

(CONGRESS MID-WAY POINT)

1975

SAIPAN, FEB. 6 (MNS)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REACHED THE HALF-WAY POINT OF ITS CURRENT SESSION ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (FEB. 6).

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TWO BILLS WERE FILED IN THE HOUSE AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. ONE OF THEM IS A MEASURE TO CREATE A MORTGAGE LAW IN MICRONESIA BY STATUTE AND PERMIT FOREIGN INVESTORS TO HOLD MORTGAGE (HB6-27). EXISTING CASE LAW RECOGNIZES THE MORTGAGE AS "A BINDING LEGAL AGREEMENT AND ENFORCES THEM ON A CASE-BY CASE BASIS," THE COMMITTEE STATED. THE MAJOR CHANGE THE BILL WOULD MAKE, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, IS THAT IT WOULD FORMALIZE THE MORTGAGE PROCESS, SIMPLIFY IT, PERMIT AND ENCOURAGE THE WIDESPREAD USE OF MORTGAGES, AND WOULD PERMIT FOREIGN INVESTORS TO ACQUIRE MORTGAGE INTEREST IN REAL ESTATE.

THE BANK OF HAWAII, BANK OF AMERICA, AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FAVORED THE BILL BUT WITH A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT IN FAVOR BECAUSE PROVISIONS IN THE BILL WERE VAGUE AND IN SOME CASES CONTRADICTORY. THE BILL PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION FOR LAND OWNERS AND THAT BECAUSE EACH DISTRICT HAS A DISTINCT AND UNIQUE LAND TENURE PATTERN, "THAT A MORTGAGE LAW SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALLY TAILORED FOR EACH DISTRICT.

"THE REAL REASON FOR REJECTING THIS BILL IS OUR LAND," THE COMMITTEE EMPHASIZED, ADDING THAT THE MORTGAGE LAW IS PREMATURE "AT THIS TIME."

THE OTHER BILL THAT WAS FILED WAS A BILL TO RAISE THE USURY LIMIT IN MICRONESIA FROM ONE PERCENT PER MONTH TO ONE AND A HALF PERCENT, (HB 6-28). REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE COMMERCIAL BANKS THAT TESTIFIED AT THE HEARINGS BEFORE THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WERE IN FAVOR OF RAISING THE USURY RATE BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY NEED MORE CAPITAL TO MEET LOCAL LOAN DEMAND IN MICRONESIA, BUT ADMITTED AN INCREASE IN THE USURY LIMIT WOULD EFFECT AN INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES ON LOANS ~~IN~~ MICRONESIA.

THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT A RAISE IN THE USURY LIMIT RESULTING IN INCREASED INTEREST RATES IS NOT "DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME". THE COMMITTEE FURTHER DISAGREED WITH THE ARGUMENTS OF THE BANKING REPRESENTATIVES THAT THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT DEPOSITS IN MICRONESIA TO MEET LOCAL LOAN DEMAND, BECAUSE "PRIVATE DEPOSITS AND DEPOSITS BY THE TT GOVERNMENT" *MAKES ENOUGH FUNDS* AVAILABLE TO MEET THE LOAN DEMAND IN MICRONESIA.

"MICRONESIANS CANNOT AFFORD A RAISE IN INTEREST RATES ON LOANS AT THIS TIME," CONTINUED THE COMMITTEE. "...WE FEEL THAT THERE IS SO LITTLE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE BANKS IN MICRONESIA THAT RAISING THE USURY LIMIT, THUS PERMITTING AN INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES, WOULD PROVIDE A DANGEROUS TEMPTATION FOR THE BANKS TO CONSPIRE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO MAINTAIN UNNECESSARILY INFLATED INTEREST RATES." THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CONCLUDED IN ITS REPORT TO FILE THE BILL.

IN OTHER HOUSE ACTION, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY TRUK REP. RAYMOND SETIK REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE SENATE AMENDMENTS ON SEVERAL HOUSE BILLS SENT TO THE SENATE. THUS, A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WILL BE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE BILL.

ELEVEN BILLS, EIGHT OF THEM APPROPRIATION MEASURES, WERE SUBMITTED. THE APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDE: \$150,000 FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING ON MOEN ISLAND, TRUK DISTRICT, (HB6-173); \$50,000 TO CONSTRUCT TWO FERRY BOATS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUK LAGOON, (HB6-174); \$25,000 TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL CHANNEL MARKERS IN THE OUTLYING ISLANDS OF TRUK (HB6-175); \$250,000 FOR ROAD PAVING ON MOEN ISLAND IN TRUK, (HB6-176); 510,770 FOR THE

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OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE, (HB6-177); \$673,026 FOR THE OPERATIONS AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, (HB6-178); \$60,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRADITIONAL CAROLINIAN COMMUNITY HALL IN GARAPAN VILLAGE, SAIPAN, (HB6-179); AND \$50,000 FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING STUDY OF THE PELELIU SEA TRANSPORT BASE ON THE ISLAND OF PELELIU IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB6-181).

THE OTHER THREE BILLS WOULD: AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF USE OF SHORE LANDS AND PROHIBIT CONSTRUCTION OF MOTELS, HOTELS, OR OTHER HIGH RESEBUILDINGS WITHIN 100 FEET FROM ANY PUBLIC BEACHES, TIDAL AREAS AND RIVERS, (HB6-180); PROVIDE FOR TAX INCENTIVES FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AIRSERVICES, (HB6-182); AND AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATIVE TO THE PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES (HB6-183).

FOUR JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ALSO INTRODUCED. THEY ARE: REQUESTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND URGE THE U.S. CONGRESS TO AMEND THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS ACT OF 1971 SO THAT RIGHTFUL CLAIMANTS MAY BE COMPENSATED IN FULL ONCE THE MERITS OF THEIR CASE HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED, (HJR 6-39); DIRECTING THE TT DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL TO RAISE THE PAY LEVEL OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS IN THE TT, (HJR 6-40); REQUESTING THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE TO NEGOTIATE AND OBTAIN FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE TT THE SAME TRAVEL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS ARE ACCORDED TO THE U.S. CITIZENS WHEN TRAVELING ABROAD, (HJR 6-41); URGING THE HICOM TO PROVIDE IN BOTH THE ANNUAL TT BUDGET FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBDISTRICT CENTER IN THE FAICHUK AREA OF THE TRUK LAGOON, (HJR 6-42); AND REQUESTING THE COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES MARIANAS TO RESTORE ITS EMERGENCY AIR EVACUATION OPERATIONS IN THE ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-43).

IN THE SENATE THURSDAY (FEB. 6) THE SENATORS ENGAGED IN A LENGTHY DEBATE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD TO INVEST ITS MONEYS IN DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (SR 6-1), BEFORE DEFERRING ACTION ON THE MEASURE. MARIANAS SENATORS PEDRO A. TENORIO AND OLYMPIO T. BORJA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, NOTING THAT THERE IS A "LACK OF FUNDS FOR THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES" AND THAT, IF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FOLLOWED THE REQUEST, APPROXIMATELY \$900,000 WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES.

WHILE SENATORS LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), AMELOS IEHSI (PONAPE) AND THOSE FROM YAP, SENATORS JOHN MANGEFEL AND PETRUS TUN, AGREED THAT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS A NECESSITY, THEY WERE APPPOSED TO USING SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE. SEN. IEHSI COMMENTED, "CONGRESS SHOULD APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, BUT LET'S NOT MESS AROUND WITH SOCIAL SECURITY MONEY."

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO SENATE BILLS RELATING TO THE SAME TOPIC IN THE CONGRESS FOR CONSIDERATION, (SB 6-5 AND 6-59).

IN OTHER SENATE ACTION THURSDAY SEVEN BILLS, INCLUDING THE BUDGETS FOR THE HOUSE AND SENATE, ONE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION AND ONE SENATE RESOLUTION WERE INTRODUCED. THE BILLS WOULD: APPROPRIATE \$673,026 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE HOUSE, (SB 6-102); APPROPRIATE \$510,770 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE, (SB 6-103); APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A POWER GENERATOR FOR THE BELAU MODEKNGEI SCHOOL IN PALAU, (SB 6-104); EARMARK \$28,700 TO DEFRAY EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS (SB 6-105); A NATURALIZATION MEASURE, **13538** (SB 6-106); AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-108 RELATING TO USE BY ROTA AND TINIAN OF CERTAIN HEAVY EQUIPMENT

ON THEIR RESPECTIVE ISLANDS, (SB 6-107); AND AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TITLE 73 OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS, (SB 6-108).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED WOULD REQUEST THE HICOM, THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER OF THE TT AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING TO PROVIDE FUNDING FROM THE TT BUDGET FOR THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN PONAPE, (SJR 6-18).

