

TWENTY-SECOND DAY

Monday, February 3, 1975

The House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 3:10 p.m., Monday, February 3, 1975.

Speaker Bethwel Henry presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Chief Clerk called the roll. Eighteen members were present; Representatives Albert and Edwards were excused; Representative Rasa was absent.

The Speaker suspended reading of the Journal.

COMMUNICATIONS

High Commissioner Communication No. 6-14, acknowledging receipt and responding to Report of Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning for Fiscal Year 1976.

No Departmental Communications were reported.

No Senate Communications were reported.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-32, from Executive Director of Pre-Convention Committee, transmitting a proposal from Micronesian Cable TV Company for simultaneous radio coverage of Micronesian Constitutional Convention.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Committee Report No. 6-8, submitted by the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning, transmitting its report and recommendations on the High Commissioner's Fiscal Year 1976 Preliminary Budget Plan Request.

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, in order to allow the members to go through the report, I move to defer action on it.

Vice Speaker Silk seconded the motion.

Rep. Setik: And let that also apply to Special Committee Report No. 6-9.

Special Committee Report No. 6-9, submitted by the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning, transmitting its report and recommendations on the Fiscal Year 1975 Budget Amendment regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 1975 Supplemental Request for the Trust Territory.

Speaker Henry: The motion is to defer action on Special Committee Reports No. 6-8 and 6-9. If there is no objection, the motion carries.

ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Clerk called attention to Referral Sheet No. 13 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures introduced on Friday, January 31, 1975. The following Senate Bill was also assigned.

S.B. No. 6-18, SD1:

Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Amending 83 TTC, Section 501(2) to allow District Administrators to lower motor vehicle speed limits in particularly hazardous areas, and for other purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

BILL CALENDAR

H.B. No. 6-5, HD1:

To appropriate the sum of \$297,400 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the purpose of defraying the operation and contingent expenses of the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance of the Trust Territory for Congress of Micronesia Fiscal Year 1976 and for other purposes.

Representative Setik moved for passage of H.B. No. 6-5, HD1, on Second Reading; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title. The motion carried by roll call vote of eighteen ayes; Representatives Albert, Edwards and Rasa were absent.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 6-135:

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

To appropriate \$100,000 for use by the District Fishing Authorities to initiate training programs and to send Micronesians to foreign universities for fisheries training, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-136:

Introduced by: Rep. Haruo
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$50,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to defray the travel costs and other contingent expenses of the members of the Senate and House Committees on Resources and Development to secure technical and financial assistance from countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific region, and from international organizations and subregional organizations, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-137:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$504,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the purpose of housing loans pursuant to Public Law No. 5-37, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-138:

Introduced by: Rep. Tman
Assigned to: Ways and Means/Appropriations

To amend Section 156 of Title 77 of the Trust Territory Code, as amended by Public Law No. 5-91, relating to the distribution of revenues, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-139:

Introduced by: Rep. Haglelgam
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

To add Section 14 to Title 61 of the Trust Territory Code relating to housing for employees of the Trust Territory Government whose normal place of residence is beyond normal commuting distance from their place of work regardless of the point of hire and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-140:

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

To appropriate \$48,000, which was authorized to be appropriated under Public Law 5-101 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia, for marine transportation scholarships at Federal and State maritime academies and other maritime institutions in the United States and in the Philippines, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-141:

Introduced by: Rep. Henry
Assigned to: Appropriations

Appropriating \$10,000 for the hiring of a consultant to the Task Force on Salaries and Rising Cost of Living.

H.B. No. 6-142:

Introduced by: Rep. Rasa
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate \$15,000 from the General Fund of the Congress for the purchase of books, supplies and equipment for Marianas High School on Saipan Island, Mariana Islands District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-143:

Introduced by: Rep. Aafin
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate \$126,750 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for public projects in Truk District, and for other purposes.

Rep. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make before I introduce my bill.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE GUERRERO

WAR CLAIMS
Rep. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Representatives: When Micronesians emerged from the ashes and debris of World War II, they found their islands devastated, their possessions destroyed, and their relatives and friends injured, or dead. They emerged from this world conflict knowing that socially and physically Micronesia would never be the same. They also emerged with new inspiration and hope for Micronesia under American administration.

