

(ONE MORE BILL TO MICO)

SAIPAN, MARCH 1 (MNS) --- ONE MORE BILL IS ON ITS WAY TO TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON FOR CONSIDERATION AS A RESULT OF ACTION IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FRIDAY (MAR. 1). THE BILL IS ONE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF DUTY-FREE RETAIL CONCESSIONS IN OFFICIAL PORTS OF ENTRY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, (SB 189).

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THE MEASURE WAS APPROVED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FRIDAY, AND LATER IN THE SAME DAY, THE SENATE ACTED TO APPROVE CERTAIN CHANGES MADE IN THE BILL BY THE HOUSE, THEREBY COMPLETING LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON IT. THE BILL PROVIDES THAT BUSINESSES WHICH WISH TO OPERATE A DUTY-FREE STORE IN ANY OF THE DISTRICTS SUBMIT BIDS TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING THE STORES AND USING PUBLIC FACILITIES. WHERE CAPITAL IS NECESSARY TO BUILD PORT OF ENTRY FACILITIES, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MAY REQUIRE THE PRE-PAYMENT OF THE CONCESSION FEE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

WHERE THIS FEE EXCEEDS ONE MILLION DOLLARS, THE PERSON GRANTED THE CONCESSION MAY BE ALLOWED TO KEEP IT FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN YEARS, AND BE RELEASED FROM THE OBLIGATION OF PAYING TAXES. IF THE CONCESSION FEE IS NOT PRE-PAID, OR DOES NOT EXCEED ONE MILLION DOLLARS, THE TERM IS FIVE YEARS, AND THE CONCESSIONAIRE WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE GROSS BUSINESS RECEIPTS TAX, ALTHOUGH NOT OTHER TAXES. IF NO PRE-PAID CONCESSION IS INVOLVED, THE CONCESSION PRIVILEGE MAY NOT BE GRANTED TO A NON-CITIZEN.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONCESSION FEE, THE BUSINESS OPERATOR RECEIVES A LONG-TERM MONOPOLY ON HIS BUSINESS, A WAIVER OF SOME OR ALL TAXES, FREE USE OF PUBLIC LAND AND PUBLIC TERMINAL FACILITIES, AND ASSURANCE THAT ITS LIABILITY TO THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE INCREASED DURING THE TERM OF THE PRIVILEGE.

THE BILL IS THOUGHT TO HAVE ITS MOST IMMEDIATE APPLICATION IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, WHERE BUSINESSMEN HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE OPERATION OF DUTY-FREE STORES, AND WHERE THE GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING A MAJOR NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND TERMINAL FACILITY WHICH, WITH DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM JAPAN, PROMISES TO BE A MAJOR PORT OF ENTRY.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL HAVE THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF OFFICIAL RECEIPT TO ACT ON THIS BILL. THE DUTY-FREE STORES MEASURE IS THE TWELFTH BILL TO BE PASSED BY THE CURRENT CONGRESS SESSION, WHICH IS DUE TO END AT MIDNIGHT MONDAY, MARCH 4.

(HOUSE HAS BUSY SESSION)

SAIPAN, MAR. 1 (MNS) --- THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED A TOTAL OF TEN BILLS, THREE OF THEM SENATE BILLS, AND SENT THEM TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION FRIDAY (MAR. 1), IN THE BUSIEST DAY SO FAR IN THE CURRENT SESSION FOR THE 21 CONGRESSMEN. THEY MET TWICE DURING THE DAY, STARTING IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, THEN TAKING A LENGTHY RECESS AND RESUMING THEIR DELIBERATIONS IN A LATE AFTERNOON SESSION THAT RAN ON INTO THE EVENING.

THE SENATE, MEANWHILE, HELD A SHORTER SESSION, SENDING TWO BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION TO THE HOUSE, AND ADOPTING HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DUTY-FREE SHOPS IN THE TT (SB 189), SENDING THAT MEASURE ON TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CONSIDERATION (SEE PREVIOUS STORY).

THE LARGEST APPROPRIATION TO COME OUT OF THE CURRENT SESSION SO FAR IS A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$1,672,243 TO DEFRAY THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1974 AND

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ENDING MARCH 31, 1975, (HB 282). THE BILL PASSED THE HOUSE FRIDAY.

OTHER BILLS THAT PASSED SECOND READING ARE: A MEASURE TO AMEND PL 4C-49, RELATING TO THE TT MERIT SYSTEM IN TWO AREAS, ONE BEING THE BILL WOULD ADD FOUR NEW CLASSIFICATIONS, COMPRISING PART-TIME AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES, THE THE LIST OF POSITIONS EXEMPTED FROM THE TT MERIT SYSTEM, AND SECONDLY, THE BILL WOULD CLARIFY TWO PROVISIONS IN PL 4C-49 WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH RATES FOR OVERTIME COMPENSATION AND HOLIDAY PAY, (SB 152); A BILL WHICH WOULD AMEND THE TT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROTECTION ACT TO EMPOWER ANY RESIDENT OR CITIZEN TO THE TT TO BRING CIVIL ACTIONS IN A COURT OF LAW TO ENFORCE ANY SECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROTECTION ACT OR ANY REGULATION ISSUED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD, (HB 249); LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MANGROVE CRABS, (HB 326); A MEASURE TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE THE TT FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAWS, WHICH PROVIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS BOARDS TO DISTRICT FOREIGN INVESTMENT BOARDS; GRANTS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FINAL AUTHORITY REGARDING ALL BUSINESS PERMITS, PROVIDES THAT FAILURE TO ACT ON A PERMIT BY THE BOARD WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY LAW RESULTS IN AUTOMATIC APPROVAL, PROVIDES FOR AMENDMENT OF A BUSINESS PERMIT; AND REQUIRES THE BOARD TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON EACH APPLICATION, (HB 323); A BILL TO ELIMINATE THE IMPORT TAX ON FOODSTUFFS, AND TO RAISE THE IMPORT TAXES ON CERTAIN OTHER ITEMS IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOST REVENUES, (HB 288); A MEASURE TO CREATE A FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT AND ANIMAL AGRICULTURE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS, AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR, (HB 147); A BILL TO REVISE THE TT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROTECTION ACT REGARDING FREE LUNCHING AND REFRESHMENTS TO ITS OFFICIALS AND OTHER PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE TT; AND A LEGISLATION MEASURE, (SB 340).

MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMICK ATTEMPTED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS A MEASURE WHICH WOULD RETURN 50 PER CENT OF THE MICRONESIAN INCOME TAX COLLECTED TO THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS FOR APPROPRIATION BY THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES, (HB 229). YAP'S REPRESENTATIVE LUKE M. IVAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HOUSE VOTE IN SECRET BALLOT. THE RESULT OF THE VOTE WAS 10 IN FAVOR, 10 AGAINST AND ONE ABSENT, THUS DEFEATING THE MOTION TO WITHDRAW THIS CONTROVERSIAL REVENUE SHARING BILL.

FOUR JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED AND SENT TO THE SENATE. THE RESOLUTIONS WOULD: DIRECT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NOMINATE A DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PONAPE DISTRICT, (HJR 120); EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SHALL DETERMINE THE SITE OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS IN THE EVENT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SHOULD CALL ONE PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS, (HJR 78); REQUEST THE HICOM TO CARRY OUT A MANPOWER NEEDS SURVEY IN MICRONESIA AND TO UNDERTAKE SUCH SIMILAR SURVEYS IN THE FUTURE AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO ENABLE THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO FORMULATE A MORE REALISTIC CURRICULA FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, (GJR 50); AND REQUEST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO MAKE TT CITIZENS LIVING IN TT WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF U.S. CITIZENS, ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, (SJR 98).

IN THE SENATE FRIDAY, THE TWO BILLS PASSED ON FINAL READING WERE A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE HIGH COURT TO APPOINT A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN CERTAIN CASES INVOLVING CONTEMPT OF THE

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CONGRESS (SB 222); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$65,000 FOR THE TERRITORIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION TO HOLD CONFERENCES ON EDUCATIONAL GOALS IN MICRONESIA, (SB 337). BOTH MEASURES GO TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

ONE JOINT RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED. IT WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 IN ORDER TO GIVE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO BORROW MONEY (SJR 93). IT PASSED ONLY AFTER SOME FLOOR DEBATE ABOUT THE WISDOM OF DEFICITE SPENDING AND ENTERING INTO OBLIGATIONS WHICH MIGHT CARRY ON FOR GENERATIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE CONTINUED TO INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION FRIDAY, EVEN THOUGH ONLY THREE DAYS REMAIN IN THE SESSION. ONE NEW BILL AND THREE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED. THE BILL WOULD AUTHORIZE THE TT GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO ESTABLISH GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS, CREATE A TERRITORIAL COMMISSION ON GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE; CREATE A GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE FUND, AND MAKE APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE (SB 342).

ONE OF THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WOULD ASK THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO GRANT GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA (SJR 115). AND THE PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS WOULD BE:

PERMISSION TO ELECT THE HIGH COURT JUSTICES AND DEPUTY HIGH COURT JUSTICES; PLENARY POWER AND AUTHORITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TO CONCLUDE OR DISSOLVE CONTRACTS OR ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY AND ALL SEA AND AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO, FROM AND WITHIN MICRONESIA; AUTHORITY TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FINALLY, ON ANY AND ALL LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MATTERS OF THE TTPI; COMPLETE AUTHORITY FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE AND APPORTION ALL U.S. FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS; AND ELIMINATION OF THE NECESSITY THAT THE TTPI OPERATE UNDER AN APPROPRIATION CEILING WITH REGARD TO ANNUAL GRANT FUND APPROPRIATIONS.

ANOTHER INTERESTING JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED FRIDAY IN THE SENATE WOULD DIRECT THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS TO SUSPEND ANY AND ALL FURTHER OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE STATUS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ADOPTION OF THE MEASURE (SJR 117). OFFERED BY SENATOR BAILEY OLTER (PONAPE), AND CO-SIGNED BY TWO OTHER SENATORS, THE MEASURE CITES THE NEED FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION, TIME FOR FORMULATION OF A CONSTITUTION, AND TIME TO EFFECT THE FULL TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS BACK TO THE PEOPLE AS REASONS FOR A BREAK IN THE TALKS NOW.

THE THIRD JOINT RESOLUTION OFFERED FRIDAY WAS ALSO FROM THE DESK OF SENATOR OLTER. IT WOULD CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR THE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE CONGRESS, SO THAT BY THE YEAR 1976 EACH DISTRICT DELEGATION MAY BE STAFFED WITH AN ATTORNEY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS (SJR 116).

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET ON SATURDAY, AND WILL LIKELY MEET AGAIN SUNDAY AS THE DRIVE TOWARD ADJOURNMENT MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR. (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE WILL PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE OF THE FINAL DAYS OF ACTIVITY IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AS TIME PERMITS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT TO TELL YOU JUST WHEN TO EXPECT DISPATCHES. WE CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT YOU CHECK PERIODICALLY WITH YOUR COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS THIS WEEKEND AND THROUGH NEXT TUESDAY FOR THE LATEST CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.)

(NOTE: THE FOLLOWING STORY DUPLICATES IN SOME RESPECTS COVERAGE ALREADY PROVIDED OF A SPEECH BY SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA, BUT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE CONGRESS TO TRANSMIT THIS ADDITIONAL STORY WHICH COVERS THE SPEECH IN CONSIDERABLY MORE DETAIL.)

(ALL USERS, PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BORJA'S COMMENTS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 1, (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA FRIDAY, (MARCH 1) FURTHER COMMENTED ON REMARKS WHICH HE DELIVERED EARLIER THIS WEEK ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE CONCERNING LAND, SALARIES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY IN MICRONESIA. SAYING THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH BORJA'S "NEEDED FURTHER ELABORATION" HE SAID THAT BORJA POINTED OUT SEVERAL OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HE FEELS DESERVED ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION.

SENATOR BORJA SAID THAT THE ENACTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AS CONTAINED IN SENATE BILL 296 MAY BE "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH THIS CONGRESS HAS HAD TO CONSIDER IN ITS NINE YEAR OF EXISTENCE." HE SAID THAT LAND IS THE BASIS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WHO CONTROLS THESE LANDS "DETERMINES HOW IT WILL BE USED AND CONSEQUENTLY OUR ECONOMIC DESTINY."

THE SENATOR SAID THAT WHILE HE AGREES WITH THE INTENT OF SENATE BILL 296, HE SEES SOME PROBLEMS BECAUSE THE MEASURE DOES NOT RETURN TO LOCAL CONTROL MILITARY RETENTION LANDS WHICH WILL REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL. HE SAID HE FAILS TO SEE HOW IT IS THAT OFTEN REPRESENTATIONS ARE MADE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS--BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND OTHERS--TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNS "NO LAND IN MICRONESIA AND ALL THE LAND IN MICRONESIA IS BEING HELD IN TRUST FOR MICRONESIANS." HE POINTED OUT WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT AMERICA DOES NOT OWN LAND IN MICRONESIA, THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS HOLDING LAND IN TRUST FOR ITSELF," AND NOT FOR MICRONESIANS.

SENATOR BORJA WENT ON RECORD OPPOSING THE PROVISION THAT WOULD NOT ALLOW PREVIOUS DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO TITLES TO BE REOPENED FOR FURTHER DETERMINATIONS. HE SAID EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT LAND PROBLEMS, CLAIMS, AND DISPUTES THAT EXIST TODAY ARE THE RESULT OF SOME "UNILATERAL, HASTY, OR MISINFORMED DECISION BY SOMEONE FROM THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, SOME YEARS IN THE PAST." HE NOTED THAT HE OBJECTS TO THE PART WHICH WOULD HOLD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT "HARMLESS" ONCE THE LANDS ARE CONVEYED.

BORJA INDICATED THAT HE SEES SOME PROBLEMS WITH SECTIONS OF THE LAW WHICH WOULD CONTINUE THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT'S POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN. HE SAID THE IT GOVERNMENT HAS MANY TIMES USED THIS POWER TO THE "DETIMENT" OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND TO THE "BETTERMENT" OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS POWER WILL NOT BE USED "EXTENSIVELY" BEFORE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP.

THE SENATOR DECLARED THAT IF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IS GOING TO RETURN PUBLIC LANDS TO MICRONESIAN CONTROL THEN IT SHOULD RETURN ALL PUBLIC LANDS. HE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS FAIR FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SAY "MICRONESIANS CAN HAVE THEIR PUBLIC LANDS BACK "BUT NOT ALL." HE ASSERTED THAT MICRONESIANS ARE "MATURE" PEOPLE AND THAT HE FINDS IT MOST OBJECTIONABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT "STILL TRIES TO TREAT US LIKE CHILDREN" REGARDING THIS MATTER. BORJA ALSO RAISED OBJECTIONS REGARDING THE WORD "TRANSFER" AS USED IN THE BILL AND SAID IT SHOULD NOT TRANSFER BUT RETURN IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS.

