

SAIPAN, JAN. 15 (MNS)---IN A CONGRESS SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE HEARING WEDNESDAY (JAN. 15) EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE TT JUAN A. SABLAN, FORMER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF TRUK, DENIED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES ALLEGED BY FORMER SEN. ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK.

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SABLAN ALSO STATED, "I DON'T BELIEVE I VIOLATED THE LAW (WHEN HE WAS ELECTION COMMISSIONER IN TRUK), AND IF I DID, IT WASN'T DONE DELIBERATELY."

SABLAN STATED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT A REPORT FROM STAFF ATTORNEY FRED RAMP, WHO CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION IN TRUK JAN. 4-10 ON THE ALLEGED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES IN THE 1974 ELECTION IN TRUK, WAS "RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE." BUT IN THE SHORT TIME RAMP WAS IN TRUK, STATED SABLAN, THE REPORT "(COULDN'T) BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF THE FACTS REGARDING THE TOTAL TRUK ELECTION."

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RAMP'S REPORT TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEES CONTAINED 18 CATEGORIES OF ALLEGED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES. THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES INCLUDED PERSONS BEING TURNED AWAY FROM THE POLLS, MULTIPLE VOTING, UNDERAGE PERSONS VOTING, ABSENTEE VOTERS NOT INFORMED ADEQUATELY WHEN TO VOTE, SECRECY OF VOTING NOT MAINTAINED, AND MORE ABSENTEE VOTES THAN CHECKED AS HAVING VOTED.

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DISTRICT-WIDE, RAMP'S REPORT SHOWS THAT 1,063 PERSONS WHO APPLIED FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS DID NOT VOTE.

THE SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS DECIDING ON THE QUESTION WHETHER TO SEAT SENATOR-ELECT NICK BOSSY OR NOT, AND WHETHER OR NOT TO VOID THE TRUK ELECTION.

THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS CONTINUED WEDNESDAY EVENING AND ARE SCHEDULED AGAIN FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 15-16).

IN THE HOUSE THE CONTESTED SEATS IN TRUK ARE THOSE OF LAMBERT AAFIN AND CHIRO ALBERT.

IN OTHER SENATE ACTIVITY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING (JAN. 15) TEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE: A MEASURE RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF FINES COLLECTED WHEN FOREIGN VESSELS ARE CAUGHT ILLEGALLY WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF EACH DISTRICT, (SB 6-12); APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE HOMESTEAD TRACT AT SUGAR KING, SAIPAN, (SB 6-13); APPROPRIATING \$10,000 FOR IMPROVING THE FACILITIES OF SAIPAN FARMERS' MARKET, (SB 6-14); A BILL GRANTING CERTAIN EMERGENCY POWERS TO DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS FOR CONTROLLING PRICES ON STAPLE ITEMS, (SB 6-15); APPROPRIATING \$15,000 FOR PURCHASING SUPPLIES FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE MARIANAS, (SB 6-16); A MEASURE TO INCREASE THE PARDON AND PAROLE JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS, (SB 6-17); ALLOWING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS TO LOWER MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED LIMITS IN HAZARDOUS AREAS, (SB 6-18); REGARDING EMPLOYEE WAGES OF TT UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM, (SB 6-19); A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, (SB 6-20); AND A BILL PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FROM EBEYE FOR SICK PERSONS AND AN ESCORT TO THE HOSPITAL ON MAJURO, (SB 6-21).

TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED: RECOMMENDING THOMAS B. CROSSAN, JR., BE APPOINTED PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER OF THE TT, (SJR 6-1); AND CONFIRMING THE NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MICRONESIAN COCONUT PROCESSING AUTHORITY, (SJR 6-2).

THE HOUSE SESSION WAS VERY BRIEF. A JOINT RESOLUTION TO HAVE THE TWO HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MEET IN A JOINT SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON PRESENT HIS STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE, (HJR 6-1) WAS ADOPTED.

IN OTHER FLOOR ACTIONS, TWO BILLS AND ONE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE INTRODUCED. THE BILLS ARE: A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$45,900 TO DEFRAY THE OPERATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY PERSONNEL BOARD, (HB 6-7); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$36,000

TO PURCHASE FOUR SCHOOL BUSES FOR MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT. (HJR 6-8).

