

1974

(LONG DEBATES MARK HOUSE SESSION)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 20 (MNS)---THE HOUSE HELD A LONG SESSION THURSDAY (FEB. 21) PASSING TWO BILLS AND SENDING THEM TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION WHILE DEFERRING ACTION ON TWO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. LENGTHY DEBATES ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS CAUSED THE EXTENDED SESSION.

PASSED AND SENT TO THE SENATE WERE: A BILL TO ESTABLISH A MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, (HB 246); AND A MEASURE TO GRANT CERTAIN IMMUNITIES TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, (HR 219). BOTH MEASURES PASSED THE HOUSE WITH CONGRESSMAN RESIO MOSES (PONAPE) CASTING THE ONLY DISSENTING VOTE.

ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS OF MAKING THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, (HJR 125). PALAU CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS CAUTIONED THE CONGRESS THAT PASSING SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD TEND TO DISCOURAGE STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING SCHOOLS, THINKING THE SYSTEM IS NOT GOOD. REPRESENTATIVE LUME TMAN (YAP) VOICED HIS CONCERN ON THE RESOLUTION BY STATING THAT IT IS ASKING ONCE AGAIN FOR THE MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT ANOTHER STUDY ON THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN MICRONESIA, AND MANY TIMES THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR CONDUCTING VARIOUS STUDIES AND DOING NOTHING ABOUT THEM. "WHEN ARE WE GOING TO STOP REQUESTING REPORTS AND STUDIES TO BE MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION?" TMAN ASKED. SEVERAL OTHER SPOKE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION, SO FINALLY THE HOUSE DEFERRED ACTION ON IT.

ANOTHER RESOLUTION THAT WAS DEFERRED WAS ONE REQUESTING THE IT GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A COPRA PROCESSING PLANT IN TRUK DISTRICT (HJR 9). IT ALSO PRODUCED A LONG DEBATE AMONG THE MEMBERS. MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOWNICK ARGUED THAT THE PROCESSING PLANT SHOULD BE LOCATED IN THE MARSHALLS SINCE HIS DISTRICT PRODUCES ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE COPRA PRODUCED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE OTHER DISTRICTS ENJOY OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS LIKE BLOCK MAKING, AGRICULTURE AND FISHING INDUSTRIES. CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE (MARSHALLS) SUPPORTED HIS COLLEAGUE, ADDING THAT THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT IS A PORT OF ENTRY. HE URGED THE HOUSE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE MEASURE, AND TO PUTTING THE PLANT IN THE MARSHALLS. HE ALSO REMINDED THE HOUSE THAT THE MARSHALLS POPULATION HAS SURPASSED PONAPE DISTRICT, BECOMING THE SECOND MOST POPULOUS DISTRICT IN MICRONESIA.

REPRESENTATIVE SASAHO HAROU OF TRUK WHOSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIED THE BILL, COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT IF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION WANTS THE PROCESSING PLANT TO BE LOCATED IN MAJURO THEY SHOULD HAVE REQUESTED THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE WHEN THE COMMITTEE STUDIED THE BILL. HE STATED THAT IT IS PROPER TO HAVE THE PLANT IN TRUK SINCE IT IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN MICRONESIA.

CONGRESSMAN TMAN MOVED TO DEFER ACTION UNTIL THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CAN STUDY THE SENATE AMENDMENTS ON A HOUSE BILL TO ESTABLISH A COPRA PROCESSING PLANT IN MICRONESIA WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE THIS WEEK.

REPRESENTATIVE SUNGIWO HADLEY (PONAPE) DELIVERED REMARKS ON THE U.S. "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" TACTICS IN MICRONESIA WHICH WERE QUICKLY SUPPORTED BY CONGRESSMEN HEINE, HAROU AND SETIK. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

THREE BILLS AND THREE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED. THE BILLS ARE: A BILL APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC PURCHASES AND PROJECTS ON KUSAIE ISLAND, (HB 325); A MEASURE TO

PROVIDE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MANGROVE CRABS, (HR 326); AND A BILL AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE TO EMPOWER THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES, (HR 327).

ONE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD AUTHORIZE THE SPEAKER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS TO APPOINT TWO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO ATTEND THE 1974 SESSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, (HJR 119); WHILE ANOTHER WOULD REQUEST THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NOMINATE A DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PONAPE DISTRICT, (HJR 120); AND THE THIRD EXPRESSES THE INTENTION OF THE CONGRESS THAT UPON TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT THE VARIOUS ISLAND GROUPS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY BE FORMED INTO A LOOSE FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS SEMI-SOVEREIGN STATES, (HJR 121).