The rights of man, the value of human rights and freedom are among those cherished by the people of America, and which we have learned if we did not already respect them. Therefore, we looked forward with hope to an administration radically different than those of past foreign countries which had consistently exploited our resources, and intentionally held back our social and educational advancement.

One of those hopes, I suppose, was that things would be set right again--that Micronesians

expected once the war was past that they would be repaid for the wrongs and damage done to them by this war in which Micronesians were innocently caught between the two principal belligerents.

Unfortunately, it is my sad conclusion, that this will not be so if certain circumstances are permitted to continue.

For this reason, I am introducing a bill today which would create a Micronesian Claims Committee, for the express purpose of seeking additional compensation from both Japan and the United States for claims resulting from hostilities between those two countries. I also intend to introduce at a later date, a resolution intended to further the same cause.

As you may know, war claims have been the subject of recent news articles dealing with such aspects as the cutoff day for the ordering of goods from Japan, and with a new receipt form. In the past we have also been treated to releases describing how well advanced is the work of the War Claims Commission.

What really deserves our attention at this time, however, is that the final outcome of payment of Title One claims will be a total disaster to those Micronesians whose land was damaged, or who suffered physical injuries or death because of forces and national policies beyond their control.

I find it ironic in the extreme that according to my information, there will not be enough money in the \$10 million fund for Title One claims.

It is furthermore ironic in the light of testimony by a member of this Congress, Senator Salii, who testified before the U.S. Congress on Senate Bill 860 and indicated that (1) the amount proposed was inadequate, and (2) that the U.S./Japanese contribution should be left "open." For the information of all members, I will request permission of the Speaker to insert into the Journal of the House, the complete testimony of Senator Salii on the War Claims Bill.

As you may know, the practice of the commission has been to adjudicate claims, and then pay 16 percent on the dollar. The rest of the claim will be prorated; i.e., the money remaining after the 16 per cent is paid will be divided, according to the size of award, to the thousands of claimants. There is no assurance that claimants will receive any more of their money, much less 100 cents for every dollar which the commission awarded them.

I understand that nearly all of the Title One money has been accounted for by adjudications, but only about half of the cases have been decided upon so far.

To my mind, Mr. Speaker, it is unthinkable that those people who have valid claims will be only paid a few cents on the dollar, like creditors in the bankruptcy of a commercial business. Is the United States to say, for example, in a claim for the death of a loved one that: "You are entitled to be paid \$1,000, but unfortunately since there is not enough money, we can only give you \$10 for the life that was lost?"

In like fashion, are we to be told by Japan that simply because a deadline has been reached, goods and services cannot be provided responsibility? Is there a statute of limitations on moral obligations?

I think not.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge that the members of this House and this Congress take immediate action to see that such things do not happen.

The United States and the government of Japan appear to be ready to wash their hands of their international legal and moral responsibilities. Just as was the case in the war, we had no control over the unacceptable war claims agreements made between the two former opponents. I suggest that it is up to us now to ensure that these two countries are not allowed to shun their responsibilities to the people of Micronesia.

I urge all of the House members to study the issues and these measures carefully, and I am sure when they do, they will come to the unalterable conclusion that we must act, and act now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INSERTION INTO THE JOURNAL

SPEECH BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU DISTRICT RELEVANT TO UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 860 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, MARCH 30, 1971:

"Mr. Chairman: It is an honor to appear before you today. I am here to represent the people of Palau District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I am here to express our full support for Senate Bill 860. With your permission, I will address my remarks to the provisions of this bill as they are set forth therein. . . .

"II - WAR CLAIMS

"The subject of Micronesian war damage claims is one which has commanded much attention in Micronesia for the past 25 years. It is now urgently hoped that at long last these war damage claims will be settled in an equitable manner. While I do not agree with all of the provisions contained in Senate Bill Number 860, I would like to make it clear that I feel that some type of legislation must be passed at this time which will finally start the process of compensating the Micronesian people for the damages which they suffered as a result of the hostilities of World War II.

