

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, JAN. 16 (MWS)---FORMER SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH OF TRUK TESTIFIED BEFORE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 16) THAT HE IS "ASHAMED ABOUT THE SITUATION" IN HIS DISTRICT THAT PUT HIM IN THE "MOST UNPLEASANT" POSITION OF HAVING TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CHALLENGE THE TRUK ELECTION. 1975
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HE FURTHER STATED, HOWEVER, THAT DUE TO COMPLAINTS HE RECEIVED FROM VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS IN TRUK AND FROM HIS OWN INVESTIGATIONS AND INTERVIEWS HE FELT IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE 1974 CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION IN TRUK.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUESTIONED AMARAICH EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURE IN THE ELECTION. THE FORMER SENATOR CHARGED THAT THE "CONFUSION AND LACK OF INFORMATION" SURROUNDING THE ABSENTEE BALLOTING PROCEDURE CAUSED MANY PEOPLE NOT TO KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS, AND COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION.

AMARAICH ALSO CHARGED THAT SOME VOTERS IN TRUK LAGOON WERE SERVED A PLATE OF FOOD OUTSIDE THE POLLING PLACE AND WERE TOLD WHOM TO VOTE FOR."

DURING QUESTIONING BY CHAIRMAN SEN. OLYMPIO T. BERJA (MARIANAS), AMARAICH ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT GO TO A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY AND IN FACT NEVER SAW A BALLOT FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.

AMARAICH ALSO STATED THAT HE FELT THE FACT THAT THERE WERE ONLY 26 ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS TO COVER MORE THAN 60 POLLING PLACES COULD BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION; THAT MANY OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS WERE INCOMPLETE; THAT SOME VOTERS WHO HAD TURNED 18 SINCE THE PREVIOUS (1972) CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION VOTED WITHOUT BEING REGISTERED; AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MANY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS, INCLUDING PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITALS, HAD NO PROCEDURE AVAILABLE BY WHICH THEY COULD CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

ANOTHER ISSUE BROUGHT UP BY THE FORMER SENATOR WAS THE ALLEGED FAVORED TREATMENT ACCORDED SENATOR-ELECT NICK BOSSY BY THEN TRUK DISTAD JUAN A. SABLAN WHEN SABLAN ALLOWED BOSSY TO USE A GOVERNMENT BOAT FOR HIS CAMPAIGN WITHOUT THE USUAL PROCEDURE OF SOME ADVANCED PAYMENT.

FORMER SENATOR AMARAICH TESTIFIED FOR SEVERAL HOURS THURSDAY (JAN. 16), AND SENATOR-ELECT NICK BOSSY WAS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AFTER THE COMMITTEE FINISHED QUESTIONING AMARAICH.

IN OTHER SENATE ACTIVITY THURSDAY, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIVO NAKAYAMA SWORE IN SEN. AMATA KABUA, WHO ARRIVED IN SAIPAN WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 15).

THE SENATORS PASSED HJR 6-1 TO HAVE HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON DELIVER HIS STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS MONDAY (JAN. 20) AT 10:00 A.M. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE CHAMBER.

SEVEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SHORT SESSION THURSDAY (JAN. 16). THEY ARE: TO PROVIDE FOR A \$3,000 TAX DEDUCTION FROM WAGES AND SALARIES (SB 6-22); APPROPRIATING \$35,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE MARIANAS, (SB 6-23); TO PROVIDE \$50,000 TO DEFRAY COSTS OF THE MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE IN 1975 AND 1976, (SB 6-24); A BILL MAKING ELECTION DAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS A LEGAL HOLIDAY, (SB 6-26); A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$25,000 FOR A MARIANAS MUSEUM, (SR 6-25); A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN,

(SB 6-27); AND A MEASURE PROVIDING FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF LABOR AND AUTHORIZING AN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM, (SB 6-28).

HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY DELIVERED A SPEECH THURSDAY MORNING (JAN. 16) IN WHICH HE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE CONVENING OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS AN "HISTORIC LANDMARK ON THE LONG ROAD TO SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA." (SEE FOLLOWING STORY)

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, FRESHMAN MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN JOSE P. MAFNAS, INFORMED THE HOUSE THAT THE COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE TIME TO EXAMINE THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE THREE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE. THEY ARE CHIRO ALBERT AND LAMBERT AAFIN FROM TRUK AND EDGAR EDWARDS FROM PONAPE. HE SAID THE COMMITTEE WOULD REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TUESDAY (JAN. 21).

