

(KENDALL ON DIALOGUE)

SAIPAN, OCT. 1 (MNS) ¹⁴ THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATE, WILFRED I. KENDALL OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS FEELS THE UPCOMING MICRONESIA N CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, BUT THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS WITH THE TIMING AND MECHANICS OF THE CONVENTION. file
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THE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM THE MARSHALLS WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE EDUCATION FOR SELF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA," WHICH WAS TAPE RECORDED LAST WEEK IN THE MARSHALLS FOR DISTRIBUTION THIS WEEK TO THE SIX TRUST TERRITORY RADIO STATIONS.

SENATOR KENDALL SAID PARTICIPATION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN THE CONCON HINGES ON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION AND THE RESOLVING OF CERTAIN INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN HIS DISTRICT. THE FIRST OF THESE PROBLEMS, HE SAID, WAS THE CREATION OF THE MARSHALLS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, A MOVE WITH WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DID NOT AGREE. A SECOND PROBLEM INVOLVES THE FAILURE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO GRANT THE OFTEN-EXPRESSED WISH OF THE MARSHALLS FOR A 50 PER CENT REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM. AND THIRD, THERE IS A FEELING AMONG MANY IN THE MARSHALLS THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS BEING RUSHED AT THIS STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA.

THE SENATOR ADDED: "THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE MARSHALLS. BUT THERE ARE TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES, AND THESE ARE BEGINNING TO SURFACE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES THAT NOW FACE THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE."

ASKED ABOUT THE ATTEMPT BY THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, TO "BOYCOTT" THE CONCON, SENATOR KENDAL POINTED OUT THAT THE NITIJELA PASSED ONLY A RESOLUTION OPPOSING MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION, NOT A DISTRICT LAW, AND THAT THIS MERELY EXPRESSED THE OPINION OF THE 24 MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. HE SAID HE FEELS THE NITIJELA MEMBERS ARE AWARE THAT THEY CANNOT ENACT ANY LAW PROHIBITING A TRUST TERRITORY-WIDE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

SENATOR KENDAL DID SAY HE FEELS THE CONVENTION IS BEING RUSHED DUE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE, CHIEFLY FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE POINTED OUT THAT A MAJOR PORTION OF THE FUNDING FOR THE CONVENTION IS COMING FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND "...WE HAVE TO WORK WITHIN A CERTAIN LIMIT OF TIME TO SPEND THE MONEY; OTHERWISE WE WON'T GET ANYTHING GOING ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION."

ASKED WHETHER THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ARE READY TO ESTABLISH A CONSTITUTION, SENATOR KENDAL SAID HE FEELS THEY ARE. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WHETHER THE CONVENTION CAN GET THE JOB DONE DEPENDS, IN LARGE MEASURE, ON THE WORK DONE IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONVENTION. HE NOTED, ALSO, THE DESIRE OF SOME DISTRICTS TO HOLD THEIR OWN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PRIOR TO THE LARGER MICRONESIAN CONVENTION, AND SAID HE HAS HEARD THIS POSSIBILITY MENTIONED IN THE MARSHALLS. THE SENATOR SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION HOLDING A MARSHALLS DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WOULD BE "...VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH SOME OF THE THINGS THE NITIJELA HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO TO DEVELOP THE MARSHALLS FIRST."

COMMENTING ON THE REASON WHY THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT IS NOT REPRESENTED ON THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE, SENATOR KENDAL SAID HE SOMEHOW THOUGHT THE MARSHALLS WOULD COME UP WITH A CHANGE OF HEART, BUT APPARENTLY CERTAIN PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE DELEGATE ELECTION MUST BE SOLVED FIRST. "THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE, THERE MOST LIKELY WILL BE NO REPRESENTATION ON THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

AMONG THE PROBLEMS WITH THE ELECTION, SENATOR KENDAL MENTIONED THE FACT THAT THE DELEGATES, AS ELECTED, REPRESENT CERTAIN AREAS THAT DO NOT FALL WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL PATTERNS. THERE IS LEGITIMATE CONCERN AMONG SOME PEOPLE, HE SAID, THAT THE DELEGATES ELECTED DO NOT TRULY REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS BECAUSE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY TIME IN HISTORY THAT THE ISLANDS OF THE MARSHALLS HAVE BEEN GROUPED TOGETHER THE WAY THEY WERE FOR THAT ELECTION. 14306

THIS, HE SAID, IS A CULTURAL PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE RECOGNIZED. THE SENATOR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "...THE WAY THINGS STAND NOW, ONCE YOU ARE ELECTED, YOU ARE ELECTED, AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE."

