

Brief Session, Little Action On Saipan

SAIPAN (MNS) — Brief sessions marked house and senate proceedings Thursday at the Congress of Micronesia. Rep. Bangwo Hadley of Ponape presented a brief statement into the record of the day's proceedings in the house relating to the future status issue and Sen. Wilfred Kendall of the Marshalls had some critical remarks to deliver concerning the conditions under which samens on TT field trip might work.

Otherwise, bills continued to move through first readings, while additional measures were introduced in the senate. Seven bills introduced on the previous day were accepted on first reading and sent to committee, and one house bill, establishing a government agency to engage in customs processing, passed first reading and was assigned to the

Resources and Development and Ways and Means Committees.

One bill had been placed on the calendar for second and final reading. It relates to the definition of non-citizens. Action was deferred.

Three new bills were introduced: A measure having to do with the transfer of certain public lands from the TT government to legal entries in the districts; a bill relating to forfeiture of certain unlicensed foreign vessels and a bill which would authorize district administrators to lower the motor vehicle speed limits in hazardous areas.

The house continued to meet in routine session, filing four bills and passing one measure on

first reading. A house joint resolution was adopted, as was one senate joint resolution which the house amended before adoption.

The bills which were filed all house bills. They included two measures concerning elections and political campaigning, a bill to regulate billboards and a bill to establish a Micronesian Development Corp.

The house Resources and Development Committee recommended that the Micronesian Development Corp. and the Bank of Micronesia as a development bank would greatly overlap functions, and consequently the corporation bill was filed. The house

Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee recommended that the billboard measure be filed because it had determined that the purpose of the bill was to regulate billboards which were potential hazards because motorists might be distracted from paying attention to their driving by the signs. The committee report said that his is not now a problem.

Members of the house adopted a house joint resolution directing the Department of Resources and Development to study the problems of strengthening and developing agricultural and fisheries programs in the TT. They also adopted a senate joint resolution directing the

Attorney General to undertake an investigation of certain construction contracts in which Amelco Inc. was the contractor. Minor amendments revised the time period in which the investigation and subsequent report to the congress was to have taken place.

The house received the following bills for consideration at the close of the session: A measure to appropriate \$30,000 to purchase one tractor and backhoe for Tinian municipality; a bill to authorize payment for accumulated or accrued annual and home leave for government employees and two naturalization bills. (All users please credit the congress of Micronesia)