THE JOINT RESOLUTION OFFERED WAS: DIRECTING THE TT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CEASE ENTERING INTO FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS WHICH PROVIDE FOR GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE TT GOVERNMENT OR THE CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA AND TO CANCEL OR NOT RENEW EXISTING FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, (HJR 6-3). THE TWO HOUSES WILL CONVENE AT 10:00 A.M. THURSDAY (JAN. 16).

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS ON ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PREPARED BY THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE). (OSCAR C. RASA)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 15 (MNS)---THE SECOND YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS OSCAR CRUZ RASA OF SAIPAN.

RASA, 27, DEFEATED TWO-TERM CONGRESSMAN HERMAN O. GUERRERO BY A MARGIN OF 188 VOTES IN THE LAST CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION. HE ALSO RAN A CLOSE RACE AGAINST SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA AND PEDRO A. TENORIO (NOW A SENATOR) IN A THREE-WAY RACE IN 1972.

LAST YEAR RASA CHOSE TO RUN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE TERRITORIAL PARTY TICKET MAKING WAY FOR PEDRO A. TENORIO TO CHALLENGE INCUMBENT SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN IN THE SENATE. HE DOES NOT REGRET HIS DECISION.

EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, POLITICAL OBSERVERS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE THREE (PRECINCT C) RACE WOULD BE THE CLOSEST. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS FLEET AT THAT TIME THAT RASA HAS LESS CHANCE OF WINNING, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS YOUTH AND RADICAL VIEWS.

THE FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN GOT MOST OF HIS SUPPORT FROM THE CAROLINIAN COMMUNITY AT SAN JOSE VILLAGE AND TANAPAG, INCLUDING MOST OF THE VOTES IN GARAPAN VILLAGE.

HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM WITH A B.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY IN 1970, RECEIVED HIS M.A. DEGREE IN EDUCATION IN 1971, AND DID SOME GRADUATE WORK FOR A YEAR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON D.C. WORKING TOWARD HIS PH. D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.

HIS WORK EXPERIENCE INCLUDES TEACHING AT THE MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL FOR A YEAR, EDITOR OF I GASETA AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE FREE PRESS, TWO OF SAIPAN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.

ASKED WHY HE WANTED TO BECOME A CONGRESSMAN, RASA REPLIED: "BASICALLY, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS DESERVE DEDICATED AND HIGHLY COMPETENT FULL-TIME PUBLIC SERVANTS TO WORK FOR THEIR NEEDS."

THE 27-YEAR OLD FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN POINTED OUT THE BASIC ISSUES WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. THEY CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO FOUR PARTICULAR LEVELS. THEY ARE (1) THE QUESTION OF FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, (2) IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS TO THE COMMON MAN, (3) UPGRADING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE PEOPLE, AND (4) PROVIDING A SOUND ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR THE COMMON MAN.

"THE ESSENCE OF THIS CONGRESS IS SIMPLY ONE WHICH IS BASIC TO ANY POLITICAL INSTITUTION, NAMELY MAXIMUM PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE MASSES." REPRESENTATIVE RASA ADDED.

THE SAIPAN CONGRESSMAN HAS BEEN ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS.

HE IS ALSO THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

(US VS. TURTLE)

SAIPAN, JAN. 15 (MNS)---THE PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS, A HAWAII NEWSPAPER, CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ITS JANUARY 6 ISSUE.

"THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT CLOSED OUT ITS 1974 CALENDAR WITH A SUIT BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST ONE HAWKSBILL TURTLE."

"IT SEEMS THAT THE TURTLE WAS SHIPPED BY R.M. LYONS FROM YAP TO HIS HONOLULU ADDRESS IN JANUARY OF LAST YEAR. THE TURTLE WAS SEIZED BY CUSTOMS WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED TO BE ONE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES. IT HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTODY BY THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE EVER SINCE."

"ALTHOUGH LYONS HAS RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE TURTLE'S ARRIVAL AND SEIZURE, HE HAS FAILED TO CLAIM IT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW FILED A SUIT TO FORFEIT THE REPTILE, PRESUMABLY FOR RETURN TO YAP OR FOR TRANSFER TO A ZOO."

MNS WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT SIMPLY THROW THE TURTLE BACK INTO THE OCEAN AND LET IT FIND ITS WAY BACK TO YAP. WE ARE SURE THE TURTLE WOULD BE PLEASED TO RETURN TO ITS OWN ENVIRONMENT AND THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GRATIFIED IN HAVING SAVED MONEY WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD BE SPENT IN THE TRANSPORTATION OR FEEDING COSTS FOR SUCH AN UNWELCOMED GUEST.