

(HOUSE DEFERRED ACTION ON CREDENTIALS REPORT)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 21 (MNS)---FOUR SPEECHES CONCERNING THE SEATING OF CONGRESSMEN-ELECT CHIRO ALBERT AND LAMBERT AAFIN FROM TRUK AND EDGAR EDWARDS FROM PONAPE MARKED THE TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION (JAN. 21) OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SPEECHES WERE PROMPTED BY THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WHICH HAD RECOMMENDED THE SEATING OF CONGRESSMEN-ELECT CHIRO ALBERT OF TRUK FROM THE 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT AND EDGAR EDWARDS OF PONAPE FROM THE 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT. THE REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT CONGRESSMAN-ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN OF TRUK FROM THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT BE DENIED HIS SEAT. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER URGES THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT A SPECIAL ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD FOR THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT.

IN THE CASE OF THE 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE DIFFERENCES IN VOTES BETWEEN CHIRO ALBERT AND EDDY BOIG WAS 577. THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF VOTES WHICH WERE AFFECTED BY THE IRREGULARITIES WAS 349, LEAVING THE MARGIN BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES OF 228 VOTES. "THUS," THE COMMITTEE REPORT STATED, "THE NUMBER OF VOTES AFFECTED WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ALTER THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION."

THE MARGIN BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES IN THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT WAS MUCH NARROWER. THE DIFFERENCE BASED ON REPORTS AND TESTIMONY RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE, ABOUT 235 VOTES WERE AFFECTED BY THE ELECTION IRREGULARITIES. "...YOUR COMMITTEE DETERMINED THAT THE ELECTION IRREGULARITIES COULD HAVE AFFECTED THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION SINCE THERE WERE MORE VOTES AFFECTED THAN THE MARGIN BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES," THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE EXPLAINED. THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE ELECTION FOR THAT PRECINCT BE DECLARED VOID AND THAT A NEW ELECTION BE HELD.

CONCERNING THE SEAT OF CONGRESSMAN-ELECT EDGAR EDWARDS OF PONAPE, THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDUARD E. JOHNSTON GRANTED EDWARDS A PARDON ON JANUARY 20, 1975, THEREBY RESTORING ALL HIS CIVIL RIGHTS. REPRESENTATIVE JOSE P. MAFNAS (MARIANAS), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, MOVED TO HAVE THE REPORT ADOPTED.

TRUK REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK THEN DELIVERED A SPEECH URGING THE CONGRESS TO DECLARE THE ELECTION OF ALL THREE REPRESENTATIVES NULL AND VOID. REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HASLELGAN (YAP) ALSO GAVE HIS REMARKS IN WHICH HE URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO HAVE THE TRUK CONGRESSMEN-ELECT SEATED. TWO OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWED HIM. THEY WERE CONGRESSMEN HERNAN R. GUERREIRO (MARIANAS) AND POLYCARP BASILIUS (PALAU). (SEE FOLLOWING STORIES)

CHAIRMAN MAFNAS THEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE THAT THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE "IS NOT CONDONING THE ACTION OF (FORMER TRUK) ELECTION COMMISSIONER, MR. JUAN A. SABLAN, AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS IN TRUK." HE STRONGLY URGED THE HOUSE TO DIRECT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION ON THOSE PEOPLE CHARGED TO ENFORCE THE ELECTION LAWS FOR POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. "ANY IRREGULARITIES FOUND BY YOUR HOUSE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS DUE TO WANTON DISREGARD OF THE LAW BY THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, JUAN SABLAN, AND THE ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR WHICH THEY ARE CRIMINALLY LIABLE, AND NOT ON THE CANDIDATES," CONGRESSMAN MAFNAS POINTED OUT.

TRUK CONGRESSMAN SASAUO HARUO THEN ASKED THE HOUSE NOT TO ADOPT THE REPORT "BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY AND SENSITIVITY" OF THE MATTER. THE MOTION TO DEFER ACTION ON THE REPORT CARRIED.