SPEAKER HENRY SWORE IN CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK AND ATAJI BALOS, BOTH FROM THE MARSHALLS, WHO ARE NOT PRESENT ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE SESSION.

SIX NEW BILLS WERE OFFERED. THEY ARE: A BILL APPROPRIATING \$20,000 TO PAVE THE ROAD FROM BUOJ TO AIROK IN AILINGLAPLAP ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HB 6-9); A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE A TOTAL OF \$90,000 FOR TYPHOON RELIEF FUNDS FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HB 6-10); A BILL PROVIDING THE DISPOSITION OF FINES AND PENALTIES IMPOSED UNDER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE IT CODE, (HB 6-11); TO APPROPRIATE \$28,000 TO DEFRAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND EXPENSES OF THE TRUK HOUSING AUTHORITY, (HB 6-12); TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH UNDER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE IT CODE MAKING JALUIT ANCHORAGE, JABOR ISLANDS, JALUIT ATOLL IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT THE OFFICIAL PORT OF ENTRY, (HB 6-13); AND TO EARMARK \$120,000 AS A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE JALUIT HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 6-14).

BOTH HOUSES WILL CONVENE AT 10:00 A.M. FRIDAY (JAN. 17).

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SPEAKER HENRY ADDRESS)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY DECLARED THE CONVENING OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK A "HISTORIC LANDMARK ON THE LONG ROAD OF SELF-GOVERNMENT" AND CALLED ON ALL MICRONESIANS TO PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND JOIN HANDS AS A NATION.

"LET IT BE SAID," DECLARED HENRY, "THAT IT WAS DURING OUR TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA NOT ONLY ACHIEVED SELF-GOVERNMENT, BUT JOINED HANDS--TOGETHER--PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND CONCENTRATED ON OUR COMMON PROBLEMS AND SIMILARITIES."

NOTING THAT IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO, IN 1965, "THAT 33 MEN FROM ALL SIX DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA" GATHERED ON SAIPAN FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, HENRY SAID THIS WAS THE "FIRST REAL STEP TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT... AND GAVE BIRTH TO THE IDEA OF NATIONHOOD FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE."

LOOKING BACK OVER THE CONGRESS' FIRST TEN YEARS, HENRY WHO WAS ELECTED THIS WEEK TO SERVE A FIFTH TERM AS HOUSE SPEAKER, RECALLED THAT THEIR EXPERIENCES WERE BUILT ON THE LESSONS "MANKIND HAS LEARNED DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES." EXPLAINING MAN REALIZED LONG AGO THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LIVE IN "COMMUNITIES" AND POOL RESOURCES AND TALENTS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, HENRY SAID THE CONGRESS' FIRST MEETING TEN YEARS AGO WAS "ANOTHER HISTORIC STEP IN THIS PROCESS."

"COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE JOINED HANDS TO

BECOME NATIONS," HE CONTINUED, "AND MICRONESIA SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCEPTION."

HENRY SAID IN THE BRIEF TEN YEARS THE CONGRESS HAS EXISTED, MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO DEVELOP THE IDEA OF NATIONHOOD FOR MICRONESIA, BUT HE ADDED: "FORCES ARE AT WORK TO DEVIDE US AND WEAKEN OUR ABILITY TO STAND TOGETHER."

THE PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE RECENT RETURN OF MICRONESIAN PUBLIC LANDS, WHICH WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY AN ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR INSTEAD OF THROUGH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, MAY HAVE BEEN DONE "WITH NO ILL WILL INTENDED," BUT HE SAID THE EFFECTS OF THAT ACTION ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESS AND NATIONAL UNITY "SPEAKS FOR ITSELF."

CONSEQUENTLY, HENRY ADDED, THE CONGRESS BURDEN HAS BEEN MADE "MORE DIFFICULT...AND THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR EVENTUAL GOAL OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND NATIONHOOD MOVED FURTHER AWAY FROM OUR REACH."

HOWEVER, DESPITE THESE DIFFICULTIES, HENRY TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT BEFORE THE SIXTH CONGRESS ADJOURNS TWO YEARS FROM NOW, MICRONESIA WILL HAVE ITS OWN CONSTITUTION WITH ITS AUTHORITY RESIDING IN THE HANDS OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE. "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," HE SAID, "IT IS MY HOPE THAT THEY LOOK BACK ON OUR TIME AND THIS CONGRESS AND SEE THAT OUR TIME WAS WHEN ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS GENERATION OF MICRONESIA BECAME A MATRIX OF DYNAMIC, INTERACTING DISTRICT COMMUNITIES...LET IT BE SAID THAT WE BUILT THE FOUNDATION FOR A MICRONESIAN NATION THAT SUSTAINED OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS."

HENRY SAID IN CONCLUSION MICRONESIANS MUST REALIZE THAT "IN DEVERSITY THERE IS BEAUTY AND ABUNDANCE AND IN UNITY, THERE IS STRENGTH."

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THIS IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS ON ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PREPARED BY THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE)

(JOHN R. HAGLELGAM)

SAIPAN, JAN. 16 (MNS)---"I EXPECTED TO WIN. I KNEW ALL ALONG THAT IT WAS COMING," DECLARED FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. HAGLELGAM FROM YAP.

AT THE AGE OF 25, CONGRESSMAN HAGLELGAM IS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. HE SURPRISED POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN MICRONESIA BY DEFEATING JOHN RUGULIMAR, A MAN WHO NEVER HAD BEEN CHALLENGED BEFORE AND WHO HAD BEEN IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1965.

THE SECOND OLDEST OF THE FIVE CHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FEGIRBUW, "JOHN" GRADUATED WITH A B.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN 1973. HE ATTENDED WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE LAW IN SALEM, OREGON FOR ONE YEAR.

THE YAPESE CONGRESSMAN SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO RUN BY VARIOUS PETITIONS FROM HIS FRIENDS, MOSTLY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP.

HE HOPES TO DO SOME "WORK FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE OUTER ISLANDS IN YAP." ONE OF HIS GOALS IS TO TRY AND LOCATE HOUSES FOR OUTER ISLANDERS IN YAP PROPER WHO ARE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE WANTED TO SEE AN AGENCY CREATED WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR TO BE EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTER ISLANDS PEOPLE WHO HAVE PROBLEMS.

REPRESENTATIVE HAGLELGAM WENT ON TO SAY THAT "ANY

ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE HIMSELF FROM THE PEOPLE." HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN HIS VICTORY OVER JOHN RUGULINAR, WHOM HE CHARGED AS SELDOM VISITING THE OUTER ISLANDS AFTER EVERY SESSION TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE CONGRESS SESSION. HE RECEIVED 65 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN HIS VICTORY. HE HOPES TO FINISH LAW SCHOOL IN THE FUTURE.

(FIVE HISTORIC SITES ACCEPTED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 16 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, EUSEBIO RECHUCHER, HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF FIVE HISTORIC SITES IN MICRONESIA FOR PRESERVATION FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 1974-1975, BY THE U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. ACCORDING TO RECHUCHER, THE INITIAL FIVE SITES ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR IMMEDIATE STABILIZATION, LANDSCAPING, RESTORATION AND/OR RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS. THE SITES ARE THE SPANISH WALL IN PONAPE, HOUSE OF TAGA IN TINIAN, JAPANESE HOSPITAL AND JAPANESE LIGHTHOUSE IN SAIPAN, AND THE LATTE STONE QUARRY IN ROTA.

NOMINATIONS OF THESE SITES WERE MADE BY THE DISTRICT HISTORIC SITES COMMISSIONS OF THE MARIANAS AND PONAPE. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS OF HISTORICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MICRONESIA FROM THE REMAINING DISTRICTS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AS SOON AS THESE ARE RECEIVED FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONS.

ACCEPTANCE OF THESE FIVE SITES FOR GRANTS-IN-AID AND THEIR PLACEMENT WITHIN THE U.S. NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES WILL PROVIDE NEEDED PROTECTION AGAINST FURTHER DESTRUCTION AND DETERIORATION WHILE HELPING TO PRESERVE PART OF MICRONESIA'S INVALUABLE PATRIMONY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.