

(PRESSURE GROWS FOR TRANSPAC SOLUTION)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE ON THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION TO RESOLVE THE SHIPPING PROBLEMS INVOLVING TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC. (TRANSPAC) MOUNTED MONDAY (JAN. 21), AS ADDITIONAL VOICES WERE ADDED TO THOSE DEMANDING THAT TRANSPAC'S EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE BE TERMINATED.

IN THE SENATE, MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA PRESENTED THE JOINT REPORT OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH RECOMMENDS TERMINATION OF THE TRANSPAC FRANCHISE, AND IN A PREPARED STATEMENT ADDED HIS COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATION (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

DECLARING THAT "...IT IS TIME TO LET TRANSPAC SINK.", YAP'S SENATOR JOHN MANGFEL ALSO DELIVERED A PREPARED STATEMENT CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SHIPPING PROBLEM AND URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION.

THERE WAS ALSO COMMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR MONDAY CONCERNING ANOTHER "CRISIS" CURRENTLY FACING THE TRUST TERRITORY, NAMELY THE FUEL SHORTAGE. SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN (MARIANAS) SAID THE SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES ON SAIPAN IS "VERY SERIOUS," NOTING THAT MANY RESIDENTS ARE GETTING UP VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING IN ORDER TO LINE UP FOR GAS.

"IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS NO FAIR DISTRIBUTION..." OF GASOLINE ON THE ISLAND, THE SENATOR COMMENTED. HE CALLED UPON HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON TO "INSTITUTE RATIONING IF NECESSARY," AND SAID THAT SOMEHOW EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE AVAILABLE GASOLINE TO EVERY CONSUMER MUST BE INSURED.

HIS SENIOR COLLEAGUE, SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA, JOINED PANGELINAN IN CALLING UPON THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE SOME ACTION ON THE GAS CRISIS. CITING FIGURES FROM MOBIL MICRONESIA THAT SHOW ENOUGH GASOLINE ON SAIPAN TO PROVIDE 50 TO 60 GALLONS PER MONTH FOR EVERY REGISTERED VEHICLE, SENATOR BORJA SAID, "WITH PROPER PRECEDURE ON RATIONING THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR PANIC."

WITH JANUARY NOW MORE THAN HALF GONE, LINES HAVE AGAIN BEGUN TO FORM OUTSIDE MANY OF SAIPAN'S FILLING STATIONS AS MOTORISTS BEGIN TO WORRY ABOUT OBTAINING ENOUGH GAS TO SEE THEM THROUGH THE END OF THE MONTH. SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK) EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS AND ITS COMMITTEES NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE SHORTAGE. HE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES HE HOPES MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA STAFF WILL BE ASSURED OF A SUPPLY OF GAS IN ADDITION TO THE CONGRESSMEN THEMSELVES, WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SPECIAL RATION OF FUEL.

SPEECHES, BOTH PREPARED AND IMPROMPTU, WERE IN FACT THE MAJOR ORDER OF THE DAY IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE AS THE FIFTH CONGRESS MOVED INTO THE SECOND WEEK OF ITS 50-DAY SECOND REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN. TWO SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE, AND ANOTHER WAS INSERTED INTO THE JOURNAL (SEE FOLLOWING STORIES). THE SPATE OF SPEECHMAKING ENLIVENED WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN RATHER ROUTINE SESSIONS IN THE TWO HOUSES, SINCE THERE WAS NO LEGISLATION READY FOR FINAL ACTION ON EITHER CALENDAR.

NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED MONDAY IN THE HOUSE INCLUDED A BILL GRANTING CERTAIN IMMUNITIES TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES (HB 219); AN APPROPRIATION OF \$300,000 DOLLARS AS A SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOCATION FROM THE CONGRESS TO THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN TO MEMBERS OF FISHING COOPERATIVES (HB 220); A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR A FAIR RENTAL CHARGE TO ANY IT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE OCCUPYING A GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AND PROVIDING THAT THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM SUCH RENTAL SHALL GO INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (HB 221); A \$50,000 APPROPRIATION TO THE PONAPE DORY FISHING PROGRAM (HB 222); AN ACT THAT WOULD MAKE IT A MISDEMEANOR TO THREATEN ANOTHER PERSON (HB 223); AND A NATURALIZATION MEASURE (HB 224).

*one chairman
is the
Jackson of
the Mar... 22*

11

15200

TWO NEW JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ALSO OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE. ONE ASKS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (HJR 77). THE OTHER EXPRESSES THE SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE CONGRESS TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE PRESIDING JUDGE OF PALAU DISTRICT, PABLE RINGANS, WHO DIED RECENTLY (HJR 76).

ONE BILL AND ONE RESOLUTION WERE OFFERED DURING THE SENATE SESSION MONDAY. THE BILL WOULD EXCLUDE FROM THE DEFINITION OF "GROSS REVENUE" FOR PURPOSES OF TAXATION REVENUE DERIVED FROM SALES FOR EXPORT (SB 204). THE RESOLUTION ASKS THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO FIND WAYS OF HOLDING ANOTHER MICROLYMPICS SIMILAR TO THE EVENT HELD ON SAIPAN IN 1969, AND ALSO DIRECTS THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES, NOW SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON GUAM IN 1975 (SR 8).

IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE MONDAY, ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO A PETITION OF GRIEVANCES FROM THE NURSES AT THE HOSPITAL IN KOROR, THE PALAU DISTRICT CENTER. ACCORDING TO SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, THE NURSES FEEL THEY ARE OVERWORKED AND UNDERPAID, AND THEY SEEM TO BE SUGGESTING A POSSIBLE WALKOUT OR OTHER DRASTIC ACTION IF NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT THEIR COMPLAINTS. HE URGED THE CONGRESS TO LOOK INTO THIS SITUATION, AND IN THE HOUSE CONGRESSMAN TARKONG PEDRO MADE A SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION.

SENATOR PANGELINAN ALSO MADE BRIEF REMARKS AT THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION RELATING TO THE STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS THAT WAS DELIVERED FRIDAY TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. "I THINK ON AN OCCASION LIKE THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SHOULD TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO TELL US WHERE THIS NATION IS GOING--TO INDICATE TO US THE PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO TELL US WHERE WE CAN HELP HIM....I THINK A REPORT IS SOMETHING WE CAN GIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS AN ANNUAL EXERCISE," THE SENATOR SAID. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPES THE HICOM WILL NOT TAKE HIS REMARKS PERSONALLY, BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LEADERSHIP FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL TEN TUESDAY MORNING, WHICH WILL BE THE NINTH DAY OF THE CURRENT SESSION. (ALL USERS OF THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA) (MANGEFEL AND BORJA SPEAK ON TRANSPAC)

SAIPAN, JAN 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE)--SENATORS OLYMPIO BORJA OF THE MARIANAS AND JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP DELIVERED SPEECHES CONCERNING TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC., AT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AS A HOUSE AND SENATE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT WAS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE MONDAY.

BOTH SPEECHES ECHOED SENTIMENTS HEARD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FRIDAY THAT CALLED UPON HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON TO TERMINATE TRANSPACIFIC'S EXCLUSIVE SHIPPING FRANCHISE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

