

Camacho: Cooperation Is Key To Problems

By Pat McElroy
Daily News Staff Writer

Recapping five years of leadership, Gov. Carlos Camacho addressed 150 island dignitaries in his annual State of the Territory message that pressed for executive-legislative cooperation in solving the island's problems.

The speech outlined the rapid growth the island has witnessed the past five years and enumerated Camacho's priorities for action in 1974. The main concern this year, the governor noted, is the high cost of living on Guam.

"Inflationary trends have outstripped our gains," he said, and proposed a \$1,200 across-the-board annual pay increase for the 8,000 GovGuam employees. The governor also urged legislation raising the minimum wage rate to \$2.20 this year, with an increase to \$2.50 by July 1975.

In a deviation from past State of the Territory messages, nothing was said about the future political status here. Last year Camacho deviated from the usual trend of promoting closer ties with the United States by suggesting other political alternatives, such as a



GOV. CAMACHO ADDRESSING LEGISLATURE.

Complete Text

See Page 4

commonwealth relationship.

Another aspect of this year's address was its conciliatory tone. Camacho said the relationship between the administration and the Legislature has not "been one to

envy." He asked for cooperation in the future to solve Guam's problems and applauded recent periods of legislative-administrative cooperation, such as settling the telephone

(Continued on page 3)

Governor Stresses Cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

issue and agreeing on a new site for Guam Memorial Hospital.

Camacho said he is "confident" that a joint-use agreement for the air terminal can be renegotiated with the cooperation of both the executive and legislative branches.

Camacho also asked legislative cooperation in creating a better highway system, an improved public safety department and in abetting the energy crisis. These were among the eight items listed as his priorities for this year.

The Governor also proposed some innovative ideas for Guam. No-fault insurance was suggested to cut legal costs and automobile insurance premium costs for the car owner.

Camacho said he is prepared to ask the U.S. Congress for a \$60 million capital improvement grant for education, water and sewer facilities here.

A new program to train local residents in the fundamentals of masonry, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work is now being developed within the Department of Labor here, the Governor noted.

Camacho said plans for mass transit here would be announced today. He called for the transit program to reduce gas consumption and asked that the Legislature act quickly on the measure, when it is submitted.

Camacho concluded his speech with an appeal for cooperation through all sectors on Guam.