

FOURTH DAY

Thursday, January 16, 1975

The House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 10:05 a.m., Thursday, January 16, 1974.

Speaker Bethwel Henry presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

OATH OF OFFICE

Speaker Henry: If there is no objection from the House, we will dispose of one important duty that needs to be done before the roll call. As you know, the Credentials Committee has recommended the seating of two members-elect who are now present in the House. I have the honor, as our Rules provide, to swear in these two members-elect. May I ask Representative Balos and Representative Domnick to stand by their seats, and raise their right hands.

Speaker Henry 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 Balos and Domnick responded, "I do."

The Chief Clerk called the roll. Eighteen members were present.

Speaker Henry suspended reading of the Journal.

COMMUNICATIONS

High Commissioner Communication No. 6-5, nominating seven individuals to the Board of Directors of the Micronesian Coconut Processing Authority.

High Commissioner Communication No. 6-6, nominating Mr. Thomas Crossan, Jr., as Program and Budget Officer.

Departmental Communication No. 6-5, informing the House of the establishment of a Task Force on Salaries and Rising Cost-of-Living, from N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

Departmental Communication No. 6-6, acknowledging appointments of Congressional staff to Task Force on Salaries and Rising Cost-of-Living, from N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

Departmental Communication No. 6-7, transmitting copies of Trust Territory Environmental Protection Board's Second Annual Report, from Masao Kumangai, Chairman.

Departmental Communication No. 6-8, transmitting revised projection of revenue of the Congress of Micronesia for Fiscal Years 1975 and 1976, from R.A. Peterson, Director of Finance.

Departmental Communication No. 6-9, transmitting Distad's Resolution for construction

of new Community College of Micronesia campus.

No Senate Communications were reported.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-5, from Ponape District Legislature, transmitting Resolution No. 124 requesting Secretary of Interior to amend Interior Order No. 2918 relative to establishment of Kusaie District.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-6, from Palau District Legislature, transmitting Resolution No. 74(2)-24 relative to return of public lands.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-7, from Palau District Legislature, transmitting Resolution Nos. 74(2)-8, 9, 13, 16, 18, 19, 22, and 24.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-8, from Marianas District Legislature, transmitting Resolution No. 85-1974 relative to development of indigenous industries.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-9, from Marianas District Legislature, transmitting Resolution No. 111-1974 requesting Congress to allocate the sum of \$500,000 to supplement the loan fund for the Mariana Islands Housing Authority.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Special Credentials Committee, I regret to advise the House that we have not been able to finalize our report at this time. In view of the complexity of the issues raised by the contesting parties, your Special Credentials Committee is forced to call in witnesses from Truk on Friday (tomorrow) to testify before the committee. I respectfully request an extension of time until Tuesday of next week, which should be ample time for the submission of our report to the House.

Speaker Henry: If there is no objection from the floor, the report is adopted as it was presented.

ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Clerk called attention to Referral Sheet No. 2 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures introduced on Wednesday, January 15, 1975.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

BILL CALENDAR

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 6-9:

Introduced by: Rep. Balos
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$20,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the purpose of paving roads from Buoj to Airok in Ailinglapalap Atoll, Marshall Islands District, and for other purposes.

- H.B. No. 6-10: Introduced by: Rep. Balos
Assigned to: Appropriations

Appropriating funds for typhoon relief for the Marshall Islands District.
- H.B. No. 6-11: Introduced by: Rep. Tman
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

To specify the disposition of fines and penalties imposed under Section 107 of Title 19 of the Trust Territory Code, and for other purposes.
- H.B. No. 6-12: Introduced by: Rep. Setik
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$28,200 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to provide funds to defray the administrative costs and expenses of the Truk Housing Authority and for other purposes.
- H.B. No. 6-13: Introduced by: Rep. Silk
Assigned to: Resources and Development

To add a new paragraph (c), to Subsection (6), Section 101, of Title 53 of the Trust Territory Code making Jaluit Anchorage, Jabor Island, Jaluit Atoll, Marshall Islands District, the official port of entry and for other purposes.
- H.B. No. 6-14: Introduced by: Rep. Silk
Assigned to: Education and Social Matters/Appropriations

To appropriate \$120,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia as a supplemental appropriation for the construction of the Second Phase of the Jaluit High School in the Marshall Islands District.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Setik: I wish to ask the House to recognize the presence of several members of the District Legislature from Truk who are here to observe Congress in session. First I would like to ask the House to recognize Speaker Koichi Sana from the Truk District Legislature, the Honorable Ru Kau, the Honorable Ichitaro Simiron, and the Honorable Soulik Selet.

