

(SPECIAL SESSION CONCLUDES)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 18 (MNS)---THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL WILL SAY THEY ADJOURNED BEFORE MIDNIGHT. BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY ABOUT THREE A.M. WHEN THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FINALLY ENDED EARLY SATURDAY MORNING (AUG. 18) ON SAIPAN. 11

A HARDY BAND OF ONLOOKERS WAS STILL ON HAND AS THE FINAL GRAVEL FELL, ENDING 18 DAYS OF DELIBERATION AND ALSO BRINGING TO A CLOSE THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, BARRING SOME UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENT. ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER FOR SIX OF THE TWELVE SENATORS AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL RETURN A NEW CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO SAIPAN NEXT YEAR. REVENUE SHARING, RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, A MAJOR DRUG CONTROL BILL AND CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL BANK AS THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. THE LAWMAKERS ALSO DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF APPROPRIATION BILLS AND SEVERAL LESSER BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE CLOSING HOURS. BY FAR THE MOST NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE SESSION WAS THE PASSAGE OF A REVENUE SHARING BILL. IT DID NOT COME EASILY. THE BILL THAT WAS FINALLY AGREED UPON WOULD RETURN TWENTY PER CENT OF THE REVENUE COLLECTED UNDER THE IT INCOME TAX LAW TO THE DISTRICTS WHERE IT WAS COLLECTED, BEGINNING JULY 1, 1975 (SB 370). THIS BILL, INTRODUCED EARLIER IN THE WEEK BY SENATOR AMBILOS IEHSI (PONAPE), AND PASSED WITHOUT DEBATE IN THE SENATE, RAN INTO THE PREDICTABLE BUZZ-SAW OF DISSENSION AND DISAPPROVAL IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RESOLVE ITS DIFFERENCES OVER THE ISSUE FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS.

A DRAMATIC MOMENT CAME DURING DEBATE ON THE MEASURE WHEN MARSHALLS CONGRESSMEN CHARLES DOMNICK AND ATAJI BALOS, TWO HOLDOUTS FOR A FIFTY PER CENT SHARE OF REVENUES FOR THE DISTRICTS, ANGRILY WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE CHAMBER. THEY DID NOT RETURN, AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE SPECIAL SESSION. THEIR COLLEAGUES FROM THE MARSHALLS, CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK AND JOHN HEINE, REMAINED, HOWEVER, AS DID SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL. SENATOR AMATA KABUA, THE FIFTH MEMBER OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION AND BELIEVED TO BE ANOTHER STRONG ADVOCATE OF A FIFTY PER CENT SHARE, HAD NOT BEEN ON SAIPAN FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS, HAVING LEFT AT THE END OF THE 15TH DAY OF THE SESSION TO KEEP OTHER COMMITMENTS.

THE WALKOUT CAME WHEN REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK (TRUK), CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, OFFERED AN AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE SHARING BILL CHANGING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LEGISLATION TO JULY 1, 1977. REPRESENTATIVE DOMNICK DISAGREED STRONGLY WITH THE CHANGE, DESPITE AN ELOQUENT SPEECH DELIVERED BY SETIK IN SUPPORT OF HIS MOVE (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

FOLLOWING THE SPEECH, REPRESENTATIVE BALOS JUMPED TO HIS FEET. THE TAXES IN QUESTION, HE SAID, COME MOSTLY FROM EXPATRIATE WORKERS ON KWAJALEIN, THE U.S. ARMY'S MISSILE RANGE IN THE MARSHALLS. HE SAID THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT SHOULD RECEIVE HALF OF THAT MONEY BECAUSE THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR ISLANDS BY THE MILITARY. SOME OF HIS PEOPLE, HE CHARGED, CANNOT EVEN OBTAIN THREE GOOD MEALS A DAY BECAUSE OF THEIR REMOVAL FROM THEIR ISLANDS.

CONCERNING THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA, BALOS CHARGED THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT UNITY "...ARE TALKING FROM THEIR LIPS AND NOT FROM THEIR HEARTS." HE FURTHER SAID THAT HE WILL NOT AGREE TO COMPROMISE ON ANYTHING BELOW FIFTY PER CENT. WITH THAT. HE APOLOGIZED FOR STANDING UP

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WHILE HE WAS ARGUING, AND WALKED OUT. REPRESENTATIVE DOMNICK FOLLOWED HIM.

SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY (PONAPE) THEN CALLED FOR A SHORT RECESS. DURING THE RECESS IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE SENATE HAD FAILED TO AGREE TO THE HOUSE CHANGES IN THE BILL, WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF THE MARSHALLESE. A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WAS THEN FORMED TO WORK OUT THE DIFFERENCE. THEY RETURNED WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE BILL BE JULY 1, 1975, AND THE AMOUNT BE TWENTY PER CENT, RATHER THAN THE THIRTY PER CENT TO WHICH THE HOUSE HAD AMENDED THE MEASURE. THE SENATE ADOPTED THE CONFERENCE DRAFT, WHICH WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE BILL THEY HAD PASSED IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE HOUSE, HOWEVER, STILL COULD NOT AGREE.

THE PROLONGED RECESS ENSUED, AS THE MIDNIGHT HOUR CAME AND WENT WITH HOUSE MEMBERS STILL ARGUING. WHEN THE SESSION RECONVENED, THERE WERE MORE STATEMENTS ON THE BILL. PONAPE'S YOUNG CONGRESSMAN RESIO MOSES, SAID IT IS "IMPERATIVE AT THIS POINT IN TIME" TO LISTEN TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS. HE URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO PASS THE BILL "...IN THE INTEREST OF TERRITORIAL UNITY AND THE DECENTRALIZATION PHILOSOPHY."

REPRESENTATIVE HEINE SAID IT COULD BE "POLITICAL SUICIDE" TO RETURN TO THE MARSHALLS WITH LESS THAN THE ASKED-FOR FIFTY PERCENT, BUT HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE AT LEAST SOME FORM OF REVENUE SHARING.

FINALLY, VOTING IN A SECRET BALLOT, THE HOUSE MEMBERS ACCEPTED THE CONFERENCE DRAFT OF THE BILL BY A VOTE OF ELEVEN TO SIX, SENDING THE CONTROVERSIAL MEASURE TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

BY COMPARISON WITH REVENUE SHARING, DEBATE AND ACTION ON THE OTHER IMPORTANT BILLS WAS ALMOST ANTICLIMACTIC ALTHOUGH SOME OF THEM ALSO WENT INTO CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

PASSED DURING THE FINAL HOURS AND SENT TO THE HICOM WERE A MEASURE ENABLING THE RETURN TO THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA'S PUBLIC LANDS (SB 296); A BILL AMENDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONAL LAW TO CREATE A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO DELEGATES (SB 347); AND A BILL DRAWING UP NEW REGULATIONS TO THE TT CODE FOR THE CONTROL OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES CONSIDERED DANGEROUS, INCLUDING MARIJUANA (HB 359).

THERE WERE ALSO SOME CASUALTIES AMONG THE MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION FOR WHICH THE SESSION WAS CALLED. ALTHOUGH THE SENATE ADOPTED REVISED SALARY PLAN REGULATIONS CONCERNING LOCAL HIRE AND THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE HOUSE DID NOT PASS THE BILL AND IT DIED WHEN THE FINAL GAVEL FELL (HB 345). HOUSE MEMBERS PROPOSED, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, A JOINT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE REQUESTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY RELATIVE TO THE PRESENT COMPENSATION PLAN AND TO INSURE THAT THE LOCAL HIRE CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MEDICAL OFFICERS, NURSES AND STAFF, RECEIVE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION (HJR 157). THE MEASURE WAS ADOPTED IN THE HOUSE, BUT THE SENATE VOTED IT DOWN AFTER SENATOR AMBILOS IEMSI (PONAPE) ARGUED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS, IN EFFECT, ASKING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO FIND SOME WAY OF GETTING AROUND THE CURRENT SALARY LAW, WHEN THE CONGRESS DURING THIS SESSION HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO AMEND THAT LAW AND FAILED TO DO SO. THUS NO ACTION RELATING TO SALARIES COMES

OUT OF THIS SESSION, AND THE PRESENT SALARY PLAN, INCLUDING ITS GRADUATED REDUCTIONS IN THE SALARIES OF LOCAL HIRE AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, REMAINS IN EFFECT.

THE SENATE ALSO VOTED DOWN A HOUSE-PASSED MEASURE THAT WOULD HAVE PROVIDED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR MICRONESIA (HB 357). ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY OF THE SENATORS PRESENT AND VOTING FAVORED THE BILL (6 TO 4), THE BILL FAILED BECAUSE IT REQUIRES AT LEAST SEVEN VOTES, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP, TO PASS A BILL UNDER THE SENATE'S RULES, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY SENATORS ARE PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN.

TWO BILLS WHICH WOULD HAVE DECLARED CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE ELECTIONS IN PALAU AND THE MARSHALLS NULL AND VOID, AND CALLED FOR NEW ELECTIONS, ALSO FAILED WHEN THE HOUSE DID NOT DEAL WITH THEM. THE BILLS (SB 364 AND SB 358) WERE PASSED IN THE SENATE, BUT DIED IN THE HOUSE. THUS THE ELECTION THAT WAS HELD ON JUNE 4 OF THIS YEAR WILL STAND, AND THOSE WHO WERE ELECTED WILL SERVE IN THE CONVENTION, SUBJECT TO ANY REVIEWS WHICH MAY BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

REAPPORTIONMENT, ANOTHER OF THE ISSUES FOR WHICH THE SPECIAL SESSION WAS CALLED, DID NOT OCCUR. INSTEAD, THE LAWMAKERS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STAY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PORTION OF HIS SECRETARIAL ORDER 2913 WHICH REQUIRES REAPPORTIONMENT UNTIL AFTER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MICRONESIA (HJR 131).

OTHER BILLS WHICH WERE PASSED ON THE FINAL DAY WERE MOSTLY APPROPRIATION BILLS. A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED (SEE LISTS THAT FOLLOW).

ON BALANCE, THE SESSION SEEMED TO BE A SUCCESS TO BOTH OUTSIDE OBSERVERS AND MOST MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. A ROUND OF SPEECHES IN THE FINAL HOUR NOTED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SESSION AND OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS, AND THERE WAS MUCH HANDSHAKING AND WISHING OF GOOD LUCK AFTERWARD TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO MUST STAND FOR RE-ELECTION IN NOVEMBER. WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF ADJOURNMENT, MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WERE ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR HOME DISTRICTS. AMONG THOSE REMAINING BEHIND--MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING, FOR BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: MNS WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILED COVERAGE OF SOME OF THE IMPORTANT BILLS, SUCH AS LAND RETURN, NEXT WEEK AND IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, AS THESE MEASURES ARE OFFICIALLY TRANSMITTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HIS ACTION.)

(CONGRESS ALLOCATES FUNDS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 10 (MNS)--ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS FOR HOLDING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THIS SUMMER WAS TO PERMIT THE LAWMAKERS TO TAKE CARE OF A LONG LIST OF APPROPRIATION BILLS, WHICH HAD BEEN DEFERRED DURING THE REGULAR SESSION IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY,

THUS IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT A GOOD DEAL OF THE LEGISLATION THAT EMERGED FROM THE CONGRESS ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SESSION HAD DOLLAR SIGNS IN FRONT OF IT. THE BILLS INCLUDED MAJOR FUNDING FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN NEARLY EVERY PART OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

HERE IS A LIST OF THE APPROPRIATION BILLS PASSED BY THE

CONGRESS ON THE 18TH DAY NOW ON THEIR WAY TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ACTION.

