

SIXTEENTH DAY

Tuesday, January 28, 1975

The House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, January 28, 1975.

Vice Speaker Ekapap Silk presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Chief Clerk called the roll. Twenty members were present; Speaker Henry was excused.

Vice Speaker Silk suspended reading of the Journal.

COMMUNICATIONS

No High Commissioner Communications were reported.

No Departmental Communications were reported.

No Senate Communications were reported.

Vice Speaker Silk: I understand that one of the Representatives is making brief remarks. I will give the floor to Representative Basilius.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE BASILIUS

Rep. Basilius: Mr. Speaker, Congressperson Bigler, and my colleagues:

I think none of us can argue with the assertion that Micronesia is an underdeveloped island nation. As a consequence, we face a number of unique and frustrating problems, some of them due to the fact we are a trusteeship, some of them because of our geography, and some of them from forces outside of Micronesia.

I will leave discussion of most of these problems up to the other members of the House for their elaboration.

I do, however, want to discuss one recently developed problem which has a bearing and an impact on Micronesia.

This problem concerns recent criticism of our Chief Executive, Mr. Edward Johnston, and his administration of the Trust Territory Government. This criticism developed from rather strong charges by a private United States citizen, which were picked up and investigated by a U.S. Senate Committee.

I deplore such charges for two very compelling reasons. First, any sensible Micronesian, and any person who is familiar with Micronesia, can see that administering such a place is nearly an impossible job, because of Micronesia's size, and the scattered location of its islands

Second, and perhaps most important, I deplore such criticism since it tends to hide the real issues in Micronesia.

Mr. Speaker, to put it bluntly, we have enough real problems here in our islands without Micronesia becoming a political "football", as it were, in Washington, D.C.

I certainly have all due respect for the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee and his intentions for, like him, I too am against waste and mismanagement in government. But the real

problem is that in the course of prosecuting such an investigation, charges are made, or implied, which call into question not only the integrity of the incumbent High Commissioner, but present the likelihood that important legislative appropriations for Micronesia may be cut.

As I understand it, at this time inflation has reduced the present \$60 million grant fund level to about a \$30 million impact. As a consequence, the Administration plans to submit legislation to the 94th U.S. Congress to increase the funding levels for the next three years. Even if these levels are approved, U.S. assistance will in effect be reduced by inflation, and it will be up to this Congress to try to make up the difference.

In connection with use of these grant funds, I think the High Commissioner can rightfully be proud of the record of accomplishments made in capital improvements for roads, schools, hospitals, airfields, docks, and so on, as he listed in his State of the Territory Message. And I should also like to point out that many of these accomplishments were made at the urging of, and with the assistance of this Congress.

Despite this, many real needs remain unfulfilled before a basic infrastructure will be in place, and consequently, before any rapid and solid economic development can take place.

While opinions differ as to the reasons, it is plain development of Micronesia by the United States in the past 30 years has been limited, either by funds, or by the knowledge of how to get things done in Micronesia, or for political reasons. As I mentioned, funds are limited, and thus this Congress has been forced to take the initiative to look for sources of money from countries and organizations outside of America. However, even if other countries were willing to help us, this aid would have to be approved by the U.S.--a very unlikely proposition, since it would be embarrassing to Washington, D.C., to see other countries having to help a Trusteeship administered by the United States.

To my way of thinking, if the United States was really interested in developing Micronesia, and if it really followed the responsibilities outlined under the Trusteeship, it should forget such potential embarrassment, and take a positive approach whereby the United States and other countries jointly would develop Micronesia according to programs and priorities determined by ourselves.

In any case it is clear that the Trust Territory needs more assistance, not less, from the United States for the next few years, but that this increase may be doomed by partisan political considerations which have no meaning for us here in Micronesia, but which have great impact on our islands and people.

As further example of such influences, I have heard some discussion that recommendations may be made to this U.S. Senate Committee to give jobs in the Trust Territory to American citizens in the mainland with the status of U.S. Civil Servants. Should this come about, it would reverse the long-standing policy of the Administration and the Congress to phase out civil service employees and would thus represent a step backward in localizing our own government employees.

Furthermore, I want to go on record to state that this Congress should oppose the replacement of the present High Commissioner on politically motivated grounds. I personally would only support his replacement if I were to be assured that the new High Commissioner would be a Micronesian. If it were to be suggested that he be replaced by another expatriate, I would strongly oppose such a move.

The present High Commissioner has demonstrated to me that he is experienced, that he knows well Micronesia, its people and its problems, and that he can work well with this Congress.

We have many real problems facing us today, as I have mentioned, and I suggest that we get on with the job of solving them with the hope that Micronesia will not be further penalized, for partisan political maneuverings occurring 10,000 miles away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

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## ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Clerk called attention to Referral Sheet No. 9 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures introduced on Monday, January 27, 1975.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## BILL CALENDAR

H.B. No. 6-7, HD1:

To appropriate the sum of ~~\$45,900~~ \$31,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the purpose of defraying the operation and contingent expenses of the administration of the Trust Territory Personnel Board; amending Section 2 of P.L. No. 5-62 relating to the reversion of funds appropriated to the Personnel Board by that law, and for other purposes.

Representative Setik moved for passage of H.B. No. 6-7, HD1, on Second Reading; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title.

The Clerk called the roll, and H.B. No. 6-7, HD1, passed Second Reading by a vote of twenty ayes; Speaker Henry was excused.

## RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 6-79:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Education and Social Matters/Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$60,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to defray the cost of training not less than 12 Youth Training Officers outside the Trust Territory, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-80:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Resources and Development

To add Paragraph (e), Subsection (6), Section 302 of Title 33 of the Trust Territory Code relating to unfair trade practices, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-81:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Resources and Development

To repeal Public Law No. 5-85 and to add a new section designated as "Section 2" of Title 33 of the Trust Territory Code to provide for a new definition of the word "noncitizen" as used by the Foreign Investors Business Permit Act, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-82:

Introduced by: Rep. Setik  
Assigned to: Appropriations

To create a Congress of Micronesia Financial Office; to provide for its duties and responsibilities and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-83:

Introduced by: Rep. Haruo  
Assigned to: Resources and Development/Appropriations

Appropriating the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of constructing and operating various facilities for the Truk Boatbuilding Program in Truk District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-84:

Introduced by: Rep. Moses and Rep. Bigler  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

To amend Chapter 11 of Title 77 of the Trust Territory Code by adding new Sections 280 and 281, authorizing the chartered district legislatures and the chartered municipal governments to establish surtaxes on wages, salaries and gross revenues under Title 77 of the Trust Territory Code; excepting districts who establish the surtaxes from shared revenue provisions of Title 77; and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-85:

Introduced by: Rep. Moses and Rep. Bigler  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

To amend Sections 252 and 253 of Title 77 of the Trust Territory Code to provide for a graduated tax; and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-86:

Introduced by: Rep. Nakamura and Rep. Rudimch  
Assigned to: Resources and Development/Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$7,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to complete the construction of one ice plant in Ngeremlengui Municipality, Palau District, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H.J.R. No. 6-18:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Education and Social Matters

Requesting the High Commissioner to seek the cooperation of the district administrators of the six districts in applying for funds earmarked for older citizens under United States Public Law No. 93-29 (87 Stat. 30) and to apply for funds to construct Senior Citizens' Community Halls in all six districts of the Trust Territory.

H.J.R. No. 6-19:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero and Rep. Rasa  
Assigned to: Health Matters

Requesting the United States Congress to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1964 (7 U.S.C. 2016 (a) et. seq.) to include the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

H.J.R. No. 6-20:

Introduced by: Rep. Silk  
Assigned to: Resources and Development

Authorizing the High Commissioner to accept and execute a grant offer for an Airport Development Aid Program (ADAP) project for the construction of a two (2) stall Crash/Fire Rescue Building for the Saipan International Airport (Isley Field) Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, from the Federal Aviation Administration, United States Department of Transportation.

H.R. No. 6-5:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Resources and Development

Requesting the Office of the Attorney General to investigate any abuses and violations of the Foreign Investors Business Permit Act and to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Congress of Micronesia.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Vice Speaker Silk: I would like the House to recognize the presence of one of our students from the Marshalls who is attending the Nursing School, Ms. Almi Alik.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, before the Standing Committee Chairmen make their announcements, there has been a suggestion made (and I think it is a good suggestion) that all the Standing Committee Chairmen try to coordinate their public hearings. There are some measures in the House which are assigned to at least two committees. When the primary committee holds a hearing, I think it would save time and effort if you coordinate with the other Chairman so you can hold a joint hearing. This also holds true for the Senate Standing Committees hearings. Some of the measures are identical in the Senate and the House. If you coordinate with the Senate Chairman to hold joint hearings, it will save time and money, especially for those witnesses who are summoned from the districts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Haruo moved for a short recess; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote. The Vice Speaker declared the House recessed at 10:20 a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Rep. Nakamura: Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Health Matters will meet this afternoon at 1:00 in the Library.

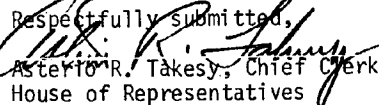
Rep. Haruo: Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Resources and Development will meet right after this morning's session on High Commissioner Communication No. 6-5. Again, there will be a public hearing beginning at 1:00 today in this Chamber on House Bills 6-35, 6-36 and 6-28. Furthermore, the public hearing scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on January 29th has been changed to 1:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon in this Chamber.

Rep. Setik: Your Committee on Appropriations will have an executive meeting at 3:00 this afternoon in Conference Room No. 2.

Rep. Basilius: Mr. Speaker, according to the Notice of Public Hearings which is attached to the Order of the Day, your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations is going to have a hearing at 2:00 today on House Bills 6-38 and 6-47. Also, there is a resolution introduced by Congressman Sasauo Haruo to cancel franchise agreements. Mobil Company was not able to be present at the public hearing that was held on this, so we will allow Mobil to present their position on that resolution sometime this afternoon. I would like to have the members of the committee make themselves available because these measures are very important.

Vice Speaker Silk: I have an announcement to make. The Joint Committee on Future Status will meet at 1:00 tomorrow in the Status Committee Conference Room. I request the committee members to be present since the committee needs time to go over its report.

There being no further announcements, Floor Leader Tman moved that the House stand in recess. Representative Basilius seconded, and the motion carried. The Vice Speaker declared the House recessed at 10:30 a.m., until 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 29, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives