

Airline Asks To Halt Saipan-Okinawa Route

SAIPAN (MNS) Air Micronesia has filed a request with the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board to allow the airline to suspend its once-a-week service between Saipan and Okinawa.

According to the airlines general manager Barrie Duggan, the request and supporting documents were filed with the CAB last Friday.

Duggan said the request cites two major factors in the Decision: first, a need for fuel conservation in the energy crisis; and second, an extremely poor load.

Air Mike reports its 77-passenger plane operated at only 14 per cent capacity last July and at 12 per cent capacity in August - normally the best months for the Okinawa service, he said. That means only eight to 10 passengers a flight took advantage of the route.

In announcing the requested suspension, Duggan indicated the last Saipan-Okinawa flight would be scheduled for March 1.

SAIPAN (MNS) -- According to an issue of the Marianas Variety, a bill which would establish price controls on imported goods sold in the Marianas District was introduced by Felipe A. Salas during the current session of the legislature.

It was reported in the Feb. 22 issue that the bill also would establish a price control commission, provide civil and criminal penalties for violations of the law and

Firms Open Office On Saipan

Citicorp Credit Saipan Inc. and First National City Bank's representative office will begin operations tomorrow in the MIV Building in Susupe.

Don Okimoto, originally from Hawaii who has been with Citicorp Credit on Guam since its inception in 1972, is manager of the new facility. Okimoto was operations manager while on Guam.

Filling the post of assistant manager is Emmanuel Binimol from Truk, who graduated from high school there and attended the University of Guam.

Saipan's Citicorp Credit will have a staff of 14. Approval to do business on Saipan as a foreign firm was granted last August by the Marianas Islands District Economic Development Board.

Citicorp, a sister corporation of FNCB, offers commercial and consumer loans with an emphasis on industrial development and housing loans.

Members of the board of directors for the Saipan branch include Ralph Pollard, president of Citicorp, Samuel R. Eastabrooks, FNCB vice president; Robert Wilcox, Guam FNCB manager; and attorney Walter S. Frenz, also from Guam.

Marianas Propose Price Control Bill

authorize the appropriation of \$5,000 for the district administrator to carry out provisions of the act.

According to the article, purpose of the bill is to protect the consumer from prices which often rise to many times the imported cost of an item, especially in times of shortage caused by irregularities of shipping and the lack of supply sources.

Under the bill, the consumer would be protected from exploitation by "imposing price controls on the sale of import items in the Marianas District and simultaneously providing for enforcement of the price controls."

The bill would apply to all imported items and would allow the seller to include the following items in his price to the buyer: cost of goods, actual charges for inland and overseas freight, insurance, and import taxes or duties. All of this must not be a sum

greater than 50 per cent of the cost of the goods.

At a hearing before the legislature's Economic Committee, Saipan merchants indicated the act "would be unworkable in that overhead costs vary from item to item and if held to a strict 50 per cent markup to cover their overhead, they would be forced to drop many items in high public demand from their inventories because it would cost them more to carry the items than they could charge."

It was said that a good example would be "perishable food stuffs and other similar commodities which often spoil in transit." The merchants, it was reported, felt the free-enterprise system would keep down exorbitant prices.

The bill is under consideration by the Economic Committee.

Recordings

2-27-74