- \$356,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT (HB 308);
- \$102,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS ON KUSAIE ISLAND IN PONAPE DISTRICT (HB 325);
- \$72,000 TO ENABLE DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FROM EACH DISTRICT TO TRAVEL TO MEET WITH THEIR CONSTITUENTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONVENTION (SB 371);
- \$357,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT (HB 360);
- \$385,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT (HB 331);
- \$350,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PONAPE DISTRICT (SB 330);
- \$30,000 FOR THE TRAINING OF MICRONESIAN POLICE OFFICERS AT THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY IN WASHINGTON D.C., (SB 330);
- \$95,000 TO DEFRAY THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES (HB 316);
- \$77,000 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AIRCRAFT NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS AT THE MAJURO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE MARSHALLS (SB 187);
- \$215,530 FOR HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE HOSPITAL FEEDING PROGRAM (HB 347);
- \$239,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT (HB 266); AND
- \$52,000 AND A FURTHER AUTHORIZATION FOR NEXT YEAR OF \$48,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT MARITIME ACADEMIES FOR MICRONESIAN YOUTH (HB 343).

(RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 10 (MNS)---SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED DURING THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN.

HERE IS A LIST OF THE MEASURES WHICH COMPLETED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BEFORE THE LAWMAKERS ADJOURNED:

--REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STAY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PORTION OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 REQUIRING REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN MICRONESIA (HJR 149).

--URGING THE U.S. CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD TO RETAIN STUDENT AND YOUTH FARES FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN SAIPAN, GUAM AND HAWAII, TO THE U.S. MAINLAND, AND WITHIN THE MAINLAND (HJR 149);

--URGING THE IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF ROGER L. ST. PIERRE AS CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY (SR 14) (SEE FOLLOWING STORY);

--CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (SR 15);

--REQUESTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) (HR 14); AND

--REQUESTING 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).

DEFEATED WAS A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING A STUDY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SALARY PLAN OF THE TT TO INSURE EQUITABLE SALARY PAYMENT TO LOCAL HIRE EMPLOYEES (HJR 157).

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SETIK ON REVENUE SHARING)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 10 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE RAY SETIK, (TRUK), SAID DURING THE FINAL HOURS OF THE SPECIAL SESSION FRIDAY THAT IF REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION IS ACCEPTED ON A 50-50 BASIS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S EFFECTIVENESS IN TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT "WILL HAVE BEEN DEALT A MORTAL BLOW."

SUCH A PLAN AS SUPPORTED BY MARSHALL ISLANDS DELEGATES, WHOSE DISTRICT PRODUCES THE BULK OF CONGRESS REVENUES, WOULD SEVERELY REDUCE CONGRESS REVENUES.

"THOSE WHO FAVOR REVENUES SHARING," STATED SETIK, "DO SO ON THE BASIS THAT SINCE CERTAIN DISTRICTS GENERATE MOST OF THE REVENUE FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR USE BY ALL THE DISTRICTS, THEY SHOULD RECEIVE HALF OF THAT REVENUE BACK." SETIK SAID ADVOCATES ALSO ARGUE IF OTHER DISTRICTS YIELD TO REVENUE SHARING REQUESTS, THE PLAN WILL PROMOTE UNITY, AND THAT BECAUSE THE MARSHALLS HAVE CARRIED THE MILITARY BURDEN FOR 30 YEARS, THEY SHOULD BENEFIT MORE THAN OTHER DISTRICTS.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE," STATED SETIK, "THAT THERE IS A MEMBER IN THIS CONGRESS WHO DOES NOT AGREE WITH THIS FACT, AND DOES NOT SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE MARSHALLESE."

