

(TWO BILLS DISAPPROVED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS) -- TWO OF THE BILLS PASSED DURING THE RECENT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE BEEN DISAPPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, IN THE LATEST ACTIONS TAKEN ON MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION FROM THAT SESSION. ONE OF THE BILLS IS THE CONTROVERSIAL ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW (SB 94), WHILE THE OTHER IS A BILL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSIONS FOR ANY USE OF PUBLIC LAND BY A NON-CITIZEN (HB 135).

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT THE ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME BILL HAS BEEN VETOED BY THE HICOM. THE FIRST TIME WAS ONE YEAR AGO, AND THE CONGRESS AT ITS MOST RECENT SESSION CHOSE TO OVERRIDE THAT VETO BY REPASSING THE BILL. IN A MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP, HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON SAID HE IS COMPELLED TO EXERCISE HIS VETO ONCE AGAIN BECAUSE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL INVOLVES INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FEELS CANNOT BE SUPPORTED IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

"INASMUCH AS THIS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN RE-ENACTED IN THE SAME FORM, WE WILL HAVE TO ABIDE BY OUR FORMER DECISION," THE HICOM STATED. "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DID PROVIDE CERTAIN SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES AND UNTIL THESE ARE CONSIDERED AND INCORPORATED IN ANY SUCH LEGISLATION, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DISAPPROVE THIS ACT. CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AS OUTLINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST BE APPROPRIATELY CONSIDERED AND ACCOMMODATED.

"IF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS INTERESTED IN ENACTING SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE FUTURE," THE HICOM'S LETTER CONCLUDED, "WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU FAVORABLY CONSIDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FORWARDED DURING THIS CURRENT SESSION BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE."

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918, THE BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON, WHO HAS THE FINAL SAY ON THE DISPOSITION OF ANY BILL VETTED TWICE BY THE IT ADMINISTRATION. SECRETARY MORTON WILL HAVE SIXTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ITS RECEIPT BY HIM TO EITHER APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF THE BILL. IF HE APPROVES, IT WILL BECOME LAW. IF HE DISAPPROVES, IT WILL NOT BECOME LAW, AND NOT FURTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON THE SAME MEASURE BY THE CONGRESS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

THE OTHER BILL, DISAPPROVED BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, RELATES TO PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF PUBLIC LAND USE BY NON-CITIZENS OR NON-CITIZENS COMPANIES. IN HIS LETTER TO THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP, COLEMAN SAID:

"WE FEEL THAT THE PROCEDURES PRESENTLY IMPLEMENTED BY SECTION TWO OF TITLE 51 (OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE) PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE MASTER PLAN AREA TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN. A PLANNING COMMISSION IS PRIMARILY AN ADVISORY BODY TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. TO PUT THEM IN THE POSITION OF MAKING FINAL DECISIONS AS TO THE USE OF LAND WITHIN THE PLAN THEY HAVE DRAWN IS TO LET THE PLAN DOMINATE THE SITUATION. WHILE WE ARE WILLING TO HAVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUE TO SERVE AS AN ADVISORY BODY, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SUBSTITUTE THEM AS A POLICY MAKING BODY IN PLACE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OR THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR."

COLEMAN ADDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS ENUNCIATED A POLICY REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LAND TO THE CONTROL OF THE DISTRICTS, AND THAT HOUSE BILL 135 IS "NOT IN HARMONY WITH THAT POLICY."

THIS BILL WILL BE RETURNED TO THE CONGRESS FOR RECONSIDERATION IF IT CHOOSES TO DO SO.

FILE MPE
11/5/74

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COLEMAN SIGNS THREE FUNDING BILLS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---THREE APPROPRIATION BILLS PASSED BY THE RECENT SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WERE SIGNED INTO LAW MONDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 1) BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN. AMONG THEM IS THE CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING BILL, AND BILLS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE AND THE REVENUE DIVISION FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

THE BILL TO FUND THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (HB 232) IS THE LARGEST APPROPRIATION MEASURE PASSED BY THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS BEING THE LARGEST CONGRDSS BUDGET BILL EVER. IT APPROPRIATES 1,722,243 DOLLARS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1974 AND ENDING MARCH 31, 1975. INCLUDED IN THE BILL ARE SALARIES FOR STAFF AS WELL AS ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE OFFICES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE, AND FUNDS FOR THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES TO TRAVEL AND CARRY OUT THEIR WORK. THE BILL SIGNING CAME JUST IN TIME FOR THE CONGRESS, SINCE FUNDS UNDER THE FY 1974 APPROPRIATION RAN OUT AT MIDNIGHT MARCH 31, AND THERE WAS NO CONTINUING RESOLUTION OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO CONTINUE OBLIGATING FUNDS FOR CONGRESS ACTIVITIES IF THE BILL HAD NOT BEEN SIGNED. IT NOW BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 5-55.

THE OTHER FUNDING BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW MONDAY ARE A MEASURE APPROPRIATING 144,175 DOLLARS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 (HB 227), WHICH BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 5-57; AND A BILL APPROPRIATING 255,800 DOLLARS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE REVENUE DIVISION FOR FY 1975 (HB 240), WHICH IS NOW PUBLIC LAW 5-58.

A TOTAL OF SIX OF THE 46 BILLS PASSED DURING THE SESSION ARE NOW ON THE BOOKS AS PUBLIC LAWS, WHILE ANOTHER THREE BILLS HAVE BEEN DISAPPROVED. TEN BILLS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY TRANSMITTED FROM THE CONGRESS TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE FOR CONSIDERATION.

(ENIWETOK SURVEY COMPLETED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---TWO OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AEC) WILL BE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY THIS MONTH TO PERSONALLY DELIVER COPIES OF THE AEC'S RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENIWETOK TO INTERESTED PARTIES. THE SURVEY WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED, AND THE REPORT IS NOW READY FOR DISTRIBUTION, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK.

ROGER RAY, ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR OPERATIONS OF THE AEC IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA AND DR. WALTER NERVIK, WHO SERVED AS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE SURVEY, WILL ARRIVE ON SAIPAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, AND WILL DELIVER COPIES OF THE REPORT TO DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS THAT MORNING, AND TO TED MITCHELL, MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION DIRECTOR THAT AFTERNOON, THE FOLLOWING DAY THE MEN WILL FLY TO MAJURO, WHERE THEY WILL MEET WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM AND STAFF, AND WITH CHIPS BARRY OF THE MLSC STAFF IN MAJURO, TO PRESENT THEM WITH COPIES OF THE REPORT. RAY AND DR. NERVIK WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT AND MEANING OF THE REPORT WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES AT THAT TIME. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON THEIR TRIP BY HARRY U. BROWN OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF TERRITORIES.

TUTRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON ON TERRITORIAL BUSINESS, HAS ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE REPORT THERE.

ENIWETOK, IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, WAS A TESTING GROUND FOR U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND

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UNTIL 1958, WHEN ATMOSPHERIC TESTING CEASED. PLANS ARE NOW UNDER DISCUSSION FOR A REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR THE ATOLL, AND FOR THE VENTUAL RESETTLEMENT THERE OF THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK, WHO NOW LIVE ON U UJELANG.

(MISSING BOAT IN YAP LOCATED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---A FISHING BOAT WHICH WAS REPORTED MISSING LAST WEEK IN YAP HAS BEEN LOCATED BY A P-3 AIRCRAFT FROM THE SEA AND AIR RESCUE CENTER BASED ON GUAM, ACCORDING TO LT. CDR. ALAN R. PENDLETON, CINCPACREP FOR GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE 26-FOOT MOTOR-WHALE BOAT, WITH TWO MEN ON BOARD, WAS LOCATED MONDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 1) SOME 110 MILES WEST OF YAP DISTRICT, AFTER DRIFTING SINCE WEDNESDAY, (MARCH 27). THE TWO MEN ON THE BOAT WERE IDENTIFIED AS PIUS PIYALUG AND A MAN NAMED SALUGMAI, FIRST NAME UNKNOWN, BOTH FROM OUTER ISLANDS IN YAP.

YAP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE NOW SEEKING WAYS AND MEANS OF BRINGING BACK THE BOAT AND THE MEN TO SAFETY. PENDLETON SAID THAT THEY ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF HIRING A JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL, NOW IN YAP FOR REFUELING, TO TOW THE BOAT BACK, OR OF DIVERTING THE M.V. JAMES COOK, WHICH IS PRESENTLY MAKING A FIELD TRIP ROUND OF THE OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP FOR THE RESCUE OPERATION. THEY ARE ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING ASSISTANCE FROM NEARBY PALAU DISTRICT IN THIS MATTER.