THE SENATE SESSION THAT TOOK PLACE LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 23) WAS A BRIEF ONE. TWO BILLS PASSED SECOND READING AND WERE SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION, AS WERE TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THE BILLS ARE: A BILL RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (SB 155); AND A BILL RELATING TO COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT (SB 209).

THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW BILL IS A MAJOR ONE TO REGULATE PROCEDURE USED IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION. SO-CALLED "ADMINISTRATIVE LAW" INCLUDES SUCH THINGS AS THE TT PERSONNEL MANUAL, THE MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATION, AND THE CODE OF PUBLIC REGULATIONS. SUCH "LAW" HAS "AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON EVERYDAY LIFE," SAID SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK), WHOSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS REPORTED OUT THE BILL, AND "IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT GOVERNMENT ACTION, AS WELL AS INACTION, BE REGULATED TO PREVENT ARBITRARINESS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST." THE BILL PASSED WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

THE EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BILL WAS ONE SPONSORED BY THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH SOUGHT TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT SALARY PLAN. AMONG THE CHANGES RECOMMENDED WAS AN INCREASE IN THE INCENTIVES AND SALARY FOR SO-CALLED "LOCAL HIRE" EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES, SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR NON-TT CITIZENS RECRUITED TO WORK OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY, AND INCENTIVES OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY. THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS DELETED FROM THE BILL THE FIRST TWO RECOMMENDATIONS, LEAVING ONLY THE INCENTIVES FOR MICRONESIANS WORKING OUTSIDE THE TT INTACT. THE BILL PASSED WITH ONLY ONE DISSENTING VOTE, CAST BY SENATOR JOHN MANGERSI (YAP).

ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, A MEASURE TO ENCOURAGE THE INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA FROM OTHER NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC REGION WAS ADOPTED (SJR 79), AS WAS A MEASURE URGING THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE TRUST TERRITORY CITIZENS LIVING IN THE TT WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF U.S. CITIZENS ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS (SJR 98).

ONE NEW BILL AND THREE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED AT THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SENATE SESSION. THE BILL WOULD APPROPRIATE \$1,200,000 FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE AND PAVING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY (SB 318). THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE ONE CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JOSEPH W. BEADLES, JR., AS DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (SJR 100); ONE ENDORSING THE POSITION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS WITH REGARD TO ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND AUTHORIZING IT TO CONTINUE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, "ON THE BASIS OF ALL SIX DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY" (SJR 101); WHILE THE THIRD WOULD STATE THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REGARDING THE FUTURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MICRONESIA BY THE UNITED STATES (SJR 102).

THE LATTER TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LAZARU SALII (PALAU), CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS. THE FUNDING RESOLUTION WOULD, IF PASSED, BE OF PARTICULAR

SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ONGOING PROGRESS OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE IT STATES: "...IT IS THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT NO FUTURE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS UNLESS IT CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR THE FUTURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF MICRONESIA OF AT LEAST \$2,000,000 DOLLARS (EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS) PER YEAR IN GRANTS FOR OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, IF THE UNITED STATES IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT THIS LEVEL, UNLESS THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MATTERS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED FROM THAT WHICH IS PRESENTLY CONTAINED IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT..."

THE SENATE IS IN RECESS UNTIL THURSDAY AT 4:30 IN THE AFTERNOON WHILE THE HOUSE, SETTING ITS FIRST AFTERNOON MEETING OF THE SESSION, WILL NEXT MEET AT 6:00 P.M. FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 22. FRIDAY WILL BE THE 40TH DAY OF THE 50-DAY SESSION.

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(REPS. HADLEY-BALOS REMARKS)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE SUNGIWO HADLEY OF PONAPE ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES THURSDAY OF INTENTIONALLY FAILING TO DEVELOP MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY SO THAT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERESTS WOULD BE MORE EASILY ACCOMMODATED IN THE TRUSTEESHIP ISLANDS.

IN A SHARPLY WORDED ADDRESS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, HADLEY STATED: "AS PROVEN BY THE MILITARY'S PROMISES TO THE MARIANA ISLANDS IN THEIR SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS," THE UNITED STATES' STRATEGY HAS BEEN "TO MAKE US MORE DEPENDENT SO THAT WE WILL GRAB AT THE FIRST CHANCE OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH COMES ALONG."

