

(CAMPAIGN '74--MARSHALLS)

MAJURO, NOV. 4 (MNS)<sup>74</sup>--AS THE 1974 CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ELECTION CAMPAIGN DRAWS TO A CLOSE THIS WEEK, THE MOST HIGHLY POLITICIZED DISTRICT CENTER IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, OTHER THAN SAIPAN, IS MAJURO.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF POLITICAL INTEREST IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS A TIGHT CONGRESSIONAL RACE FOR THE SEAT FROM THE DISTRICT THAT ENCOMPASSES MAJURO, ARNO AND MILI. THE RACE HAS BEEN ENLIVENED BY A LADY CANDIDATE WHO IS WAGING AN ALL-OUT, AMERICAN STYLE CAMPAIGN AND IS DRAWING THE LION'S SHARE OF PUBLIC ATTENTION, AND BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF ANOTHER CANDIDATE UNDER THE CLOUD OF AN OLD FELONY CONVICTION.

ALSO GENERATING INTEREST IN THE MARSHALLS IS A SENATE RACE IN WHICH THE "GIANT" OF MARSHALLESE POLITICS, SENATOR AMATA KABUA, HAS OPPOSITION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CAREER. CARL HEINE'S ENTRY INTO THE RACE HAS CREATED ENOUGH OF A STIR TO MAKE THE CONTEST INTERESTING, IF NOT EXACTLY CLOSE.

THERE ARE NO UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR MARSHALLS DELEGATION SEATS IN THE CONGRESS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, CAME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST FURTHER PARTICIPATION BY THE MARSHALLS IN THE TERRITORY-WIDE CONGRESS EARLIER THIS YEAR, ALL OF THE INCUMBENT MEMBERS ARE RUNNING AGAIN. THE SEAT IN MOST DANGER SEEMS TO BE THAT OF FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE, WHO FACES A STRONG CHALLENGE FROM CARMEN MILNE BIGLER, THE ONLY WOMAN SEEKING A SEAT IN THE CONGRESS ANYWHERE IN THE TT, AND FROM CHUJI CHUTARO.

THE RACE DID HAVE A FOURTH CANDIDATE, UNTIL LAST WEEK WHEN HEMOS A. JACK WITHDREW AFTER IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT IN 1967 HE PLEADED GUILTY IN MARSHALLS DISTRICT COURT TO ONE COUNT OF EMBEZZLEMENT AND ONE COUNT OF MISCONDUCT IN PUBLIC OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH \$8 DOLLARS TAKEN FROM THE DISTRICT AGRICULTURE OFFICE WHERE HE THEN WORKED. THE AMOUNT WAS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE THE CHARGE A FELONY, AND JACK RECEIVED A ONE YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE. HE WAS ALSO REQUIRED TO MAKE FULL RESTITUTION OF THE MONEY, WHICH HE DID, BUT THE INCIDENT NEVERTHELESS LEFT HIM WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD WHICH HE FAILED TO DISCLOSE WHEN HE REGISTERED AS A CANDIDATE, AND WHICH WAS NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL LAST WEEK.

AS HE WITHDREW FROM THE RACE, JACK WENT ON THE MAJURO RADIO STATION TO URGE HIS SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR EITHER CHUTARO OR MS. BIGLER, NOT FOR INCUMBENT HEINE. MANY OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THIS WAS TACTICALLY A BAD MOVE, AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE SELECTED A SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR THIS SUPPORT, RATHER THAN SPLITTING IT. JUST WHAT EFFECT JACK'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RACE WILL HAVE IS NOT CLEAR, BUT AT LEAST ONE OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES FELT THAT JACK WAS A STRONG OPPONENT WHOSE WITHDRAWAL WILL HELP THAT PERSON'S CANDIDACY.

THE RACE HAS BEEN WIDELY PUBLICIZED. SPEECHES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED ON THE RADIO, POSTERS AND NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE BLOSSOMED OUT IN VIRTUALLY EVERY DOWNTOWN MAJURO STORE WINDOW, AND MS. BIGLER HAS PROMOTED HER CANDIDACY WITH THE RELATIVELY NOVEL--FOR MICRONESIA--USE OF PROFESSIONALLY PRINTED BUMPER STICKERS AND BUTTONS. THE STICKERS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND THE BUTTONS HAVE BECOME THE "IN" THING FOR MAJURO'S YOUNG PEOPLE. THEY PROMISE TO BECOME SOMETHING OF A COLLECTOR'S ITEM.

