

# **CAB: where do Micronesians really stand?**

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said today it wants to know where the Micronesians really stand in connection with air service competition at Saipan.

The CAB said it could not decide the case on the basis of an administrative law judge's recommendation to select Pan American over Continental and Northwest.

But the CAB took issue with the recommendations because the official had said "only slight weight" should be given to the preferences of the Micronesians.

In an argument sent to the CAB July 3, six weeks after the recommendation, the Department of State said the board "should attach considerable weight to the views of the elected leaders of Micronesia in the Congress of Micronesia and in the district legislatures of the Trust Territory, as expressed in resolutions and in

appearances before the Board. The Department of Interior agreed.

The earlier recommendation had said the views coming from Micronesia had been "seriously devalued" because of attempts to influence public opinion in Micronesia which were "intense, persistent and pervasive" on the part of Continental and Pan American.

The Board decided this raised ugly questions about the fitness of the carrier applicants.

"There are charges of conduct by Continental and Pan American which, if true, could well constitute breaches of the rules of conduct in Board proceedings and thus call into question the carriers fitness. The charges also raise questions as to the actual wishes of the people of Micronesia in the matter of carrier selection," the Board said.

The Board ordered new hearings in Saipan to air both matters.