NOTING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED TO BUILD, OR MAINTAIN OPTIONS TO HAVE, MILITARY FACILITIES IN THREE OF MICRONESIA'S DISTRICTS, MARSHALLS, MARIANAS, AND PALAU, THE PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE DECLARED THAT AN OBVIOUS FACT TO ANYONE WHO HAS VISITED THESE OR ANY OTHER TRUST TERRITORY DISTRICTS, IS THAT DESPITE RICH MARINE RESOURCES AND AVAILABLE LANDS FOR AGRICULTURE, THEY ALL LACK ANY BASIS OF A SELF-SUSTAINING ECONOMY.

HADLEY SAID WHILE THE UNITED STATES RESUILT OTHER NATIONS AFTER WORLD WAR II, EVEN NATIONS THAT CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE TO THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES, "AMERICA DID NOT REBUILD MICRONESIA WHICH WAS CAUGHT INNOCENTLY BETWEEN WARRING NATIONS."

NOTING THAT THE MARIANAS HAS ALREADY INITIATED SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S., AND THE LEADERS OF PALAU AND MARSHALLS DISTRICTS ARE NOW ADVOCATING A LOOSE FEDERATION OF STRONG DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS FOR MICRONESIA, HADLEY MAINTAINED THAT A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT "IS NECESSARY" IN THE LONG RUN FOR MICRONESIA.

"IT IS MY GREATEST BELIEF," STATED HADLEY, "THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WAITING IN CONFIDENCE TO FIND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONFOUNDED LIKE THE BUILDERS OF THE TOWER OF BABEL AS WE TRY TO KEEP OUR DISTRICTS TOGETHER."

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO MAKE MICRONESIAN UNITY HARD TO ACHIEVE, IT IS ONE OF HIS "GREATEST BELIEFS" THAT DIFFERENCES COULD BE RECONCILED. HE ALSO CAUTIONED THE CONGRESS THAT AS LONG AS THE PRESENT SITUATION IS ALLOWED TO EXIST, "AMERICA WILL CONQUER US."

"THE UNITED STATES NOT ONLY DIVIDES US TODAY, BUT PLANS TO DIVIDE US IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID. NOTING A U.S. PROPOSAL UNDER THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WOULD PERMIT OTHER DISTRICTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY WITH THE UNITED STATES IF AND WHEN THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ENDED, HADLEY SAID: "ALL THE WHILE, I AM SURE, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE MAKING US MORE AND MORE DEPENDENT ON THEIR DOLLARS."

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AND MORE AND MORE DISTANT FROM EACH OTHER AS A UNIFIED MICRONESIA."

THE PONAPE CONGRESSMAN SAID WHILE HE SAW AMERICAN INTENTIONS CONCERNING SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA AS GOOD, SUCH ACTIONS WERE LEADING MICRONESIA "TO HELL" SINCE SEPARATIST ADVOCATES, IN HIS OPINION, FAVORED SUCH A STATUS ONLY FOR "...REASONS OF PROMISED DEVELOPMENT AND AID FROM THE UNITED STATES. BUT AS THE SAYING GOES," HE CONCLUDED, "THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS."

HADLEY'S SPEECH DREW SUPPORT FROM THE HOUSE MEMBERS, INCLUDING TRUV REPRESENTATIVES SASAJO HARUO AND RAY SETIK, AND FROM MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HEINE.

HOWEVER, OPINIONS DIFFER AT THE CONGRESS, EVEN AMONG DISTRICT DELEGATIONS. IN A RELATED MATTER, MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION IN THE HOUSE WHICH IF ADOPTED, WOULD ALLOW THE CREATION OF A LOOSE FEDERATION OF SEMI-SOVEREIGN STATES, OR DISTRICTS, WHEN THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT IS ENDED.

BALOS SAID IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT MOST DISTRICTS, REPRESENTING PERHAPS A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, WOULD FAVOR THIS KIND OF ARRANGEMENT.

"WE HAVE WITNESSED UNANIMOUS ADOPTION BY THIS HOUSE OF A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CREATE ONE OF OUR ISLANDS AS A SEPARATE DISTRICT," HE SAID. "I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO CRYSTALIZE OUR THINKING AND PUT OURSELVES ON RECORD WITH REGARD TO THIS FUTURE FORM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH SEEMS TO BE SO HIGHLY DESIRED BY MANY OF OUR PEOPLE," HE SAID.