

Two Micro Bills Disapproved

SAIPAN (MNS)—Two bills passed during the recent session of the Congress of Micronesia have been disapproved by the office of the High Commissioner.

One is the controversial admiralty and maritime law. The other would require the approval of planning commissions for any use of public land by a non-citizen.

This is the second time the admiralty and maritime bill has been vetoed by the HiCom.

The first time was a 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 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.

"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."

The bill has been sent to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton, who has final say on the disposition of any bill vetoed twice by the TT administration.

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 the executive branch has enunciated a policy regarding the transfer of public land to the control of the districts and that the house bill is "not in harmony with that policy."

This bill will be returned to the congress for reconsideration.