

# Week In Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

Saipan, Mariana Islands

Sept. 3-6, 1974

## BUDGET REPORT SUBMITTED

The Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning of the Congress of Micronesia has submitted a report of its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 1976 Preliminary Budget Plan Request to High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston.

The report includes requests for direct appropriations and federal grant funds for the operations and capital improvement programs of the Trust Territory Government, which will later be considered by the U.S. Congress.

In submitting the report after two weeks of hearings on Saipan, the Committee re-emphasized its concern that more responsibilities and authority for program formulation and execution be placed on the district level. Because of this concern, the first section of the report deals with substantial reductions in TT Headquarters operations and maintenance budget requests. Subsequent sections of the report involving budget changes for the districts primarily include staff travel and transportation cuts, and what the report terms a "continuous abuse" in budgeting large sums for government vehicles that are often used for private purposes, and the need for an overall development plan for government spending.

A special section of the report describes possible problems which could develop during the political status transition period. The report mentions a "dilemma of constantly increasing demands for governmental services," including higher salaries, and the position taken by the United States status negotiators of decreasing U.S. financial support to Micronesia during the 1975 to 1980 five-year period. ✓

## AMARAICH LOS SPEECH

Senator Andon Amaraich, chairman of the Micronesian delegation attending the third international conference on Law of the Sea at Caracas, Venezuela, has issued a statement strongly urging that full economic zones of control be established to protect island nations. He said if proposals of the world's developed nations are endorsed, they may, in effect, attempt to deny dependent, underdeveloped nations of the resources they need to become self-sufficient.

In a statement distributed at a closing session of the ten-week meeting last week, Amaraich declared, that as an emerging nation, Micronesia's major goal is to become economically self-sufficient. "Only then will Micronesia be able to achieve true political independence," he said.

"pie in the sky"

Informing delegates from over 140 nations from around the world of Micronesia's limited land area and land based resources, the Truk Senator emphasized the importance of the resources of the sea and said if Micronesia is to achieve economic viability and political freedom, "We must rely on the resources of the sea surrounding our islands," he stated. "No interest is more vital to Micronesia than our resources rights in the sea."

#### AGING WORKSHOP IN HONOLULU

Fifteen Micronesian staff members of the Territory's Old Age program recently completed a two-week workshop at the East-West Center in Honolulu. The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Technology and Development Institute of the East West Center, the Region 9 Federal Administration on Aging in San Francisco, and the Territorial Offices on Aging in the Trust Territory and American Samoa.

#### WHO ENTOMOLOGIST

A World Health Organization (WHO) Entomologist recently completed a study in the Marshalls District to identify the type of mosquito which causes dengue fever, according to a spokesman for the Headquarters Department of Health Services.

Dr. T. Suzuki, who is based on Suva, Fiji, came to the Trust Territory at the request of Dr. Masao Kumangai, TT Director of Health Services because of an outbreak of dengue fever. The mosquito has been identified.

Dr. Suzuki met with medical personnel on Majuro while conducting his studies. He also visited Saipan and met with Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, Communicable Disease Control Division and Dr. Kumangai.

He returned to Nauru on his way to Suva where he will conduct more studies in other areas. He is expected to submit his report to the World Health Organization which will in turn submit a report to the Trust Territory.

#### PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED TT APPROPRIATION BILL

President Gerald Ford has signed into law the Interior Department Appropriation Bill providing \$61.7 million for the Trust Territory.

The President signed the bill over the Labor Day weekend. The measure incorporates the amounts for the Trust Territory that the Senate approved on August 6 rather than the higher sums voted earlier by the House.

House-Senate conferees agreed to the Senate figures after inserting into the bill language aimed at compensating for any loss of federal funds to the Trust Territory as a result of converting certain aid programs to revenue sharing.

The House had voted \$63.6 million for the Trust Territory. The administration budget had asked for \$61 million for Micronesia.

The appropriation for the Trust Territory cleared Congress with scarcely a word of debate about that part of the bill on the floor of either house. But the subject of federal spending in Micronesia is expected to draw greater attention in about three weeks when officials of the Trust Territory are due to appear before House and Senate Interior Committees seeking an increase of about \$15 million in their annual budget ceiling.

The Trust Territory now receives the maximum annual appropriation of \$60 million authorized by Congress. To get more money each year, the island's need to raise that annual lid, and they are asking that the authorization be raised to \$75 million.

#### COAST GUARD TO ASSIST IN OIL REMOVAL

The Coast Guard has agreed to assist in removing oil from the 954-ton Korean fishing vessel that ran aground on the reef of Ngulu Atoll in Yap District last month.

Some 168 tons of diesel fuel and four tons of lube oil were reported still on board.

The Headquarters Department of Health Services indicated that the Coast Guard had sent a salvage master, a diver and one Coast Guard Officer to Yap to determine the present condition of the M/V Pine March 2.

The boat was under charter by Van Camp fishing company of Koror when it ran aground. The company still has not responded to inquiries as to whether they will salvage the ship or remove the oil.

The Korean fishing boat went aground on Ngulu Atoll on August 15. The vessel, was carrying a crew of 18.

#### SAIPAN NEW WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A third local weekly newspaper made its appearance this week on Saipan. The newspaper, called "Free Press," carries in its first edition an editorial column, police reports, advertisements, and local news. The paper's editor is Chris Masga.

#### BROADCAST SEMINAR HELD

A training seminar on broadcasting was recently completed at Majuro radio broadcast station WSZO.

The seminar was conducted by Father Leonard Hacker of the Assumption Mission in Majuro who was assisted by Charlotte Simmons. Ms. Simmons work as a consultant on the television production of "Hawaii Five-0."