IT ON FIRST READING, SETTING IT UP FOR

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FINAL ACTION ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SESSION.

IN THE SENATE THURSDAY AFTERNOON, ONLY ONE BILL WAS PASSED ON FINAL READING. IT IS A MEASURE THAT WOULD AMEND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES FROM 60 TO 72 PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO DELEGATES FROM EACH DISTRICT TO BE SELECTED BY THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE (SB 360). THE BILL NOW GOES TO THE HOUSE.

ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, THE SENATORS ADOPTED ONE JOINT MEASURE CONGRATULATING NEVADA SENATOR ALAN BIBLE ON HIS RETIREMENT AND THANKING HIM FOR HIS SERVICE TO MICRONESIA (HJR 142).

HOUSE MEMBERS ADOPTED FOUR JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THEY ARE: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U. S. CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD TO RETIAN STUDENT AND YOUTH FARES BETWEEN THE TT, GUAM AND HONOLULU AND TO RESTORE STUDENT AND YOUTH FARES BETWEEN HONOLULU AND THE UNITED STATES MAINLAND AND WITHIN THE MAINLAND (HJR 149); AND THREE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS EXPRESSING THANKS TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FRANK N. JONES (SJR 135), DEAN JOSHUA M. MORE (SJR 136), AND DEAN CLINTON BAMBERGER (SJR 137).

SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET EARLY FRIDAY TO DISCUSS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS OF THE IMPORTANT RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS BILL (SB 296). THE SENATE HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT CHANGES IN THE BILL MADE BY THE HOUSE.

THE ONLY NEW MEASURE INTRODUCED IN EITHER CHAMBER THURSDAY AFTERNOON WAS A RESOLUTION OFFERED IN THE HOUSE URGING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) IN ESTABLISHING THE INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY (HR 15).

BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL 2:00 P.M. FRIDAY AFTERNOON, WHICH IS THE LAST DAY OF THE 13-DAY SPECIAL SESSION.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(CONGRESS VOYAGE MUST CONTINUE)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---IN HIS FIRST SPEECH OF THE SPECIAL SESSION, MARSHALL ISLANDS CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE TOLD THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THURSDAY THAT MICRONESIA MUST "KEEP SAILING TOGETHER."

ASKING FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND UNITY, HE SAID: "IF WE FACE THE WORLD SINGULARLY, ONE BY ONE, WE WILL EVENTUALLY BE ASSIMILATED OR WIPED OUT. THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN CUT OFF OUR FINGERS ONE BY ONE, BUT IF WE STAY TOGETHER, WE MAKE A POWERFUL FIST."

READING FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT, HEINE REMINDED HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN 1965. HE SAID MANY MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS ATTENDED THE HISTORIC MEETING AND GAVE SPEECHES. ONE LEADER, HE SAID, CAME FROM MICRONESIA'S EASTERN-MOST DISTRICT, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, AND COMPARED THE OPENING OF OUR CONGRESS TO THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW SAILING CANOE.

"OUR WISE CHIEF SAID THIS CANOE WAS BEGINNING A MOST IMPORTANT JOURNEY, A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY," HEINE STATED, "AND THAT THE CREW MEMBERS ON THIS VESSEL WERE CAREFULLY CHOSEN OF ABLE MEN FROM EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. OUR ABLE CHIEF, WHO WAS IROIJ LEJELLAN KABUA,

SAID THAT THE LAUNCHING OF THE CONGRESS WAS LIKE WHAT WE MARSHALLESE CALL "JERAKIARLAP".

HEINE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN CREWMEN RAISE THE SAID IN PUBLIC VIEW TO BEGIN A VOYAGE. AT THAT POINT THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK.

"THE VOYAGE MUST GO ON," HE SAID. "TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE HUMILIATING AND AN ADMISSION OF FAILURE AND LOSS OF MANHOOD."

HEINE ALSO NOTED THAT KABUA'S WORDS IMPRESSED MANY PERSONS ATTENDING THE FIRST CONGRESS SESSION. HE SAID THE LATE CHIEF PETRUS MAILO OF TRUK PRAISED THE MARSHALLESE CHIEF'S WORDS, SAYING "THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST, BRINGING LIGHT TO SUSTAIN LIFE", MEANING THAT ALL MICRONESIANS, ACCORDING TO HEINE, MUST NOT ONLY LOOK WITHIN THEIR OWN DISTRICT, BUT TO OTHER DISTRICTS AS WELL FOR GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL.