THE SOLE SENATE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED REQUESTS THE U.S. CONGRESS TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 92-257 AND REQUESTS THE HICOM TO AMEND HIS PLAN FOR THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE TT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND TO ALLOW LOANS TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES SUCH AS THE SIX DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (SR 6-2).

THE SENATE WILL RECONVENE AT 4:00, AND THE HOUSE AT 3:00, ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 7).

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(IEHSI CALLS FOR REFERENDUM)

SAIPAN, FEB. 6 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR AMBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE GAVE REMARKS THIS WEEK IN THE SENATE CALLING UPON HIS COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION CALLING FOR A MICRONESIA-WIDE REFERENDUM ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS ISSUE.

IEHSI SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS THE ISSUANCE OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2969; SECESSION SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS DISTRICTS; THE UPCOMING MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; AND THE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE CREATED "CONFUSION IN THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE," THUS THE MANDATE WHICH CONGRESS HAS "SHOULDERED" IN THE LAST TEN YEARS AND DURING ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES "APPEARS NOW TO BE UNCLEAR."

HE ALSO SAID THAT THIS CONFUSION IS SUPPORTED BY THE FINDINGS OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS WHICH VISITED THE SIX DISTRICTS IN 1973.

THUS, ACCORDING TO IEHSI, THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE FOR EVERY MICRONESIAN "TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS BY ANSWERING FOUR BASIC QUESTIONS IN EITHER THE AFFIRMATIVE OR NEGATIVE AND ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING WHETHER: "1) SHALL ALL SIX DISTRICTS ~~W~~ PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION AS ONE BODY POLITIC? 2) SHALL ALL SIX DISTRICTS AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED JOINTLY SEEK FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT? 3) SHALL EACH DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY SEPARATELY NEGOTIATE THE TERMINATION OF ITS TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT GOVERNING MICRONESIA? 4) SHALL THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE FOR AN EARLY TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT GOVERNING MICRONESIA?"

IEHSI ALSO NOTED THAT THE INTENT OF THE BILL IS TO "AVOID FURTHER CONFUSION IN THE MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE, AND TO CLARIFY THE ISSUES ONCE AND FOR ALL...."

SENATOR IEHSI CONCLUDED THAT THE REFERENDUM "WILL GIVE US THE CONFIDENCE THAT THIS IS WHAT OUR PEOPLE WANT AND NO ONE OUTSIDE OF MICRONESIA CAN 'DENY' THAT WHAT WE ARE WORKING FOR IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PEOPLE'S DESIRE."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(TENORIO ADDRESSES MANAGEMENT SEMINAR)

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SAIPAN, FEB. 6 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY AND ALL OTHER SECTORS RELATED TO ITS FUTURE RESTS IN THE HANDS OF MICRONESIAN, ACCORDING TO SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO OF THE MARIANAS.

TENORIO GAVE THESE REMARKS WHILE ADDRESSING A DALE CARNEGIE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR TRURSDAY MORNING (FEB. 6) CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT SAIPAN'S CONTINENTAL HOTEL AND SPONSORED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY'S DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE SENATOR PREFACED HIS REMARKS ON A QUOTE MADE FAMOUS BY THE LATE PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITY: "THE BUCK STOPS HERE," NOTING THAT "...THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF BUCK-PASSING DURING THE LAST 30 YEARS OF AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION" IN MICRONESIA.

TENORIO PRESENTED SOME PLAIN FACTS FACING MICRONESIA SUCH AS: 1) MORE THAN HALF OF MICRONESIA'S POPULATION ARE UNDER THE AGE OF FIFTEEN; 2) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW STATUS FOR MICRONESIA IN A FEW YEARS; 3) U.S. FINANCIAL AID TO MICRONESIA WILL DECREASE IN THE FUTURE; AND 4) THE PRESENT REVENUE BASE IS INADEQUATE AND WILL INEVITABLY DECREASE. HE ASKED WHAT CAN MICRONESIANS DO TO SOLVE SUCH PROBLEMS.

TENORIO SAID THAT IT IS HIS OPINION THAT "IN THE SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS THE BUCK STOPS WITH THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY" FOR IT IS ITS "RESPONSIBILITY" TO DEVELOP MICRONESIA FOR "NATIONHOOD, AND ALL THAT IMPLIES; FOR EXAMPLE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AN ECONOMY WHICH IS MAINLY SELF-SUSTAINING, AND WHICH IS MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY A COMPETENTLY TRAINED MICRONESIAN WORK FORCE."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR SAID THAT THE BUCK "NOT ONLY STOPS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BUT IT ALSO STOPS WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION, FOR IT IS THIS ADMINISTRATION AND THE PEOPLE WHO STAFF IT--BOTH AMERICANS AND MICRONESIANS--WHO MUST DO THE DAILY WORK AND MAKE THE DAY DECISIONS AND EFFORTS WHICH WILL MOVE MICRONESIA FORWARD."

TENORIO MENTIONED THAT THE BUCK ALSO STOPS WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. HE SAID "IT MUST BE THE CONGRESS WHICH SETS GOALS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SPECIFIC AREAS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, MARINE RESOURCES, TOURISM, AND GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION PARTICULAR DISTRICT NEEDS AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS..." AND FOR IT TO HAVE ANY MEANING FOR THE PEOPLE, THEN IT "MUST BE SHAPED ACCORDING TO THEIR WISHES, AND NOT IMPOSED FROM ABOVE."

AND LASTLY, THE SENATOR SAID THE BUCK FINALLY STOPS WITH THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA PARTICULARLY "THOSE MICRONESIANS AT ALL LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PRESENT IN THIS SEMINAR." HE INDICATED THAT FOR TOO MANY YEARS MICRONESIANS HAVE PERMITTED OTHERS TO RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND THUS HAVE DEVELOPED THE ATTITUDE THAT OTHERS SHOULD "PROVIDE SOLUTIONS AND HARD WORK NEEDED" TO SOLVE MANY OF MICRONESIA'S PROBLEMS.

THIS MUST CHANGE, HE INDICATED, SAYING THAT "WE CAN, WE SHOULD, AND WE WILL DIRECT OUR OWN FUTURE."

AFTER PRAISING THE PRACTICAL NATURE OF THE SEMINAR WHICH TEACHES PARTICIPANTS HOW TO ACTUALLY BEGIN, MANAGE AND MONITOR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, HE URGED HIS LISTENERS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF WHAT THEY LEARNED AND THAT LATER ON "WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH, YOU HAVE ONLY TO THINK OF MICRONESIA'S FUTURE TO INSPIRE YOUR BEST EFFORTS FOR OUR PEOPLE.

"THE BUCK, THEN, REALLY STOPS TODAY WITH YOU, AND ME. DO NOT PASS IT ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION. LET US TAKE IT AND MAKE THE DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA WITH THE FIRMNESS, WITH RESOLUTION, AND WITH AN UNDERSTANDING AND INSPIRATION THAT ONLY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA CAN HAVE", HE CONCLUDED.

(THOMAS APPOINTED SPECIAL ED. COORDINATOR)

SAIPAN, FEB. 6 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DAVID PAMARUI ANNOUNCED THE PROMOTION OF ELSA H. **13540** THOMAS, OF PONAPE, TO THE POSITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2, 1975.

THOMAS, 33, HAS BEEN THE ASSISTANT SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR SINCE OCTOBER 1973 WHEN HE CAME TO HEADQUARTERS AFTER TEACHING IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA FOR TWO YEARS.

HE EARNED HIS B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY FROM THE COLLEGE OF GUAM
IN 1968 AND COMPLETED HIS MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL
EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON IN 1973.

THOMAS GRADUATED FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL
IN PONAPE IN 1972.

THOMAS AND HIS WIFE DELY HAVE THREE SONS AND A DAUGHTER
AND THEY RESIDE IN GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.