SENATOR KENDAL SAID HE FEELS THE CURRENT, INWARD-LOOKING TREND IN THE MARSHALLS AND OTHER DISTRICTS IS GOOD. EACH DISTRICT, HE EMPHASIZED, HAS THE RIGHT TO VOICE ITS CONCERN OVER THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC.

"SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS AND UNITY IN MICRONESIA," HE STATED, "ARE TWO EXTREME THOUGHTS. UNITY--LIKE MANY THINGS UNDER THE SUN--IS POSSIBLE. THE SUCCESS OF OUR PUTTING THE PLAN TO WORK DEPENDS ON THE EFFORTS WE ALL ARE WILLING TO PUT INTO IT....I THINK UNITY IN MICRONESIA CANNOT BE REALIZED, HOWEVER, UNLESS WE COME TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS."

SENATOR KENDALL WAS INTERVIEWED BY A PANEL CONSISTING OF JOE MURPHY, EDITOR OF THE MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT; EDINAL JORKAN OF WSZO RADIO IN MAJURO; AND CLAUDE PHILLIP, CIVIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

(SCHOOL BUSES APPROVED)

SAIPAN, OCT. 3 (MNS)---A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN NEW SCHOOL BUSES, ALL FOR SAIPAN, HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE RON PETERSON.

THE DIESEL ENGINE, HINO TYPE BUSES CAN CARRY A MAXIMUM OF 60 PASSENGERS EACH. THE BUSES WILL COST \$170,000, AND WERE ORDERED UNDER THE WAR CLAIMS PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE. ACCORDING TO THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, THIS IS THE FIRST ORDER FOR GOODS PLACED UNDER THE WAR CLAIMS PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE.

THE MONEY WAS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS THROUGH A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LAST YEAR.

SEVERAL TT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TRAVELED TO JAPAN LAST MONTH MEETING WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HAND-CARRIED THE BUS CONTRACT TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

MARIANAS DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION JESUS CONCEPTION TOLD MNS THAT THE SEVEN NEW BUSES WILL NOT ALLEVIATE ALL BUSING PROBLEMS ON SAIPAN. HE SAID A TOTAL OF TEN BUSES ARE NEEDED TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOLS.

CONCEPTION SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING PARTS FOR THE OLD BUSES WHICH ARE CONSTANTLY BREAKING DOWN.

THERE ARE EIGHT SCHOOL BUSES NOW BEING USED, CONCEPTION SAID. ONE OF THEM IS BRAND NEW, TWO OTHERS ARE FROM OKINAWA, AND THE OTHER FIVE WERE PURCHASED FROM THE SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY.

THE MARIANAS DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ALSO STATED THAT THE FIVE OLD BUSES, WHICH ARE SEVEN YEARS OLD, WILL BE USED FOR PARTS AND BACKUP PURPOSES.

WE'RE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL GET THE BUSES SOON BECAUSE IT'S BEEN LONG OVERDUE AND WE'RE JUST CROSSING OUR FINGERS THAT THEY WILL BE HERE IN DECEMBER AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT," CONCEPTION SAID.

(THOMAS AND SABLAN TO ABU)

SAIPAN, OCTOBER 3 (MNS)---CHIEF OF BROADCAST DIVISION ELIAS THOMAS AND KJQR RADIO STATION MANAGER RUDY M. SABLAN WILL LEAVE JAPAN THIS WEEK TO ATTEND THE ASIAN BROADCASTING UNION (ABU) CONFERENCE IN TOKYO.

THIS YEAR'S MEETING--ABU'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE--IS HOSTED BY NHK, JAPAN'S NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION COMPANY. THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON MONDAY OCTOBER SEVENTH, AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE TENTH.

ACCORDING TO THOMAS, THE ABU ORGANIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED

FOR THE COORDINATION AND FORMULATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLICIES OF BROADCAST. THE ORGANIZATION ALSO OFFERS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN RADIO AND TELEVISION AND ALSO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATIONS.

THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE (MBS) BECAME A MEMBER OF ABU IN 1972. LAST YEAR IN NOVEMBER, THE ABU CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN JAKARTA. THOMAS AND FORMER CHIEF OF BROADCAST DIVISION GEORGE CALLISON ATTENDED THAT MEETING.

COMMENTING ON THE MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE, WHICH IS "THE ROLE OF BROADCASTING IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT", THOMAS INDICATED THAT HE HOPES BOTH SABLAN AND HIMSELF WILL RETURN FROM THE CONFERENCE WITH SOME NEW IDEAS "WHICH WILL BE USEFUL TO THE STATIONS IN THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE."

THOMAS AND SABLAN ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO SAIPAN SATURDAY, (OCTOBER 12).