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 21 (MNS)---COMMITTEES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE SCHEDULED A NUMBER OF HEARINGS THIS WEEK, AS THEY BEGIN TO TAKE TESTIMONY ON SOME OF THE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS ON SAIPAN.

OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND BUSINESSMEN AND PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TESTIFY ON VARIOUS BILLS, AND, AS IS THE CASE IN EVERY SESSION, MUCH OF THE ACTUAL WORK OF DISCUSSING, AMENDING AND ACTING ON LEGISLATION WILL BE DONE IN THESE HEARINGS, AND IN OTHER MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES.

IN FORMAL SESSION TUESDAY (JAN. 21) BOTH HOUSES AGAIN MET ONLY BRIEFLY AND THE MAIN BUSINESS WAS THE ASSIGNING OF BILLS TO COMMITTEES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION.

IN THE HOUSE, 17 BILLS, TWO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND TWO HOUSE RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED DURING THE MORNING SESSION.

THE BILLS WERE: APPROPRIATING \$45,000 TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-32, THE MICRONESIAN SPORTS

ACT, TO ADD A NEW SECTION IN TITLE 43 OF THE TT CODE WHICH WOULD VOID ANY BALLOT NOT MARKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PROVISION (HB 6-20); ADDING A NEW SECTION TO TITLE 3 OF THE TT CODE PROHIBITING DISTRICT LEGISLATORS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILMEN FROM BEING EMPLOYED BY ANY BOARD, OFFICE, AGENCY, AUTHORITY, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION OR OTHER ENTITY OR INSTITUTIONALITY CREATED BY THE SAID LEGISLATURE OR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN WHICH THEY SERVE, (HB 6-21); A NATURALIZATION MEASURE, (HB 6-22); A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE MAKING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES OF THE TT, (HB 6-23); APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FOR THE STUDY AND CONTROL OF PINGELAS DISEASE IN BREADFRUIT CROPS, (HB 6-24); EAR-MARKING \$8,000 TO UNDERTAKE A COST FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WIDENING THE CHANNEL OF NAMORIK ATOLL IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 6-25); A MEASURE TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REVERSION TO THE CONGRESS GENERAL FUND SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS MADE TO THE COPRA STABILIZATION FUND, (HB 6-26); ESTABLISHING A MORTGAGE LAW AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROCEEDING OF FORECLOSURE, (HB 6-27); TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE RELATING TO THE RATE OF INTEREST CHARGEABLE ON LOANS EXCEEDING \$300, (HB 6-28); TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000 TO RENOVATE AND REPAIR THE VOCATIONAL BUILDING OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HIGH SCHOOL IN MAJURO, (HB 6-29); THREE NATURALIZATION MEASURES (HB 6-30, 6-31, 6-32); TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO LOWER THE RETIREMENT AGE OF TT EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS IN THE TT, (HB 6-33); TO ADD A NEW SECTION OF TITLE 43 OF THE TT CODE NOT TO COUNT WRITE-IN VOTES, (HB 6-34); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$52,000 TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE PONAPE FARMERS TRAINING CENTER,

(HB 6-35).

THE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ARE: A RESOLUTION REVOKING AND SUSPENDING ORDINANCE NO. 23 OF THE KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE ORDINANCES, (HJR 6-6); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ORDER NO. 2918 TO LIBERALIZE LEAVE PRIVILEGES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR SEATS IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-5).

THE SINGLE RESOLUTIONS ARE: EXTENDING GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR OF GUAM RICKY BORDALLO AND THE LT. GOVERNOR RUDY SABLAN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR INAUGURATION TO THEIR OFFICES, (HR 6-1); EXPRESSING SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE YOKWE YOK CLUB OF KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, FOR ITS CONTINUED AND SUSTAINED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE NEEDY MICRONESIAN STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HR 6-2).