THE KABUA-HEINE SENATE RACE HAS GENERATED A LITTLE OF WHAT ONE OBSERVER CALLED "KUDSLINGLING," SOMETHING EVEN NEWER IN MARSHALLESE POLITICS THAN BUMPER STICKERS. SENATOR KABUA

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TOLD MNS THAT HE IS "DISAPPOINTED" THAT HIS OPPONENT HAS CHOSEN TO ATTACK HIM PERSONALLY, RATHER THAN DEBATE THE ISSUES. BUT FOR HIS PART, HEINE MAINTAINS THAT A PERSONAL ATTACK ON SENATOR KABUA, AND ON THE POLITICAL "POWER STRUCTURE" WHICH HE HAS BUILT UP AROUND HIM, IS THE ONLY WAY TO APPROACH THIS CAMPAIGN. HEINE EVEN ACCUSES THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OF BEING "PRO-KABUA," AND HAS INDICATED HE WILL PROTEST THE WAY THE BALLOTING IS BEING HANDLED IN AT LEAST ONE POLLING PLACE.

"WHATEVER HAPPENS, WIN OR LOSE," HEINE SAID LAST WEEKEND, "I WILL AT LEAST HAVE STARTED A DIALOGUE, AND PROVEN THAT A TWO-PARTY TYPE OF SYSTEM IS POSSIBLE HERE IN THE MARSHALLS." MOST OBSERVERS WITH WHOM MNS SPOKE FEEL SENATOR KABUA WILL RETAIN HIS SEAT BY A COMFORTABLE MARGIN. SOME WERE UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, AS TO JUST HOW THE VOTERS WILL REACT TO THE PERSONAL TYPE OF CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED.

TONY DEBRUM, DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER AND A KABUA SUPPORTER WHO IS ONE OF THE TARGETS OF HEINE'S CRITICISMS IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, SAYS HE FEELS THE RACE IS AN "INFORMAL REFERENDUM" ON THE STATUS QUESTIONS AROUND HERE," HE SAID, LEAVING LITTLE DOUBT AS TO HOW HE FEELS THE RACE WILL COME OUT.

SENATOR KABUA HAS BEEN A LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE MARSHALLS TOWARD SEPARATISM, IN THE OPINION OF MANY OBSERVERS, ALTHOUGH THE SENATOR HIMSELF DECLINES TO ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT HE IS THE "LEADER," PREFERRING TO THINK OF HIMSELF AS A POLITICIAN SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. IN ANY EVENT, SEPARATIST SENTIMENT IS STRONG IN MAJURO, AND IT IS A FACTOR IN THE ELECTION. LINED UP GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF THE SEPARATION OF THE MARSHALLS FROM THE REST OF THE TERRITORY ARE INCUMBENTS CHARLES DOMNICK, ATAJI BALOS AND SENATOR KABUA. THE OTHER INCUMBENT GENERALLY ALLIGNED WITH THEM IS EKPA SILK, ALTHOUGH HE IS LESS EASILY TYPED IN THAT REGARD. THE ONLY INCUMBENT CLEARLY OPPOSED TO THE APPROACH BEING TAKEN BY THE MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IS JOHN HEINE. THE CHALLENGERS ARE LESS EASY TO CATEGORIZE, ALTHOUGH A CLUE MAY BE CONTAINED FOR ONE IN THE SLOGAN ON HER BUMPER STICKERS-- "MARSHALLS NOKTA" OR MARSHALLS FIRST, READ THE STICKERS FOR CARMEN BIGLER.

OUTSIDE OF MAJURO, THE CONGRESSIONAL RACES SEEM TO BE LINING UP IN FAVOR OF THE INCUMBENTS. CONGRESSMAN SILK HAS TWO OPPONENTS, ANDREW HISAIAH AND ALEE ALIK, BUT LAST WEEK ALIK WENT ON THE RADION TO URGE HIS SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR SILK, IN EFFECT WITHDRAWING FROM THE RACE, AND SILK IS ACCORDED A GOOD CHANCE TO WIN. HE WAS SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT TO SPEND THE FINAL WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN IN HONOLULU, WHERE THERE AREN'T VOTES BUT WHERE HE AND SENATOR LAZARUS SALII WERE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS ON THE STATUS QUESTION. SILK IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, AS WELL AS BEING FLOOR LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH TROUBLE DEFEATING PERENNIAL CANDIDATE LUCKY LOKBOJ TO RETAIN HIS SEAT, MOST OBSERVERS FEEL, WHILE INCUMBENT ATAJI BALOS, PITTED AGAINST A COUSIN OF HIS, TIPNE PHILIPPO, IS ALSO THOUGHT TO BE WELL AHEAD AS THE CAMPAIGN REACHES IT'S FINAL DAYS. LITTLY CAMPAIGNING FOR THESE SEATS IS TAKING PLACE IN MAJURO, SINCE THEY INVOLVE OUTER ISLANDS CONSTITUENCIES.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME ON TUESDAY, THE MARSHALLS WILL HAVE GONE THROUGH AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE. AND AT LEAST ONE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID

HE DOESN'T LIKE IT. "I'M SCARED," HE SAID, "AT WHAT THIS PERSONAL, MUDSLINGING CAMPAIGN IS DOING TO PEOPLE. IT IS AWAKENING FEELINGS BETTER LEFT ALONE. I DON'T LIKE IT."

IT WASN'T THE MOST OPTIMISTIC OF COMMENTS, BUT IT WAS AN OBSERVATION BEING HEARD IN MAJURO AS CAMPAIGN '74 DREW TO A CLOSE.

(COLEMAN VISIT)

PALAU, NOV . 4 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN RECENTLY COMPLETED A TEN-DAY VISIT TO PALAU DISTRICT.

AFTER MAKING AN INSPECTION TOURS OF THE DISTRICT CENTER FACILITIES, THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITED SEVERAL OUTER ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES. ACCOMPANIED BY PALAU DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS O. REMENGESAU, MR. COLEMAN VISITED PELELIU MUNICIPALITY WHERE HE INSPECTED COMMUNITY PROJECTS

SUCH AS THE PELELIU FISH POND, WATER SYSTEM, POWER PLANT, AND THE TRUST TERRITORY DRY DOCK FACILITIES.

DURING HIS VISITS TO BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN PARTS OF BABELTHUAP, MR. COLEMAN VISITED THE SCHOOL OF THE PACIFIC, A NEWLY ESTABLISHED HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PALAU MODEKNGEI RELIGION, IN NGETPANG MUNICIPALITY. THERE HE MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE MODEKNGEI RELIGION AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL. THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF NGEREMLENGUI WHERE A MEETING WAS HELD WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF NGEREMLENGUI TRADITIONAL CHIEF AND OTHER VILLAGE CHIEFS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY. A SIMILAR MEETING WAS HELD AT THE NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITY OF NGETPANG WITH THE LEADERS OF THAT MUNICIPALITY.

THE LAST PORTION OF THE TRIP WAS IN NGIWAL MUNICIPALITY ON THE EASTERN COAST OF BABELTHUAP WHERE THE DEPUTY HICOM'S PARTY SPENT THE NIGHT. IN THAT MUNICIPALITY A SIMILAR MEETING WAS ALSO HELD WITH THE MAGISTRATE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. IN THE MEETING, A NUMBER OF REQUESTS WERE MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NGIWAL WITH REGARD TO PLANS AND EXISTING PROGRAMS SUCH AS IMPROVING ROADS, BUILDING A WAITING HOUSE AT INEKANG DOCK, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY WATER LINES.

WHILE IN PALAU, MR. COLEMAN PARTICIPATED IN THE U.N. DAY AND ANNUAL FAIR CELEBRATIONS OF THAT DISTRICT. HE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE TRADITIONAL AND ELECTED LEADERS TO DISCUSS DISTRICT PLANS AND PROGRAMS.