

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 11 (MNS)---THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MOVED INTO THE FIFTH WEEK OF ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN MONDAY (FEB. 11). SESSIONS WERE BRIEF IN BOTH HOUSES WITH THE HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBERS EACH PASSING ONE BILL ON SECOND READING AND SENDING IT TO THE OTHER HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE HOUSE PASSED AND SENT TO THE SENATE A MEASURE TO LOWER THE MINIMUM SIZE AND ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM SIZE OF TROCHUS WHICH MAY BE LAWFULLY TAKEN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HB 233). REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HEINE (MARSHALLS) CAST THE LONE DISSENTING VOTE ON THE MEASURE.

BEFORE ADJOURNING FOR THE DAY, CONGRESSMAN TARKONG PEDRO (PALAU) BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE THE EXISTANCE OF TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM IS PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. THE MATTER HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MATTERS, CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN JOAB SIGRAH.

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED MONDAY. THEY ARE: A MEASURE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN MATTERS CONCERNING DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES, (HB 297); A BILL TO ALLOW THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO LEGAL ENTITIES IN EACH DISTRICT; TO EMPOWER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TRANSFER AND CONVEY SUCH LANDS; TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS, RESERVATIONS, AND CONDITIONS TO SUCH TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE, (HB 298); AND A NATURALIZATION MEASURE, (HS 299).

MEANWHILE THE SENATE MONDAY PASSED ONE BILL AND SENT IT TO THE HOUSE, AND FILED ANOTHER ONE. A BILL WHICH WOULD CLARIFY AND EXPAND PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS IN LAND MATTERS IN WHICH A MINOR HAS AN INTEREST, (SB 212), PASSED THE SENATE. A MEASURE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE RIGHTS OF SUPPORT AND INHERITANCE BY A CHILD BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK FROM THE FATHER OF SUCH CHILD, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, (SB 223) WAS FILED ON THE GROUND THAT THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES IT IS MORE PROPERLY A SUBJECT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SEVERAL DISTRICT LEGISLATURES.

TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED: THEY ARE A BILL TO IMPOSE A GRADUATED INCOME TAX ON WAGES AND SALARIES, (SB 292); AND A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, (SB 293).

BOTH HOUSES ARE IN RECESSED UNTIL 10 TUESDAY MORNING.

(CONGRESS VISITS ROTA)

SAIPAN, FEB. 11 (MNS)---SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS INVITATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ROTA.

UPON ARRIVAL AT ROTA AIRPORT, THE CONGRESS MEMBERS WERE MET BY POLICE HONOR GUARD. LED BY A POLICE CAR AND ROTA DISTAD REP., THE CONGRESS TOURED THE ISLAND AND VISITED SEVERAL PUBLIC PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE CONGRESS. FOLLOWING A SHORT TOUR, THE CONGRESS MET FOR OVER AN HOUR WITH THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

VICE-SPEAKER ALFRED APATANG BRIEFED THE MEMBERS ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ROTA IS FACING. DURING THE MEETING, APATANG ASKED THE CONGRESSMEN TO APPROPRIATE \$176,000 FOR A NEW VILLAGE SUB-DIVISION, AND SAID THE GRANT SHOULD BE MADE FLEXIBLE SO THAT THE MONEY CAN BE USED ON SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDING ELECTRICITY AND WATER. APATANG ALSO REQUESTED FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MUNICIPAL OPERATION AND A DUMP TRUCK.

THE VICE-SPEAKER SAID THAT NONE OF PUBLIC WORKS DUMP TRUCKS ARE WORKING, PUTTING MOST GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN "CRITICAL CONDITION." FOLLOWING HIS BRIEF STATEMENT, MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE ATALIG STATED THAT THE

PRESENTATION MADE BY THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
WASS FULLY ENDORSED BY THE MARIANAS DELEGATION.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, CHRIS INOS, COMPLAINED THAT THE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT BEING AIRED ON RADIO STATION KJOR IS NOT BEING HEARD IN ROTA BECAUSE OF A POOR SIGNAL. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE HARBOR SITUATION ON ROTA IS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS.

CONCERNING THE SEPARATION OF DISTRICT ISSUE, INOS SAID IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WILL INITIATE A PLEBESCITE TO SEE WHERE THE PEOPLE OF ROTA STAND.

ONE OTHER COMPLAINT THE CONGRESSMEN HEARD IS THAT SOME CONGRESS-FUNDED PROJECTS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLVING FUND AND THE MARIANAS FISHING AUTHORITY. THEY REQUESTED THAT FUTURE PROJECTS IN WHICH MONEY IS MADE AVAILABLE SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC ON ROTA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PEOPLE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM. THE CONGRESS MEMBERS ASSURED THE COUNCILMEN THAT THEIR PROBLEMS WILL BE LOOKED INTO.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE CONGRESSMEN WERE HOSTED JOINTLY AT THE DISTAD REP'S HOUSE BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE MAYOR AND THE DISTAD REP FOR A LUNCHEON. THE MEMBERS ALSO VISITED SCENIC PLACES AND FARMING AREAS IN THE AFTERNOON.