

(CONGRESS SESSIONS BEGINS) 1975

SAIPAN, JAN. 13 (MNS)---THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONVENED MONDAY (JAN. 13), BEGINNING A 50-DAY SESSION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO END MARCH 3.

THE HOUSES WERE CALLED TO ORDER BY SENATOR TOSIWO NAKAYAMA IN THE SENATE AND BY REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK IN THE HOUSE, WHO ACTED AS A TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN UNTIL THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER, BEFORE PACKED GALLERIES OF WITNESSES. THE SENATE'S SESSION WAS BRIEF.

IN THE HOUSE, THE SESSION WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL, WITH THE SWEARING IN OF ALL BUT THREE MEMBERS BY THE TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD BURNETT, THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, AND THE ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT.

CREDENTIALS CHALLENGES TOOK UP MOST OF THE DSY'S WORK IN THE HOUSE. AT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, WHICH CONSISTED OF CONGRESSMEN LUKE TMAN, CHAIRMAN, JOSE P. MAFNAS (MARIANAS) AND JOAB SIGRAH (PONAPE), THREE MEMBERS WERE NOT SEATED.

THEY ARE EDGAR EDWARDS FROM PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 14, CHIRO ALBERT AND LAMBERT AAFIN FROM REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS 17 AND 18 RESPECTIVELY, IN TRUK DISTRICT.

THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE APPOINTMENT OF A "SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS" TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE THE CREDENTIALS OF THE THREE MEMBER-ELECT AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HOUSE WITHIN THREE DAYS.

THE PETITIONS CONTESTING THE RESULTS OF CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN M. BIGLER FROM THE MARSHALLS AND CONGRESSMEN KUNIWO NAKAMURA, ISIDRO RUDIMCH, AND POLYCARP BASILIUS, ALL FROM PALAU, WERE ALSO RECEIVED AND EXAMINED.

IN THE CASE OF THE PETITION FILED CONTESTING THE SEAT OF CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN M. BIGLER, 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 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT POINTED OUT.

IT FURTHER STATED THAT "MINOR IRREGULARITIES OF DEFICIENCIES ARE NOT CAUSE TO OVERTURN THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE EXPRESSED AT THE POLLS."

THE PETITIONS CHALLENGING EHT ELECTION RESULTS OF CONGRESSMEN-ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN AND CHIRO ALBERT HAVE BEEN FILED BECAUSE 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 DISTRICT (EDGAR EDWARDS) IS A RESULT OF YOUR COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO FURTHER RESEARCH LEGAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE MATTER," THE REPORT CONCLUDED.

IN OTHER HOUSE ACTIVITIES, INCUMBENT SPEAKER BETHWEL HANRY (PONAPE) WAS RE-ELECTED SPEAKER, CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK (MARSHALLS) WAS ELECTED VICE-SPEAKER AND CONGRESSMAN LUKE M. TMAN (YAP) WAS ELECTED FLOOR LEADER.

THE ELECTION OF VARIOUS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WAS ALSO CONDUCTED. THEY ARE: CONGRESSMAN RAYMOND SETIK (TRUK), APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE; SASAUO HARUO (TRUK), RESOURCES AND

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; JOAB SIGRAH, (PONAPE), EDUCATION COMMITTEE; POLYCARP BASILIUS (PALAU), JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE; RESIO MOSES, (PONAPE), WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE; AND KUNIWO NAKAMURA (PALAU), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL MATTERS.

SPEAKER HENRY THEN APPOINTED CONGRESSMEN LUKE M. TMAN, CHAIRMAN, ISIDORO RUDIMCH AND CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN M. BIGLER TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE IS DULY ORGANIZED AND READY FOR TRANSACT BUSINESS.

THREE OTHER MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO INFORM HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON THAT THE HOUSE IS DULY ORGANIZED AND READY TO TRANSACT BUSINESS. THEY ARE VICE-SPEAKER EKPAP LILY, CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSMEN HERMAN R. GUERRERO (MARIANAS) AND JOAB SIGRAH. BOTH COMMITTEES WILL REPORT TO THE HOUSE TUESDAY MORNING (JAN. 14).

IN THE SENATE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DEFERRED ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEWLY ELECTED TRUK SENATOR, WICK BOSSY, PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED TRUK ELECTION IRREGULARITIES AND VIOLATIONS BY FORMER SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH.

IN A LETTER TO THE SENATE AND SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, AMARAICH LISTED 13 COUNTS OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES, INCLUDING ALLEGED REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS, ALLEGED ELECTION LAW VIOLATIONS BY ELECTION COMMISSIONER JUAN A. SABLAN, AND ALLEGED VOTING PROCEDURE IRREGULARITY DURING THE ABSENTEE VOTING TIME AND ON ELECTION DAY.

THE SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, DID SEAT THE THE OTHER NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS: PEDRO A. TENORIO OF THE MARIANAS, AMATA KABUA OF THE MARSHALLS, PETRUS TUN OF YAP, ROMAN IMETUCL OF PALAU AND AMBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE. THESE SENATORS WERE SWORN IN BY TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT.

THE SENATE ADJOURNED AFTER THESE PROCEEDINGS FOR CAUCUSING PURPOSES. WHEN THE SENATE RECONVENES TUESDAY (JAN. 14), THE ELECTION OF SENATE OFFICERS IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE.

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET AT 10:00 A.M. TUESDAY (JAN. 14).

→ (WILLIAMS REVIEW STATUS TALKS PROGRESS)

SAIPAN, JAN. 13 (MNS---AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS IN A LETTER JANUARY 10 TO THE CO-CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS) REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE IN 1974 AND FORWARDED COPIES OF THE LATEST VERSION OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS AGREED IN HONOLULU IN OCTOBER 1974. THIS REVISED DRAFT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL OF THE JCFS RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CAME OUT OF THEIR REVIEW OF THE DRAFT COMPACT DURING THE AUGUST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE LETTER, IN SUMMARIZING THE PROGRESS MADE, SAID THAT THE DRAFT COMPACT AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES IN HONOLULU REPRESENTS FULL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN ALL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS INCLUDING: SELF-GOVERNMENT; FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE; APPLICABLE LAWS; TRADE AND COMMERCE; FINANCE; CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY; IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL; REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION; DISPUTE SETTLEMENT; AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF STATUS.

THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT, WHILE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REACHED IN ALL AREAS, THERE ARE STILL SOME POINTS THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, INCLUDING A TIMETABLE FOR TRANSITION AND THE LEVEL OF FUNDING DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD. ALSO TO BE DISCUSSED ARE THE LAST STEPS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THE SUB-NEGOTIATIONS FOR LAND, THE APPROVAL PROCESS AND RATIFICATION OF THE COMPACT, AND THE PROCEDURES LEADING UP TO THE PLEBISCITE WHICH WILL DETERMINE MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

THE LETTER ALSO NOTED THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LAND NEGOTIATIONS DURING 1974 AND THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE PALAU LEGISLATURE, ITS TRADITIONAL LEADERS, AND THE PEOPLE FOR THE INVITATION TO SEND A U.S. LAND SURVEY TEAM TO THAT DISTRICT. HE SAID THAT THEIR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE GREATLY FACILITATED THE U.S. TEAM'S WORK, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, U.S.N., WHICH WAS COMPLETED LAST AUGUST.

FINALLY, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS FLEXIBLE WITH RESPECT TO WHEN AND WHERE THE NEXT MEETING WITH THE JCFS SHOULD BE HELD BUT THAT IT WAS READY TO PROCEED WITH THE NEXT PHASE IN THE LAND SUB-NEGOTIATIONS AND WITH OTHER REMAINING MATTERS AT THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE CONCERNED.

(ELANZO APPOINTED CHIEF)

SAIPAN, JAN. 13 (MNS)---YMAO B. ELANZO OF THE MARSHALLS HAS BEEN APPOINTED TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON. HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 19, 1975.

ELANZO FIRST JOINED THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION IN MARCH 1970 AS ASSISTANT TARIFF AND CARGO SPECIALIST. HE WAS PROMOTED TO MANAGER, SEA TRANSPORTATION BRANCH IN 1971 AND SUBSEQUENTLY, IN FEBRUARY OF 1973, ASSUMED THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION. HE HAS BEEN ACTING CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION SINCE JULY 1, 1974.

ELANZO HOLDS A B.S. DEGREE IN NAUTICAL SCIENCE FROM THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER KIMIKO ANSON OF PONAPE, AND THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN.