

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY

Friday, February 7, 1975

The House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 3:20 p.m., Friday, February 7, 1975.

Speaker Bethwel Henry presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Chief Clerk called the roll. Twenty members were present; Representative Rudimch was excused.

The Speaker suspended reading of the Journal.

COMMUNICATIONS

No High Commissioner Communications were reported.

No Departmental Communications were reported.

No Senate Communications were reported.

Miscellaneous Communication:

Chief Clerk: Mr. Speaker, we have a Miscellaneous Communication from the Rotary Club of Saipan, as follows:

"Dear Mr. Speaker:

"As part of its fund raising activities for scholarship, community projects, and this year's Liberation Day festivities, the Rotary Club of Saipan is sponsoring a Las Vegas Night tomorrow, February 8, at the Royal Taga Hotel. The "casino" will open at 7:30 in the evening and will run through two in the morning.

"On behalf of the Rotary Club of Saipan, I extend to you and the members and staff of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia, our cordial invitation to participate in this fund raising activity."

(Signed by Elias Okamura, President)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None

ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Clerk called attention to Referral Sheet No. 17 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures introduced on Thursday, February 6, 1975. The following Senate Bill was also assigned:

S.B. No. 6-76, SD1:

Creating a Micronesian Delegation to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference; prescribing its duties and functions; and for other purposes.

*P. 154*  
*Setik re JOTA*  
*memo to*  
*Amb*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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. (deferred from February 3, 1975)

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, I have a short remark to make regarding the report, if I may have permission.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

## REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE SETIK

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, the members of the House received copies of two reports of the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning. The first is on the supplemental budget request for Fiscal Year 1975. The second is on the Fiscal Year 1976 budget request. These two reports were prepared in August of 1974, and were based on information that was available at that time. The recommendations of the Joint Committee are contained in these two reports. I would, however, like to bring you up to date on the current status of our budget.

We now have an authorization ceiling for Fiscal Year 1975 of \$60 million. Legislation is now pending before the United States Congress to increase our authorization ceiling from the present level for Fiscal Year 1975 to \$75 million. We have no way of knowing if this legislation will pass or not. Hearings will be held on this matter in early March in Washington, D.C. If we do have our ceiling raised to \$75 million, then we must go before the Appropriations Committees in the United States Congress to get the actual appropriation. The three major items in the supplemental request are about \$4 million for increased fuel and operating costs, \$8 million for four new inter-island ships, and \$1 million for the Yap Hospital. At the present time we have no idea whether we will get these funds or not.

At this time we have no authorization ceiling for Fiscal Year 1976. We have requested \$80 million for Fiscal Year 1976. It is also uncertain whether or not we will get this ceiling--or, if we do get it, whether the United States Congress will appropriate the full amount. As you can see from the report, very little is known about our budgets for Fiscal Years 1975 and 1976. Further, the budget which was submitted to the United States Congress by the President of the United States for Fiscal Year 1976 eliminated our request for \$1,778,000 to pay for the pay increases of our government employees as required by Micronesian law. Therefore, in order to pay these annual step increases, we will have to eliminate \$1,778,000 of other programs. I feel that the Congress of Micronesia should be aware of this fact when the new pay plan comes up for review.

In conclusion, all we know is that we do not know much about our budgets for the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, I have a copy of a communication here with me (it has no date on it) from Acting Director of Territorial Affairs, Mr. Rice, to Ambassador Williams of the Micronesian Status Negotiations, which presents the problem that has currently happened in Washington, D.C. The \$15 million request included some vitally-needed programs which have been deleted from the proposed legislation introduced by Senator Jackson. Senate Bill No. 326 (which eliminated the vitally-needed field trip ships) reduced the amount from \$15 million to \$5,650,000. I wish to insert this for the record, Mr. Speaker, since this is the current development.

## MEMORANDUM FROM ACTING DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS

"To: Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations

"Subject: Status of TT authorization and Marianas transition legislation

"On Thursday, January 23, 1975, Senator Jackson introduced S. 326, with accompanying comments appearing at page S702 of the Congressional Record, which would provide for a supplemental authorization for \$5,650,000 for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. No provision is made for FY '76. The Department's original request was for a supplemental of \$15 million for FY '75 and a total of \$80 million for FY '76. The Senate Bill would provide \$500,000 for fuel and supplies for powerplants and inter-island ships; \$1,484,000 for the Yap hospital; and \$166,000 for dispensary matching funds. Cut from the Department's original proposal is \$8,055,000 for island ships; \$150,000 for development planning; \$945,000 for TRANSPAC deficit and \$200,000 for architecture and engineering. I have been told that the bill will receive fast action in the Senate without further hearings. And, that the Interior proposed FY '75 items and FY '76 funds not included in the Senate bill will be considered in the March oversight hearings on the Trust Territory. S. 326 is in the nature of emergency legislation, according to Mr. James Beirne, Senate Interior Committee.

"Regarding the \$1.5 million authorization for Marianas transition, Beirne stated that the matter was currently on Jackson's desk. He indicated that the only decision Jackson will make is whether the \$1.5 million shall be subsequently attached to the Trust Territory authorization S. 326 or shall be made a separate bill. There is no reason to worry about lack of action in the Senate Committee, Beirne stated.

"S. 326 is Senator Jackson's own bill and does not reflect the position of the Department. The Department's proposal (now on its way to OMB) includes \$75 million for FY '75, \$80 million for FY '76, \$79 million for FY '77 and \$1.5 million for Marianas transition. FY '77 has been added to this year's proposal because it appears that, due to delay in reaching agreement with the Joint Committee on the Future Political Status of Micronesia, FY '77 will drop from Stage II into Stage I. Also the new budget law requires that all proposed FY '77 authorizations be submitted to Congress by May 15, 1975.

"We have requested expedited treatment of the Departmental request by OMB. However, even assuming the worst (that the Departmental proposal never reaches the Congress,) the fact that the \$1.5 million transition money is included in S. 326 or other Senate passed legislation will be sufficient to place the issue before the House of Representatives. No House hearings need be held on the transition authorization since there is sufficient hearing record from the last Congress. Thus action may be taken by Congress on the Marianas transition authorization with or without the revised Departmental bill. However, we hope to have the Departmental bill before the Congress shortly."

(Signed by Emmett M. Rice)

Chairman Setik moved that the House adopt Special Committee Report No. 6-8; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

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. (deferred from February 3, 1975)

Chairman Setik moved that the House adopt Special Committee Report No. 6-9; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Special Committee Report No. 6-11, submitted by Danko Koludrovic, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP - Bangkok, Thailand, through the Joint Committee on Resources and Development, re Advisory Services Report to Congress of Micronesia on the Shipping, Ports and Related Facilities. (deferred from yesterday's Calendar)

Chairman Haruo moved that the House further defer action on the report; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

## BILL CALENDAR

None

## RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 6-184:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$26,514 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to support the operation of the Truk Youth Services Bureau, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-185:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Appropriations

Appropriating \$60,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the improvement and paving of the back road between Municipal District No. 1 and Dr. Torres Hospital, Municipality of Saipan, Mariana Islands District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-186:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero  
Assigned to: Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for the acquisition, construction, establishment and improvement of telephone, sewer, light and water systems and other public improvements on Saipan Island, Mariana Islands District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-187:

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

To amend Section 6 of Public Law No. 5-60 regarding the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-188:

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

To amend 73 T.T.C. Sections 3(3), 101(1) (2), 104(3) and Section 105; to extend coverage of the Social Security System to all persons working for Trust Territory employers; and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-189:

Introduced by: Rep. Mafnas  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations/  
Appropriations

To appropriate \$15,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to defray administrative operating expenses in the municipality of Rota, Mariana Islands District.

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House at this time.

Speaker Henry: Representative Mafnas, you have the floor.

## REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE MAFNAS

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues:

I am very much aware of the pending House Resolution calling for a moratorium on speeches on the floor, however, I feel that the bill I am introducing today is of great importance to all Micronesians. It is important that this Congress act now to resolve the grievances of our people throughout Micronesia.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am referring to the present abominable wage and salary scales of our people.

I have been informed that a Task Force on Salaries and Rising Cost of Living created by the administration is presently working and evaluating the existing salary scales of Micronesian employees.

I have also been informed that the task force's recommendations will be submitted to this Congress during this session. One might conclude that this bill I am introducing today is rather premature in nature and timing since the Congress has yet to study the task force's reports and recommendations.

Should the general feeling of this Congress be that the bill is premature, I find it hard to believe that the reports and recommendations by the task force will be realistic and in conformity to our needs. I am willing to resign and surrender my seat in the Congress of Micronesia if I am proven wrong.

Mr. Speaker, at the early stage of our session, we generally agreed that with the limited funds available both in the Congress of Micronesia and the Administration, economic development and other capital improvement programs should be the high priority this year. For the record, I am in support of this concept one hundred per cent. However, I strongly feel that we should not, and must not, allow ourselves to overlook the fact that while money is being expended in economic development and other community projects, our people are suffering due to the small amount of money they bring home to feed their families.

Mr. Speaker, how important is economic development and capital improvement programs compared to feeding our stomachs? What value is there in improving the conditions of our roads, schools, basketball courts, auditoriums, community or social halls when our children are not receiving proper, adequate and nutritious food because their daddies are not earning enough to provide them with these necessities. What good is there in buying big ships and cargo vessels to import goods and commodities when only small numbers of our people can afford the bloody, inflated prices? What good is there in building more schools when our children are going to classes in most instances with deflated, contracted, if not empty stomachs? What good is there in encouraging foreign investors to build more hotels and apartments on our islands in order to beautify Micronesia to attract tourism when in reality our "kitchen economy" is nothing more than empty pots and pans. What good is it for this Congress to be passing laws and resolutions when we are failing our peoples' needs at home.

Mr. Speaker, I condemn the present salary system. I condemn those who were responsible for its passage. And I condemn those who tolerate the existing salary system.

I ask you this question:

Who introduced to our people the "cash economy"? Who introduced to the housewives at home the Westinghouse stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers? I defy and I dare anyone in this chamber to demand of a housewife to replace her electric stove with the traditional cooking stove. See how far you can get--most probably a slap on the face. Who introduced us to the western approach to life? I submit, Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, that the answers are very obvious.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but cite one good piece of legislation

introduced by one of my colleagues, but defeated on the floor. This legislation was the proposed mortgage law. Essentially, the reason for its defeat, in my personal opinion, is not because the landowners would be losing their lands, but rather it is because of the risk of not being able to pay their loans, which would involve having the title to their lands forfeited.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, I ask this Congress in the name of our children and fairness and justice to take action now. I urge this Congress to condemn the task force's report and recommendations if the salary scale remains below subsistence level. Thank you very much.

H.B. No. 6-190:

Introduced by: Rep. Mafnas (and eight others)  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

To prescribe minimum wage and overtime compensation standards for employees, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-191:

Introduced by: Rep. Tman (by request)  
Assigned to: Resources and Development/Appropriations

To appropriate the sum of \$28,700 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to defray expenses of the District Economic Development Boards, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-192:

Introduced by: Rep. Tman (by request)  
Assigned to: Education and Social Matters/Appropriations

Appropriating \$500,000 to supplement the loan funds of the Mariana Islands District Housing Authority.

#### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H.J.R. No. 6-45:

Introduced by: Rep. Tman (by request)

Confirming the nomination of Elias Okamura as Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

H.J.R. No. 6-46:

Introduced by: Rep. Henry  
Assigned to: Appropriations

Requesting the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, through the High Commissioner, to amend Secretarial Order No. 2918, as amended, to provide for two regular sessions each year for the Congress of Micronesia.

H.J.R. No. 6-47:

Introduced by: Rep. Tman (by request)

Confirming the nomination of Mitaro S. Danis as the District Administrator of Truk District.

H.R. No. 6-13:

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

Directing the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations to investigate and report to the House of Representatives the present policy of the Department of Personnel regarding the living quarters allowances for off-island employees and why one Loa Joab, an employee in the Division of Communications is being discriminated against when it comes to securing decent housing for his family.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Rep. Bigler: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the House to recognize the presence of Mrs. Mary Ramp, mother of Fred Ramp. I would also like the House to recognize the presence of Claudine Heine and Biram Stege, both from the Marshalls.

Rep. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to recognize the presence of one of our distinguished persons from Ponape who is in the Chamber today, the Director of the Community Action Agency, Mr. Edwel Santos.

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to recognize the presence of the President of the Senate of the Congress of Micronesia, Tosiwo Nakayama, and a member of the Senate, Nick Bossy, and also the Director of the Community Action Agency of Truk, Mr. Julio Akapito.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Nakamura: Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind all members of the Health Matters Committee that we will have a hearing at 5:00 p.m. today.

Rep. Sigrah: I wish to remind the members of your Committee on Education and Social Matters that we will have a public hearing starting from 9:00 tomorrow morning, continuing on until 1:00 tomorrow afternoon in this chamber. I wish to request that the members come prepared with questions so that we don't spend much time in considering the measures.

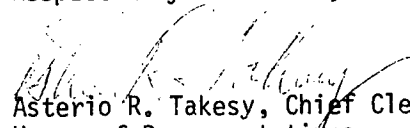
Representative Haruo moved for a short recess; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the Speaker declared the House recessed at 3:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 3:58 p.m.

Speaker Henry: Let me announce that, as I indicated yesterday, I appointed a conference committee to meet with the Senate conferees on House Bills No. 6-7, HD1, SD1; No. 6-26, HD1, SD1; and No. 6-68, SD1. The committee consists of the following members: Chairman of the conference committee is Congressman Setik, and members are Congressman Tman, Congressman Nakamura, and Congressman Mafnas. We have already informed the Senate of the appointments.

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 4:00 p.m., until 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 10, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives