

Six Appointments Sent To COM

SAIPAN (MNS) - The nominations of six persons to fill important positions in the executive branch of the Trust Territory government were sent to the Congress of Micronesia (COM) this week for advice and consent. The nominations were made in letters to the congress leadership, and are expected to be taken up by the joint committee on administrative appointments, which acts for the congress on such matters between sessions.

The High Commissioner made the following nominations: for executive officer on the staff of the High Commissioner, Juan A. Sablan; for director of the Personnel Department, Podis

Pedrus; for district administrator of Truk District, Mitaro S. Danis; for deputy district administrator of Ponape District, Bermin F. Weilbacher; for deputy director of the Transportation and Communications Department, Elias Okamura; and for deputy director of the Resources and Development Department, William H. Stewart.

Sablan, 38, has been distad in Truk since 1970 and was named to fill the position formerly held by Leo A. Falcam, now distad in Ponape. The job has been vacant since Falcam was assigned to Ponape in Nov., 1972. Before going to Truk, Sablan, who is from Saipan, was a budget

analyst with the Department of Finance at headquarters.

Pedrus, 32, is deputy director of personnel, a position which he has held since early last year. He will replace Arthur Akina, who is retiring late this year; the appointment of Pedrus is to become effective Dec. 22, pending approval by the congress. From Ponape, Pedrus attended the College of Guam and the University of New Mexico, and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii in 1966.

Moving up to fill the position left vacant by Sablan's appointment would be Mitaro Danis, deputy distad in Truk, a position he has held since 1970. Danis 38, is a former district prosecutor and land management officer in Truk, and served in 1969 and 1970 as assistant chief of the lands and surveys division on Saipan. He also, like Sablan, is a former member of COM. He is a graduate of Pacific Islands Central School and attended the College of Guam.

Weilbacher, 33, is presently chief of the agriculture division, Department of Resources and Development. He would fill the

vacant position of deputy distad under Falcam in Ponape. A Kusaiean by birth, Weilbacher graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1966 with a degree in agricultural technology. For four years, he was experimental officer for the applied scientific research corporation in Thailand before returning to the Trust Territory to head the plant industry branch of the agriculture division in 1970.

The nomination of Okamura, 39, of Palau, as deputy director of the transportation and communications department is being made for the second time. The first nomination, in 1972, was rejected by the congress with the comment that the nominee lacked academic qualifications and sufficient experience. In resubmitting Okamura's name, the High Commissioner noted that in the two years since he was last nominated Okamura participated in several programs to broaden his familiarity with all aspects of transportation and communications, especially those areas in which the joint committee felt he did not have enough background. He also has served as acting director on

several occasions during the absence of Director Joseph Beadles.

At the time of his appointment earlier this year as director of resources and development, Eusebio Rechucher was asked to name his choice for a deputy, either a Micronesian or an expatriate. He recently informed the High Commissioner that William H. Stewart is his first choice for the position, and the HiCom, in his letter to the congress leadership nominating Stewart, said he "wholeheartedly approves" of Rechucher's selection.

Stewart, 42, has been an industrial economist on the staff of the department since 1970. In 1973, he coordinated the successful Trust Territory census program. He previously served as a foreign investment advisor to Thailand, and as an industrial and tourism development officer in the African countries of Tunisia and Ghana. He has also worked with West Virginia as an economic-industrial geographer and chief cartographer, and is the author of many economic and marketing publications.

A graduate of Morris Harvey University in Charleston, W. Va., Stewart has attended Marshall University and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He is originally from Sarasota, Fla.

The congress appointments committee also will have before it when it next meets the nomination of Haruo Remelik, deputy distad of Palau, to be a member of the Territorial Housing Commission.

Hawaii To Receive

\$500,000 For Jobless

WASHINGTON - Hawaii has been allocated \$565,532 under President Ford's order this week releasing federal funds for areas and Training Act (CETA) and comes from the Department of Labor's Manpower Administration.