"IT IS WITH A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND NO GREAT AMOUNT OF PLEASURE THAT I SUBMIT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION A REPORT ON TRANSPACIFIC LINES," BORJA TOLD THE SENATE. "IT IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE THAT A GOOD IDEA LIKE TRANSPAC -- THE INTENT OF WHICH WAS TO CREATE A MICRONESIAN-OWNED AND CONTROLLED SHIPPING LINE -- HAS BECOME AN OBJECT OF SCORN AND DERISION. INSTEAD OF HELPING MICRONESIAN CONSUMERS, IT HAS WEIGHED THEM DOWN WITH ADDITIONAL COSTS: INSTEAD OF BECOMING A VIABLE OPERATION, IT IS DEBT-RIDDEN AND A LIABILITY TO EVERYONE," HE SAID.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR SAID IT IS ALSO UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN MEASURES TO CORRECT THE SITUATION DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS ADDING: "LET US ALL HOPE THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER -- WHO I KNOW IS EQUALLY CONCERNED AS WE ARE -- FULFILLS HIS PROMISES OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING A SOLUTION IN THIS AREA."

85290

YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL'S REMARKS ALSO URGED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO END THE FRANCHISE AND "LAUNCH A NEW MEANS TO PROVIDE GOOD SHIPPING" FOR MICRONESIA.

SENATOR MANGEFEL RECALLED THAT IN 1968, TWO COMPANIES BEGAN OPERATIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, AIR MICRONESIA AND MICRONESIAN INTEROCEAN LINES, INC., OR MILI SINCE THEN HE SAID, AIR SERVICES HAVE GONE UPHILL, WHILE SHIPPING SERVICES HAD GONE STEADILY DOWNHILL, OR AS MANGEFEL TOLD THE SENATE: "UNDERWATER."

"I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IT COSTS AS MUCH AS \$800 TO SHIP A CAR FROM GUAM TO MY DISTRICT, YAP," HE STATED, "WHILE SHIPMENT OF THAT SAME CAR FROM THE UNITED STATES MAINLAND TO GUAM COSTS ONLY ABOUT \$600. WE HAVE SEEN YEN CHARGES, AND FUEL CHARGES AND EXTRA CHARGES, AND SURCHARGES ON TOP OF SURCHARGES. WE ARE AN UNDERDEVELOPED AREA AND THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US GOING ARE THE SIZEABLE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES -- YET WE ARE PAYING FOR A SHIPPING SERVICE THAT EXPENSE-WISE, RIVALS THAT OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY."

MANGEFEL TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES HE SUPPORTED ENTIRELY THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT, AND SAID TRANSPAC IS BEING KEPT ALIVE ARTIFICIALLY, WHICH DOES NEITHER THE COMPANY OR THE CONSUMER ANY GOOD.

"DOCTORS SOMETIMES," SAID MANGEFEL, "MUST AMPUTATE A LIMB IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PATIENT, AND I THINK THE ANALOGY HERE IS CLEAR: THAT WE MUST GET RID OF TRANSPAC IN ORDER TO SAVE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE FOR PAYING FOR THE MISTAKES OF OTHER PEOPLE."

"IT IS TIME TO LET TRANSPAC SINK," HE SAID, "AND IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH A NEW MEANS TO PROVIDE GOOD SHIPPING SERVICES FOR OUR PEOPLE."

(ALL USERS, PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.)
(HOUSE SPEECHES SUMMARIZED)

SAIPAN, JAN 21, 1974 (CONGRESS RELEASE) --- AT THE CLOSING OF MONDAY'S MEETING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SEVERAL SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED AND A STATEMENT WAS SUBMITTED FOR OFFICIAL INSERTION IN THE HOUSE JOURNAL.

PALAU CONGRESSMAN TARKONG PEDRO SPOKE OF A "CRITICAL" SITUATION IN HIS DISTRICT CONCERNING THE STAFF NURSES OF MACDONALD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN KOROR WHO HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO "PETITION, AND IF NECESSARY, DEMAND ON THE THREAT OF A STRIKE THAT THEIR SALARIES BE RAISED TO AT LEAST THE SAME LEVEL OR LEVELS AS THE SALARIES OF COMPARABLE STAFF EMPLOYEES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT."

TARKONG INDICATED HE IS AFRAID THAT IF THE NURSES PETITION IS "NOT DULY ACKNOWLEDGED AND RECEIVED FAVORABLY" THESE NURSES MAY BE FORCED TO GO ON STRIKE AS A LAST RESORT FOR WHAT THEY TERM "EQUITABLE COMPENSATION." THE STRIKE, ACCORDING TO TARKONG, MAY BE CALLED SOMETIME IN THE FIRST PART OF NEXT MONTH OR "35 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THEIR PETITION" CONTAINED IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 11, ADDRESSED TO THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR PALAU DISTRICT, DR. MINORU UEKI.

THE PALAU CONGRESSMAN NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM "IS NOT CONFINED" TO HIS OWN DISTRICT ALONE. "IT HAS TERRITORY-WIDE IMPLICATIONS AND MAY, BECAUSE OF ITS VERY NATURE, OCCUR IN ANY OF OUR SIX DISTRICTS," HE SAID. CONGRESSMAN TARKONG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERNED OVER MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES HAVING TO USE THE "BLACKMAIL AND STRONG ARM TACTICS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN ORDER TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS OR TO SEEK REDRESS FOR THEIR GRIEVANCES." HE SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THAT "WE AS OFFICERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT, SHALL DISCUSS AND REASON FREELY WITH ANY GROUP OF MICRONESIANS WHO THINK THEY ARE ALWAYS BEING TREATED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY BY OUR GOVERNMENT, THERESY DETERRING THE USE OF ANY SUCH TACTICS BY MICRONESIANS."

6259

YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL'S REMARKS ALSO URGED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO END THE FRANCHISE AND "LAUNCH A NEW MEANS TO PROVIDE GOOD SHIPPING" FOR MICRONESIA.

SENATOR MANGEFEL RECALLED THAT IN 1963, TWO COMPANIES BEGAN OPERATIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, AIR MICRONESIA AND MICRONESIAN INTEROCEAN LINES, INC., OR MILI SINCE THEN HE SAID, AIR SERVICES HAVE GONE UPHILL, WHILE SHIPPING SERVICES HAD GONE STEADILY DOWNHILL, OR AS MANGEFEL TOLD THE SENATE: "UNDERWATER."

"I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IT COSTS AS MUCH AS \$800 TO SHIP A CAR FROM GUAM TO MY DISTRICT, YAP," HE STATED, "WHILE SHIPMENT OF THAT SAME CAR FROM THE UNITED STATES MAINLAND TO GUAM COSTS ONLY ABOUT \$600. WE HAVE SEEN YEN CHARGES, AND FUEL CHARGES AND EXTRA CHARGES, AND SURCHARGES ON TOP OF SURCHARGES. WE ARE AN UNDERDEVELOPED AREA AND THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US GOING ARE THE SIZEABLE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES -- YET WE ARE PAYING FOR A SHIPPING SERVICE THAT EXPENSE-WISE, RIVALS THAT OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY."

MANGEFEL TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES HE SUPPORTED ENTIRELY THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT, AND SAID TRANSPAC IS BEING KEPT ALIVE ARTIFICIALLY, WHICH DOES NEITHER THE COMPANY OR THE CONSUMER ANY GOOD.

"DOCTORS SOMETIMES," SAID MANGEFEL, "MUST AMPUTATE A LIMB IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PATIENT, AND I THINK THE ANALOGY HERE IS CLEAR: THAT WE MUST GET RID OF TRANSPAC IN ORDER TO SAVE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE FOR PAYING FOR THE MISTAKES OF OTHER PEOPLE."

"IT IS TIME TO LET TRANSPAC SINK," HE SAID, "AND IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH A NEW MEANS TO PROVIDE GOOD SHIPPING SERVICES FOR OUR PEOPLE."

(ALL USERS, PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.)
(HOUSE SPEECHES SUMMARIZED)

SAIPAN, JAN 21, 1974 (CONGRESS RELEASE) --- AT THE CLOSING OF MONDAY'S MEETING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SEVERAL SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED AND A STATEMENT WAS SUBMITTED FOR OFFICIAL INSERTION IN THE HOUSE JOURNAL.

PALAU CONGRESSMAN TARKONG PEDRO SPOKE OF A "CRITICAL" SITUATION IN HIS DISTRICT CONCERNING THE STAFF NURSES OF MACDONALD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN KOROR WHO HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO "PETITION, AND IF NECESSARY, DEMAND ON THE THREAT OF A STRIKE THAT THEIR SALARIES BE RAISED TO AT LEAST THE SAME LEVEL OR LEVELS AS THE SALARIES OF COMPARABLE STAFF EMPLOYEES IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT."

TARKONG INDICATED HE IS AFRAID THAT IF THE NURSES PETITION IS "NOT DULY ACKNOWLEDGED AND RECEIVED FAVORABLY" THESE NURSES MAY BE FORCED TO GO ON STRIKE AS A LAST RESORT FOR WHAT THEY TERM "EQUITABLE COMPENSATION." THE STRIKE, ACCORDING TO TARKONG, MAY BE CALLED SOMETIME IN THE FIRST PART OF NEXT MONTH OR "35 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THEIR PETITION" CONTAINED IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 11, ADDRESSED TO THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR PALAU DISTRICT, DR. MINORU UEKI.

THE PALAU CONGRESSMAN NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM "IS NOT CONFINED" TO HIS OWN DISTRICT ALONE. "IT HAS TERRITORY-WIDE IMPLICATIONS AND MAY, BECAUSE OF ITS VERY NATURE, OCCUR IN ANY OF OUR SIX DISTRICTS," HE SAID. CONGRESSMAN TARKONG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES HAVING TO USE THE "BLACKMAIL AND STRONG ARM TACTICS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN ORDER TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS OR TO SEEK REDRESS FOR THEIR GRIEVANCES." HE SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THAT "WE AS OFFICERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT, SHALL DISCUSS AND REASON FREELY WITH ANY GROUP OF MICRONESIANS WHO THINK THEY ARE ALWAYS BEING TREATED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY BY OUR GOVERNMENT, THEREBY DETERRING THE USE OF ANY SUCH TACTICS BY MICRONESIANS."

06760

CONGRESSMAN TARKONG URGED THAT CONGRESS EXPRESS ITS CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO THE PROBLEM AND ALSO URGE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES IN PALAU AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA "AUTHORIZE, ORGANIZE AND OBLIGATE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE GRIEVANCES OF THE NURSES OF MACDONALD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN PALAU DISTRICT AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS OR APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION." HE OFFERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT CONGRESS REQUEST APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

MEANWHILE, CONGRESSMAN LUKE TMAN OF YAP SUBMITTED A STATEMENT DURING MONDAY'S SESSION FOR INSERTION IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE STATEMENT SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH REGARD TO A STORY CONCERNING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH WAS SENT OUT BY MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE JANUARY 10, 1974.

TMAN'S STATEMENT INDICATED THAT IN THE STORY THERE WERE TWO MISLEADING POINTS. THE FIRST DEALS WITH A STATEMENT THAT, "LAST SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL PASSED THE SENATE, BUT THE HOUSE TOOK NO ACTION ON IT...." CONGRESSMAN TMAN SAID SUCH "IS NOT TRUE." HE SAID "THE HOUSE DID TAKE ACTION ON THE SENATE BILL. THE MEASURE WAS REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES."

THE YAP CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMITTEES, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO FINANCE THE CONVENTION AND IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO DEFER THE BILL UNTIL THERE IS MONEY.

ACCORDING TO TMAN, THE SECOND ERROR IN THE STORY DEALS WITH PRICE CONTROL LEGISLATION AND THE ERROR WAS SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THE FIRST WHERE MNS STATED: "A PRICE CONTROL BILL PASSED IN THE SENATE IN THE PALAU SESSION BUT THE HOUSE NEVER TOOK ACTION ON IT." CONGRESSMAN TMAN NOTED THAT "THERE WAS A REPORT, NUMBER 248, BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THE MEASURE, PASSED FIRST READING AS HOUSE DRAFT ONE, BUT THAT AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE BETWEEN THOSE IN FAVOR AND THOSE AGAINST, THE MATTER WAS FINALLY DEFERRED ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SESSION."

CONGRESSMAN TMAN FURTHER STATED: "TO HAVE BEEN ACCURATE, BOTH TIME THE WRITER SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT THE HOUSE CONSIDERED THE MEASURE BUT FAILED TO PASS IT DURING THE SESSION." HE NOTED "I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA DO NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DOES NOT CARE ENOUGH ABOUT SUCH IMPORTANT MATTERS AS PRICE CONTROL AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO TAKE ACTION ON THEM."

CONGRESSMAN MACHIME O'SONIS OF TRUK ALSO DELIVERED A SPEECH DURING MONDAY'S SESSION. HIS SPEECH DEALS WITH THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS BEING HELD ON SAIPAN AND THE DECISION REACHED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS TO HOLD SESSION HERE.

CONGRESSMAN O'SONIS COMMENTED THAT THE "CONGRESS WAS UNABLE--FOR A NUMBER OF LOGISTICAL REASON--TO HOLD THIS SESSION IN MAJURO IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT." HE SAID CONGRESS WILL "SERIOUSLY" CONSIDER HOLDING A SESSION IN THAT DISTRICT, AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE SHOULD THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAIL." HE COMMENDED THE DECISION REACHED BY THE LEADERSHIP TO HOLD THE SESSION ON SAIPAN.

IN THIS SPEECH, THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN STATED: "AS WE ALL KNOW, SAIPAN--SO TO SPEAK--WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND WE HAVE HELD ALL BUT THREE OF OUR FIFTEEN SESSION ON SAIPAN. THIS IS THE SEAT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AND IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT WE HOLD OUR MEETING'S HERE WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FURTHERMORE, WE ALL HAVE MADE MANY FRIENDS AND HAVE MANY RELATIVES ON THIS ISLAND."

19761

CONGRESSMAN O'SONIS CONTINUED "I DO NOT THINK, FOR EXAMPLE, I WOULD FEEL MUCH AT HOME ON GUAM OR HAWAII AS I DO HERE. IN BOTH PLACES I WOULD FEEL LIKE A STRANGER IN A STRANGE PLACE. WHILE BOTH PLACES HAVE PROGRESSED IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD, THEY HAVE ALSO REGRESSED IN TERMS OF OUR WELL-KNOWN MICRONESIAN HOSPITALITY, AND OTHER SIMPLE BUT IMPORTANT VIRTUES."

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN ALSO SAID, "THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN ARE VERY OUTGOING AND HAVE AN ESPECIALLY NICE KIND OF HOSPITALITY; THEY ALSO HAVE EXCELLENT LOCAL WAYS OF COOKING AND ANYONE WHO HAS MISSED A CHANORRO FIESTA HAS REALLY MISSED SOMETHING GRAND." HE SAID THE LEADERSHIP IS WISE TO CHOOSE SAIPAN AS A MEETING PLACE SINCE IT IS "THE SEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CONGRESS, AND IT IS STILL VERY MUCH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOOD ASPECTS OF OUR MICRONESIAN ISLANDS."

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN CONCLUDED: "I HOPE THAT WHILE WE WILL EVENTUALLY GET TO VISIT THE REMAINING DISTRICTS OF THE MARSHALLS AND YAP, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE OUR SESSION HERE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME."

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(CONGRESS MEETS STATE DEPARTMENT REP CONCERNING LAW OF THE SEA)

SAIPAN JAN. 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE) -- THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA, TOGETHER WITH THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE'S ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, MET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT CONCERNING LAW OF THE SEA IN A PUBLIC HEARING LAST WEEK.

AN ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BERNARD OXMAN, TOLD THE PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ANXIOUS TO WORK OUT SOLUTIONS WITH THE CONGRESS SO THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN REPRESENT MICRONESIAN INTERESTS AT A UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA IS THAT MICRONESIA, AS AN ISLAND NATION, SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO ASSERT EXTENSIVE JURISDICTION OVER ALL WATERS WITHIN 200 MILES BEYOND STRAIGHT BASELINES CONNECTING HER OUTER-MOST ISLANDS, A POSITION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH. THE CONGRESS BELIEVES THAT BECAUSE MICRONESIA IS A SMALL ISLAND NATION HAD HAS BEEN DENIED LAND-BASED RESOURCES, IT DESERVES GREATER RIGHTS TO THE RESOURCES OF THE SEA.

OXMAN SAID, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS NOTED UNOFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR THE 200 MILE JURISDICTION PROPOSAL AS FAR AS SEABED RESOURCES ARE CONCERNED, IT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY PLAN THAT WOULD BLOCK OFF HUGE AREAS OF WATER TO AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT, AS WELL AS ANY PLAN WHICH WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES OF FISH, SUCH AS TUNA, WHICH TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES IN THE OCEAN, OFTEN THROUGH NATIONAL TERRITORIAL SEA AREAS.

CONCERNING FISHERIES, CONSIDERED THE MOST COMPLICATED ASPECT OF LAW OF THE SEA, AT LEAST FROM THE UNITED STATES VIEWPOINT, OXMAN SAID THAT THE LARGE FISHING NATIONS SUCH AS JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED TO A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT, AS PROPOSED BY MICRONESIA, AND SUGGESTS A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA.

"THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES A 'SPECIES APPROACH' THAT WOULD ESSENTIALLY GIVE COASTAL NATIONS CONTROL OVER STOCKS OF FISH WHERE THEY EXIST," (SUCH AS REEF FISH, SHORE FISH) SAID OXMAN, INCLUDING SUBJECTING THE ENTIRE TUNA FISH RESOURCE TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS AS THEY ARE HIGHLY MIGRATORY. HOWEVER, THIS POINT DREW MANY QUESTIONS AND SOME CRITICISM FROM MANY HOUSE AND SENATE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO REALIZE THAT SINCE MICRONESIA LACKS FISHING FLEETS, GETTING ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE CATCH FROM AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION MIGHT BECOME A REAL PROBLEM.

29290

ALTHOUGH OXMAN SAID THE UNITED STATES IS "ABSOLUTELY COMMITTEE" TO FULL PRESENTATION OF MICRONESIAN VIEWS AT THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. MANY MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN CONGRESS ARE NOT YET SATISFIED THEIR VIEWS, AND THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES, CAN BE RECONCILED. MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DONNICK, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID DURING THE HEARING THAT THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON LAW OF THE SEA CONCERNING THE TUNA ISSUE IS A TOOL "TO MERELY SANCTION TUNA FISHING AS IS,2 WHICH HE FEELS WOULD RESULT IN UNFAIR FOREIGN EXPLOITATION OF A VALUABLE MICRONESIAN RESOURCE.

MANY CONGRESSMEN ALSO BELIEVE THERE ARE ALSO OTHER IMPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH THE LAW OF THE SEA ISSUE, MOST NOTABLY CONCERNING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. UNDER THE PROPOSED DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION, MICRONESIA WOULD PLACE COMPLETE AUTHORITY OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES. NOW, WITH THE UNITED STATES WISHING TO REPRESENT MICRONESIA AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AN ISSUE WHERE CONFLICTING VIEWS EXIST MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE PRIVATELY WONDERING IF SIMILAR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN OTHER AREAS WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE UNDER SUCH A COMPACT. HOW THE LAW OF THE SEA ISSUE THUS IS RESOLVED, MAY HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON FURTHER STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

06763