IN SENATE ACTIVITY TUESDAY (JAN. 21) THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONTINUED THEIR PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH TESTIMONY FROM DENCHY JAMES, TRUK ELECTION BOARD CHAIRMAN, AND JUAN A. SABLAN, TT EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER IN TRUK. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OLYMPIO T. BORJA CALLED SABLAN BACK TO THE STAND TO "CLARIFY" HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY.

SEN. BORJA COMMENTED THAT HIS COMMITTEE WILL TRY TO PLACE THEIR REPORT ON WHETHER TO SEAT SENATOR-ELECT NICK BOSSY OF TRUK ON THURSDAY (JAN. 23) BEFORE THE SENATE. SENATORS INTRODUCED EIGHT BILLS IN THE MORNING SESSION.

THEY INCLUDE: A MEASURE AMENDING SECTION 3 OF TITLE 43 OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO ELECTIONS IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (SB 6-45); FIVE NATURALIZATION BILLS, (SB 6-46, 6-47, 6-48, 6-49, 6-50).

ONE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED: CONGRATULATING THE MODEKNGEI RELIEF IN PALAO FOR ITS SUSTAINED ABILITY TO WITHSTAND AND DENY THE ENCRAGEMENT BY WESTERN CIVILIZATION, (HR 6-5).

BOTH HOUSES WILL CONVENE AT 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY (JAN. 22).

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SETIK SPEECH)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---CITING EVIDENCE OF "MASSIVE IRREGULARITIES" DURING THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, TRUK REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK URGED THE MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 21) TO CALL FOR A NEW ELECTION IN ORDER TO FILL TWO SEATS IN DISPUTE FROM TRUK DISTRICT.

SETIK SAID "GROSS NEGLIGENCE AND MALADMINISTRATION" AND DISREGARD FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE RESULTED IN AN ELECTION WHICH HE FELT "SHOULD BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID." THE SEATS IN QUESTION ARE THOSE OF REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN AND CHIRO ALBERT OF TRUK'S 18TH AND 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS RESPECTIVELY.

A THIRD HOUSE SEAT UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE SIX-MEMBER SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS INVOLVES REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT EDGAR EDWARDS OF PONSPE'S 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT WHO

WAS PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A FELONY AND, AS A RESULT, WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE SEATED ACCORDING TO IT LAW UNLESS PARDONED. SETIK SAID ALTHOUGH EDWARDS WAS PARDONED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSON THIS WEEK, HE FELT THAT TO SEAT A PERSON UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD SET A "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT" SINCE IT IGNORES THE INTENT OF THE LAW.

CONCERNING THE TRUK ELECTION, SETIK LISTED SEVEN CATEGORIES OF PROBLEMS WHICH HE SAID RESULTED IN OVER 2,000 ALLEGED VOTING IRREGULARITIES IN THE NOVEMBER 5 ELECTION.

SETIK SAID IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE TRUK ELECTION COMMISSIONER, JUAN SABLAN, WAS "GUILTY OF VIOLATING THE ELECTION CODE...", AND THAT "INEPT HANDLING OF THE ELECTION" RESULTED IN AN ELECTION WHICH SHOULD BE "DECLARED NULL AND VOID."

SETIK POINTED OUT THAT THE 2,000 ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES WERE DISCOVERED THROUGH A SAMPLING AND THEREFORE "UNDOUBTEDLY REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF IRREGULARITIES" THAT AFFECTED THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION IN WHICH OVER 12,000 VOTES WERE CAST.

SETIK POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS BASING HIS POSITION FOR A NEW ELECTION ON A PRIOR DECISION MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOUR YEARS AGO DURING A DISPUTED PALAU DISTRICT ELECTION. IN THAT ELECTION, HE SAID, SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTED EXCEPT THAT, "THERE WERE MORE VERIFIED IRREGULARITIES IN THE TRUK ELECTION..."

SETIK EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT THE IT ELECTION CODE WAS ENACTED TO PROVIDE BY LAW FOR PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE THAT CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS "ARE BOTH FAIR, AND AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE."

"THE ELECTION IN MY DISTRICT VIOLATED THOSE PRINCIPLES."

HE STATED.

SETIK SAID IF THE HOUSE SHOULD SEAT MEMBERS ELECT BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION, THEN A PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, WOULD "CONDEMN VIOLATIONS OF THE IT CODE AND IRREGULARITIES WHICH THE CODE WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT."

"IF THIS CONGRESS DOES NOT CONSIDER THE CODE VIOLATIONS AND IRREGULARITIES IN THIS ELECTION TO BE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO VOID THE ELECTION, THEN THERE WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH IRREGULARITIES TO VOID AN ELECTION, NO MATTER HOW GROSS THEY ARE," DECLARED SETIK.

HOUSE ACTION ON THE CREDENTIALS QUESTION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WEDNESDAY, (JAN. 22).

(GUERERRO, BASILIUS, HAGLELGAM, SUPPORT SEATING TRUK REPS.)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THREE HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, REPRESENTATIVES GUERERRO, HAGLELGAM AND BASILIUS WEDNESDAY (JAN. 21) WENT ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF SEATING ALL MEMBERS-ELECT FROM TRUK DISTRICT.

CHALLENGES FROM ALLEGED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES FROM VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND TRUK HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A WEEK LONG HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATION SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONGRESS' FIFTY-DAY SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 13.

IN HIS FIRST PREPARED SPEECH AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, GUERERRO STATED THAT HE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS' REPORT TO SEAT THE MEMBERS ELECT FROM THE 14TH AND 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS; BUT HE IS NOT IN AGREEMENT NOT TO SEAT THE MEMBER ELECT FROM THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT AND THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION.

GUERERRO SAID THAT WHILE HE APPRECIATES THE MATERIALITY OF NUMBERS USED BY MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE BY WHICH TO MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HOUSE, THE SAME FIGURES COULD ALSO BE USED TO SUPPORT "OPPOSITE AND CONCLUSIONS."

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN CITED THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH SAYS THAT THE NUMBER OF VOTES BETWEEN LAMBERT AAFIN AND MASAO NAKAYAMA WAS 159, AND THAT 233 VOTES WERE AFFECTED BY THE ELECTION IRREGULARITIES. HE SAID THAT IT IS HIS "UNDERSTANDING" THAT 143 OF THE ALLEGED IRREGULAR VOTES RESULTED FROM THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION TO CONSIDER THE FAILURE OF SOME ABSENTEE VOTERS TO CAST THEIR VOTES ON NOVEMBER 4 AS AN "ELECTION IRREGULARITY."

GUERERRO SAID: "THE COMMITTEE MAKES AN ASSUMPTION THAT THESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE VOTED," BUT IT WAS "VERY LIKELY THAT THEY DID NOT VOTE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT TO VOTE OR DID NOT CARE TO VOTE."

CONTINUING: "ONCE THIS SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF ALLEGED IRREGULAR VOTES IS CAST ASIDE, ONLY 92 ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES REMAIN. IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS QUANTITY IS INSUFFICIENT TO AFFECT THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION IN THE 13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE WAS TO CHOOSE THE PRESENT MEMBER ELECT, LAMBERT AAFIN," GUERERRO SAID. HE EXPLAINED THAT IT IS "UNFAIR TO SINGLE OUT ONE MEMBER ELECT FROM ONE DISTRICT TO BE PENALIZED FOR ELECTION IRREGULARITIES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ENOUGH TO MERIT OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW ELECTIONS IN OTHER REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS."

CONGRESSMAN GUERERRO RECOMMENDED THAT WHEN THE HOUSE ADOPTS THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT TO SEAT THE MEMBERS ELECT FROM THE 14TH AND 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, IT SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE "THAT MEMBER ELECT FROM THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT."

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HAGLELGAM, ALSO A NEW MEMBER OF THE HOUSE, INDICATED HE FAVORED SEATING BOTH MEMBERS-ELECT FROM TRUK, NOTING THAT "IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS AT FAULT, WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE BE SUBJECT TO ANOTHER ELECTION?"

THE YAP CONGRESSMAN STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ELECTED TO "...NARROWING THE GAP ... BETWEEN EQUALITY IN LAW AND IN FACT..." AND THAT THE VOTERS WERE NOT "LOOKING UP TO US TO PUT OUR FAITH IN THEM BY GIVING EVERY RESPECT TO THEIR MANDATE."

NOTING THAT OVER A WEEK HAD PASSED IN CONSIDERATION OF CREDENTIALS, HE INDICATED THAT ELECTION LAWS IN TRUK AND OTHER DISTRICTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FOLLOWED WITH "PRECISION" AND THAT HE WAS "DISTURBED THAT CERTAIN DISTINGUISHED MEN FROM TRUK HAVE HAD THE AUDACITY TO INFORM THIS CONGRESS THAT "FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF COMPLIANCE" WITH ELECTION LAWS IN TRUK DISTRICT.

"AND FOR THESE FIVE YEARS WHY HAVE THEY REMAINED SO SILENT AND NOT SPEAK OUT FOR JUSTICE'S SAKE? IS IT FOR TRUE JUSTICE THAT THEY NOW SPEAK," HE CONTINUED.

REPRESENTATIVE HAGLELGAM THEN SAID IT WAS "PURE SPECULATION" THAT ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT VOTE IN THE ELECTION WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR ONE OR THE OTHER CANDIDATE AND THAT INSTEAD OF THIS, THE BASIS FOR THE HOUSE DECISION MUST BE "THE POPULAR MANDATE OF THE 1974 ELECTION IN TRUK."

HE THEN STATED THAT MANY OF THE ALLEGED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES "FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASONS (PERHAPS MOST CONVENIENTLY FOR ONE SIDE)" WERE CLAIMED ON PULAP ISLAND "HOME OF THE WINNING CANDIDATE" IN THE ELECTION.

"AND YET TESTIMONY SHOWED THAT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES PRESSING THE CHARGE OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES HAD ACCESS TO HAVE ALL 13 BALLOT BOXES OF THE 18TH DISTRICT OPEN FOR HIS PERSONAL EXAMINATION "WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES.

"ONE CAN MAINTAIN THAT NOTHING WAS TAMPERED WITH AT THAT TIME, BUT ONE CAN ALSO SURMISE THAT SOMETHING WAS TAMPERED WITH AND CAN DOUBT ... ANY FIGURE ALLEGED AS IRREGULARITIES," HE SAID.

ASKING THE QUESTION OF WHERE TO "PLANT THE MARK OF UNFAIRNESS" IN THE ELECTION'S CONDUCT, HE NOTED THAT THE ELECTION IN THE 18TH DISTRICT WAS THE "MOST PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY" OF ALL THOSE IN TRUK, AND ANSWERED THAT THE MARK OF UNFAIRNESS WAS "PLANTED WHEN THE CHALLENGE TO THAT MANDATE WAS STAGED."

CONGRESSMAN HAGLELGAM THEN SAID THE TRUK ADMINISTRATION WAS FAULTED BECAUSE THE "AUTHORS OF SUCH CHARGES HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY THROWING ALL THE MUD AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUT HAVE VOTES TO LOSE BY DIRECTING THE CHARGES AT THE PEOPLE."

HE THEN ADDED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LET THE "WISDOM OF THIS CONGRESS BE BLINDED ... AND SOILED" BY CALLING FOR A NEW ELECTION, AND SAYING THAT THE CONGRESS COULD BE NO STRONGER THAN THE PEOPLE IT REPRESENTS, URGED THE MEMBERS TO "HOLD OUR GREAT HANDS TOGETHER" IN ORDER TO "ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO SEE JUSTICE."

"LET US SHOW MICRONESIA THAT TRUE MEANING OF ITS CONSTITUTION IS TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE," HE CONCLUDED.

IN HIS REMARKS CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS OF PALAU AGREED WITH GUERRERO THAT THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DWELT LARGELY ON THE "MATERIALITY OF NUMBERS AS THE BASIS OF ITS JUSTIFICATION TO RECOMMEND THE SEATING OF ONE CONGRESSMAN-ELECT AND AS THE BASIS OF ITS RECOMMENDATION NOT TO SEAT ANOTHER MEMBER." HE NOTED THAT THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS IN BOTH THE 17TH AND 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS COULD "PERSUASIVELY" GO EITHER WAY.

BASILIUS INDICATED THAT THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE "OVERLOOKED" THE PRIMARY ISSUE REGARDING THE CREDENTIALS OF THOSE FROM TRUK WHOSE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER AND SENT TO CONGRESS BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

LIKE HAGLELGAM AND GUERRERO, HE SAID THE MAIN ISSUE WHICH THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IS WHETHER THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS "SATISFIED" THAT THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THE CONGRESSMEN ELECT FROM THE 17TH AND 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS COULD BE ASCERTAINED, AND WHETHER OR NOT PUBLIC INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY SEATING THE CONGRESSMEN-ELECT WHO HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED TO THE CONGRESS BY THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER.

BASILIUS ASSERTED THAT "DESPITE ALL OF THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IT CAN BE ASCERTAINED THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, AS INDICATED THROUGH THE ELECTION, WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED SO THAT WE CAN SAFELY PROCEED TO SEAT NOT ONLY THE REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT FROM THE 17TH ELECTION DISTRICT, AS WELL AS THE REPRESENTATIVE-ELECT FROM THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT." HE POINTED OUT THAT TO SEAT ONE AND NOT THE OTHER IS TO SUBJECT CONGRESS "TO RIDICULE AND

EVEN TO AN ACCUSATION OF FAVORITISM."

HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING IRREGULARITIES ARE BOUND TO OCCUR IN ANY ELECTION AT ANY TIME AND CONGRESS SHOULD JUDGE THE ELECTION IN LIGHT OF THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE AND SEAT THE MEMBERS-ELECT FROM TRUK SO THE HOUSE "CAN PROCEED TO MORE IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE TASKS."

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MANGEFEL DECLARES COFFEE FUND BANKRUPT)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 21 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---ALTHOUGH THE SENATE CHAMBER HAS ON OCCASION BECOME A PLACE WHERE HEATED ARGUMENTS AND TENSION FILL THE AIR, USUALLY FOLLOWED BY COMPLETE SILENCE FROM BOTH SPECTATORS AND SENATORS, THAT VERY SILENCE CAN IN A SPLIT SECOND BE BROKEN BY LAUGHTER. THE MINUTE SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP UTTERS HUMEROUS REMARKS THAT BRINGS GRINS TO THE LONG FACES OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL, KNOWN FOR HIS "BANANA" SPEECH DURING THE FIFTH CONGRESS DELIVERED HIS "COFFEE" SPEECH TUESDAY MORNING (JAN. 21) FREE OF THAT USUAL TENSION WHICH HE BREAKS TO ALLOW HIS COLLEAGUES ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO RECOLLECT THEIR DOUBTS.

MANGEFEL DECLARED: "THIS CONGRESS FACES A SERIOUS CRISIS, OUR COFFEE FUND IS BANKRUPT!" HE URGED HIS FELLOW SENATORS TO CONTRIBUTE FIVE DOLLARS EACH TO KEEP THE COFFEE BUSINESS GOING FOLLOWING HIS VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS SPEECH.

MANGEFEL WHO SYMPATHIZES WITH THE STAFF OF THE CONGRESS IN THEIR PLIGHT TO KEEP THE COFFEE MAKER PERKING AS THEY ATTEND TO THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE, GAVE SHORT REMARKS OF THE ROLE COFFEE PLAYS AS EACH SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN GO THROUGH LONG HOURS "PODDING" OVER LEGISLATION AND OTHER MAJOR ISSUES, TRYING ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES TO COME UP WITH SOME SOLUTIONS

BEFORE THE SPEAKER OR THE PRESIDENT. MANGEFEL THEN MADE AND DECLARED THE CONGRESS SESSION "ADJOURNED SINE DIE."

