

(CONGRESS 30TH DAY)

SAIPAN, FEB. 11 (MNS)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONTINUES TO MOVE SLOWLY IN TACKLING THE HUGE BACKLOG OF LEGISLATION IT FACES, AS IT ENTERS ITS THIRTIETH DAY OF THE CURRENT 50-DAY SESSION. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONLY ONE BILL PASSED SECOND READING AND WAS SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THE ONLY FLOOR ACTIVITY IN THE SENATE WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF THREE MEASURES. THERE WERE NO LEGISLATION UP FOR FINAL ACTION. 1975 files

PASSED BY THE HOUSE ON SECOND AND FINAL READING IS A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-58 TO LAPSE THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE REVENUE DIVISION ON MARCH 31, 1975, (HB 6-117). THE BILL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE HOUSE MEMBERS REFERRED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH VIEW TOWARDS SECURING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND TO VISIT SUCH COUNTRIES AND MEET WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ACHIEVE THESE ENDS, (HJR 6-25) TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ON A MOTION BY REPRESENTATIVE JOAD SIGRAH OF PONAPE.

THE INTRODUCED BILLS IN THE SENATE WERE: APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS TO SOPHIA UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO, JAPAN, (SB 6-127); REGARDING THE ELIGIBILITY OF FORMER CITIZENS OF THE TT TO OWN LAND IN THE TT, (SB 6-128); AND AN AMENDMENT MEASURE CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF NOMINEES BY THE NICOM TO THE COM UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE, (SB 6-129).

SEVEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE, FOUR OF THEM APPROPRIATION MEASURES OF: \$65,000 TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF GOALS FOR EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA, (HB 6-210); \$60,000 TO PURCHASE WATER PIPES, CEMENT AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEM FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF UH, NET, AND KOLONIA IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (HB 6-208); \$90,000 FOR DRY DOCKING, REPAIRING AND OPERATING COSTS OF THE MS PACIFICA, (HB 6-207); AND \$50,000 FOR THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF THE BAI-RA-METAL IN KOROR MUNICIPALITY, (HB 6-205).

THE OTHER THREE WOULD: PROVIDE CERTAIN BENEFITS TO ELIGIBLE DISADVANTAGED PERSONS, (HB 6-204); GRANT THE TRIAL DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT JURISDICTION TO DECIDE ELECTION CONTESTS, (HB 6-209); AND A MEASURE RELATING TO A DEPARTURE TAX, (HB 6-206).

THE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTS THE NICOM TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF RUNWAY LIGHTS AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR GODING FIELD ON BABELTHUAP ISLAND, IN PALAU, (HJR 6-50).

BOTH HOUSES STAND IN RECESS UNTIL WEDNESDAY (FEB. 12) WHEN IT WILL BE THE 31TH DAY.

(TRUK MISSION GETS NEW VESSEL)

TRUK, FEB. 11 (MNS)---A NEW VESSEL, A 64 FOOT STEEL HULL MOTOR SAILER KETCH, ARRIVED AT MOEN DOCK ON THURSDAY (FEB. 6) AFTER MAKING A HISTORIC 7,200-MILE VOYAGE FROM VANCOUVER, CANADA, VIA HAWAII, TO THE MARSHALLS AND FINALLY TO TRUK. THE BOAT IS FOR THE LIEBENZELL MISSION, A GERMAN PROTESTANT MISSION IN TRUK. 13555

THE TWO-YEAR OLD KETCH IS ACTUALLY A REPLACEMENT FOR THE FORMER BOAT CHEN NO. 1, WHICH TRAGICALLY GROUND ON THE REEF OF WEST FAUEU, YAP DISTRICT, IN AUGUST OF 1973. AS A RESULT, THE REPLACEMENT VESSEL IS CALLED CHEN NO. 2. (CHEN IS A TRUKESSE WORD MEANING LOVE OF GOD.)

BRINGING THE MOTOR-SAILING KETCH FROM VANCOUVER WAS CAPTAIN CRES KETCHUM AND FOUR CREW MEMBERS, WHO COMMENDED THE VESSEL FOR ITS FINE PERFORMANCE AND GREAT ENDURANCE DURING THE MANY GALES AND STORMS WHICH THEY ENCOUNTERED DURING THEIR VOYAGE. CAPTAIN KETCHUM SAID THAT AT TIMES THE WIND WHIPPED AS HIGH AS 75 KNOTS.

CAPTAIN KETCHUM, A CANADIAN BY BIRTH, IS NOT NEW TO THE MICRONESIAN ISLANDS. HE BROUGHT IN SEVERAL VESSELS FROM JAPAN, HONG KONG AND THE UNITED STATES, AND IN 1952 HE WAS THE CAPTAIN ON MORNING STAR NO. 6, STATIONED IN TRUK. HE LATER MOVED TO OKINAWA WHERE HE WORKED AS A CAPTAIN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IN THE LATE SIXTIES HE BROUGHT CHEN NO. 1 TO TRUK.

HIS MAIN OBJECTIVES HE NOTED, IS TO TRAIN MICRONESIANS IN NAVIGATION, MACHINERY, MAINTENANCE, AND HOW TO OPERATE A BOAT.

HEAD MINISTER PETER HERMEL SAID THAT THE NEW VESSEL WILL BE USED FOR MEETINGS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT. IT COULD ALSO BE USED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AND FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS.

(EPA ISSUED PERMITS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 11 (MS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD, DR. MASAO KUMANGAI, ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS ISSUED PERMITS FOR THE COAST GUARD, KWAJALEIN; PUBLIC WORKS, EBEBE; PUBLIC WORKS, MARIANAS; PUBLIC WORKS IN TRUK, PONAPE, PALAU AND YAP INCLUDING YAP HIGH SCHOOL TO DISCHARGE WASTEWATER INTO THE TRUST TERRITORY WATERS.

DR. KUMANGAI, ALSO THE TT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, SAID THAT THE PERMITS REQUIRE CERTAIN REQUIRED CLEANING OF THE WATER AND A CONTINUING SYSTEM TO CHECK THE CLEANLINESS OF THE WASTEWATER PASSING INTO THE LAGOONS.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT AIRED FOR AT LEAST FIVE DAYS. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CAME FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.)

(CEPB MEETING TO BE HELD ON SAIPAN)

SAIPAN, FEB. 11 (MNS)---THE CHIEF OF HEALTH SERVICES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION ANNOUNCED THAT THE ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MEETING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK BEGINNING ON TUESDAY, (FEB. 18-21), ON SAIPAN.

NACHSA SIREN SAID THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THE SIX DISTRICTS AND THE TT HEADQUARTERS WILL MEET FOR A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AND FORMULATION OF MORE DEFINITIVE PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD SANITATION WITH REGARD TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD.

INCLUDED IN THE SEMINAR WILL BE DISCUSSIONS ON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, A NEW FEDERAL PESTICIDES PROGRAM, NATIONAL DRINKING WATER ACT AS IT AFFECTS THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND PROTECTION OF REEFS AND LAGOONS. SUBJECT OF TRAINING AND APPROPRIATE PAY PLANS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.