

(CONGRESS-23RD DAY)

SALPAN, FEB. 5 (WMS)---BRIEF SESSIONS MARKED THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TUESDAY, (FEB. 5). MOST OF THE WORK IS IN THE HANDS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES AS THE SESSION ENTERED ITS 23RD DAY OF A SCHEDULED 50 DAYS. THE SENATE PASSED AND SENT TO THE HOUSE A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$62,000 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE UPCOMING CONGRESS GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, (S. B. 221). ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON A MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, (SB. 237).

A TOTAL OF 15 BILLS, SEVEN OF THEM APPROPRIATION MEASURES, AND ONE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE OFFERED DURING THE MORNING SENATE SESSION. THE BILLS WERE: A MEASURE TO EMPOWER DISTRICT REPS TO TAKE ACTION ON MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES OVER THE MUNICIPALITY WHICH

ENACTED SUCH ORDINANCE, (SB 258); A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, (SB 259); A MEASURE TO PROVIDE THAT A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE IS AN INSTRUMENT EVIDENCING AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY, (SB 260); A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES COLLECTED FROM THE RENTAL OR LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND AND FROM SERVICE CHARGES FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES, (SB 261); A MEASURE TO GRANT CERTAIN IMMUNITIES TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, (SB 262); A MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE RELATING TO THE POWERS OF DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAME LAWS TO INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES OTHER THAN COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN THE FISHING BUSINESS, (SB 263); A BILL GRANTING DISTRICT LEGISLATURES CONCURRENT AUTHORITY WITH THE CONGRESS TO NATURALIZE PERSONS AS TT CITIZENS, (SB 264); A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES FROM IMPORT DUTIES, (SB 265); A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$1,665,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOSPITAL ON FALALOP ISLAND, MOLEAI ATOLL, YAP DISTRICT, (SB 266); ANOTHER APPROPRIATION MEASURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, (SB 267); AN APPROPRIATION OF \$12,000 TO TRAIN TWO MICRONESIAN STENOGRAPHERS FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 268); ANOTHER OF \$6,000 TO PAY FOR THE SALARY OF AN ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT OFFICER IN THE MARIANAS AND TO PURCHASE ONE VEHICLE FOR USE BY THAT OFFICE, (SB 269); A BILL ASKING FOR THE SUM OF \$80,000 TO PURCHASE FOUR NEW SCHOOL BUSES FOR KUSAIE ISLAND, (SB 270); A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000 TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE A BLACK PEPPER PLANTATION IN PALIKIR, PONAPE DISTRICT, (SB 271); AND ANOTHER APPROPRIATION MEASURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS, (SB 272). THE JOINT RESOLUTION IS SEEKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE EXCLUSIVE SHIPPING FRANCHISE FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, (S.J.R. 82).

IN THE HOUSE, THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE FILED TWO SENATE BILLS, TWO HOUSE BILLS, FIVE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND ONE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION, WHILE RECOMMENDING THE ADOPTION OF ONE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD REQUEST THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO AMEND DEPARTMENTAL ORDER 221F TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SERVING ELECTION TO THE CONGRESS TO USE ANNUAL LEAVE OR, IF RUNNING UNOPPOSED, TO CONTINUE TO WORK, (H.J.R. 9). THE HOUSE MEMBERS ADOPTED THAT MEASURE AND SENT IT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

FILED UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE SAME COMMITTEE WERE: A MEASURE TO PROVIDE WITH PENSION ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO INCREASE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. (SB 131); FILED BECAUSE