"NINE YEARS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE WE LAUNCHED OUR CANOE," HEINE CONTINUED. "WE HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR OUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. WE HAVE SIGHTED THE ISLAND OF SELF-GOVERNMENT ON THE HORIZON. WE MUST CONTINUE OUR CHARTED COURSE AND HEED THE WORDS OF OUR WISE CHIEFS AND CONTINUED WORKING TOGETHER OR ELSE OUR CANOE WILL DRIFT."

HOWEVER, NOTING RECENT SEPARATIST MOVES IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, HEINE ASKED IF SOME PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WORDS OF THE WISE CHIEFS AND IF OTHER "CREWMEMBERS" IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS WILL JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF THEIR "VOYAGE TOWARDS DESTINY" BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS IN THE CONGRESS.

IN AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE CONTROVERSIAL REVENUE SHARING ISSUE WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THE MARSHALLS WHICH PROVIDES FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HEINE DECLARED:

"I WISH TO REMIND THIS CONGRESS THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAS USELFISHLY PROVIDED OVER HALF OF THE PROVISIONS AND MATERIALS WHICH KEEP THIS CANOE AFLOAT FINANCIALLY WHICH BENEFITS NOT JUST THE MARSHALL ISLANDS BUT ALL THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

HEINE SAID, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MUST CONTINUE ITS VOYAGE TOGETHER IN ORDER TO PROTECT LOCAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, ALTHOUGH HE CAUTIONED, "THERE ARE THOSE IN THE MARSHALLS IN PLACES OF PROMINENCE AND POWER WHO HAVE BECOME IMPATIENT WITH THE LACK OF COOPERATION WITHIN THE CONGRESS.

ASKING FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY, HEINE SAID THE "STORY OF OUR CANOE VOYAGE IN THIS CONGRESS WHEN TOLD TO FUTURE GENERATIONS MUST NOT BE A TALE OF FRAGMENTATION CAUSED BY SELFISH INTERESTS. AS FOR ME, I HOPE THE STORY OF OUR VOYAGE WILL BE THE STORY OF HOW A PACIFIC NATION ROSE UP FROM A SITUATION OF EXTREME DEPENDENCY TO A SELF-SUFFICIENT, SELF-GOVERNING NATION OF PROUD MICRONESIANS."

"WE MUST NOT BECOME THE LEGENDARY CANOE OF TWO NAVIGATORS," HE CONTINUED, "EACH UNWILLING TO YIELD AND COMPROMISE, WHO SAT STUBBORNLY FACING EACH OTHER WHILE THE WIND KNOCKED DOWN THEIR SAIL AND THE CURRENT CARRIED THEM OVER THE HORIZON NEVER TO BE HEARD OF AGAIN."

HEINE TOLD THE CONGRESS: "LET US CONTINUE ON OUR CHARTERED COURSE UNDER A FULL SAIL, MAKING THE 'WINDS OF CHANGE' WORK FOR US. AND KEEPING OUR DESTINATION CLEAR."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(KENDALL SPEECH)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS PROPOSED THURSDAY THAT EACH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY'S SIX DISTRICTS HOLD ITS OWN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BEFORE CONVENING THE MICRONESIA-WIDE CONVENTION AS THE BEST MEANS OF "GENERATING UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND AUTHENTIC EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT."

"ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IS THE ONLY WAY OUR PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICTS CAN REALLY COME TO GRASP THE REAL MEANING OF WHAT A CONSTITUTION IS, WHAT IT IS FOR, AND HOW IT IS WRITTEN," KENDALL EXPLAINED IN A SPEECH DURING A LATE AFTERNOON SENATE SESSION THURSDAY. "THIS WAY EACH DISTRICT DELEGATION WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE WITHIN THEIR DISTRICTS AND THE FORM THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE...AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES CAN BRING TO THE TERRITORY-WIDE CONVENTION AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEY WANT THE DISTRICT-CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS SPELLED OUT."

NOTING THAT PALAU DISTRICT PLANS TO HOLD SUCH A CONVENTION NEXT MONTH, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS SENATOR SAID THIS MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE OF PALAU WILL BE "ACTIVELY INVOLVED" IN DECIDING THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR FUTURE GOVERNMENT. KENDALL ADDED THAT THIS KIND OF PARTICIPATION HELPS OVERCOME MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH HE SAID "IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR OUR TENDENCY TO FRAGMENT." KENDALL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION'S PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AND ADVICE IF REQUESTED BY EACH DISTRICT.