"One point which I feel should be clarified at the outset is that we do not consider settlement of these claims to be an ex gratia contribution to the Micronesian people. First, it should be noted that under these measures, the Japanese Government will be granted certain valuable rights in Micronesia for their so-called ex gratia contribution for the settlement of the Micronesian war damage claims. By using the term "ex gratia" the United States and Japan are asserting that they have no liability to make compensation for losses suffered. The rights being granted to the Japanese, fishing rights and salvage rights, are the rights of the Micronesian people. It is difficult for us to understand how the contribution of the Japanese can be considered ex gratia when certain valuable rights of the Micronesian people are being exchanged for the right of the Micronesian people to be compensated for the damage done to them and their lands because of conflicts between foreign powers. The Micronesian people were in no way consulted about this arrangement between the United States and Japan. Further, we feel that the rights that are to be granted to the Japanese are more valuable than the 5 million dollars that Japan is to pay the Micronesians. In other words, we feel that the United States has agreed to give away valuable Micronesian fishing and salvage rights in exchange for something of far less value, a payment of 5 million dollars to which the Micronesian people are already entitled.

"Second, it should be noted that with regard to the United States and Japan, the Micronesian people are required to accept the amounts being offered under these bills as final and full settlement for all damage and loss suffered as a result of the war. Therefore, the Micronesians are being asked to surrender their valuable right to actual compensation in exchange for the proposed ex gratia settlement. The fact that the United States and Japan do not recognize any duty to compensate the Micronesians for the damage suffered during and after the war does not make the claim any less important to the Micronesian people.

"Along the same lines, many Micronesians feel that it is unjust and unconscionable for the United States, as trustee of Micronesia, to deal with its beneficiary so as to benefit the trustee and harm the beneficiary. The United States has negotiated a treaty with Japan and offered an ex gratia contribution to the Micronesians. This has been done without consulting with the Micronesian people or their elected leaders in the Congress of Micronesia or the district legislatures. In exchange for this ex gratia contribution, however, the Micronesians are required to exchange something. It is difficult for us to understand why we must exchange something if your contribution is in fact a gift. If it is not in fact a gift, then we feel that we should not be required to release all claims against the United

States and Japan until we first know the amount of such claims and can negotiate for their settlement.

"I feel that it would be far better to leave the amount of the United States and Japanese contribution open until the actual amount of the claims has been determined. To set the amount of the payment before that amount of the damage is known, and to then require the injured party to release all right to further compensation in exchange for a gift, is not, we feel, the solution to this problem. We feel that if this bill is passed, it should not require Micronesians to release all of their claims. We feel that further requests for compensation should be permitted if necessary.

"I would like to state 10 million dollars for the war damage claims and 20 million for the post secure damage claims is not nearly adequate to compensate for the loss of life and property that was suffered by the Micronesian people as a result of World War II. Until such damage claims are collected and totaled no accurate figure can be made available.

"Another point that I feel should be considered by this Committee is the composition of the Micronesian Claims Commission. I feel that having three Americans and two Micronesians on the Commission is unfair and improper. The culture and systems of property ownership in Micronesia are such that it will be difficult, if not impossible, for an outsider to deal effectively with the complexities that will be presented during the settlement of these claims. Further, the actual distribution of the money should be made by the representatives of the Micronesian people. I would recommend that three of the members of the Commission be Micronesian and two be American. Of the three Micronesians, I suggest that one be from the Mariana Islands District and one be from the Palau District since those are the districts where most of the damage was suffered during and after the war."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

H.B. No. 6-144:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero (and twelve others)
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations/
Appropriations

To create a Micronesian Claims Committee, to prescribe its duties and functions, to appropriate funds therefor, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H.J.R. No. 6-26:

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

Requesting Continental/Air Micronesia to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of rerouting their flights throughout the Trust Territory so as to allow visitors to the Trust Territory to visit all six districts on one continuous flight.

H.J.R. No. 6-27:

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

Requesting the District Administrator of Truk District to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a causeway between the island of Murilo and the nearby small island of Eor; to submit a report on such study to the Congress of Micronesia by October 31, 1975; and for other purposes.

H.J.R. No. 6-28:

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

Requesting the Director of the Department of Transportation and

Communications to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a Micronesian maritime academy and to submit his recommendations and findings to the Congress of Micronesia by October 31, 1975.

H.R. No. 6-10:

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

Expressing sincere appreciation and thanks to the Director, staff and students of the Micronesian Occupational Center for their past and continued cooperation and support to district programs and projects in the Palau District.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker I have a few remarks to make.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE AAFIN

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker and members of the House: Today I would like to make a few remarks also about the Micronesian Claims Commission. This body is charged with compensating Micronesians whose property was damaged during World War II, either by the Japanese or by the Americans. In addition, they are charged with compensating Micronesians whose property was damaged by the land clearing operations the U.S. Navy carried out after World War II.

It has come to my attention that based on reliable estimates made by the Micronesian Claims Commission that they will not have enough resources under Public Law 92-39 to compensate Micronesian claimants for 100 per cent of their claims. Instead, there are indications that claimants will be compensated for only 50 per cent or less of their approved claims. Mr. Speaker, and members of the House, this is deplorable and shocking. We did not ask to be invaded by either the Japanese or the Americans--but we were. We are merely seeking fair and just compensation for the wrongs committed upon our islanders.

At the present time, when a Micronesian files a claim, it is processed by the Micronesian Claims Commission and then a figure considered to be monetarily equivalent to the quantum of damages suffered is arrived at. This figure is not, however, the amount awarded to the claimant; instead, the claimant is awarded a mere 16 per cent of the agreed upon amount. At the same time, however, he is required to execute an agreement relinquishing any further claim against the United States and Japan regardless of the amount of his adjudicated claim he finally receives.

Mr. Speaker and members of the House, this is not justice. When an American citizen brings a suit against the United States government in the United States court of claims and it is determined that he is legally entitled to receive an amount of money, rarely is the agreed-upon amount not awarded to him. I believe the policy of the Micronesian Claims Commission should be comparable. They should award 100 per cent of the amount a claimant is entitled to receive. Americans pride themselves upon a saying that their country is "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." I believe that this noble and humanitarian concept should be applied to those Micronesians who have suffered the ravages of World War II and its aftermath.

Mr. Speaker, members of the House and fellow Micronesians, I call upon the United States Congress to listen to our pleas in this area of paramount concern to many of our countrymen. Treat us like the Indians of Alaska have been treated under the Native Settlement Claims Act and make our people whole--100 per cent whole--as the Indians of Alaska were made whole under the Native Settlement Claims Act. This can be done by amending Public Law 92-39, Section 104(c) to provide for 100 per cent compensation of claims approved by the Micronesian Claims Commission and by amending Public Law 93-131, Section 2, so as to provide for full compensation.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I intend in the next few days to introduce a resolution to this effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Domnick: Point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to recognize the presence of District Administrator Leo Falcam from Ponape District.

I would also like the House to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Scott Stege. Mr. Stege was counsel to the Congress in the last session.

(Representative Rasa took his seat.)

Rep. Bigler: Mr. Speaker, may I have the floor? I have rather long remarks to make, and I ask the fellow Congressmen to bear with me.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE BIGLER

Rep. Bigler Mr. Speaker and fellow Congressmen:

This is my first speech in the House of Representatives, and I want you to know that I don't intend to make many. But when I do, it will be on a subject which I feel is of great importance to Micronesia and to my constituents, and so I ask you to listen and to ponder my thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, this is also the first speech to have been given by a female member of the Congress. I feel honored, humbled, and somewhat apprehensive that my constituents have chosen me as the first woman to hold a position of national leadership in Micronesia. It is a responsibility which weighs heavily on me. But I must pause to say that I hope that I am not the last. Women should begin taking an active role in Micronesian politics. Women comprise half of our population and therefore half of our brains and talent. This particular human resource should not be wasted.

Mr. Speaker, the subject of my speech is revenue sharing. I am aware that this subject has caused great controversy and raised antagonisms on many occasions. I do not intend to add to that controversy by the use of shrill rhetoric, nor will I shrink from controversy if that is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, Revenue Sharing is an idea whose time has come. We have all admitted as much by the enactment of Public Law 5-91 during the recent special session of Congress. The only issue now is how much--what share of the tax money should be returned to the districts. On that subject, Mr. Speaker, I am a cosignatory and firm supporter of House Bill No. 6 61 which would return 50 per cent of the wages, salaries and gross receipts tax to the districts.

In fiscal year 1974, Mr. Speaker, the Trust Territory wages, salaries and gross receipts tax generated \$3,700,000 in revenue; \$2,110,000, or 57 per cent of which came from the Marshall Islands District. But, Mr. Speaker, that disproportionate share of revenue comes hand-in-hand with a disproportionate share of problems. That money comes to us with many strings attached, and at a tremendous cost and hardship to my people. The reason is that much of our revenue comes from military spending in the Marshall Islands, and military spending sometimes brings with it catastrophic effects on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, many Micronesians speak of the abuse suffered at the hands of the U.S. Military. But with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, it is not the Micronesian people who have suffered from the military, it is the Marshallese people.

Mr. Speaker, it was not the people of Mokil who were involuntarily dispossessed from their atoll--it was the people of Eniwetok.

Mr. Floor Leader, it was not the people of Yap who had their islands totally obliterated by 33 nuclear explosions--it was the people of Bikini.

Mr. Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, it is not the people of Lukunor who are ravaged by radiation-related diseases--it is the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

Mr. Chairman of the Judiciary and Governmental Relations Committee, it is not the people of Koror who have been dislocated from their homes and forced to live in a squalid dreadful slum --it is the people of Ebeye.

The military has given us money, but they have also given us tremendous social problems. We need money to try and help solve some of these problems--to try to help the people of Bikini and Eniwetok rebuild and regain their home islands and return to a more normal life after more than 20 years of forced exile--to provide medical care to the many people of Rongelap and Utirik suffering from life-long radiation caused injuries--to help the people of Ebeye to create a livable community out of a densely populated, disease-ridden slum.

Mr. Speaker, problems resulting from the presence of the American military are unique to my district, and therefore are ones which we must bear alone. But, Mr. Speaker, there are many problems which we have which we share with all of you to a greater or lesser degree. But for a variety of reasons, even those problems seem more acute in my district.

One basic problem that we have is lack of attention from the Trust Territory Government and, I am sad to say, sometimes from the Congress of Micronesia as well. This lack of attention seems to be related to the American saying "out of sight, out of mind." Sometimes it seems that the Marshall Islands are so far out of sight that our needs and problems completely slip the minds of Saipan bureaucrats. Henry Kissinger said in referring to Micronesians, "There are only 90,000 of them. Who gives a damn?" We are all repelled by that statement and the arrogant thinking which is capable of producing it. And yet to we Marshallese, it sometimes seems that that attitude, if not those exact words, are applied to us. "They are only Marshallese. Who gives a damn?"

We Micronesians have the burden of forming ourselves into a modern and free society. We are all groping for ways in which to do that. Our fundamental problem in this respect is the stranglehold of economic dependence upon the United States. None of us can be truly free politically, until we are self-sufficient economically. As long as we are dependent on U.S. money to survive, we must trade our political freedom and land to get it.

Economic self-sufficiency requires capital for development and it requires resources. Mr. Speaker, none of us in Micronesia are resource rich. But we in the Marshall Islands are true resource paupers. We have nothing. We have almost no land. Our total land area is only 70 square miles, as compared to 190 for Palau and 175 for Ponape, for example. There are 358 people for every square mile of Marshallese land as compared to 67 per square mile in Palau and 78 in the Mariana Islands. The net effect of our resource-barren islands is that it is going to take more capital and imagination for us to become economically self-sufficient than it is for any of the other districts. Mr. Speaker, the Marshallese people--the women if not the men--can supply the imagination, and you and my other fellow Congressmen can supply part of the capital by supporting 50 per cent revenue sharing.

Mr. Speaker, our transportation problems are as great or greater than any of yours. We have more than 1,200 islets formed together into 31 atolls and low islands scattered over a huge area. Our population is widely dispersed over most of these atolls and low islands. Serving all of these islands is a complicated and expensive task. Let me mention a couple of examples. The people living on Ujelang are the dispossessed people of Eniwetok. Ujelang Atoll is not capable of supporting their population, thereby making them dependent upon food imported from the district center. And yet, at one point, a ship had not called at Ujelang for more than one year, causing near starvation and forcing the people to eat the roots of Pandanus trees for nourishment. That was 1968. Today our problems are just as acute, if less dramatic. For example, the price of copra has been very high in the past few months. But our people cannot take advantage of this opportunity, simply because we lack ships to

pick up the copra to sell it before the price drops. Mr. Speaker, we need 50 per cent revenue sharing, among other reasons, just so we can bring the quality of our shipping service up to the standard of the rest of Micronesia.

Mr. Speaker, our educational system in the Marshall Islands is the poorest in Micronesia, in both quality of instruction and facilities. This fact has been recognized by the Congress of Micronesia in House Joint Resolution No. 42, adopted by the Second Regular Session of the Third Congress, which declared the Marshall Islands an "educational disaster."

We are in a vicious self-destructive cycle which can't be broken. Our schools are of poor quality. Yet it is at those schools that our teachers get their instruction. As a consequence, our teachers are poorly educated--perpetuating the cycle for another generation. Mr. Speaker, we need 50 per cent revenue sharing to bring the level of our education system equal to that of the rest of Micronesia.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on. The fact is that the Marshall Islands are less developed and have less potential than the other districts. We are not trying to surpass you in our level of development. We are merely trying to catch up.

Our insistence upon 50 per cent revenue sharing is simply an attempt to have returned to us money which belongs to us, and which we need much more than you do. In Fiscal Year 1974, the total revenue generated in Micronesia was \$3,716,766. Without revenue generated in the Marshall Islands, it would have been only \$1,606,557, or less than half. We are willing to share half of our revenue with you, and frankly we feel that you should at least be content with our offering, if not grateful. We contribute a gift to Micronesia of more than one million dollars per year, and yet the Congress of Micronesia insists that our gift is too small, that we should continue to give you \$2,000,000 per year. We feel that that is impolite, selfish and unreasonable.

Mr. Speaker, I want more than anything to avoid the antagonism which has marked debate on this issue in the past--antagonism which is driving a wedge between us--striking a mortal blow to the dream of a United Micronesia. So let us reason together. Let us solve this problem in the spirit of harmony and good-will. Revenue sharing will return more revenue to the Marshall Islands than to any other district. But, Mr. Speaker and fellow Congressmen, I plead with you to recognize the simple fact that through a combination of abuse by the military and neglect by the government, we need that money.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative Aafin moved for a short recess; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote. The Speaker declared the House recessed at 3:45 p.m., subject to the call of the chair.

The House reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

Speaker Henry: Is there any more miscellaneous business?

Floor Leader Tman: It might be of interest to fair Congresslady Bigler that today I just introduced a bill on revenue sharing.

Representative Setik: May I ask that we hear the text of the measure?

Floor Leader Tman: Never mind.

Speaker Henry: It will be published, and members will be able to read it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Moses: Your Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker, will have a meeting after the meeting today of the Chairman of the House Standing Committees.

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind the members of your Committee on Appropriations that there will be a public hearing tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. on House Bill No. 6-24, and at 10:00 a.m. on House Bill No. 6-66. I believe, for the information of the Chairman of Resources and Development, that the hearing on House Bill No. 6-35, House Bill No. 6-36 and House Bill No. 6-49 will follow, at 10:30 a.m., in the House Chamber.

Rep. Nakamura: Your Committee on Health Matters will have an executive meeting tomorrow in the library between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. I ask all members to attend.

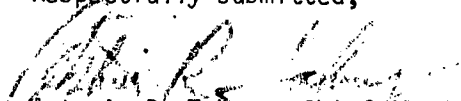
Rep. Haruo: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask members of your Committee on Resources and Development to check their notice of public hearing, and I urge that members of the committee attend the public hearing tomorrow as scheduled in the notice.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the members of your committee that we will have a meeting with Dr. Ramana from the Asian Institute of Economic Development and Planning on Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m. in this Chamber--with the Senate.

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, may I request that right after the session this afternoon, all Standing Committee Chairmen meet with the Speaker, the Vice Speaker, Asterio, and myself--right here in the Chamber, for a very short meeting.

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 3:55 p.m., until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,


Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives