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THIRTY-FIRST DAY

*Para-speech
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Wednesday, February 12, 1975

The House of Representatives of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, was called to order at 3:05 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 1975.

Speaker Bethwel Henry presided.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

The Speaker suspended reading of the Journal.

COMMUNICATIONS

High Commissioner Communication No. 6-20, transmitting a proposed bill to appropriate \$65,000 to conduct a study of "Goals for Education in Micronesia."

High Commissioner Communication No. 6-21, transmitting a proposed bill to appropriate \$175,000 for student assistance grants.

No Departmental Communications were reported.

Senate Communication No. 6-19, naming Senators Mangefel and Tmetuchl as conferees on H.B. No. 6-7, H.D.1; S.D.1.

Senate Communication No. 6-20, naming Senators Mangefel and Tmetuchl as conferees on H.B. No. 6-68, S.D.1.

Senate Communication No. 6-21, naming Senators Mangefel and Tmetuchl as conferees on H.B. No. 6-26, H.D.1, S.D.1.

Miscellaneous Communication No. 6-42, from Trust Territory Housing Commission, submitting Second Annual Report, submitted in accordance with P.L. 5-37.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committee Report No. 6-26, submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means, re H.B. No. 6-37, "To require occupants of houses or living units provided by the Trust Territory Government to pay fair rental charges for such privilege and for other purposes."

Chairman Moses moved for adoption of the report; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Standing Committee Report No. 6-27, submitted by the Committee on Health Matters, re H.B. No. 6-64, "To appropriate \$40,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to equip the super dispensary at Wotje Atoll, Marshall Islands District; to construct a dwelling for the resident medic, and for other purposes."

Chairman Nakamura moved for adoption of the report; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Standing Committee Report No. 6-28, submitted by the Committee on Health Matters, re H.J.R. No. 6-14, "Requesting the High Commissioner to undertake a study of diabetes within

the Trust Territory, and to implement the resulting recommendations."

Chairman Nakamura moved for adoption of the report; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

ASSIGNMENT OF MEASURES

The Clerk called attention to Referral Sheet No. 20 attached to the Order of the Day for the assignment of measures introduced on Tuesday, February 11, 1975. The following measures were also assigned:

S.B. No. 6-94:

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.J.R. No. 6-25, HD1:

Assigned to Appropriations Committee by motion February 11, 1975.

Authorizing the ~~Senate and House Committees~~ 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 a view towards securing financial and technical assistance for the various districts of the Trust Territory, and to visit such countries and meet with such international organizations to achieve these ends.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

BILL CALENDAR

H.B. No. 6-37, HD1:

To require certain occupants of houses or living units provided by the Trust Territory Government to pay fair rental charges for such privilege; to abolish housing allowances and temporary lodging allowances; and for other purposes."

Representative Moses moved for passage of H.B. No. 6-37, H.D.1, on First Reading; Representative Bigler seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title.

Speaker Henry: Is there any discussion?

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire if the bill, which states, "all occupants of houses, apartments, housetrailer . . ." would include law interns or medical interns who are receiving some type of compensation from the government.

Rep. Moses: Mr. Speaker, section 1, beginning on line 3, so states that all occupants (with the exception of civil servants).

Rep. Mafnas: Would this also be true if they are not considered to be government employees?

Rep. Moses: I do not know their status of employment, Mr. Speaker, but as long as they occupy these premises, they are entitled to the same treatment.

Rep. Mafnas: For the record, I am in favor of the bill. I just wanted some clarification.

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for an explanation of the sentence on page two of the committee report in the third paragraph: "Your Committee is of the opinion that the subject legislation, if enacted into law, would generate substantial revenues for the Congress of Micronesia. . ." Where are we going to get the revenues?

Representative Setik moved for a short recess; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote. The Speaker declared the House recessed at 3:12 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 3:13 p.m.

Speaker Henry: Is there any further discussion on the bill? The motion is to pass the bill on First Reading.

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I pose a question on line 9, from line 7 to line 9: "The Director of the Department of Personnel, . . . shall establish fair rental rates for each house unit . . ." I question the words "fair rental rates." What if they decide to charge these people \$10.00 per month? Are we going to follow that amount?

Rep. Moses: Mr. Speaker, your Committee trusts the capability of the Director of Personnel with, of course, the technical assistance of the Director of Public Works. It is your committee's opinion that in this government, the two directors should be the most knowledgeable people that could determine rates of these units, and I am pretty sure that they will determine a fair rental rate on the housing. Thank you.

Rep. Domnick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak against the measure that is before the House. This Congress has limited the privileges of expatriates that are needed to run the government that we Micronesians cannot run, as of yet. The intention of the government has been to fill the highest posts within the Executive Branch with qualified Micronesians-- but we know that we cannot occupy all the positions because we don't have the expertise as of yet. Now to get the people from the Mainland (or from wherever) to work with us here, we have to have some incentives. If a person is removed from his location, from his dwelling and then put in a situation where he has to pay his rent, either we will wind up with those people who cannot find jobs in the states and who are looking desperately for jobs, and are worthless anyway to us--those are the people we will attract to the Territory. I don't see the logic behind this. May I be enlightened as to why we have to charge these people a fair rental for a house when they are dislocated from their place of residence?

Rep. Moses: Mr. Speaker, I hate to be repetitious, but the report expresses itself on those questions posed by my colleague from the Marshalls.

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress of Micronesia, Public Law 5-51 was passed. As a result, some of the expatriate local contract employees left the government service. And there are some resultant conditions that came out from that Public Law 5-51. Now before us in this 6th Congress, we have this bill that we are looking at, to have government employees pay fair rent for their housing units. Also for our consideration in this 6th Congress, there is another bill to cut off the educational allowances for children of expatriate employees. I want to find out whether we have enough Micronesians right now to take over positions occupied by expatriates, because I can assure this Congress that once we pass this law, and once we pass the law to cut off the educational allowance for expatriates' children, that many of them will leave Micronesia, even if they want to stay on the job and even if they need the money. I want to find out if we have enough Micronesians qualified to take over those positions.

Rep. Rasa: Thank you. I think the problem before us is a question of incentive. The assertion that one of our academic institutions has been denied accreditation, basically

because of the bill that Congress passed with respect to salary, cannot be conclusive in any sense. It is an assertion, a contention--not supported by facts. It may be a contributing factor. The second question, Mr. Speaker: I want this Congress to look carefully at the notion, the fundamental notion, behind the concept of incentive. I would like to address this particular body, according to previous, numerous scientific research being made on questions relative to the concept of incentive that none whatsoever could provide, could show in any way, in any degree, that incentive is always producing production. What I am saying is that if incentive has to be the point of question, the incentive must be intrinsic. The incentive that we are talking about is extrinsic in nature. I therefore would like the House to consider this carefully and pass this bill on First Reading.

Rep. Aafin: It is a general saying that the government service should be built on high motives and dedication to a job well done--not on a great abundance of free benefits of the system, patterned after somebody else's system. Yes, I share the concern with the people who come up with this kind of idea, that government service should be built on high motives and dedication. Then why are we asking for an increase in salaries? Why are we asking for benefits for some Micronesian employees? Why do we keep coming on with this question? If all of us want to serve in the government, on high motives and real dedication, then we should be able to serve with nothing--no salary, nothing else. I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we are now looking for more revenue for this Congress by enacting some legislation, but we have to consider where should we spend the revenue for Congress more profitably for Micronesia? Where they are now, or where we will take the money and put it into another place? Which is more beneficial to Micronesia at this point in time? Mr. Speaker, I would not oppose the passage of this bill if it was brought up at another time--but not today.

Rep. Rasa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, another point of clarification: When we speak of incentive, Mr. Speaker, I am not implying that it is absolute in any sense. We understand that people should serve, and at the same time there is a corresponding responsibility within and among these people, that they should exist. We are not saying we will work for free, but the compensation must be commensurate with the production. And it is within this concept that I oppose the continuation of subsidizing people with this kind of incentive. Thank you.

Rep. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that incentive is the only way to bring our best-qualified expatriate workers to Micronesia. I really do not believe in that. If people in the United States--expatriate people--are committed enough (or honest enough) and are willing to help Micronesians, there are a lot of qualified people abroad that will come out here with only the salary--with only a given salary--not necessarily an incentive tacked on that salary. Mr. Speaker, if this bill passes, I think the government could make it up by increasing that kind of incentive in salary for that employee coming here. I can cite some facts happening here in Micronesia. Now we have committed workers in Micronesia, and I have seen these people in the Micronesian Legal Services Branch. There are many qualified people, committed people, who come out here to work without any housing or education allowance, etc. We offer the salary, and they come out based only on that salary, and they are doing a tremendously good job. So I can see no reason why we must base our conclusions on the fact that only incentive could bring out the best qualified people to Micronesia.

