

(VETO OVERRIDE PASSES CONGRESS)

NAIPAN, FEB. 26 (MNS)---FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS VOTED TO OVERRIDE A VETO OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. THE ACTION CAME TUESDAY (FEB. 26) ON A BILL TO MAKE MICRONESIA A COUNTRY OF REGISTRY OF SHIPS, (SB 94). THE BILL WAS PASSED DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISAPPROVED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH STUDIED THE VETO ACTION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE HOUSE REPASS THE MEASURE, SAYING THE "SHIPPING SCHEME ENVISIONED BY THIS BILL WOULD GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE FOR MICRONESIA..." THE COMMITTEE BASED ITS DECISION ON TESTIMONY FROM EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS LAST YEAR, NOTING THAT "THEY STILL MAINTAIN THAT POSITION." STATE DEPARTMENT EXPERTS DISAGREE, SAYING THAT THE SCHEME IS UNLIKELY TO GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE AND PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM ENACTING THE BILL "WOULD OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED."

THE R&D COMMITTEE WAS FRUSTRATED IN ITS EFFORTS TO ARRANGE DIRECT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND STATE DEPARTMENT EXPERTS ON THE BILL, SAYING THAT THE EFFORTS WERE "STIFLED WITHIN" THE "EXECUTIVE BRANCH." THE COMMITTEE ADDED, "UNTIL SUCH DISCUSSIONS OCCUR, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TRUST OUR OWN TRANSPORTATION PEOPLE SINCE THEY ARE EXPERTS AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE OUR BEST INTERESTS IN MIND."

LAST MAY, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, THE CONGRESS WAS OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD SUBMIT FOR THE CONGRESS' CONSIDERATION A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE BILL. HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS DID NOT RECEIVE A DISPATCH FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNTIL FEBRUARY 22, 1974, "TOO LATE" FOR THE COMMITTEE TO "GIVE THE OBJECTIONS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION," ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

"WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS A DELAYING TACTIC DESIGNED TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THE BILL UNTIL NEXT YEAR AND AVOID A VETO OVERRIDE," THE COMMITTEE REPORTED.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SASAUO HARUO (TRUK) SPEAKING FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT STRONGLY URGED THE CONGRESS TO PASS THE MEASURE. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY). HIS COMMENTS DREW SUPPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK (MARSHALLS) WHO SAID HE WAS "SURPRISED" THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAILED TO SUBMIT A DETAILED STATEMENT NEEDED FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE BILL FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, ADDING, "THE BILL IS ABOUT AS OLD AS THIS CONGRESS." SILK RECALLED THAT HE WAS THE ORIGINAL OUTHOR OF THE BILL WHEN IT WAS INTRODUCED BACK IN THE 1967 OR 68 SESSION OF CONGRESS.

IN OTHER ACTIVITY TUESDAY, THE HOUSE TOOK ACTION ON A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE IT CODE WHICH ALLOW ALL EMPLOYEES TO DEDUCT \$1,000 FROM GROSS TAXABLE WAGES AND SALARIES, TO EXCLUDE EMPLOYEES WHOSE GROSS ANNUAL WAGES AND SALARIES ARE \$5,000 OR MORE, (SB 291). THE BILL WAS PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, BUT SINCE THE HOUSE MADE A SLIGHT AMENDMENT, THE MEASURE IS SENT TO THE SENATE.

ALSO PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND SENT TO THE SENATE WERE: FIVE NATURALIZATION MEASURES, (HBS 214,216,217,218,&285); AND A BILL APPROPRIATING \$144,178 FOR THE OPERATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE FOR FY 1975 AND FOR DEFICIENCIES OF PRIOR FISCAL YEARS, (HE 277).

TWO OTHER SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AND SENT BACK TO THE SENATE WITH A HOUSE DRAFT. THEY ARE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING OF THE BIKINI REHABILITATION PROJECT BE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE ANNUAL UNITED STATES CONGRESS GRANT FUNDS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, (SJR 93); AND A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE

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ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC REGION, (SJR 79).

TWO HOUSE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED. THEY ARE: A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$65,000 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES FOR TERRITORIAL-WIDE CONFERENCES REGARDING GOALS FOR EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA, (HB 336); AND A BILL APPROPRIATING \$650,000 TO PURCHASE ONE 20-INCH DREDGE FOR DREDGING OF CHANNELS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HB 335).