THE YAP SENATOR SAID: "...LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT WHEN FACED WITH THIS CRISIS, WE LET THE CONGRESS GO DOWN THE DRAIN. RATHER, LET IT BE SAID THAT WE WERE 'GOOD TO THE LAST DROP'."

HE SAID THAT AT ONE TIME, COFFEE INVOLVED POLITICS, "AND IT IS THAT EVEN FRENCH KING LOUIS THE FIFTEENTH HAD THE FIRST FEW FLORA PRODUCING THIS SUBSTANCE WATCHED OVER BY ARMED GUARDS IN THE ROYAL HOT HOUSE OF THE FRENCH EMPIRE."

MANGEFEL CONCLUDE HIS COFFEE SPEECH BY QUOTING FROM AN OLD SAYING: "...FOR THE WANT OF A NAIL, A SHOE WAS LOST. FOR THE WANT OF A SHOE, A HORSE WAS LOST, AND FOR WANT OF A HORSE, A KINGDOM WAS LOST. AND ALL FOR A WANT OF A HORSESHOE NAIL."

(BUSINESS PERMITS ISSUED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MIS)---SEVEN BUSINESS PERMITS WERE ISSUED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO A WEEKLY REPORT ON FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMIT ACTIVITY FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE BUSINESS PERMITS WERE ISSUED TO: MICRONESIA FARM DEVELOPMENT CO., INC. TO DO COMMERCIAL FARMING IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE MAJOR NON-CITIZEN INCORPORATOR IS NIPPON COPORUS, CO., LTD. A JAPANESE FIRM. THE MICRONESIAN

INCORPORATORS ARE VIRGINIA S. AGUON AND OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF SAIPAN.

THE BANK OF TOKYO OF CALIFORNIA TO DO COMMERCIAL-BANKING IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE BANK OF TOKYO OF CALIFORNIA IS A U.S. CORPORATION CHARTERED IN CALIFORNIA ON OCTOBER 29, 1952.

SPECS, INC. TO DO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MERCHANDISING OF ENGINEERING, DRAFTING, SURVEYING, PRINTING, AND MANUFACTURING SERVICES IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. MRS. BENEDICTA T. TORRES IS ITS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE.

SUNRISE COMPANY TO ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OF BAR AND RESTAURANT, FARM, RETAIL SALE OF FURNITURE, APPLIANCES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE COMPANY IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JOAQUIN L.G. SABLAN AND VICENTE M. SABLAN OF SAIPAN AND KYUNG NAM INDUSTRIAL CO. LTD. OF KOREA.

MR. MICHAEL A. WHITE TO ENGAGE IN PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR AS A SOLE PROPRIETOR IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT.

PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT INC. TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND RELATED GROUND ACTIVITIES, TOUR SERVICES, IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT. THE MAJOR NON-CITIZEN INCOPORATOR IN KINKI NIPPON TOURIST CO., LTD., A JAPANESE FIRM. THE MICRONESIAN INCORPORATORS ARE HERMAN R. GUERRERO, OLYMPIO T. BORJA, HERMAN Q. GUERRERO AND JESUS T. GUERRERO OF SAIPAN. MR. HERMAN R. GUERRERO IS THE PRESENT OWNER OF HAFA DAI TRAVEL SERVICES.

BANK OF HAWAII TO DO COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS BANKING IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT.

(CAMILLE APPOINTED TT STATISTICIAN)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. CAMILLE FAIRCLOTH AS TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH STATISTICIAN. HER APPOINTMENT BECAME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 1975. PRIOR TO HER ARRIVAL ON SAIPAN, MS. CAMILLE WAS CHIEF MEDICAL RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR AT THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON TROPICAL MEDICAL CENTER IN PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA.

MS. CAMILLE HOLDS A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND LIBERAL ARTS FROM LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND ANOTHER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MEDICAL RECORD SCIENCE FROM DOMINICAN COLLEGE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.