

(HOUSE OVERRIDES HICOM'S VETO)

SAIPAN, FEB. 25 (MNS)---ACTING SWIFTLY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED MONDAY (FEB. 25) TO OVERRIDE THE VETO HANDED DOWN LAST FRIDAY BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ON HOUSE BILL 3. THE BILL IS DESIGNED TO CURB THE PRACTICE OF NONCITIZENS USING A MICRONESIAN SPOUSE OR ADOPTED CHILD AS A "FRONT" IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPLAINTS WITH FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMIT REGULATIONS. 1974

IN HIS VETO MESSAGE, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID THAT THE MEASURE IS "DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST MICRONESIANS WHO HAVE MARRIED OR BEEN ADOPTED BY NON-TT CITIZENS" AND THAT THIS BILL IF ENACTED, "COULD WELL BE SET ASIDE BY THE COURTS AS BEING ILLEGAL" FROM THE STANDPOINT OF "EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAW."

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH STUDIED THE BILL AND THE VETO MESSAGES OBJECTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REASONS. THEY CITED "LAWS ENACTED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS WHICH HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY CHALLENGED IN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT ON THE BASIS THAT THEY VIOLATE A SIMILAR PROVISION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION."

"THE SUPREME COURT HAS REPEATEDLY UPHELD THE VALIDITY OF THOSE LAWS IF THERE IS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION BETWEEN ONE CLASS OF CITIZENS AND ANOTHER AND THE CLASSIFICATION IS NOT ARBITRARY. YOUR COMMITTEE FEELS THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE BASIS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS WHO ARE MARRIED TO OR ADOPTED BY NONCITIZENS AND THOSE WHO ARE MARRIED TO OR ADOPTED BY CITIZENS AND THAT THE CLASSIFICATION IS NOT ARBITRARY," THE COMMITTEE REPORT SAID.

THE HICOM'S OTHER STATED REASON SAID THAT THE BILL DISCRIMINATES AGAINST CITIZENS WHO ARE MARRIED TO OR ADOPTED BY NON-CITIZENS AND THAT THE BILL WOULD OPERATE "ADVERSELY" AGAINST BUSINESSES IN WHICH A CITIZEN WHO IS MARRIED TO OR ADOPTED BY A NON-CITIZEN OWNS ANY INTEREST. THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT "THE BILL DOES NOT PRECLUDE SUCH CITIZENS FROM DOING BUSINESS IN MICRONESIA, IT MERELY REQUIRES THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT ACT."

"IT IS REGRETABLE THAT SUCH LEGISLATION IS NECESSARY," THE COMMITTEE FURTHER REPORTED. "BUT THE FAULT IS NOT IN THE LEGISLATION BUT IN THE UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES OF SOME CITIZENS."

MARSHALLS CONGRESS CHARLES DOMNICK COMMENTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS BUT DID NOT OFFER REMEDIAL STEPS FOR THE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER. DOMNICK'S COMMENTS DREW SUPPORT FROM CONGRESSMEN LUKE TMAN (YAP) AND EKPAP SILK (MARSHALLS). THE MOTION TO OVERRIDE PASSED THE HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY.

IT IS THE SECOND TIME THIS SESSION THAT ONE CHAMBER HAS VOTED TO OVERRIDE A HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VETO. THE SENATE LAST WEEK VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF A MEASURE TO MAKE MICRONESIA A COUNTRY OF REGISTRY OF SHIPS (SB 94). BOTH MEASURES MUST BE CLEARED BY BOTH HOUSES BEFORE THEY CAN BE RETURNED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR RECONSIDERATION.

(HOUSE SENT ONE MORE BILL TO HICOM)

SAIPAN, FEB. 25 (MNS)---THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (FEB. 25) PASSED AND SENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER A MEASURE TO RESTRICT THE HARVESTING OF TROCHUS TO CITIZENS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HB 233). THE MEASURE IS THE EIGHTH BILL TO PASS THE CONGRESS TO DATE.

THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE BILL WAS TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING TROCHUS TO PERMIT SHELLS TO BE TAKEN OF A SMALLER SIZE THAN IS CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY THE LAW. BUT THE COMMITTEE DISAGREED WITH THE SIZE CHANGE AND CHANGED THE INTENTION TO LIMIT THE TAKING OF TROCHUS TO CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA RATHER THAN PERMITTING ANY PERMANENT RESIDENT, WHETHER A CITIZEN OR NOT, TO HARVEST TROCHUS AS THE LAW CURRENTLY PROVIDES.

THREE MORE BILLS WERE PASSED DURING THE MONDAY SESSION AND SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, TWO OF THEM NATURALIZATION MEASURES (HB 259 AND HB 256). THE OTHER IS TO PERMIT FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES AND PROVISIONS FROM PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITY, AND TO IMPOSE A TAX ON ALL SUCH SALES OF TEN (10) PERCENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE SUPPLIES AND PROVISION, WHICH FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND LOAN FUNDS FOR FISHING COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS, (HB 311).

THE HOUSE ALSO DEFERRED ACTION ON ONE NATURALIZATION MEASURE, (HB 224) THAT CAME UP FOR FIRST READING, AT THE REQUEST OF TRUK CONGRESSMAN SASAU HARUO.

PALAU REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL DELIVERED SHORT REMARKS BEFORE INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION, CONCERNING REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

FOUR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED MONDAY. THE BILLS ARE: TO ESTABLISH A POLICY FOR THE USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES, INCLUDING PROHIBITING THE USE OF SUCH VEHICLES FOR PLEASURE OR OTHER UNOFFICIAL PURPOSES, (HB 333); AND A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTION OF THE TT CODE AND PL 5-27 TO PERMIT THE TT GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THE USE OF PUBLIC LAND ON PAGAN ISLAND AND IN THE KAGMAN AND MARPI AREAS OF SAIPAN ISLAND FOR SUCH PUBLIC PURPOSES AS THE ERECTION OF SCHOOLS, STORES, CHURCHES AND HOTELS, (HB 334).

THE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ARE: TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, (HJR 130); A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO STAY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS ORDER NO. 2918 REQUIRING REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS UNTIL A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PROPOSED, DEBATED, APPROVED, AND IMPLEMENTED, (HJR 131); A RESOLUTION URGING THE HICOM AND THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO EXPEDITE THE APPLICATIONS FOR HOMESTEADS ON TINIAN IRRESPECTIVE OF MILITARY LAND REQUIREMENTS AND POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN WILL NO LONGER BE DENIED THEIR LEGAL AND ANCESTRAL RIGHTS, (HJR 132); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION APPROPRIATING 70 MILLION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OPERATIONS PROGRAMS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 (HJR 129).

THE SENATE MONDAY SPENT MORE THAN AN HOUR IN WHAT WAS TERMED AN "INFORMAL" EXECUTIVE SESSION, DISCUSSING PROVISIONS FOR THE BILL TO EXTEND THE PRESENT SALARY ACT (SB 276). THE BILL ALSO CONTAINS SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL PROVISIONS SUCH AS A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS, A REDUCTION IN THE MAXIMUM SALARY PAID TO MICRONESIAN APPOINTEES TO TOP-LEVEL POSITIONS, AND A PROVISION TO ROTATE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

DURING THE OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING, THE SENATORS TALKED OVER THEIR DIFFERENCES ON THE MEASURE, FINALLY DECIDING TO REFER IT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, CHAIRED BY SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK), FOR FURTHER WORK.

THREE BILLS WERE PASSED ON SECOND READING, AND SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION. THEY ARE: A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRO-RATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES ON A QUARTERLY BASIS (SB 241); A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERMS OF HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTEES UPON APPOINTMENT OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER OTHER THAN THE ONE WHO APPOINTED THEM (SB 278); AND A BILL TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INITIATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING PROBLEMS (SB 242).

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ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, SENATORS ADOPTED TWO MEASURES. ONE WOULD REQUEST THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CONDUCT A MANPOWER NEEDS SURVEY AND USE IT AS THE BASIS FOR REEVALUATING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND CONDUCT PERIODIC RE-SURVEYS (SJR 50); WHILE THE OTHER WOULD DIRECT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO TRANSMIT ITS VIEWS TO THE CONGRESS REGARDING FOUR EDUCATION-RELATED ISSUES (SJR 89). THE ISSUES ARE WHETHER IT IS DESIRABLE TO OPERATE SCHOOLS

YEAR-ROUND, WITH STAGGERED VACATION PERIODS, WHETHER A WORK-STUDY PROGRAM THAT WOULD ALLOW SOME STUDENTS TO EARN SCHOOL CREDITS FOR WORKING SHOULD BE INSTITUTED, WHETHER A BASIC NINE-YEAR SCHOOL CURRICULUM SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND FINALLY, WHETHER MICRONESIAN STUDENTS SHOULD BE TESTED ON THE BASIS OF U.S. NORMS.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF MONDAY'S LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIVO HAKAYAMA APPOINTED SENATORS AMATA KABUA (MARSHALLS) AND OLYMPIO BORJA (MARIANAS) TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WITH THE HOUSE ON THE BILL THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A COCONUT PROCESSING AUTHORITY (HB 49). THE BILL HAS PASSED BOTH HOUSES, BUT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT AGREE WITH CHANGES MADE IN IT BY THE SENATE.

ONLY TWO NEW PIECES OF LEGISLATION WERE INTRODUCED MONDAY IN THE SENATE. A NEW BILL WOULD APPROPRIATE 3,000 TO SEND BALERIO PEDRO, OF ANGAUR, PALAU, TO THE UNITED NATIONS THIS SUMMER TO PRESS FOR ANGAUR'S CLAIMS AGAINST SEVERAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR EXPLOITATION OF HIS ISLAND SINCE 1914 (SB 335). A NEW JOINT RESOLUTION WELCOMES THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RALPH KAREPA, AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT HIS VISIT TO MICRONESIA, LATER THIS WEEK, WILL BE A PLEASANT AND PRODUCTIVE ONE (SJR 110).

BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL MID-AFTERNOON ON TUESDAY, WHICH WILL BE THE 44TH DAY OF THE 50-DAY SESSION.

(BORJA DISCUSSES IMPORTANT LEGISLATION)

SAIPAN, FEB. 25 (MNS)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA TOOK THE FLOOR IN THE SENATE MONDAY (FEB. 25) TO DISCUSS THREE AREAS OF LEGISLATIVE CONCERN WHICH HE FEELS ARE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE AND DESERVING OF ACTION DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE AREAS HE MENTIONED ARE LEGISLATION DEALING WITH LAND MATTERS, SALARIES FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR SAID THE BILL THAT WOULD FACILITATE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND (SB 296) "MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION WITH WHICH THIS CONGRESS HAS (DEALT) IN ITS NINE YEARS OF EXISTENCE." HE INDICATED HE FAVORS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION AS IT NOW STANDS, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS. CHIEF AMONG THESE, HE STATED, IS THAT THE MEASURE WOULD NOT RETURN TO MICRONESIAN CONTROL THOSE SO-CALLED MILITARY RETENTION LANDS, WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL. SENATOR BORJA ALSO SAID HE OPPOSES THAT PORTION OF THE BILL THAT WOULD PRECLUDE PREVIOUS DECISIONS REGARDING TITLES FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE CHANGE. RETENTION OF THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN IN THE TT GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO CAUSE PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

CONCERNING SALARIES, SENATOR BORJA MENTIONED AN ADMINISTRATION BILL THAT WOULD AMEND THE LAW WITH REGARD TO COMPENSATION FOR SO-CALLED "LOCAL HIRES," TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF GIVING THEM HIGHER SALARIES THAN THEIR MICRONESIAN COUNTERPARTS (SB 289). HE SAID HE FINDS THIS CONCEPT "VERY OBJECTIONABLE" AND A "STEP BACKWARD." THIS PROVISION HAS BEEN DELETED FROM THE BILL BY A SENATE COMMITTEE, AND THE SENATOR SAID HE SUPPORTS THIS ACTION.

