

(FIRST BILL SIGNED INTO LAW)

1974

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN SIGNED INTO LAW WEDNESDAY (FEB. 13) THE FIRST BILL PASSED BY THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SENATE BILL NO. 17, WHICH BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 5-53, AUTHORIZES THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS TO APPOINT POLICE CAPTAINS AND SPECIAL CAPTAINS FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF EACH DISTRICT.

CAPTAINS AND SPECIAL CAPTAINS ARE TO SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AND MAY BE REAPPOINTED TO OTHER DUTIES OR FOR ANOTHER TERM. THE LAW SAYS THAT APPOINTMENTS OF CAPTAINS AND SPECIAL CAPTAINS WILL ENABLE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CAPTAINS TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES PROMPTLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR AMBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE, UPON REQUEST. IT WAS PASSED LAST WEEK, BECOMING THE FIRST BILL TO BE SENT TO THE HICOM FROM THE CURRENT SESSION. ONE OTHER BILL IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (MNS)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONTINUES TO MOVE SLOWLY IN TACKLING THE HUGE BACKLOG OF LEGISLATION IT FACES, AS IT MOVES INTO THE FINAL THIRD OF THE CURRENT SESSION.

IN THE SENATE THURSDAY, (FEB. 14) YAP'S JOHN MANGEFEL MADE HIS SECOND SPEECH THIS WEEK, AS HE DISCUSSED THE MICRONESIAN ECONOMY. HE DESCRIBED IT AS "ONE OF THE STRANGEST ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD," WITH ITS IMPORT-EXPORT IMBALANCE. THE SENATOR DECRIED THE NEED TO IMPORT FISH AND VEGETABLES TO MICRONESIA, THINGS THAT MICRONESIA IS "CAPABLE OF PRODUCING." HE ALSO IT IS FOOLISH TO RELY ON TOURISM TO ANCHOR THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE IN MICRONESIA, SINCE TOURISM IS "FICKLE" AND IS "SUBJECT TO MANY INFLUENCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL." (SEE FOLLOWING STORY)

OTHER THAN THE PREPARED ADDRESS, THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY IN THE SENATE THURSDAY, THE 32ND DAY OF THE CURRENT SESSION. ONE BILL ON THE CALENDAR FOR SECOND READING WAS DEFERRED, FIVE BILLS PASSED FIRST READING AND WERE ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE, AND 4 BILLS WERE INTRODUCED.

THE BILLS ARE: A BILL CREATING A MARIANAS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL REVOLVING FUND WITH A \$14,069 APPROPRIATION (SB 305); A \$35,000 APPROPRIATION AS A GRANT-IN-AID TO TINIAN MUNICIPALITY (SB 306); ANOTHER APPROPRIATION OF \$75,000 AS A GRANT-IN-AID TO SAIPAN MUNICIPALITY (SB 307); AND AN APPROPRIATION OF \$7,563 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SAIPAN 4-H CLUB (SB 308).

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEFERRED ACTION THURSDAY ON A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000 FOR THE PONAPE CAA DORY FISHING PROGRAM. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS GAVE NO REASON FOR THE ACTION, THE ONLY FLOOR ACTION IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY.

THE HOUSE DID RECEIVE SEVERAL NEW BILLS. THEY ARE:  
A BILL APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE FAICHUK AREA OF TRUK DISTRICT, (HB 304); A MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE TO INCREASE TO SIX PERCENT THE RATE OF TAXES ON WAGES AND SALARIES AND TO TWO PERCENT ON GROSS REVENUES OF BUSINESS, (HB 305); A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CONVEY CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS ON LINGER ISLAND, NET MUNICIPALITY, PONAPE DISTRICT, TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS AND PERSONS HOLDING PARCELS OF PUBLIC LANDS UNDER LEASE, AS SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OR

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DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THEM, (HB 306); ANOTHER TO EARMARK \$45,000 FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ROTA AND TINIAN, (HB 307); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$200,000 TO COVER CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, PROGRAM AND SERVICES IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB 308).