"WITHOUT REAL UNDERSTANDING, A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR PUBLIC FAIL TO SEE WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE AND THEREFORE, DO NOT SEE BEYOND DISTRICT LOYALTIES, BUT I FEEL THIS PLAN WOULD ALLOW THE GREATEST EXTENT FO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY OUR PEOPLE."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(ATALIG ATTACKS MISPLACED PRIORITIES)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 7 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN FELIPE O. ATALIG INSERTED REMARKS IN THE HOUSE JOURNAL DURING WEDNESDAY MORNING'S SESSION IN WHICH HE SAID HE HAD A FEELING OF "GREAT DISCONTENT AND FRUSTRATION."

CONGRESSMAN ATALIG SAID THAT HIS MANDATE WAS FROM THE "COMMONE PEOPLE" LIKE HIMSELF, AND THAT HE, LIKE HIS FATHER, HAD WORKED WITH HIS HANDS, AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HOWEVER IN THE CONGRESS AND IN WORKING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, HE FOUND "VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO UNDERSTAND OR SYMPATHIZE AS I DO WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE OR THE URGENCY OF THEIR NEEDS" THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA.

HE THEN LEVELED CRITICISM AT THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES FOR NOT TAKING ACTION ON MATTERS WHICH WOULD HELP THE PEOPLE AND CITED SEVERAL EXAMPLES:

THE "HIGHEST ADMINISTRATION PRIORITY" IN THE SESSION HE SAID WAS AN ITEM RELATED TO EXPATRIATE WAGES, NOT MICRONESIAN WAGES.

THE CONGRESS FAILED TO ACT ON A MINIMUM WAGE BILL WHICH

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GOT LOST" AND ALSO A PRICE CONTROL BILL WHICH "NEVER EVEN REACHED THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE."

THE UNITED STATES, IN WHAT HE CALLED THE "NAME OF THE UNITED STATES 'IMPERIALIST NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS,'"HAD IGNORED COMPLETELY A CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE END TO A LAND MORATORIUM ON TINIAN.

BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS HAD SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON MARIJUANA CONTROL LEGISLATION, WHICH "COMPARED TO THE MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS WHICH OUR PEOPLE HAVE TO STRUGGLE...IS TRIVIAL. IF ...MARIJUANA IS SEEN TO BE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE," HE COMMENTED, "I SUBMIT THAT OUR PRIORITIES ARE HOPELESSLY OUT OF BALANCE."

ATALIG CLOSED BY SAYING THAT DURING HIS PAST TWO TERMS IN THE CONGRESS HIS FIRST PRIORITY HAD BEEN TO "SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE," BUT THAT DESPITE HIS "DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION AT HOW LITTLE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH" HE REASSURED HIS COLLEAGUES IF HE WERE REELECTED, HE WOULD "NOT CEASE IN HIS EFFORTS.

"TO DO OTHERWISE," HE SAID, "WOULD BE TO GO BACK ON THE PLEDGE I MADE AS A CONGRESSMAN TO THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED ME."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(BORJA PRAISES COPRA PRICES)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TRUST TERRITORY COPRA PRICES HAVE BEEN RAISED 150 PERCENT TO \$400 PER TON, REPRESENTING AN ALL TIME HIGH.

MAKING REFERENCE TO HIS "COCONUT SPEECH" DELIVERED TUESDAY, BORJA TOLD THE SENATE THAT HE WAS "VERY PLEASED" TO LEARN THAT TRUST TERRITORY COPRA PRODUCERS WILL BE PAID THE HIGHEST PRICES SINCE 1950. "OUR COPRA FARMERS DESERVE IT." HE SAID.

BORJA, WHO SERVES AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY WHICH DEALS IN COPRA, SAID HE WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT SUCH PROMPT ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE ONE-YEAR RENEWAL OF UNITED MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION'S EXCLUSIVE COPRA CONTRACT COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS SINCE SEVERAL DISTRICTS HAVE STRONGLY URGED THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO MARKET THEIR OWN COPRA, WHICH IS THE TRUST TERRITORY'S MAJOR EXPORT.

ACCORDING TO THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA BOARD, UMDA'S COPRA CONTRACT WAS RENEWED FOR ONE YEAR ONLY PENDING THE RESULTS OF A REPORT NOW BEING PREPARED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING UMDA'S COPRA DEALINGS AND OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.