

to Carpenter.

Much to the dismay of many of the fisherman trainees, Carpenter has started enforcing several of the monetary clauses in Van Camp's contract which have never before been enforced.

The cost of transportation home for a trainee on a one-year contract is set aside from his first earnings in a bank account in his name, as allowed in the contract, said Carpenter. If the need arises to send the man home in his first year of training, his own money is used. After one year, the company foots the expense.

The clause stating that 90 per cent of the guarantee will be

sent home is also being enforced.

"Most of our Micronesian trainees are from the outer islands of all the districts," said Carpenter. "They have left their families and all their responsibilities at home. Having no families here, they don't really fit into Palauan society, so there is nothing for them to spend their money on except liquor.

"The chief of Ulithi, visiting our company, wanted to know why one fisherman's family had not received any money when he made about \$600 in six months. 'We may not accept the man back,' the chief warned me," Carpenter said.

"So in December we told the men that their cash income would be restricted to \$50 a month, the balance being put into the bank under the fisherman's name, with the secretary holding the bank books, or being sent home, as the fisherman decided," Carpenter said.

The main problem Carpenter is trying to curb through salary restriction, he claims, is drunkenness. There have been two deaths at Van Camp in four years and innumerable fights and hospitalizations.

"Before I came, they used to carry the men onto the ships so drunk they couldn't walk. That's no way to learn to fish," Carpenter said. "Now we won't let them in the gate if they're drunk."

In November, when the salary restriction was announced, it was brought to Carpenter's attention that his fishermen

owed a lot of money for liquor. "So their full salary was paid them, with instructions to take the responsibility to pay off their debts," Carpenter said.

A month later, the 80 to 100 fishermen still owed \$4,112.95. But the \$50 restriction went into effect.

Most of the creditors, which include the Boom Boom Room, Smiling Bar, Redangel Store and Yoshida's, came to Carpenter to complain. Many of them, he said, were charging \$30 as interest on a \$10 loan.

"MLSC was asked to inform the creditors of the illegality of their high interest rates, Carpenter said.

Carpenter has written to the liquor board asking that the sale of alcohol be prohibited on Malakal Island, citing that liquor is not sold within the vicinity of the Micronesian Occupational Center.

"While we are a commercial establishment," Carpenter said, "we are training men to fish."

Though the fishermen are unhappy with Carpenter's new policies, in the last four months, Van Camp has earned as much as it they did in eight months of last year.

MLSC is planning to call a public hearing to straighten out the crew member's grievances said Benna Sakuma, of MLSC.

"We would like to renegotiate the contract—it's treating the fishermen like children," Sakuma said. "Many have married here and have nothing home, yet they aren't allowed to handle their own money. It should be up to each individual to negotiate with the company

if he feels he isn't responsible enough to hold his own salary."

"Van Camp's contract," Sakuma continued, "states that in the first year of operation a ship's crew will consist of 30 per cent Micronesians, and that number will be increased each year. Right now there are three ships manned entirely by Koreans. Van Camp says they don't have enough Micronesians, yet they just kicked 21 Micronesians off a ship."

The ships manned by Koreans "are too complicated for the Micronesians at this stage," Carpenter said.

"If they can't live up to their contract, it should be renegotiated," Sakuma said.

TT Gets New Fishing Boats

SAIPAN (MNS) — Director of Resources and Development, Wyam X. Zachary has announced the receipt of two moulded glass 26-foot whaleboats by the Marine Resources Division.

These two boats are powered by 25 hp diesel engines and are considered very seaworthy and rugged. Both were transported at no cost to the Trust Territory on board the USS Home from Honolulu to Guam by the U.S. Navy.

These boats will be shipped to Yap and then to Ulithi for use in fisheries programs which are now under the direction of Mike McCoy, the district fisheries specialist.