

SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1975
JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

FIRST DAY

Monday, January 13, 1975

In accordance with the provisions of Secretarial Order No. 2918, as amended, the House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 10:20 a.m., Monday, January 13, 1975, in the House Chamber, Mariana Islands District, Saipan, Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Raymond Setik presided.

The invocation was given by the Reverend Father Jose Villagomez.

Chairman Setik called for adoption of the House Rules of Procedure for the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, as amended, as Temporary Rules of Procedure for the First Regular Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia. Representative Silk moved for adoption of the Temporary Rules; Representative Tman seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Setik appointed Asterio Takesy as the Temporary Clerk of the House of Representatives and Sintaro K. Ezra as the Temporary Sergeant-at-Arms.

Chairman Setik appointed Representative Luke Tman as Chairman of the Credentials Committee to examine the credentials of the members-elect of the House of Representatives for the First Regular Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia and Representatives Joab Sighrah and Jose P. Mafnas as members of the Credentials Committee.

Chairman Setik declared the House recessed at 10:24 a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Chairman Setik called for a report from the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Rep. Tman: Thank you. Mr. Chairman and my fellow colleagues: It is not the intent of your Committee on Credentials to hold the seating of the members-elect in suspense. However, the question before the Credentials Committee is so grave and complex that it renders it impossible for the Committee to render its immediate decision on the seating of certain members. I therefore request the House to extend its recess until 3:00 this afternoon, at which time the Credentials Committee will be able to make its report.

I so move that the House recess until 3:00 this afternoon.

Representative Silk seconded the motion, and Chairman Setik declared the House recessed at 11:22 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

Chairman Setik called for a report from the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Rep. Tman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of Representative-elect Sighrah and

Representative-elect Mafnas, who have assigned me this unpleasant task, your Credentials Committee, to which was referred the credentials of the members-elect, begs leave to report as follows:

The Committee has examined the credentials of the Congressmen-elect and Congresswoman-elect and recommends that all of the members-elect be sworn in and seated except members-elect from Representative Districts 14, 17, and 18. Your Committee requests the appointment of a Special Committee on Credentials to further investigate the credentials of these three members-elect mentioned above and to report to the House of Representatives within three days.

In its examination of all members-elect, the Committee reviewed Declarations of Candidates Winning Election to the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia submitted by the High Commissioner and found that all members we are recommending be sworn in and seated were duly chosen by the qualified electors of their respective districts.

The Committee made inquiries into petitions contesting the results in the 5th Representative District in the Marshall Islands District and the 8th, 9th and 10th Representative Districts in Palau District. In the case of the petition filed contesting the election in the 5th Representative District of the Marshall Islands, the Committee heard testimony and reviewed documents submitted. In the case of the petition received contesting the election in Palau District, no person was available or requested to appear before the Credentials Committee in support of the petition.

In each of these four representative districts, your Committee found that violations of election law and regulations were reported; however, these complaints were not substantiated and petitioners failed to demonstrate that the election irregularities were of sufficient character such that different results would occur from new elections.

The burden is on the petitioner to show the materiality of the irregularities and that a sufficient number of qualified electors were deprived of the opportunity of exercising their franchise so as to change the result of the election. Your Committee feels that minor irregularities or deficiencies are not cause to overturn the will of the people expressed at the polls.

Your Committee wishes to report that petitions challenging the election results in the 17th and 18th Representative Districts in Truk have been filed and that the complexity of the issues presented requires further deliberation and consideration by a special credentials committee. Similarly, the failure to recommend seating the member-elect from the 14th Representative District in Ponape is a result of your Committee's desire to further research legal questions relating to the matter.

ADOPTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Representative Tman moved for adoption of the Credentials Committee report, and Representative Silk seconded the motion.

Representative Tman moved to suspend Rule 9, section 6, of the Temporary Rules of Procedure with regard to duplication of reports; Representative Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

The motion to adopt the report of the Credentials Committee carried by voice vote.

The Clerk called the roll. Sixteen members-elect were present.

OATH OF OFFICE

Chairman Setik requested the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Chief Justice of the High Court, the Honorable Harold W. Burnett, to the rostrum to administer the oath of office collectively to the members-elect holding credentials acceptable to the House. Chief Justice Burnett addressed the members-elect as follows:

"Do you solemnly swear that you have been duly elected and properly hold office as a member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia, that you do freely, willingly and without reservation accept the responsibilities and obligations of this high office, that you will discharge these obligations and responsibilities in a manner that will bring honor to this high body and to the people of Micronesia, that you will never use your office for personal pecuniary gain or aggrandizement, and that you will loyally defend the laws of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and promote the well-being of all the people of Micronesia, so help you God?"

Representatives Basilius, Bigler, Guerrero, Haglelgam, Haruo, Henry, Mafnas, Moses, Nakamura, Rasa, Refonopei, Rudimch, Setik, Sigrah, Silk, and Tman responded, "I do."

Chief Justice Burnett: Gentlemen and Mrs. Bigler, my congratulations and very, very best wishes.

Chairman Setik declared the House recessed at 3:30 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Rep. Tman: Mr. Chairman, if there is no objection from the floor, I would like to move that the House of Representatives elect the following Representatives to the following office.

- Bethwel Henry - Speaker
- Ekpap Silk - Vice Speaker
- Luke Tman - Floor Leader,

and the following persons to chair the six standing committees of the House of Representatives:

- Raymond Setik - Appropriations
- Resio Moses - Ways and Means
- Sasauo Haruo - Resources and Development
- Polycarp Basilius - Judiciary and Governmental Relations
- Joab Sigrah - Education and Social Matters
- Kuniwo Nakamura - Health Matters.

*NO one from the
Marians and
Standing Committee
Abolition*

Representative Sigrah seconded the motion, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Setik: At this time I would like to relinquish my seat as the Chairman to the elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Bethwel Henry.

Speaker Henry: I wish first to thank my colleagues for reelecting me as Speaker. I will do my best in performing my duties as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Sixth Congress.

The next item on the agenda is the appointment of committee members. Our rules provide for the maximum number of committee members. I wish to ask that each delegation submit names to the Floor Leader and the Vice Speaker of those members they would like to put on these standing committees sometime between now and tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

There is one more item of business before us, and that is the adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the House. Is there any motion to that effect?

ADOPTION OF RULES

Floor Leader Tman moved that the official Rules of Procedure of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, as amended, be adopted as the Official Rules of Procedure of the Sixth Congress. Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Speaker Henry: If there is no objection from the House, the Chair hereby appoints Asterio Takesy as the Clerk of the House during this session and Sintaro K. Ezra as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

COMMITTEES TO ADVISE THAT HOUSE IS ORGANIZED

Speaker Henry: The House is hereby organized and the Chair appoints a committee of three to wait on the Senate, either today or tomorrow, to inform the Senate that the House is organized and ready to transact business. The committee to wait on the Senate is as follows: The Chairman will be Mr. Floor Leader, Congressman Tman, and the two members will be Congresswoman Bigler and Congressman Rudimch.

Another committee to wait on the High Commissioner will consist of Vice Speaker Silk as Chairman and Congressman Guerrero and Congressman Sigrah.

The two committees will report to the House during tomorrow's session.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

None

The Speaker declared the House recessed at 4:13 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 4:15 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Speaker Henry: As you know, the Credentials Committee authorized the Speaker to appoint a special committee to study the credentials of members-elect who were not seated. The Chair will make the appointments immediately after the session and inform the members who were appointed. There will be six members on the committee--one from each district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

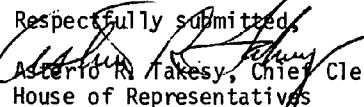
Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, I am advised that there will be a reception hosted by the Marianas Delegation tonight at the Continental Hotel, at 6:00. I would urge all the members to attend.

Representative Haruo moved for a short recess; Floor Leader Silk seconded and the Speaker declared the House recessed at 4:17 p.m.

The House reconvened at 4:18 p.m.

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge each district delegation to expedite its selection of members to serve on the various standing committees of the House. Chairman Haruo is very anxious to proceed with his committee work, and I would urge all the district delegations to submit the names of Representatives who will be serving on the various committees by tomorrow, if possible. Thank you.

There being no further announcements, Floor Leader Tman moved that the House stand in recess. Vice Speaker Silk seconded and the motion carried. The Speaker declared the House recessed at 4:20 p.m. until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives