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In Micro House

Palau Rep Seeks Reshuffle Delay

SAIPAN (COM)—Palau Rep. Timothy Olkeriil introduced a resolution in the Micronesian house of representatives Monday to request the Secretary of Interior not to reapportion the house as required in a secretarial order. Saying the order, written in 1964, is "...for a different Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

than the one which exists today," Olkeriil indicated the form of the congress should be determined by the proposed constitutional convention and plebiscite and not by "outdated" legal precedents and mathematical formulas.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's "one man, one

vote" principle maintain that one house of a legislature should not be reapportioned without also reapportioning the other.

"Times also have 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 political realities of Micronesia also have 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.

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.

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.