COMMENTING ON PROVISIONS OF THE SALARY PLAN BILL (SB 276) WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS, REDUCE CERTAIN

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SALARY LEVELS, AND MAKE OTHER CHANGES IN SALARY AND PERSONNEL PROCEDURES, THE SENATOR SAID HE FEELS THE SALARY PLAN SHOULD BE MADE APPLICABLE TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, RATHER THAN EXCEPTING CERTAIN HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS AS IT DOES NOW. HE ALSO SAID HE FEELS THE LOWEST THREE LEVELS OF THE PAY SCHEDULE SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AS A STEP TOWARD EQUALIZING SALARIES, AND TO ASSIST THOSE PERSONS IN THOSE LOWEST CATEGORIES IN COPING WITH THE RISING COST OF LIVING.

SENATOR BORJA ALSO CAME OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF HIGHER COMPENSATION FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS AND DOCTORS. "I FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE GIVE HIGHER SALARIES TO PROGRAM MANAGERS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH INANIMATE OBJECTS AND WITH PAPERWORK THAN WE DO TO PEOPLE SUCH AS DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF HEALTH--WHO ARE INTIMELY CONCERNED WITH LIFE AND DEATH," HE STATED.

REGARDING THE HOLIDAYS, BORJA SAID HE OPPOSES ANY ATTEMPT TO TAKE PAID HOLIDAYS AWAY FROM GOVERNMENT WORKERS, AS THE BILL WOULD NOW DO.

TURNING LASTLY TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT, SENATOR BORJA RECOMMENDED THAT SAFEGUARDS TO INSURE THAT SUCH INVESTMENT IS TRULY BENEFICIAL TO MICRONESIA MUST BE STRENGTHENED, AND THAT MICRONESIAN OWNERSHIP IN SUCH VENTURES MUST BE PROVIDED FOR. TO THIS END, DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS MUST BE GIVEN THE RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES AND KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS OF THEIR ACTIONS, AND THEIR MEMBERSHIPS MUST BE EXPANDED TO INSURE COVERAGE OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS.

CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, SENATOR BORJA SAID: "I THINK WE SHOULD ENACT THOSE LAWS WHICH WE WANT WHICH CONTAIN THE PROVISIONS WHICH WE THINK ARE NECESSARY, AND...WE SHOULD NOT PASS THOSE WHICH WE ARE ASKED TO PASS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (WHICH ARE) NOT IN THE INTEREST OF OUR PEOPLE. MANY TIMES," HE STATED, "THEY CONTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH ARE OF BENEFIT TO THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND NOT DIRECTLY OF BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

"THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION ON SALARIES WHICH IS GEARED TO THE LOCAL HIRE OF NON-TRUST TERRITORY CITIZENS; THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD SUPPORT PROVISIONS OF A LAW WHICH WILL KEEP FROM US...OUR OWN LAND. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO MAKE THE LAWS WE FEEL ARE FIT AND PROPER AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MICRONESIA, AND NOT TO ACT AS A RUBBER STAMP FOR THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY," SAID THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM THE MARIANAS.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(REP. OLKERIIL WANTS REAPPORTIONMENT DELAYED)

SAIPAN, FEB. 25 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---PALAU REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION IN THE MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY WHICH WOULD, IF ADPTED, REQUEST THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR NOT TO REAPPORTION THE HOUSE AS REQUIRED IN SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2918.

SAYING THE SECRETARIAL ORDER, AS WRITTEN IN 1964, WAS "...FOR A DIFFERENT TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS THAN THE ONE WHICH EXISTS TODAY," OLKERIIL SAID IN BRIEF REMARKS THAT THE FORM OF THE CONGRESS SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND PLEBISCITE AND NOT BY OUTDATED LEGAL PRECEDENTS AND MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS.