SETIK ADDED: "WE ARE FACED WITH THE VERY UNHAPPY PROPOSITION OF EITHER MAKING THEM VERY HAPPY, OR LEAVING THEM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE RUDELY IGNORING THEIR REASONABLE REQUESTS WHICH WOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT, LOSS OF FACE, AND UNDOUBTEDLY ANGER, UPON THEIR RETURN TO THEIR DISTRICT. I AM SURE THAT NO MEMBER OF THIS CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WISHES TO DO SUCH A THING TO ANY FELLOW MICRONESIAN."

HOWEVER, THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN SAID OTHER DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES FEEL THOSE REVENUES SHOULD BE SHARED BY ALL DISTRICTS, ELSE THE CONGRESS WOULD BE UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT TERRITORY-WIDE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

"THEY FEEL," HE CONTINUED, "THAT BY PRESENTING THE CONGRESS WITH A VERY UN-MICRONESIAN-LIKE PROPOSAL OF A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE WITH NO PROSPECT FOR COMPROMISE, THE CONGRESS IS BEING PRESENTED WITH THE ULTIMATUM OF "NO REVENUE-SHARING, NO UNITY," ADDING THAT TO SET SUCH A PRECEDENT WOULD RESULT IN OTHER DEMANDS, AND ULTIMATELY THE CONGRESS WOULD "NOT REPRESENT MICRONESIA."

SETIK EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH HE KNOWS THAT "SOME PEOPLE HAVE PERSONALLY IDENTIFIED" HIM AS THE OBJECT OF THEIR FRUSTRATION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN BLOCKING A 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING PROPOSAL, "WE ARE REALLY OVERLOOKING THE KEY REASONS WHY THIS MATTER HAS BECOME AN ISSUE LARGE ENOUGH TO DISRUPT THE CONGRESS AND CAUSE UNJUSTIFIED ILL-FEELING AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

"WHAT IS REALLY AT ISSUE HERE IS NOT REVENUE SHARING; IT IS ALMOST EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE. THE REAL ISSUE IS RELATED TO FUTURE STATUS. THE REAL ISSUE IS OUR ECONOMY, AND THAT IS WHAT WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT AND TALKING ABOUT, RATHER THAN TO DIVIDE UP OUR REVENUES," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THAT THE MAJOR PART OF CONGRESS REVENUE DOES NOT COME FROM COPRA, FISH OR HANDICRAFT EXPORTS WHICH AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$3 MILLION ANNUALLY, SETIK SAID "THE MAJOR PORTION OF CONGRESS REVENUE COMES FROM THE SALARIES OF MICRONESIANS AND AMERICANS WORKING ON SAIPAN AND AT KWAJALEIN.

SETIK SAID THERE IS "LITTLE SENSE" IN ARGUING ABOUT

PRESENT REVENUES. "INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE OUR MICRONESIA SELF-SUFFICIENT, WE ARE ARGUING OVER WHO IS GOING TO GET WHAT SHARE OF THE MONEY PUMPED INTO OUR ARTIFICIAL ECONOMY BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY."

ADDING THAT THE MICRONESIANS ON SAIPAN PAYING TAXES ARE NOT ONLY SAIPANESE BUT PALAUANS, TRUKESE, MARSHALLESE, PONAPEANS, AND YAPESE, AND THAT THE SAME APPLIED TO KWAJALEIN, SETIK CONTINUED: "I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE MONEY GENERATED BY MICRONESIANS SHOULD BE USED TO THE BENEFIT OF MICRONESIANS."

"WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING OVER REALLY IS NOT OURS," HE DECLARED, "AND MAY DISAPPEAR IN THE FUTURE."

SETIK SAID HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE REVENUE SHARING PROBLEM "HAS BEEN MADE CRITICAL BY THE LACK OF ACTION" BY THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE CONGRESS HAS REQUESTED TO THE UNITED STATES THAT U.S. GRANTS BE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

"THIS REQUEST HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED, FOR WHAT REASON I CANNOT IMAGINE," HE SAID, SUGGESTING IF THIS WAS DONE, THE ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED "ONCE AND FOR ALL".