Rep. Domnick: Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to recognize the presence of the Speaker of the Marshall Islands Nitijela, the Honorable Atlan Anien.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the members of the Credentials Committee that we will be meeting this afternoon at 2:00 in this Chamber.

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, if the members have been assigned to the standing committees, I would like to announce that the Appropriations Committee will meet immediately after the session in the Library.

Jan. 16, 1975

Rep. Haruo: Mr. Speaker, although I don't have the official list of assignment of members to the standing committees, I would like to announce that your Committee on Resources and Development will meet also right after the session. Further, the committee will continue the public hearing on the UMDA investigation tomorrow at 1:00.

Rep. Basilus: The Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations will hold a short meeting this afternoon at 2:00 in one of the conference rooms.

Rep. Sigrah: Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Education will meet tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to organize ourselves. I assume that the list is completed and is with the Clerk.

REMARKS BY SPEAKER HENRY

Speaker Henry: If there are no further announcements, I have a statement to make. It was my opening statement, which I will give today.

Fellow Congressmen, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The convening of this Sixth Congress of Micronesia marks a historic landmark on the long road of self-government in Micronesia. Ten years ago, in 1965, 33 men gathered in Saipan from all the six districts of Micronesia: Yap, Palau, Truk, Ponape, Marshalls and the Marianas. These men, in convening the first Territory-wide legislature, took the first real step towards self-government for all our islands and gave birth to the idea of nationhood for all our people.

Looking back over the past decade, it is well to recall lessons we learned since that first historic meeting, or the reasons that brought us together in the first place.

It is well to recall, for example, that our experiences during the past 10 years were built on the lessons mankind has learned down through the centuries. It is easy to forget that in prehistoric times man spent most of his time searching for food and shelter. History tells us that was what brought our ancestors to these beautiful islands many centuries ago.

History also tells us that about 10,000 years ago, man first discovered how to domesticate plants and animals and produce his own food. This was a revolutionary breakthrough, and it was not long after that when mankind decided it would be better to live near one another and pool their talents, labor and resources together to produce food. This was the beginning of what we now call "communities", and our first meeting on Saipan 10 years ago was just another historic step in this process. Communities throughout the world have joined hands to become nations. This has been the trend throughout the entire world and Micronesia should not be an exception.

In the brief period of 10 years that this Congress has existed, a mere blinking of history's eye, we have tried to do much to bring our people together and cultivate this idea of nationhood. At the same time, however, we have discovered forces at work to divide us and weaken our ability to stand together. Recent actions by our administering authority regarding our public lands may have been executed with no ill will intended, but the effects of these actions in the authority of this Congress and our national unity speaks for itself. To say the least, our burden as legislators has been made increasingly difficult and the attainment of our eventual goal of self-government and nationhood move further away from our reach.

But regardless of these difficulties, fellow Congressmen, before this Sixth Congress adjourns two years from now, Micronesia will have its own Constitution which will not be subject to amendment from any external force. Authority to change that document will reside where it belongs: In the hands of the people of Micronesia.

However, we must not be satisfied to look upon self-government under our own Constitution as our only goal. If any of our children become historians, it is my hope that they might look back on our time and this Congress and see that our time was notable for another important breakthrough--and that breakthrough is that, we, and all the other people of Micronesia of

this generation, became a matrix of dynamic, interacting district communities. Let it be said that it was during our time that the people of Micronesia not only achieved self-government, but joined hands--together--putting our differences aside and concentrating on our common problems and similarities to prevent exploitation of our lands and seas. Let it be said that we built the foundation for a Micronesia nation that sustained our children and future generations.

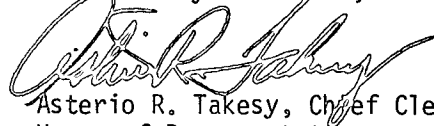
With this in mind, it behooves all of us to realize the truth of the statement that in diversity there is beauty and abundance, and "in unity, there is strength."

Let us begin this session striving towards that truth, and that future, together.

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 10:25 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 17, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,



Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives