

(LADY WINS CONGRESS SEAT)

MAJURO, NOV. 6 (MNS) ²⁴ VOTERS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAVE APPARENTLY ELECTED THE FIRST WOMAN TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. BASED ON EARLY AND INCOMPLETE RETURNS, CARMEN MILNE BIGLER APPEARED TO HAVE DEFEATED INCUMBENT FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE AND CHUJI CHUTARO. R16

AFTER WORKING ALL NIGHT IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE ON MAJURO, THE COUNTING AND TABULATION COMMITTEE, HEADED BY FRED SIGRAH, REPORTED THAT MS. BIGLER HAD ASSURED A HUGE LEAD ON MAJURO ATOLL AND FROM ABSENTEE BALLOTS, ALTHOUGH RETURNS FROM ARNO AND MILI AND THE OTHER ATOLLS THAT MAKE UP REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT FIVE WERE NOT IN EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING (NOV. 6), IS APPEARED TO MOST OBSERVERS THAT MS. BIGLER WAS THE WINNER.

IN OTHER RACES IN THE MARSHALLS, INCUMBENTS WERE RUNNING STRONG. IT APPEARED THAT SENATOR ANATA KABUA WOULD RETAIN HIS SEAT BY A MARGIN OF ABOUT TWO TO ONE OVER CHALLENGER CARL HEINE. AND INCUMBENTS CHARLES DOMNICK, ATAJI BALOS AND EKPAP SILK WERE RUNNING WELL AHEAD IN EARLY RETURNS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

A FINAL COUNT WILL BE DELAYED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IN THE KWAJALEIN ATOLL, INCLUDING HEAVILY POPULATED EBEBE, WERE GOING TO THE POLLS WEDNESDAY. KWAJALEIN FOLLOWS HAWAII TIME, AND IT THUS AFFECT THE BILER-HEINE-CHUTARO RACE, THOUGH.

THE FINAL, UNOFFICIAL TOTALS FOR ABSENTEE VOTES, PLUS BALLOTS CAST IN MAJURO, SHOWED MS. BIGLER WITH 593, HEINE RUNNING FAR BEHIND IN SECOND PLACE WITH 189, AND CHUTARO IN THIRD WITH 141, A HANDFUL OF VOTES WAS ALSO CAST FOR HELOS A. JACK, THE CANDIDATE WHO WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE RACE LAST WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONVICTED ON A FELONY CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT IN 1967. THE SA E RETURNS, FROM MAJURO PLUS ABSENTEE BALLOTS, SHOWED SENATOR KABUA WITH 948 VOTES TO 408 FOR CARL HEINE. AT MID-MORNING WEDNESDAY, RETURNS FROM THE OTHER RACES WERE SCATTERED AND VERY INCOMPLETE.

MS. BIGLER, THE WIFE OF NOEL BIGLER, WHO WORKS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MARSHALLS, RAN AN ASTUTE, AMERICA-STYLE CAMPAIGN THAT INCLUDED SATURATING THE DISTRICT CENTER WITH BUMPER STICKERS, BUTTONS AND NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND POSTERS. SHE WILL BE THE FIRST WOMAN EVER TO SIT IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, ALTHOUGH WOMEN HAVE HELD SEATS IN SOME OF THE TERRITORY'S DISTRICT LEGISLATURES.

OBSERVERS POINTED OUT THAT MS. BIGLER'S LEAD IN MAJURO WOULD PROBABLY BE INSURMOUNTABLE, EVEN IF BOTH ARNO AND MILI GO AGAINST HER. THERE ARE 303 REGISTERED VOTERS IN MILI, WHERE CHUTARO IS EXPECTED TO PICK UP A GOOD SHARE OF THOSE VOTES. NOT ALL OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS ACTUALLY VOTED, OF COURSE, MAKING MS. BIGLER'S LEAD OF MORE THAN 400 VOTES IN MAJURO LOOK EVEN BETTER.

RETURNS ARE STILL UNOFFICIAL UNTIL CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, AND REPORTS FROM SOME OF MAJURO'S OUTER ISLANDS MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS. EARLY INDICATIONS WERE THAT MORE VOTERS WERE TURNING OUT TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION, ONE OF THE CLOSER AND MORE INTERESTING ELECTIONS HELD IN THE MARSHALLS IN RECENT YEARS.

(PALAU, MARIANAS, PONAPE, TRUK ELECTION RETURNS)

SAIPAN, NOV. 6 (MNS)---ELECTIONS FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WERE CONDUCTED TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 5). AND FROM RESULTS REPORTED BY THE VARIOUS DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONERS,

IT APPEARS AS THOUGH THERE WILL BE SEVERAL NEW FACES IN THE TERRITORY'S HIGHEST ELECTIVE BODY. FROM UNOFFICIAL FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE HEADQUARTERS LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION, TWO INCUMBENT SENATORS AND SEVEN INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE LOSING IN THEIR BIDS FOR REELECTION. THE RESULTS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL CERTIFICATION BY THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS.

AS OF LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, WITH SOME OF THE PRECINCTS STILL NOT COUNTED, HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

FROM THE MARIANAS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE 1., INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN FELIPE Q. ATALIG HAS BEEN DEFEATED IN HIS THIRD BID FOR A TWO YEAR TERM BY MARIANAS POLICE CAPTAIN JOSE P. MAFNAS. MAFNAS GARNERED 545 VOTES TO ATALIG'S 254 VOTES. HERMAN PALACIOS, POPULAR PARTY CANDIDATE, CAME IN SECOND WITH 403 VOTES. JOSEPH INOS TALLIED 91 VOTES. MAFNAS TOOK SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE, CONSIDERED A POPULAR PARTY STRONGHOLD BY COLLECTING 253. HE ALSO TOOK ROTA, A TERRITORIAL PARTY STRONGHOLD GARNERING 195 VOTES. HE LOST ON TINIAN. THOUGH BY A CLOSE MARGIN.

IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 2, INCLUDING ALL CHALAN KANOA, FORMER CAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERMAN R. GUERRERO LEADS BY 13 VOTES OVER INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN PEDRO P. TENORIO. GUERRERO HAS 540 VOTES TO TENORIO'S 527. ABSENTEE BALLOTS HAVE NOT BEEN COUNTED YET.

REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3 VOTES HAVE NOT BEEN COUNTED PENDING THE ACTUAL VOTING BY RESIDENTS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3 INCLUDES THE NORTHERN PART OF SAIPAN AND ALL OF THE NORTHERN ISLANDS.

THE SENATORIAL RACE ALSO IS STILL INCOMPLETE PENDING THE ELECTION RESULTS IN THE NORTHERN ISLANDS. POLITICAL OBSERVERS SAID THAT THIS RACE IS STILL VERY CLOSE.

IN PALAU DISTRICT, ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (NO. 10) HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ISIDORO RUDIMCH, A BUSINESSMAN, IS LEADING OVER INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN TARKONG PEDRO. RUDIMCH HAS 731 VOTES TO PEDRO'S 642.

IN THE SENATORIAL RACE BETWEEN INCUMBENT SENATOR ROMAN TMETUHL AND JOHN O. NGIRAKED, TMETUHL IS LEADING WITH 792. NGIRAKED HAS 650 VOTES.

IN PONAPE DISTRICT, INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN JOAB SIGRAH HAS DEFEATED YOSIWO GEORGE IN A CLOSE RACE FOR REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT DISTRICT NO. 12. HE RECEIVED 1,420 VOTES.

INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN RESIO MOSES DEFEATED HEINRICH IRIARTE AND PETER M. CHRISTIAN BY A WIDE MARGIN IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 13. CONGRESSMAN MOSES TALLIED 1,143, IRIARTE HAS 390 AND CHRISTIAN COLLECTED 316 VOTES.

THERE ARE NO RESULTS YET FROM REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 14 IN A THREE-WAY RACE BETWEEN INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN SUNGIWO HADLEY, EDGAR EDWARD AND LUCAS ADA.

IN SENATORIAL RACE, AMBILOS IEHSI IS ALSO LEADING EDWEL SANTOS BY A HUGE MARGIN. AS OF LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SENATOR IEHSI HAS 3,440 VOTES TO SANTOS' 1,962.

FROM TRUK DISTRICT, INCUMBENT SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH IS LOSING BY A WIDE MARGIN TO NICK BOSSY. WITH SEVERAL OF THE PRECINCTS COUNTED, BOSSY IS LEADING WITH 5,631 VOTES TO SEN. AMARAICH'S 2,318.

CONGRESSMAN SASAUO HARUO, RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT NO. 16, RECEIVED 1,941 VOTES.

INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN ENDY DOIS, ALSO VICE-SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, LOST HIS SEAT TO CHIRO ALBERT IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17. ALBERT SO FAR HAS GATHERED 1,573 VOTES TO CONGRESSMAN DOIS' 1,116.

KALISTO REFONOPEI APPARENTLY HAS DEFEATED INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN

MACHIME O'SONIS IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 19. REFONOPEI RECEIVED 2,069 VOTES TO O'SONIS 1,059.

RESULTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS 15 AND 18 HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS OF LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

THE ELECTION IN YAP DISTRICT WILL BE HELD THURSDAY (NOV. 7)

(SEE FOLLOWING STORY). THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE WILL REPORT THE ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS AS SOON AS RECEIVED. (YAP ELECTION DATE SET)

SAIPAN, NOV. 6 (MNS)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION IN YAP DISTRICT THAT WAS POSTPONED TUESDAY (NOV. 5) HAS NOW BEEN SET FOR THURSDAY (NOV. 7), ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRIK YOMA. THE ELECTION IN YAP WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

UNDER SECTION 8 OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918, THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR MUST CONCUR WITH ANY POSTPONEMENT DATES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION.

IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH WASHINGTON TUESDAY, HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FROM THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, YOMA SAID.

IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS, VOTERS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS OF PAGAN, ALA'AGAN, AND AGRIHAN WERE UNABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE A SHIP THAT WAS TO CARRY THE BALLOT BOXES TO THAT AREA LAST WEEKEND WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE ALSO BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER.

NO DEFINITE DATE HAS BEEN SET AS TO WHEN THE ELECTION IN THOSE ISLANDS WILL BE HELD. PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR YOMA TOLD MNS THAT HE IS ARRANGING TO HAVE THE NAVY ON GUAM AIR DROP THE BALLOT BOXES ON THOSE ISLANDS. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 50 VOTES FROM THOSE ISLANDS.

AS A RESULTS, BALLOTS FOR REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3 WHICH INCLUDES THE NORTHERN PART OF SAIPAN AND THE NORTHERN MARIANAS CAN NOT BE COUNTED UNTIL THOSE NORTHERN ISLANDS VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST.

(COST-OF-LIVING STUDIES AND SALARIES TASK FORCE)

SAIPAN, NOV. 6 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN HAS ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE ON SALARIES AND RISING COST-OF-LIVING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. COLEMAN APPOINTED SIX MEMBERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE TASK FORCE. THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL BE NAMING ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TASK FORCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

ACCORDING TO COLEMAN'S MEMORANDUM ESTABLISHING TO TASK FORCE, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS CONCERNED WITH SALARIES AND THE RISING COST-OF-LIVING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE ARE: EUSEBIO RECHUCHER, TT DIRECTOR OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; RICHARD I. MIYAMOTO, TT ATTORNEY GENERAL; THOMAS CROSSAN, TT PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER; DR. JACK HELKENA, CHAIRMAN, TT PERSONNEL BOARD; ARTHUR AKINA, TT DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL; AND N. NEIMAN CRALEY JR., SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, EX OFFICIO MEMBER.