FOUR MORE SENATE BILLS WERE PASSED AND SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE TUESDAY SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S UPPER CHAMBER. THE SENATORS ALSO FILED A BILL, ADOPTED A HUMOROUS RESOLUTION AIMED AT YAP'S SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL, AND THEN BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR AND DEFEATED A MEASURE FROM MANGEFEL WITH A SIMILAR COMIC PURPOSE.

THE BILLS PASSED INCLUDE: A MEASURE THAT WOULD REQUIRE DISCLOSURE TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA OF INFORMATION REGARDING ALL TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY OR GUAM BY OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT, AND INFORMATION REGARDING ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SUCH EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. OR OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENT (SB 275); A BILL THAT WOULD REQUIRE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO OCCUPY GOVERNMENT-SUPPLIED HOUSING TO PAY A FAIR RENTAL VALUE FOR THOSE QUARTERS, (SB 295); A BILL ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA UNDER A BOARD OF REGENTS, (SB 309); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FOR USE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE TO TT (SB 321).

FILED BY THE SENATE WAS A BILL, REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH WOULD HAVE IMPLEMENTED A PORTION OF THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN REGARDING MICRONESIA, TO THE EFFECT THAT JAPANESE NATIONALS AND COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE TAXED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WHILE ENGAGED IN THE SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT (SB 257). IN SUPPORTING THE ACTION TO FILE THE BILL, WHICH HAS THE EFFECT OF KILLING IT, SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK) SAID THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CLAIMS AGREEMENT, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS INADEQUATE, AND STATED FURTHER: "WE WILL NOT SANCTION POST-FACTO THE ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH GIVE AWAY OUR RIGHTS IN SUCH A CALLOUS MANNER."

THE EXCHANGE OF RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SENATOR MANGEFEL OFFERED SOME LIGHT MOMENTS FOR THE SENATORS AND SPECTATORS. SENATOR ROMAN TMETUHL PLACED ON THE CALENDAR A MEASURE THAT WOULD APPOINT THE YAP SENATOR "AS THE SOLE CONSULTANT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION," (SJR 111). SENATOR MANGEFEL HAS SPOKEN OUT SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT DAYS EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE WAY TT GOVERNMENT SALARY AND PERSONNEL PROCEDURES ARE HANDLED.

SENATE CLERK F. SABO ULECHONG WAS ASKED TO READ THE MEASURE IN FULL, AND HE STRUGGLED MANFULLY THROUGH A TONGUE-TWISTING PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY A LAWYER. IT DESCRIBED SENATOR MANGEFEL AS: "A MAN OF ENORMOUS PERSPICACITY, TREMENDOUS ERUDITION, IMMENSE SAGACITY, PRODIGIOUS MAGNANIMITY AND...THE VERY ANTITHESIS OF PUSILLANIMITY..." (NOTE TO ANNOUNCERS: SORRY ABOUT THAT").

AFTER HEARING THE RESOLUTION, THE SENATORS DEFEATED SEVERAL MOTIONS BY SENATOR MANGEFEL AND HIS ONLY ALLY, SENATOR AMBILOS IEHSI (PONAPE) TO HAVE THE MEASURE DEFERRED OR REFERRED TO COMMITTEE, BEFORE FINALLY ADOPTING IT. IN THE END SENATOR MANGEFEL WAS EVEN DESERTED BY SENATOR IEHSI, WHO ABSTAINED, LEAVING MANGEFEL TO CAST THE ONLY NEGATIVE VOTE.

SENATOR MANGFEL IS OFTEN THE AUTHOR OF SUCH TONGUE-IN-CHEEK RESOLUTIONS HIMSELF, SO HE TOOK HIS "MEDICINE" WITHOUT COMPLAINT, EVEN WHEN THE SENATORS BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR, AND DEFEATED, HIS RESOLUTION OFFERED MONDAY THAT ASKED THE ALMIGHTY TO DECLARE A SINGLE DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS, AND OFFERED MICRONESIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD IN DEALING WITH SUCH CRISIS AS THE ENERGY SHORTAGE, INFLATION, AND THE "CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP" IN THE U.S. BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE WATERGATE AFFAIR (SJR 108).

TWO OTHER JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED AT TUESDAY'S SESSION IN ADDITION TO THE MANGFEL MEASURE, ALONG WITH ONE BILL. THE BILL IS AN ADMINISTRATION-SPONSORED MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$65,000 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF A SERIES OF TERRITORY-WIDE CONFERENCES REGARDING GOALS FOR EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA (SE 337). THE RESOLUTION WOULD: REQUEST THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND DEFENSE OF THE U.S. TO REQUIRE PAYMENT OF ADEQUATE WAGES TO MICRONESIANS EMPLOYED AT THE KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE IN THE PRIMARY LOGISTICAL SUPPORT CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED IN OCTOBER, 1974 (SJR 112); AND REQUEST THE U.S. TO CLEAN THE SO-CALLED PUBLIC LANDS IN MICRONESIA SO THAT THEY WILL BE IN THE SAME CONDITION WHEN RETURNED AS THEY WERE IN WHEN SEIZED FROM THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNER (SJR 113).

THE SENATE WILL MEET WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT 3:30, WHILE THE HOUSE PLANS TO HOLD TWO SESSIONS WEDNESDAY, ONCE IN THE MORNING, AND AGAIN IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. (NOTE: MNS WILL PROVIDE COVERAGE OF BOTH HOUSE SESSIONS, AS WELL AS OF THE SENATE SESSION, IN A SINGLE DISPATCH TO BE FILED LATE WEDNESDAY EVENING).

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(HOUSE OVERRIDES ADMIRALTY VETO)

SAIPAN, FEB. 26 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---FOR THE SECOND TIME IN AS MANY DAYS, THE MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS OVERRIDEN A VETO BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON.

IN UNANIMOUS ACTION TUESDAY EVENING (FEB. 26), THE CONTROVERSIAL ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME BILL, WHICH WAS ENACTED DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS LAST YEAR, AND SUBSEQUENTLY VETOED, WAS RE-PASSED ON THE STRONG RECOMMENDATION OF HOUSE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SASAUO HARUO OF TRUK.

TUESDAY'S OVERRIDE CAME JUST ONE DAY AFTER THE HOUSE RE-PASSED A BILL MONDAY WHICH WAS VETOED LAST WEEK BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. THAT MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO CURB THE PRACTICE OF NON-CITIZENS USING A MICRONESIAN SPOUSE OR ADOPTED CHILD AS A "FRONT" IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATIONS.

CONGRESSMAN HARUO TOLD THE HOUSE TUESDAY THAT THE SHIPPING SCHEME ENVISIONED IN THE ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME BILL HELD "GREAT PROMISE" FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA. THE MEASURE WOULD GENERATE REVENUE THROUGH THE REGISTRY OF FOREIGN VESSELS IN MICRONESIA.

DURING BRIEF REMARKS BEFORE VOTES WERE CAST ON THE BILL, HARUO TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

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IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FAILED TO JUSTIFY THEIR REASONS FOR ENCOURAGING VETO ACTION OF THE BILL LAST YEAR BY NEGLECTING TO DELIVER A WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED. INSTEAD, SAID HARUO, THE FIRST COMMUNICATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAME JUST LAST WEEKEND SAYING THAT NO RESPONSE HAD COME BECAUSE THEY LACKED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BILL'S "LEGISLATIVE HISTORY."

"THIS IS ABSURD," HARUO DECLARED.

THE TRUK REPRESENTATIVE SAID COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS WERE MADE AVAILABLE, AND THAT ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN HAD FOR THE ASKING. "IF THEY HAD PROVIDED US WITH ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION," SAID HARUO, "WE CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT THOROUGH CONSIDERATION."

HARUO'S REMARKS DREW IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE. REP. EKPAP SILK, HOUSE FLOOR LEADER, SAID THE PREVIOUS VETO PROVED THE U.S. "PUT LITTLE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY" AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES WHO REALLY RUNS THE TRUST TERRITORY, "...THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ITSELF." TRUK REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MEASURE, URGING IMMEDIATE RE-PASSAGE.

THE BILL WILL NOW BE RETURNED TO HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON, WHO WILL HAVE TWENTY DAYS AFTER HE RECEIVES IT TO RE-CONSIDER HIS ORIGINAL VETO ACTION. IF HE FINDS HE STILL CANNOT APPROVE THE BILL, HE SENDS IT TO THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, WHO HAS ANOTHER SIXTY DAYS TO CONSIDER THE LEGISLATION. IF HE APPROVES OF IT, IT BECOMES LAW. IF HE DOES NOT, THE BILL IS DEAD AND NO FURTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION IS POSSIBLE. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PREVENT THE CONGRESS FROM CONSIDERING AN AMENDED VERSION OF THE BILL OR SOME NEW LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME OR A SIMILAR PURPOSE AT SOME FUTURE SESSION.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(MANGEFEL ADVOCATES NEIGHBORLINESS)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 26 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL TUESDAY (FEB. 26) CALLED UPON MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO CONSIDER A FEDERATION--BUT A DIFFERENT FEDERATION THAN THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE SESSION SO FAR.

SENATOR MANGEFEL'S KIND OF FEDERATION WAS NOT AS SOME MEMBERS HAVE PROPOSED--A LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF MICRONESIAN STATES, BUT RATHER ONE WITH MICRONESIA'S NEIGHBORS IN THE PACIFIC.

MANGEFEL STATED THAT WHILE IT IS WELL AND GOOD TO TALK ABOUT RETURNING POWER AND CONTROL TO THE DISTRICTS TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF DISTRICT IDENTITY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A LARGER IDENTITY FOR COMMON PURPOSES AT A CENTRAL LEVEL.

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THE SENATOR SAID IT IS APPARENT THAT COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT NATIONAL OR POLITICAL GOALS OR GOVERNMENTS ARE BANDING TOGETHER IN ASSOCIATIONS, MARKETS, FEDERATIONS, AND OTHER ALLIANCES. HE MENTIONED THE UNITED NATIONS' REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE WORKING TOGETHER FOR "DIFFERENT, BUT COMMON INTERESTS."

MANGEFEL NOTED THAT HE FINDS IT SOMEWHAT IRONIC THAT ABOUT THE ONLY TIME GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GET TOGETHER IS AT SUCH MEETINGS AS THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, OR AT THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT HE WOULD FIND IT EVEN MORE IRONIC IF, SHOULD THE MARIANAS ACHIEVE THE STATUS IT DESIRES, IT WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE REST OF MICRONESIA, OR "HEAVEN FORBID," GUAM.

THE YAP SENATOR EMPHASIZED THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER GUAM HAS A DIFFERENT POLITICAL STATUS, THE MARIANAS ANOTHER FORM, AND MICRONESIA AN EVEN DIFFERENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SINCE "WE ARE ALL NEIGHBORS THERE MAY BE MANY WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD."

MANGEFEL INDICATED THAT SUCH THINGS AS SHIPPING SERVICES, COMMUNICATION, IMMIGRATION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS COULD, BY SOME SORT OF FEDERATION OR JOINT EFFORT, BE BOTH BENEFICIAL IN TERMS OF THE SAVING OF MONEY AND ALSO IN SHARING "OUR HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES."

THE SENATOR FROM YAP SAID THAT MICRONESIA, GUAM AND OTHER NEIGHBORING ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON--THE "VAST PACIFIC OCEAN" WITH ITS VIRTUALLY "UNTAPPED RESOURCES AND WEALTH." HE SAID THAT ANY ECONOMIC FEDERATION BETWEEN GUAM AND MICRONESIA "MUST CERTAINLY INCLUDE WAYS TO DEVELOP THESE RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLES AND TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION BY OUTSIDERS." "IN THIS SENSE," SAID MANGEFEL, "THE SAME OCEAN WHICH DIVIDES US ALSO GIVES US COMMON INTERESTS AND GOALS WHICH MUST BE RECOGNIZED AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL."

MANGEFEL CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING: "LET US NOT FORGET ABOUT THE FOREST BECAUSE WE CAN ONLY SEE THE TREES, THE OCEAN BECAUSE WE CAN ONLY SEE THE WAVES, OUR NEIGHBORS BECAUSE WE CAN ONLY SEE OURSELVES."

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: IN THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE DISPATCH FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, THE STORY SLUGGED "HOUSE OVERRIDES HICOM'S VETO," THERE IS AN ERROR IN PARAGRAPH NUMBER SIX, A QUOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE REPORT SHOULD READ: "BUT THE FAULT IS NOT IN THE LEGISLATION BUT IN THE UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES OF SOME NON-CITIZENS" RATHER THAN "SOME CITIZENS" AS TRANSMITTED. MNS REGRETS THE ERROR).

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