BOTH HOUSES ARE IN RECESS UNTIL 10:00 FRIDAY MORNING.

(CALL USERS OF THE FOLLOWING STORIES, PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(MANGEFEL DISCUSSES TOURISM)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---AS THE SENATE ENDED ITS 32ND DAY OF DELIBERATIONS, SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP DELIVERED BRIEF REMARKS CONCERNING MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY WHICH HE CALLED THE "STRANGEST" IN TERMS OF IMPORTS VERSUS EXPORTS UNRIVALED BY ANY NATION.

THE SENATOR WAS TALKING ABOUT TOURISM, WHICH HE SAID "HAS BEEN RECEIVING FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM SUCH PEOPLE AS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR." HE SAID HE IS NOT AGAINST TOURISM AS PART OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY BUT IS AGAINST "OVERDEPENDENCE" ON TOURISM AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE.

MANGEFEL REMINDED HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S WORDS AT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WHEN HE STATED THAT ABOUT "46 PERCENT OF THE MONEY TOURISTS SPEND IN MICRONESIA STAYS IN MICRONESIA." MANGEFEL POINTED OUT, "WE ARE NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW MUCH OF THIS 46 PERCENT GETS FUNNELED OUT THROUGH FOREIGN BUSINESSES WHICH THRIVE ON TOURISM."

THE SENATOR WARNED THAT IF MICRONESIA PERMITS TOURISM TO BECOME A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME, THEN IT WILL FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF GUAM AND HAWAII WHICH RELY MOSTLY ON MILITARY AND TOURISM FOR THEIR REVENUE. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT WORLD CRISES SUCH AS ENERGY, OR MONETARY, OR FOOD CAN DRASTICALLY REDUCE TOURISM. HE NOTED THAT THIS KIND OF "INVISIBLE EXPORT"--TOURISM--IS A VERY "FICKLE" ONE AND THE DANGEROUS ASPECT OF IT IS THAT IT IS SUBJECT TO MANY INFLUENCES BEYOND MICRONESIA'S CONTROL.

MANGEFEL CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE DANGERS OF A ONE-CROP ECONOMY SUCH AS COPRA. HE SAID, "WE HAVE SEEN THE DANGERS COME TO PASS AND IT WAS TO THE CREDIT OF THIS CONGRESS WHICH APPROPRIATED \$300,000 FOR THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD WHICH HELPED OUR COPRA PRODUCERS THROUGH SOME BAD TIMES."

SENATOR MANGEFEL URGED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MORE STABLE AND MORE IMPORTANT AREAS OF CONCENTRATION FOR MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY, SUCH AS AN INCREASE OF FISHING AND FARMING TO REDUCE IMPORTED FOOD, WHICH IN RETURN WOULD GIVE MICRONESIA SOME LEVEL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

(CONVENTION HEARINGS SET)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS OF PALAU WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS NEXT WEEK ON SENATE BILLS NO. 33 WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR MICRONESIA. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THESE HEARINGS ON THIS IMPORTANT BILL.

IN A RELATED MATTER, SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, IN A LETTER TO THE CHIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (J&GR), HAS URGED THAT THE COMMITTEE FAVORABLY APPROVE SENATE BILL NO. 52 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTERED DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS, WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE SENATE DURING LAST YEAR'S REGULAR SESSION. THE LETTER STATED THAT SENATE BILL 52 IS "VITAL FOR THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE GOVERNMENT." IT ALSO NOTED THAT NOT ONLY WOULD THE LEGISLATION STRENGTHEN THE AUTONOMY OF DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS, BUT WOULD ALSO

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ENHANCE SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA AS A WHOLE, A POSITION EXPRESSED RECENTLY BY THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SENATOR PANGELINAN'S LETTER FURTHER NOTED THAT APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL 82 IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY AS PUBLIC LANDS IN MICRONESIA WILL SOON BE RETURNED TO THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS, AND BECAUSE AS OF APRIL 1ST, MICRONESIA WILL BE OPENED TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT FROM ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

(CAB DENIES CONGRESS DELAY REQUEST)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE OF THE U.S. CIVIL AERONAUTIC BOARD, THE HONORABLE RALPH L. WISER, HAS DENIED A REQUEST BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF A PRE-HEARING FOR THE SAIPAN/TOKYO ROUTE CASE, NOW SET FOR FEBRUARY 21, IN WASHINGTON D.C.

THE REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME CAME FROM THE PRESIDING OFFICERS AND SIX MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS REPRESENTING EACH OF MICRONESIA'S SIX DISTRICTS.

THE PRESIDING OFFICERS, IN A DISPATCH TO JUDGE WISER, SAID THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE BOARD REQUIRES FURTHER HEARINGS ON THE ISSUE OF THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, WHICH WERE THOROUGHLY EXPRESSED TO THE BOARD AT AN EARLIER HEARING, AND AT THE ORAL ARGUMENT. IT NOTED THAT THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS HAS NOT CHANGED.

THE DISPATCH FURTHER NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS CURRENTLY IN SESSION AND THERE ARE MANY PRESSING MATTERS ON THE CONGRESS' AGENDA WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH IN THE LIMITED TIME REMAINING. IT INDICATED THAT ANY DISRUPTION CAUSED BY REPRESENTATION AT THE PRE-HEARING WOULD PREVENT THE CONGRESS FROM ACCOMPLISHING ITS WORK.

THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING OFFICERS ALSO MENTIONED THE CONGRESS' OBJECTION TO THE PLACE SET FOR THE HEARING--HOLDING IN IT THE TRUST TERRITORY ON SAIPAN--AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD ONLY HAVE A DISRUPTIVE AND DIVISIVE EFFECT. IT FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT HOLDING THE HEARING ONLY ON SAIPAN WOULD ADD DISTORTION TO THESE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS SINCE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA BY HOLDING HEARINGS IN ONLY ONE DISTRICT.

THE PRESIDING OFFICERS, IN THEIR DISPATCH TO JUDGE WISER, RECOMMENDED THAT THE HEARINGS BE HELD IN HONOLULU, GUAM, OR IN EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. THEY ALSO STRONGLY REQUESTED THAT THE PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE BE RE-SCHEDULED SO THAT CONGRESS CAN FILE A PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD'S ORDER.

SENATOR ANDON ANARAICH, WHO REPRESENTS TRUK DISTRICT AS A PARTY IN THE CASE, COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HOPED THE BOARD AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WHO ARE GOING TO HEAR THE CASE WOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH "OUR PROBLEMS" WITH REGARD TO POSTPONING THE HEARINGS AS HAS BEEN REQUESTED. HE SAID HE REGRETS THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE BOARD TO ACCOMMODATE THE MICRONESIAN CIVIC PARTY'S REQUEST TO RE-SCHEDULE THE HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21 AND MARCH 7, RESPECTIVELY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE SAIPAN/TOKYO CASE IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR TRUK AND MICRONESIA AND HE REGRETS THAT HE CANNOT APPEAR AT THE HEARINGS BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED TIME REMAINING IN THE SESSION AND OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT MATTERS WHICH CONGRESS MUST DEAL WITH FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

YAP'S SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL ALSO OFFERED SOME COMMENTS ABOUT THE DENIED REQUEST BY CONGRESS. HE SAID HE IS "DISAPPOINTED" THAT THE CAB WAS NOT ABLE TO POSTPONE THE HEARINGS SINCE "IT IS THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WHO WILL BE AFFECTED" BY WHATEVER DECISION IS REACHED BY THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD.

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THE PRESIDING OFFICERS ANNOUNCED THURSDAY (FEB. 14) THAT  
MICHAEL WHITE, THE CONGRESS' ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, WILL  
LEAVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. TO APPEAR AT THE  
PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

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