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BORJA SUPPORTS ST. PIERRE)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 18 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF THE MARIANAS TOOK THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE FRIDAY NIGHT IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION URGING THE REINSTATEMENT OF ROGER L. ST. PIERRE AS CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

"AS WE ALL ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE, THIS SENATE SELDOM PRAISES OR CONDEMNS ANYONE WITHOUT DUE CAUSE OR FOR UNJUSTIFIED REASONS," BORJA SAID IN A PREPARED STATEMENT.

"TONIGHT I ASK THAT WE OFFER OUR PRIASE AND SUPPORT FOR A MAN WHO HAS SERVED MICRONESIA WELL-SO WELL, IN FACT, THAT HIGH OFFICIALS WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE REPEATEDLY TRIED TO REMOVE HIM DURING HIS 12 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR PEOPLE."

BORJA TOLD THE SENATE OF A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO OUST THE VETERAN DEFENDER SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HE SAID A REPLACEMENT ARRIVED ON SAIPAN BEFORE ST. PIERRE WAS NOTIFIED OF HIS IMPENDING REPLACEMENT."...BUT FORTUNATELY," STATED BORJA, "UPON MEETING ST. PIERRE AND AFTER SEEING HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THE NEW REPLACEMENT SAW LESS THAN HONORABLE REASONS IN HIS HIRING AND WANTED NO PART OF A PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST ANYONE SO WELL LIKED BY THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

BORJA SAID LAST YEAR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WITNESSED ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ST. PIERRE, BUT THAT A DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, AFTER A LONG INVESTIGATION, INDICATED THAT REMOVAL OF ST. PIERRE IS NOT JUSTIFIED. DESPITE THESE FINDINGS, HOWEVER, THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO TERMINATE MR. ST. PIERRE.

"ST. PIERRE HAS DONE A GREAT SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA," BORJA DECLARED. "HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY WORKED AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS ON THE SIDE OF MICRONESIANS AGAINST AN OFTENTIMES ARROGANT ADMINISTRATION WHICH DOES NOT TOLERATE AN EFFECTIVE ADVERSARY SYSTEM IN ITS COURTS, OR EVEN A LOYAL OPPOSITION WORKING WITH THE MICRONESIAN

PEOPLE."

BORJA TOLD THE SENATE: "LET US SHOW THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA THAT WE WILL NOT STAND FOR UNJUSTICE TO COME TO A MAN WHO HAS FOUGHT SO LONG AND SO HARD TO INSURE THAT JUSTICE BE BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR CONCLUDED URGING THE SENATE TO SPEAK "LOUDLY AND CLEARLY IN SUPPORT OF A MAN WHO HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB" IN MICRONESIA AND CALLED ST. PIERRE "THE MOST TRUSTED SPOKESMAN THE UNITED STATES HAS IN MICRONESIA."

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RESOLUTION CONGRATULATES FORD)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 10 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---CALLING ATTENTION TO THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DECISION OF RICHARD M. NIXON TO RESIGN AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MARIANA ISLANDS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA INTRODUCED INTO THE SENATE FRIDAY A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING NIXON'S SUCCESSOR, GERALD R. FORD.

BORJA'S RESOLUTION STATED THAT SINCE "...THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES...HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE AND IMPACT UPON MICRONESIA, "AND THAT"...THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED PROGRESSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDER WAS SWORN IN. SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT BUSY WITH COMMITTEE WORK GATHERED AROUND A SHORT-WAVE RADIO TO LISTEN TO THE HISTORIC MOMENT AS IT WAS BROADCAST BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MANGEFEL SPEECH)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 13 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---EVEN IN THE CLOSING MINUTES OF THE LAST DAY OF THE SPECIAL SESSION, YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL MANAGED TO BRING A SERIOUS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SENATE IN A HUMOROUS WAY.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT SENATOR MANGEFEL HAD VOWED EARLIER IN THE SESSION NOT TO MAKE ANY MORE "PRE-MEDITATED" SPEECHES, HE AMENDED THIS VOW IN A PREPARED STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE FINAL MEETING OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS FRIDAY NIGHT.