THE SENATOR ALSO COMMENTED ON AN ADMINISTRATION BILL (S.B. 289) RELATING TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. HE SAID THE BILL MAINLY ENABLES HIPE--EXPATRIATES-- HIGHER SALARIES THAN MICRONESIAN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN COMPARABLE POSITIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF THE BILL WOULD BE A "ONE-SIDED" DECISION TO INCREASE SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR HIPE--EXPATRIATES-- FROM MICRONESIA TO THE LEVEL OF HIPE--EXPATRIATES-- IN OTHER COUNTRIES

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WAGES THAN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT EVEN THOUGH THEIR TRAINING AND EDUCATION IS THE SAME AS PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 276 WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE ENACTED INSTEAD OF SENATE BILL 275. SENATOR BORJA STATED CERTAIN CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM AND THAT THESE CHANGES ARE "MANDATORY" TO SATISFY THE MORE THAN 6,800 MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. HE NOTED THAT HE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL THAT THE LOWER LEVELS ARE TOO LOW AND THE HIGHER LEVELS ARE TOO HIGH. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT START AT LEVEL FOUR SINCE RECENT RISES IN THE COST OF LIVING PARTICULARLY AFFECT THOSE IN THE LOWER LEVELS.

BORJA ALSO COMMENTED ON A PROVISION OF THE BILL WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS FROM ELEVEN TO FOUR. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS TO FOUR BECAUSE THIS WOULD DENY "BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS" WHO WORK LONG HOURS, THE ENJOYMENT OF A FEW DAYS OF HOLIDAYS EACH YEAR. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY LIKE TO SEE THE NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS INCREASED TO 13 TO INCLUDE GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR ALSO SAID HE FAVORS PROVISIONS OF THE LAW CONCERNING ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVES, AND THE ROTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS. THE FIRST, HE SAID, WOULD ALLOW EXCESS ANNUAL LEAVE TO BE CREDITED TO SICK LEAVE AND WOULD FURTHER ALLOW ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE AT THE END OF EMPLOYMENT TO BE CREDITED TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. "THIS IS A STEP LONG OVERDUE," BORJA STATED. WITH REGARD TO THE ROTATION OF DISTRICTS, THE SENATOR INDICATED THAT THIS IDEA WILL PLACE DISTRICTS IN POSITIONS WHERE THEY WILL BE CONCERNED WITH IT-WIDE PROBLEMS, AND WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ASSIST THEIR OWN DISTRICT AT THE HEADQUARTERS LEVEL. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FURTHER TRAINING FOR DEPUTY DISTRICTS, BORJA NOTED. HE SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT ONLY SEEK TO CONTINUE FINDING MICRONESIAN DEPARTMENT HEADS AND DIVISION CHIEFS, BUT WILL ALSO ACTIVELY WORK TO INSURE THAT ALL OF MICRONESIA'S DISTRICTS AND THEIR DEPUTIES ARE MICRONESIANS.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR ALSO HAD SUGGESTIONS WITH REGARD TO SENATE BILL 276 WHICH DIRECTS THE PERSONNEL BOARD TO MAKE CERTAIN STUDIES, TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SETTING POLICY FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE BOARD CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN FORMULATING RULES AND REGULATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS UPON WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS CAN ACT IN SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE CURRENT SALARY AND PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

IN TERMS OF THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY IN MICRONESIA, THE SENATOR STATED THAT THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN CONGRESS THAT THE PRESENT LAWS MUST BE MADE STRONGER. HE OUTLINED WHAT HE BELIEVES OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY. HE SAID CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE: THE NECESSARY PROVISIONS FOR MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION AND SAFEGUARDS TO INSURE THAT INVESTMENT IS TRULY BENEFICIAL TO MICRONESIA; THAT THE DISTRICT FOREIGN INVESTMENT BOARDS ARE PROVIDED LEGAL AND ECONOMIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EFFICIENTLY CARRY OUT THEIR WORK; THAT THE BOARDS KEEP ACCURATE AND DETAILED RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF APPEALS OR GRIEVANCES; THAT THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR; THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES; AND THAT THEY HAVE A CAPABLE STAFF AS WELL AS PERMANENT FACILITIES.

THE SENATOR CONCLUDED THAT CONGRESS SHOULD PASS LAWS THAT WILL BENEFIT MICRONESIANS AND WHICH WILL SECURE THE BEST INTERESTS OF MICRONESIA AND NOT THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.