

# COM House Has Heaviest Action

Best sides

SAIPAN (MNS) — The house of representatives passed 10 bills, three of them senate measures, and sent them to the senate for further action Friday during the busiest day so far in the current session for the 21 congressmen.

Representatives met twice during the day, starting in early afternoon, taking a lengthy recess and resuming deliberations in a late afternoon session that ran into 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 establishment of duty-free shops in the TT, sending that measure on to the High Commissioner.

The largest appropriation to come out of the current session is a measure setting aside \$1,672,243 to defray operating and contingent expenses of the

Congress of Micronesia for April 1 to March 31, 1975. The bill passed the house Friday.

Other bills that passed second reading are:

-A measure to amend a law on the TT merit system. The bill would add four new classifications, comprising part-time and temporary employees, to the list of positions exempted from the TT merit system. It also would clarify provisions to establish

rates for overtime compensation and holiday pay.

-A bill to amend the TT Environmental Quality Protection Act to empower any resident or citizen to the TT to bring civil actions to enforce any section of the Environmental Quality Protection Act or any regulation issued by the environmental protection board.

-Legislation to provide for conservation and protection of mangrove crabs.

-A measure to revise and consolidate TT foreign investment laws. It provides for changing the name of the district economic development boards to district foreign investment boards, grants the High Commissioner final authority regarding all business permits, provides that failure by the board to act on a permit within 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.

-A bill to eliminate the import tax on foodstuffs and to raise it on other items to compensate for lost revenues.

return 50 per cent of the Micronesian income tax collected to district governments for appropriation by district legislatures.

-Yap Rep. Luke M. Tman made a motion that the house vote in secret ballot. The result was 10 in favor, 10 against and one absent, thus defeating the motion.

Among the joint resolutions introduced Friday in the senate was one that would direct the chairman and members of the Joint Committee on Future Status to suspend official negotiations for two years from the date of adoption of the measure.

Offered by Sen. Bailey Olter of Ponape the measure cites the need for political education and time for formulation of a constitution and to effect the full transfer of public lands to the people as reasons for a break in the talks.

**TPC Receives Federal Grant**

WASHINGTON — The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration has awarded