THE BOAT WITH AN INBOARD DIESEL ENGINE WAS APPARENTLY TAKEN WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION LAST WEEK BY THE TWO MEN, WHO SET OUT ON A FISHING TRIP AND LEFT WORD THAT THEY WOULD BE BACK IN ABOUT TWO HOURS. THE BOAT BELONGS TO THE YAP DISTRICT MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION, AND DISTRICT MARINE RESOURCES REPRESENTATIVE MIKE MCCOY TOLD ACTING DISTRICT HILARY TECHELIOL THAT THE BOAT HAD NOT BEEN FUELED FOR SOME TIME. THUS AUTHORITIES ARE ASSUMING THAT THE BOAT RAN OUT OF GAS.

(OSG PROGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT STRIK YOMA, ALONG WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE, LEFT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICTS SATURDAY (MAR. 30) TO DISCUSS THE ESG PROGRAM WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS, PONAPE AND TRUK.

A SIMILAR TRIP TO THE WESTERN DISTRICTS OF PALAU AND YAP IS ALSO BEING PLANNED BY THE TASK FORCE WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING THE PROGRAM ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

CONCERNING OTHER ESG ACTIVITIES, A SPECIAL RADIO PROGRAM ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS NOW BEING PREPARED FOR TERRITORY-WIDE DISSEMINATION. THE BILL CALLING FOR SUCH A CONVENTION WAS APPROVED LAST WEEK BY DEPUTY HICOM PETER T. COLEMAN.

IN ADDITION TO THE RADIO PROGRAM, RAYMOND ULUCHONG, WHO HEADS A SUB-TASK FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONVENTION, HAS ALREADY SENT A LETTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF FILMS TO BE USED IN THE PROGRAM OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONVENTION.

ALSO, A SPECIAL LEAFLET WITH BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONVENTION IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE MICRONESIAN GENERAL PUBLIC. IT WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO THE LOCAL LANGUAGES OF MICRONESIA AND GIVEN WIDE DISTRIBUTION.

A BOOKLET ON "BASIC ECONOMICS FOR MICRONESIA" IS ALSO NOW COMPLETED AND WILL SOON BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS FOR THEIR USE IN THE ESG PROGRAM.

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(DAIRY CATTLE ARRIVE ON TINIAN)

TINIAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---MORE THAN 700 DAIRY CATTLE ARRIVED ON TINIAN SUNDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 31) FROM NEW ZEALAND, ABOARD THE CHARTERED M/V CINBRIA. THE CATTLE WERE PURCHASED BY KEN JONES, HEAD OF THE MARIANAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ON TINIAN, TO START A DAIRY OPERATION THERE.

ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN FELIPE Q. ATALIG, THE DAIRY PLANT WILL BEGIN FULL OPERATION SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. TWO DAIRY EXPERTS FROM NEW ZEALAND ALSO ARRIVED WITH THE CATTLE AND WILL HELP IN THE SET-UP OF THE DAIRY PLANT. THE CATTLE ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT FRESH MILK AND BUTTER ON TINIAN TO SATISFY THE DEMAND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR THE ENTIRE TRUST TERRITORY, ACCORDING TO MDC ESTIMATES.

IN ADDITION TO THE CATTLE, NINE HORSES, THREE DOGS, AND FIVE SHEEP ALSO ARRIVED. CONGRESSMAN ATALIG, SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, TINIAN MAYOR ANTONIO BORJA, KEN JONES, AND OTHER LOCAL DIGNITARIES WERE ON HAND TO MEET THE SHIP.

(NEW PONAPE DENTAL OFFICER)

SAIPAN, APRIL 1 (MNS)---CHIEF OF TRUST TERRITORY DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DR. JACK HELKENA HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DENTAL OFFICER FOR PONAPE DISTRICT.

HE IS DR. VICENTE Z. LOYOLA, 31, OF BINAN, LAGUNA, THE PHILIPPINES. DR. LOYOLA IS A 1970 GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH A DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE DEGREE. HE HAS BEEN ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK FOR ORIENTATION, AND WILL FLY TO PONAPE TUESDAY TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POSITION.

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