HE SAID SINCE 1964, OPINIONS DIFFERING FROM THE U.S. SUPREME COURT ON THE "ONE MAN, ONE VOTE" PRINCIPLE MAINTAIN THAT ONE HOUSE OF A LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT BE REAPPORTIONED WITHOUT ALSO REAPPORTIONING THE OTHER HOUSE.

"TIMES HAVE ALSO CHANGED IN MICRONESIA," OLKERIIL EXPLAINED. "WE ARE NEAR THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. EFFORTS TOWARD POLITICAL EDUCATION ARE BEGINNING THROUGH THE TASK FORCE FOR EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THROUGH THE POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION. IN ADDITION TO THESE, THE

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POLITICAL REALITIES OF MICRONESIA HAVE ALSO CHANGED, AS WE HAVE CLEARLY WITNESSED DURING THE SESSION."

THE PALAU REPRESENTATIVE SAID ANY RADICAL CHANGES NOW WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE, RATHER THAN FACILITATE SELF-GOVERNMENT, A SITUATION NO ONE WANTS TO SEE DEVELOP.

ACCORDING TO CENSUS STATISTICS RELEASED RECENTLY, REAPPORTIONMENT WOULD MEAN THE MARIANAS AND PALAU DISTRICTS EACH WOULD HAVE ONE SEAT LESS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THAT TRUK AND MARSHALLS EACH WOULD HAVE ONE MORE SEAT.

OLKERIIL SAID ADOPTION OF HIS RESOLUTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO MEET THESE PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS "HEAD-ON." A SIMILAR REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE INTERIOR SECRETARY, AND GRANTED, IN 1971. (ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA) (REP. BALOS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 25 (CONGRESS RELEASE)--FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE DAYS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR ITS FAILURE AS TRUSTEE OF THE ISLANDS TO DEVELOP A SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMY IN MICRONESIA.

REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS OF THE MARSHALLS SAID SATURDAY THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A VIABLE ECONOMY, "HISTORY IS AGAIN CASTING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN AN EXPLOITED AND HUMILIATING ROLE.

IN REMARKS SUBMITTED INTO THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BALOS ECHOED SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE SUNGIWO HADLEY DURING THURSDAY'S SESSION, WHICH TOOK THE UNITED STATES TO TASK FOR FAILING IN ITS PROMISES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING THE TRUSTEESHIP.

"FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES NOW," SAID BALOS, "MICRONESIA HAS LIVED IN NEAR-TOTAL QUARANTINE. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROMISED UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP REMAINS ALMOST NONEEXISTENT, AS WE HAVE LIVED IN AN AREA CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD UNDER AN ADMINISTRATION THAT HAS KEPT US AWAY FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. TODAY, THE BIGGEST ECONOMIC GROWTH POSSIBILITIES IN SIGHT ARE TOURIST AND THE AMERICAN MILITARY."

"THE SO-CALLED 'MORATORIUM' NOW UNDERWAY ON TINIAN," BALOS SAID IN HIS STATEMENT, "IS MERELY THE CLIMAX OF AN UNOFFICIAL, UNDECLARED MORATORIUM WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT IN MICRONESIA FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS."

THE MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS MORTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT LAST MONTH TO LIFT THE BAN ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MICRONESIA APRIL 1, 1974. BALOS MAINTAINED THAT THE END RESULT OF SUCH A MOVE, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF NO DEVELOPMENT FROM WITHIN MICRONESIA, WOULD "ONLY GIVE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AN AMERICAN-JAPANESE SPONSORED 'PAPER-MACHE' ECONOMY MONOPOLIZED BY THE FOREIGN TOURIST TRADE, BUT WITH THE BACKBONE OF OUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. MILITARY."

NOTING THAT MORTON'S STATEMENT INCLUDED NOTHING CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA'S RESOURCES SUCH AS FISHERIES OR AGRICULTURE, BALOS SAID SUCH A PLAN REPRESENTED ONLY AMERICA'S INTERESTS, NOT THE INTERESTS OF MICRONESIA.

"HOW CAN A NATION DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE IF THEY CANNOT CONTROL THEIR OWN ECONOMY?" HE ASKED.