SENATOR MANGEFEL'S CONCERN WAS THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION, SB. NO. 296. IN HIS REMARKS, MANGEFEL SAID HE WAS "PUZZLED AS TO HOW ALL THIS LAND BECAME KNOWN AS 'PUBLIC LANDS' IN THE FIRST PLACE, SINCE IT WAS PRIVATELY OWNED BY MICRONESIANS BEFORE FOREIGNERS CAME AND TOOK IT AWAY FROM US."

"NEVERTHELESS," HE SAID, "THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ARE NOW ALL EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF THE UNITED STATES GIVING BACK TO THEM WHAT WAS THEIRS IN THE FIRST PLACE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS."

"WHEN THE LANDS ARE RETURNED, I HAVE A WORD OF CAUTION TO MY FELLOW MICRONESIAN COUNTRYMEN: WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT WE DO WITH THESE LANDS ONCE WE HAVE REGAINED CONTROL OF THEM."

MANGEFEL EXPLAINED THAT IN THE PAST ONLY TWO THINGS HAVE CAUSED REAL PROBLEMS IN MICRONESIA: WOMEN AND LAND.

"AS TO WOMEN, WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THEM UNDER CONTROL (OR VICE VERSA)." HE ADDED, "AND WE DO NOT HAVE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO GET THEM BACK FROM THE UNITED STATES."

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE RETURN OF LANDS IS "NOT GOING TO

SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS, BUT MAY CREATE NEW ONES." HE SAID ONCE THE DISTRICTS REGAIN CONTROL OF THE LANDS, THERE WILL BE "GREAT DANGER" THAT THE LAND WILL BE MISUSED.

SPECIFICALLY, MANGEFEL SAID THE DANGER EXISTS THAT DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS COULD BE "CANTANKEROUS" WITH REGARD TO INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS FOR DISTRICT "PUBLIC LAND";

-THAT RICH PEOPLE MAY ACQUIRE SOMEHOW POSSESSION OF MOST OF THE LAND AT THE EXPENSE OF THE POOR;

-DISTRICTS MIGHT "MISUSE" THE LAND THROUGH INACTION OR UNBENEFICIAL LEASES TO FOREIGN CORPORATIONS; OR BY FAILING TO DEVELOP THE LANDS PROPERLY.

"IT IS SAD BUT TRUE THAT OFTEN THE SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM CREATES MORE PROBLEMS," HE CONCLUDED.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(PRESIDENT & SPEAKER'S CLOSING REMARKS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 10 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---IN THE FINAL MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA TOLD THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT INDEPENDENCE IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THEIR WORK AND THAT MICRONESIANS MUST "FIGHT FOR WAYS TO CREATE A BETTER MICRONESIAN STATE."

"THIS HAS BEEN AND STILL IS THE GOAL OF THIS CONGRESS IN ENACTING LEGISLATION, IN ITS TALKS CONCERNING THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION, AND IN CREATING THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION," NAKAYAMA TOLD THE SENATE AND SPECTATORS GATHERED TO WITNESS THE FINAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS.

THE TRUK SENATOR SAID OVER FOUR YEARS AGO HE DELIVERED A SHORT SPEECH AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS HE DELIVERED A LONG SPEECH, BUT THAT THE TOPICS WERE BOTH THE SAME: "MICRONESIA OUGHT TO BE AN INDEPENDENT STATE."

"POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, POLITICIANS, AND HISTORIANS ALL HAVE THEIR DEFINITIONS OF INDEPENDENCE," HE CONTINUED, "AND I AM SURE THAT WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHAT KIND OF INDEPENDENCE WE WANT FOR MICRONESIA."

NAKAYAMA STATED, HOWEVER, THAT IN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE, MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT MUST BE IMPROVED. NAKAYAMA SAID HIS DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENCE IS SIMPLY BEING ABLE TO "DECIDE AND ACT WITHOUT ASKING PERMISSION FROM ANYBODY ELSE."

"THESE GOALS WILL NOT BE REACHED IF PEOPLE KEEP ARGUING AND DISAGREEING AMONG THEMSELVES IN THIS CONGRESS, IN THE ADMINISTRATION, AND IN THE DISTRICTS. WE MUST STOP ALL OUR FIGHTING WITH WORDS OVER LITTLE THINGS. LET US ALL FIGHT FOR WAYS TO BETTER OUR ECONOMY," HE URGED. "LET US ALL FIGHT FOR WAYS TO HELP CREATE A BETTER MICRONESIAN STATE."

NAKAYAMA SAID ENOUGH HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID ABOUT "WHAT WE SHOULD DO." THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GOOD IDEAS, HE NOTED, "BUT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE WILL NOT JUDGE THIS CONGRESS ON THE NUMBER OF SPEECHES WE MAKE, BUT ONLY UPON THE LEGISLATION WE INTRODUCE WHICH CREATES A STRONG ECONOMY, AND A STRONG GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THE PRESENT TRUSTEESHIP."

NAKAYAMA SAID IF THE CONGRESS USED ITS TIME AND ENERGY WISELY, "THEN WE WILL BUILD A FUTURE WHERE MICRONESIANS GOVERN THEMSELVES AND DEPEND UPON THEMSELVES."

IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER BETHWELL HENRY SAID THAT HE FELT THE CONGRESS HAD "MADE PROGRESS" AND THAT "WE ARE REALIZING THAT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN REACH

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY IS BY WORKING TOGETHER."
"AS PROVEN IN THIS HOUSE, NO PROGRESS CAN EVER BE MADE WITHOUT SOME DISAGREEMENT, BECAUSE BORNE OUR OF DISAGREEMENT IS UNDERSTANDING, COMPROMISE, AND SOLIDARITY. THIS IS PROGRESS, AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THIS IS OUR GREATEST STRENGTH," HE SAID.

SPEAKER HENRY SAID THAT THE CONGRESS COULD NOT AFFORD TO DISAGREE TOO LONG OVER ISSUES WHICH DEVIDE THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE."

HE STATED THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CONGRESS COULD BE RESPONSIVE TO DISTRICT NEEDS, AND THAT "POLITICAL MATURITY IS TO LEGISLATE BY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS" IN LONG RANGE TERMS.

THE SPEAKER SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT DISAGREEMENT OVER SMALL MATTERS WOULD BE REPLACED IN THE FUTURE BY EMPHASIS ON LARGER ISSUES SUCH AS THE LAW OF THE SEA WHICH HE USED AS AN EXAMPLE.

"TOGETHER WE CAN CONTROL THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA. DIVIDED WE CANNOT. BUT IF WE CAN MAINTAIN THIS CONTROL, WE CAN BECOME A GREAT AND PROUD NATION. WE CAN ALLOW FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MICRONESIANS TO ADD TO THEIR OWN DISCOVERIES AS A PROUD PEOPLE." HE ADDED.

"WE CAN GIVE FUTURE GENERATIONS THE MEANS TO PROGRESS UNDER A NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA BASED ON A SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD AND COOPERATION, AND WITH THAT SAME SPIRIT, PROGRESS WITH ALL THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC AND THE WORLD," HE SAID.

THE HOUSE SPEAKER, LIKE THE SENATE PRESIDENT EARLIER, THEN THANKED THE PEOPLE IN THE CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD WORKED TO MAKE THE SESSION POSSIBLE, ADDING HIS THANKS ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE CONGRESS "TO THE PEOPLE AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MARIANAS FOR THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO US DURING THE SESSION."