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THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS BILL WAS ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW 5-7 LAST SESSION, REPORTED THE COMMITTEE: A MEASURE TO REDUCE THE EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, (SB 128). FILED ON THE GROUND THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS BILL WAS ALSO ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW 5-15 LAST SESSION; A BILL TO ESTABLISH A DISABILITY COMPENSATION PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT, (HB 11), FILED BECAUSE A DISABILITY COMPENSATION PLAN WAS ENACTED IN THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1973 FIFTH CONGRESS AS PUBLIC LAW 5-7; A JOINT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL AND INHUMAN ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION AND CALLING THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER NATIONS TO BRING PRESSURE ON THAT GOVERNMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE GENEVA CONVENTION, (H.J.R. 6); NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR ITS FILING; A BILL TO CORRECT AN ERROR IN THE TT CODE RELATING TO POLICE CAPTAINS AND SPECIAL CAPTAINS, (HB 191), FILED BECAUSE THE SENATE HAS PASSED AN IDENTICAL BILL WHICH THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO LOOK INTO LATER; A JOINT RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING TO STUDY AND PRESENT A PLAN WHEREBY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WOULD ACQUIRE THE EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYROLL AND PERSONNEL OF THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, (HJR 76); FILED BECAUSE IT WAS THE FEELING OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION SHOULD REMAIN A DIVISION OF THE TT GOVERNMENT; ANOTHER JOINT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, (H.J.R. 16); NO REASON WAS GIVEN AS TO WHY THE RESOLUTION WAS FILED; A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO LIFT THE "MOST FAVORED NATION CLAUSE" IN MICRONESIA, (S.J.R. 56), FILED IN VIEW OF THE RECENT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THAT THE MOST FAVORED NATION CLAUSE WILL SOON BE LIFTED; A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 3011 TO ALLOW ONE MORE OF HIS MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM YAP DISTRICT, (HJR 50), FILED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE MATTER MAY BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE HOUSE IS REAPPORTIONED; AND A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO INVESTIGATE, AND THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PROSECUTE, CERTAIN VIOLATIONS OF DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL LIQUOR LAWS, (H.J.R. 25); NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR ITS FILING.

SAYING THAT THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT PRODUCES 50 PER CEN OF THE COPRA PRODUCED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ASSIGN THE NEW MOTOR SHIP "MICRONESIA PRINCESS", NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN KOREA, TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS FOR FIELD TRIP SERVICES (H.J.R. 172). HEINE SAID THE OLD FIELD TRIP VESSELS IN THE MARSHALLS CANNOT CARRY ENOUGH COPRA AND THAT THE PEOPLE ARE VERY DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE INADEQUATE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULES TO THE OUTER ISLANDS.

IN OTHER HOUSE ACTIVITIES TUESDAY, 13 NEW BILLS WERE INTRODUCED ALONG WITH SEVEN HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. AMONG THE BILLS INTRODUCED ARE: A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$82,000 TO PURCHASE FOUR SCHOOL BUSES FOR DARIT-ULIGA-DALAP MUNICIPALITY IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 271); ANOTHER ASKING FOR \$10,000 AS A SUBSIDY FOR THE TRUK HOUSING AUTHORITY, (SB 272); A BILL TO EARMARK \$123,000 TO CONSTRUCT COPRA WAREHOUSES IN EACH DISTRICT, (HB 273); A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE AND PL 5-21 RELATING TO THE POWERS OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND EXTENDING PROVISIONS OF THE SAME LAWS TO INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES OTHER THAN COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATIONS ENGAGED IN FISHING BUSINESS, (HB 274); A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT TO GRANT CONCESSION CONTRACTS FOR BUSINESSES AT THE MAJURO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...TO REQUIRE BIDS FOR CONCESSIONS, AND TO SPECIFY OTHER SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS, (HB 275); A BILL TO AMEND THE TT CODE RELATIVE TO THE RETURN OF IMPORT TAX REVENUES TO THE DISTRICTS, (HB 276); A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO EXEMPT NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM THE GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL EXCISE TAX, (HB 277); A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$6,500 TO PURCHASE RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE YOUTH OF THE MARIANAS, (HB 278); A BILL TO REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF A HOMESTEAD SURVEY WITHIN THE KAGMAN AND KAPPI HOMESTEAD TRACTS ON SAIPAN WITHIN ONE YEAR, (HB 279); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$100,000 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND RENOVATION OF THE FACILITIES OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN PONAPE (HB 280).

