

Washington

Micro Budget Testimony Heard

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NGTON — Micronesian testified here yesterday t of their \$61 million appropriation, hoping to \$75 million next year. S. Carpenter, director fice of Territories, told Alan Bible, D-Nevada, senate appropriations ittee that the Trust wants progressively ceilings of \$75 \$80 million and \$85 ver the next three fiscal

This proposal is now before the administration's Office of Management and the Budget. The present bid is \$61 million. The Micronesians also want expedited the handling of a request for \$1.6 million to help build a new inter-island ship.

Rep. Raymond Setik, chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Committee on Program and Budget Planning, said residents of the TT are traveling between islands on outmoded ships, some 30 years old. He said money for the vessel already is available under

unspent funds for the present fiscal year.

The U.S. program to build eight new ships for inter-island passenger and cargo service among the 1,143 island of Micronesia is in the works. The first vessel, the 225-foot Micronesian Princess, has been built in Pusan, Korea, and will be ready for use this summer.

Carpenter said Micronesia is having "one of the most significant years in its history" as it is "progressing rapidly towards the joint goal of self-government for Micronesia with

a much stronger economic base."

High Commissioner Edward F. Johnston said the \$61 million sought in Fiscal 1975 includes \$2.2 million for a new hospital in Yap district; \$13 million for the public education system involving 34,000 students in 234 schools; \$2 million for a survey required to return public lands to local district control; \$1 million for economic development loans; and \$667,000 for rehabilitating the island of Bikini.

Johnston also requested \$1.4

million to initiate payment of Micronesian war claims between 1944 and 1951 for damage caused by U.S. occupation. There is \$5 million available to pay the U.S. share, with matching Japanese indemnity, for damages during the war itself. Johnston said a total of 11,098 claims has been filed.

The total filed for the post-war period is more than \$11 billion, Micronesian officials said, because it includes claims by the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. for damages through nuclear testing on Bikini and Eniwetok.

Tuesday, Chairman Julia Butler Hansen, D-Washington, of the House Interior Department appropriations subcommittee, told the Micronesians the Interior Department shouldn't pay damages for what the military did to the Pacific islands in detonating nuclear weapons.

"We weren't over there setting off those bombs," Mrs. Hansen said. "If the Department of Defense decided to bomb my home town, do you think I'd come and ask the State of Washington to pay me back? I'd go to the DOD...they've got money for aid to Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia."