

(CONGRESS 13TH DAY)

1975

File

SAIPAN, JAN. 30 (MNS) ---A SPEECH DELIVERED BY YAP REPRESENTATIVE LUKE TMAN HIGHLIGHTED AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE SESSION OF THE HOUSE. CONGRESSMAN TMAN SPOKE BEFORE INTRODUCING A BILL WHICH WOULD MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONCON LAW (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

THREE BILLS PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING AND WERE SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION. THEY ARE: A MEASURE TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 5-31 TO REMOVE A RESTRICTION IN THE LAW TO PROVIDE THAT THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR ROAD PROJECTS ON BABELTHUAP BE USED ANYWHERE IN PALAU DISTRICT FOR ROAD PROJECTS, (HB 6-41); A MEASURE AUTHORIZING AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, (HB 6-68); AND A BILL TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR THE TIME DURING WHICH THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-4 CAN BE USED BY THE COPRA STABILIZATION FUND, (HB 6-26).

TEN NEW BILLS WERE OFFERED. THEY ARE: A MEASURE PROVIDING FOR A BOARD OF UTILITY RATES TO DETERMINE AND RECOMMEND SCHEDULES OF ELECTRICITY, WATER AND TELEPHONE RATES AND RELATED CHARGES; PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS, (HB 6-114); APPROPRIATING \$39,000 TO DEFRAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITY, (HB 6-115); A MEASURE RELATING TO TRUST TERRITORY AIRPORTS, (HB 6-116); A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-57 TO CONVERT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM'S OPERATING BUDGET TO THE COM FISCAL YEAR, (HB 6-118); TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-58 TO LAPSE THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE REVENUE DIVISION ON MARCH 31, 1975, (HB 6-117); TO CREATE AN OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (HB 6-119); APPROPRIATING \$28,200 TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM FOR SAN ROQUE VILLAGE ON SAIPAN, (HB 6-120); TO ESTABLISH THE POTAPE REVOLVING SEWER HOOKUP FUND, AND APPROPRIATE \$25,000 TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE, (HB 6-121); TO EMPOWER THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE MICRONESIAN CONCON AS CREATED BY PL 5-60 TO APPOINT A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND PRESCRIBE ITS FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES, (HB 6-122); AND A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, (HB 6-123).

ONE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED. IT IS REQUESTING THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW AND REVISE THE POSITION CLASSIFICATIONS OF THE MICRONESIAN SEAMEN, (HJR 6-22). THE ONLY HOUSE RESOLUTION IS REQUESTING THE HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPLAIN WHY THE TT NURSING SCHOOL LOST ITS ACCREDITATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND WHAT ALTERNATIVES THERE ARE TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF NURSING STUDENTS, (HR 6-6).

THE HOUSE RECESS UNTIL THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON.

IN BRIEF FLOOR ACTIVITY IN THE SENATE THURSDAY (JAN. 30) JUST TWO BILLS WERE INTRODUCED. THEY WOULD: AMEND SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, (SB 6-78); CREATE AN OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (SB 6-79).

THE SENATE WILL MEET AGAIN AT 10:00 A.M. FRIDAY (JAN. 31).

3349

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(TMAN ON CON CON AMENDMENTS)

SAIPAN, JAN. 30 (CONGRESS RELEASE) ---A GREAT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THESE ISLANDS IS IN THE MAKING AND IT WILL BE REACHED BY THE TIME THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEETS ON JULY 12, THIS YEAR."

WITH THOSE WORDS MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FLOOR LEADER LUKE TMAN OF YAP INTRODUCED A BILL (JAN. 30) TO PAVE THE WAY FOR WHAT HE CALLED "THE BEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION TO DRAFT AN EFFECTIVE CONSTITUTION FOR THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA."

TMAN'S AMENDMENTS WHICH HE SAID WERE PROPOSED BY THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IF ENACTED, WOULD ACCOMPLISH FOUR CHANGES TO PUBLIC LAW 5-60. THEY INCLUDE: (1) APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION; (2) GIVE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS DELEGATES THE POWER TO VOTE AT THE CONVENTION; (3) CREATE A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO SCREEN DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION; AND, (4) PROVIDE IMMUNITY TO DELEGATES FROM POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION FROM REMARKS ON THE FLOOR DURING THE CONVENTION.

IN MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE HISTORIC CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, TMAN COMPARED "THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXPERIMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING" TO A CREW ROWING A BOAT ASHORE AFTER A WEARY DAY AT SEA.

"ONLY WITH DEXTEROUS AND TIMELY MANEUVERING, WOULD THE CREW RIDE MAJESTICALLY ASHORE ON THE CREST OF A WAVE," HE SAID. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED AS DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, TMAN SAID: "MICRONESIANS HAVE PLACED THEIR FUTURE DESTINY IN OUR HANDS. AND LIKE THE CREW ON THE BOAT, WE ARE FACED WITH THE CHALLENGE OF STEERING OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ISLANDS TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT DESTINY ON THE CREST OF THE WAVE OF OPPORTUNITY...", WHICH ACCORDING TO TMAN, HAS BECOME AVAILABLE AFTER CENTURIES OF BEING UNDER THE CONTROL AND CARE OF FOREIGN NATIONS.

TMAN TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT "IN A SENSE, A VERDICT OF HISTORY IS IN OUR HANDS AND THE CHALLENGE, INDEED OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN FACING UP TO THAT CHALLENGE, IS ENORMOUS, IF MONUMENTAL."

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT THE CONVENTION WILL BE A SUCCESS HE SAID: "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MICRONESIANS WILL SUCCEED IN THEIR HISTORIC EXPERIMENT IN THE EXERCISE BY A PEOPLE OF THEIR RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION." TMAN ALSO SAID THAT CONSIDERING THE "DEVERSE FORCES AT WORK BOTH WITHIN, AND OUTSIDE MICRONESIA THAT TEND TO CREATE DIFFERENCES AND DIVISIONS" AMONG THE DISTRICTS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MAY REPRESENT "OUR FINEST, AND LAST CHANCE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF ALL MICRONESIANS FOR THEIR FUTURE GOVERNMENT."

TMAN SAID THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS "WILL SETTLE ANY DOUBTS" THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION "WILL HAVE THE BLESSING AND INPUT FROM MICRONESIA'S TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND WILL TRULY REFLECT THE DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY."

ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(BORJA SPEAKS TO PEACE GROUP)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 30 (CONGRESS RELEASE) ---SPEAKING AT A MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT SAIPAN'S MICRO BEACH WEDNESDAY, SENATOR OLYMPIC T. BORJA TOLD LOCAL RESIDENTS AND CREWMEMBERS OF THE SAILBOAT "FRI" (FREE) CURRENTLY ON A "PEACE MISSION" TO JAPAN, THAT NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC MUST BE CONDEMNED SINCE THEY ARE "MAN'S MOST UNCIVILIZED WEAPON." 3350

THE SHIP "FRI" CREWED BY 13 MEN AND WOMEN FROM FIVE DIFFERENT NATIONS, ARRIVED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY FROM FRENCH POLYNESIA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO CARRYING OVER 15,000 "PEACE MESSAGES" FROM MAYORS, MAGISTRATES, PARLIAMENT MEMBERS, AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC URGING AN END TO

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN THE PACIFIC AREAS. THE MESSAGES WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE SIX COUNTRIES WHICH NOW HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

BORJA, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON RONGELAP AND UTIRIK, WHERE MARSHALL ISLANDERS WERE EXPOSED HARMFUL RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT FROM U.S. NUCLEAR TESTS IN 1954, SAID THE TREE PLANTING CEREMONY "WILL STAND AS A TESTIMONY TO THE HUMANITARIAN WORK THE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE "FRI" HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, BUT ALSO AS A MEMORIAL TO THE ONE KNOWN MICRONESIAN WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF NUCLEAR TESTING."

"AFTER HAVING MET THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ACTUALLY AFFECTED BY THIS BOMB," SAID BORJA, "I HAVE MORE THAN JUST SIMPLY SYMPATHY FOR THESE PEOPLE. I HAVE AN EMOTION WHICH IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE, AND THE ONLY WAY ALL OF US CAN APPROXIMATELY UNDERSTAND THIS EMOTION IS TO IMAGINE FOR A BRIEF MOMENT HOW WE WOULD FEEL IF OUR SON OR DAUGHTER WERE TO DIE AS A RESULT OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANOTHER PERSON."

ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WAS THE MAGISTRATE OF RONGELAP ATOLL, NELSON ANJAIN, A RELATIVE OF LEKOJ ANJAIN, WHO DIED OF LEUKEMIA IN 1973 WHICH WAS BELIEVED CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO THE 1954 BOMB TEST ON BIKINI ATOLL. ALSO PRESENT WAS CONGRESSMAN ATAJI BALOS, WHO REPRESENTS RONGELAP AT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

BEFORE SAILING TO MICRONESIA, THE SHIP "FRI" SPENT SEVEN WEEKS AT MURUORA ATOLL IN FRENCH POLYNESIA. AFTER BEING ARRESTED AND LATER RELEASE BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, THE BOAT SAILED FOR MICRONESIA CARRYING MESSAGES FROM POLYNESIAN ISLANDERS TO THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND BIKINI, SINCE BOTH AREAS HAVE BEEN SITES FOR NUCLEAR BOMB TESTING. AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN MAJURO, HOWEVER, TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO DEPORT THE VESSEL, BUT LATER ALLOWED THE SHIP AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO CARRY ITS PEACE MESSAGES TO THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND BIKINI.

FROM SAIPAN, THE SHIP WILL TRAVEL TO JAPAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MARCH 1ST "BIKINI DAY MEMORIAL" AND PRESENT MESSAGES URGING AN END TO PACIFIC BOMB TESTS FROM THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND BIKINI, IN ADDITION TO A MESSAGE FROM SENATOR BORJA ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON RONGELAP AND UTIRIK. BORJA ALSO PRESENTED THE GROUP WITH A COPY OF A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WHICH CONDEMNED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING IN THE PACIFIC BY FRANCE ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

WISHING THE CREWMEMBERS OF THE "FRI" A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY, BORJA SAID: "I AM PROUD OF YOUR PURPOSE. LET YOUR VOYAGE STAND FOR THE CONCEPT OF MAN FOR HIS FUTURE AND HIS GENERATIONS, AND LET THE WORD GO FORTH THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE MODERN MAN'S MOST UNCIVILIZED WEAPON."