

Asking Buses, Garbage Trucks

By Lupe Borja
Daily News Staff Writer

The Committee on Finance and Taxation, chaired by Sen. Richard Taitano, heard testimony yesterday on five bills — including purchasing 84 school buses and more garbage trucks.

The bills would: Provide that fiscal certifying officers be made Civil Service classified employees; appropriate \$2,615,000 to the Department of Public Works for the purchase of 84 school buses, 10 packer trucks, and 15 transit buses; authorize overtime compensation for three employees at the Detention Home and two measures concerning the office of the Territorial Auditor.

The committee also received testimony on a supplemental budget request from the Office of the Chief Commissioner and Village Commissioner.

Public Works chief-planner Dan Swavely told the committee that the department needed 59 new replacement school buses and 25 additional buses for the next school year 1974-75. Swavely said that the acquisition of 15 transit buses would be the start of the department's proposed mass transit system. Swavely added that at this stage, he felt Public Works would be the most appropriate agency to operate the proposed mass transit system.

The 10 solid waste packer trucks would include five as replacements and five new ones.

Department of Education Director Dr. Katherine Aguon supported Swavely in the request for the school buses, noting that an anticipated increase of 2,500 students this coming school year necessitated the 25 new buses.

Island Court Chief Judge Joaquin Perez pointed out that if the judicial branch's certifying officer was a classified employee, the independence of the judiciary would be impaired. Perez told the committee that Guam's courts have their own rules and regulations regarding employees. Taitano said that legislation should be enacted to recognize that the certifying officer for the courts would be deemed classified in his certifying responsibilities.

Sen. Carl Gutierrez told the committee that the legislation to authorize overtime compensation for the three employees formerly at the Detention Home would only amend a public law providing for overtime compensation.

Territorial Auditor A.J. Wieglin requested that the positions of deputy territorial auditor and the executive secretary be not classified by Civil Service.

Chief Commissioner Joseph Aguon came under fire as he requested a budget supplement of \$10,269. Taitano criticized Aguon for requesting three additional employees, when according to Taitano, the functions of Aguon's office has diminished.

Taitano said that the transition of the Election and Boxing Commissions to separate agencies would mean less responsibilities for the office of chief commissioner. Aguon's office also provides funds for operating the offices of the 19 village commissioners. Aguon's special assistant, Herman Sablan, admitted that the office needed reorganization and added that legislation would be necessary to achieve this.

The 10 clerks in Aguon's office were unnecessary said Taitano.

The office is currently operating on its Fiscal 1973 appropriation of \$490,431.

New Laws Cover Wide Range Of Topics

Guam's court reform bill was signed into law yesterday, giving all non-federal and non-Constitutional judicial powers to the island's new Superior and Supreme Courts. The present Island Court of Guam will become part of the new system.

Other bills signed by the Governor include: providing that the Guam Housing Corp. Board of Directors shall determine the interest rate on loans for low-cost housing; increasing the maximum amount of low-cost housing loans; allowing children to be employed only in domestic service and on newspaper routes; waiving payments of retirement contributions of former temporary government employees made permanent employees on July 1, 1964.

Games Unit Is Debated

Guam legislators yesterday discussed a bill that would set rules for appointment to the South Pacific Games Commission, passed a bill that would establish fiscal certifying officers as classified employees and rescinded a measure revising Territorial Planning Commission filing fees.

The legislators also introduced two bills and two resolutions.

Debate began on whether the proposed games panel should have advisory capacities so that the present organizing committee for the games would not be superceded. Bill sponsor Sen. George Bamba argued that the commission should have authority, so that the organizing committee would get direction from the commission. Under the proposed bill, the commission will include five members of the Guam Recreation Commission and four members appointed by the Speaker of the Legislature.

The commission, with the consent of the Legislature, would have authority to enter into contracts and enter into activities necessary for the planning of the games. It was placed for third reading today.

The bill that would make certifying officers classified employees is designed to protect them from any pressure, said Sen. Richard Taitano, the sponsor.

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Also: Requiring a meal period for employees; requiring trucks and other commercial vehicles to be equipped with wheel flaps or other protective devices and requiring hotels and property owners using beach front property commercially to post qualified lifeguards on beaches.

Three schools were renamed also—Yigo Junior High School to Simon Sanchez Junior High, Toto Elementary School to Juan Q. San Miguel School and George Washington Junior High to Agueda I. Johnston Junior High.

Other bills signed designate the first Monday of March as "Guam Discovery Day"; provide that a memorial trophy for outstanding sportsmanship be established in the name of Albert (Gene) Roberts; to provide that general licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage

Man Sentenced By Court

Judge Paul C. Abbate sentenced one man to Guam Penitentiary and fined four other men in Island Court yesterday.

George SN Cruz was sentenced to three months in Guam Penitentiary for exhibiting a deadly weapon.

Frankie J. Taitano entered a plea of guilty to disorderly conduct and was fined \$50 plus court costs.

Robert M. Ward was found guilty and was sentenced to a \$50 fine plus court costs for reckless driving.

Peter N. Mesa was fined \$25 for disorderly conduct.

Robert R. Ross was fined \$25 plus court costs for close following in an automobile.

Control Act be limited to one per 1,000 inhabitants and provide that no student attending the University of Guam may receive credit for more than 60 units without being charged tuition.

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NOTICE

A Monroe Model 420 Calculator — Serial No. H-497730; A Monroe Calculator, Model 20 — Serial No. 549 5495 and Bowmar Calculator, Model MX-40 — Serial No. 109683 were stolen from Moylan's Discount Store.

Businessmen, please check serial numbers of your Monroe 420 Calculators purchased recently.

A reward will be given for the return of these calculators. A reward will also be given to person(s) furnishing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the theft and sale of these machines.

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Due to many requests during our brief opening in December, Mr. Johnston has decided to continue the sale of his private collection on an appointment only basis for the next few months. Only groups of six persons or less acceptable. For appointment call Ann. 746-3146

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