AMONG THE RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN ADDITION TO CONGRESSMAN HEINE'S RESOLUTION, ARE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2902 TO REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO ANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR EITHER OFFICIAL OR COMMERCIAL AIR OR SEA TRANSPORTATION, (HJR 97); ANOTHER REQUESTING THE NICON TO ARRANGE TO HAVE ONE CIVIC ACTION TEAM ASSIGNED TO KUSALE ISLAND TO WORK ON WATER PROJECTS AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE VARIOUS VILLAGES, (HJR 98); A MEASURE REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO EXTEND THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM TO THE TT, (HJR 99); ANOTHER AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO UTILIZE THE ATTORNEYS OF THE CONGRESS AND/OR ENGAGE PRIVATE COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OR CONGRESSMEN IN SUING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS FOR TINIAN ISLAND, (HJR 100); A RESOLUTION URGING THE NICON TO OFFER OR CAUSE TO BE PUT ON SALE ALL GOVERNMENT OWNED HOUSES AND LIVING UNITS ON THE BASIS OF PUBLIC BID, AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS TO LEASE BACK FOR THE USE OF THE GOVERNMENT SUCH HOUSES AND LIVING UNITS, THEREBY AVOIDING THE STIGMA OF BEING ONE OF THE LARGEST LANDLORDS IN MICRONESIA (HJR 101); AND A MEASURE REQUESTING A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS TO THE CONGRESS THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET PLAN EACH YEAR (HJR 102).

BOTH HOUSES ADJOURNED UNTIL 10:00 WEDNESDAY MORNING.

(TRUK FISHING PLANT TO GET FUEL)

SAIPAN, FEB. 5 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY FUEL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR JUAN SABLAN TO GRANT A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO CURRENT FUEL ALLOCATIONS FOR A FISHING AND FISH PROCESSING OPERATION ON THE ISLAND OF TOL. INDICATIONS ARE THE REQUEST WILL BE APPROVED. MOBIL OIL MANAGER RON CHEVAKO MET MONDAY ON SAIPAN WITH THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JAMES WHEELER, AND THEY AGREED THAT THE REQUEST WAS A VALID ONE THAT COULD BE HONORED.

DISTAD SAPLAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROCESSING PLANT, KNOWN AS THE KATSUBUSHI PLANT ON TOL, WAS NOT IN OPERATION FOR MOST OF LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF AN INSUFFICIENT CATCH OF TUNA. THUS IT HAD NO BASE ON WHICH TO MAKE AN ALLOCATION OF FUEL. "DURING THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, HOWEVER," WROTE THE DISTAD, "THEIR FISHING BOAT, AS WELL AS OTHERS, HAS BEEN CATCHING A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF TUNA FISH, FAR EXCEEDING THE CATCH RECORD OF PREVIOUS YEARS. BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM JAPAN AND KOREA TUNA EXPERTS, THE TREND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE DURING THESE NEXT THREE TO FOUR YEARS, THUS INSURING A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF FISH FOR THE LOCAL MARKETS AND THE KATSUBUSHI PROCESSING PLANT.

DISTAD SAPLAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PLANT COST THE TOL COMMUNITY NEARLY THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUILD, AND "IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE TERRITORY WHICH TURNS A LOCAL RAW RESOURCE INTO A FINISHED PRODUCT FOR EXPORT. THE HIGH DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCT IN JAPAN, KOREA AND HAWAII GUARANTEES MARKET OUTLETS INDEFINITELY," HE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO RESUME THIS VITAL OPERATION, THE DISTAD ASKED FOR AN ALLOCATION OF 1,200 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL A MONTH IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PLANT TO OPERATE AT 80 TO 90 PER CENT CAPACITY.

THE FULL COMMITTEE IS TO MEET SOON TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST, BUT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO GO ALONG WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF WHEELER AND CHEVANO THAT THE REQUEST BE GRANTED, AND THE FUEL MADE AVAILABLE TO THE KATSUBUSHI PLANT.

(NEW GUINEA OFFICIAL TO VISIT TT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 5 (PHS)---FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RALPH KAREPA, IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT TWO DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY LATER THIS MONTH, ACCORDING TO WORD RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON THIS WEEK.

KAREPA, WHO IS PRESENTLY TOURING THE U.S. MAINLAND AS PART OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT LEADER GRANT, IS PLANNING TO VISIT PONAPE FEBRUARY 27, MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

FOLLOWING THE PONAPE VISIT, KAREPA WILL MAKE A SIMILAR ORIENTATION TOUR OF SAIPAN FEBRUARY 28, MEETING HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES BEFORE LEAVING FOR GUAM MARCH THIRD FOR A ONE-DAY VISIT WITH GUAM'S LEADERS. HE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART GUAM FOR PORT MORESBY MARCH 4TH.