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I feel that the rate of unemployment in the states is very high at this time, which is incentive enough for these qualified people to come out and seek jobs in Micronesia. Thank you.

Rep. Domnick: Mr. Speaker, if we are talking about dedicated people coming into Micronesia, maybe we are limiting ourselves to Peace Corps and missionaries. There are technocrats that we need out here. Now if we are going to get people from the states to leave their place of residence, where they have the comfort of a house and car, etc., and place them on an island to work without any dwelling, we are talking about missionaries and Peace Corps. Mr. Speaker, we should not take into consideration the fact that the rate of unemployment in the states is high now. As I said earlier, the kind of people we would

get out here are the people that are hard up for the job. They don't care what they get because they cannot find jobs in the States. Now are those the kind of people that we want working here? I think we have enough of them around.

Now let's take a hypothetical situation whereby within Micronesia a man, let's say from the Marshalls, was transferred to work up here, and I know some. We have a base salary of about \$5,400, and let's say the fair rental for a month is \$100.00, which is very cheap. They guy winds up with \$4,200. He might as well stay home and work. What incentive does he have to come up here? He cannot go fishing on his own to supplement his salary--and yet we include everybody in the Trust Territory. So let's take a close look at the bill. Thank you very much.

Rep. Rudimch: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is another quite different reaction to this kind of legislation. Number one, is that you are talking about free housing for any government employee. You are not talking about free housing in itself--but a cost, built into the overall cost of the services of whoever is employed by the government. What I am afraid of is that it might trigger some adjustment of the salary, which is an increase of the salary, and which eventually will be very hard for our future government to finance when your people are starting to compensate for the housing allowance. On the other hand, in the private sector, it is also programmed that you build the housing for employees to attract them. When you employ someone, you give him housing as part of the salary, which is not exactly free--but is also built in, into the cost of the overall cost.

Rep. Aafin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question and some comments after the question.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

Rep. Aafin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to find out if all employees, expatriates and Micronesians likewise, are included in this bill?

Rep. Moses: Mr. Speaker, I believe the question could be answered in specifics in the report, if it is read.

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, I want a definite answer, so everybody here in all Micronesia can hear. They cannot read this report.

Rep. Moses: Yes, like I said, the answer "yes" is contained throughout the report.

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, we are talking about incentives, salaries, housing allowances, and all of these things. But the fact remains, and I warn this Congress, if we pass this legislation, I can tell you that if the Micronesian employees within the government and the expatriate employees within the government don't make any move now because they won't be affected now, that once they renew their contracts--nobody is going to renew the contract. Maybe only very few--that is a fact. It will happen.

Rep. Guerrero: Mr. Speaker, I was going to respond to that.

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

Rep. Guerrero: Maybe that is the best thing to happen, Mr. Speaker. Maybe those people that do not renew their contract are out here for luxury purposes, just to sightsee. You see my point--maybe this is one way of screening the good employees and bad employees--the committed people and the uncommitted people. The present practice, Mr. Speaker, is discriminatory, especially to the Micronesian employees, in that some Micronesian employees who are being paid X-number of dollars and are being brought in from the other districts are provided housing by the Trust Territory government, whereas other Micronesian employees who are receiving the same kind of salary and who are residing, let's say on Saipan for that matter, are not being given housing allowance, and both Micronesians in either case have families to support. I consider this practice discriminatory at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Domnick: Mr. Speaker, maybe the controversy is in the fact that some people are relocated and some are not relocated. Maybe where the facts are that two Micronesians are involved--one is relocated and one is not--one is in his own place of residence--that this is the difference. If there are inequities in this (where two Micronesians are from the same place and one is given a house and one is not) then the inequality rests with the decision of the policy-maker, whoever he is--the Personnel Department in most cases--but not so much so that a Micronesian is given a house and the other one is not given a house. The reason why one is given a house is that he is from the Marshalls, working in Saipan.

Rep. Guerrero: Point of information. O.K., I am saying practically the same thing that he is saying. Let us say that two Marshallese come from the Marshalls to live in Saipan. One is, let's say, shipped here by the government--sent here by the government--and the other came on his own, and they both work here in Saipan. Both Marshallese have families. One is accorded housing opportunities and the other is not, and they are earning the same number of dollars. That is my point. It is discriminatory.

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, it is an extremely unpleasant duty for me to remind the members of the provisions of Rule 5, Section 6, of the House Rules of Procedure.

Rep. Rasa: Do I have the floor? Thank you. Let me redirect my position. Basically why I am against the continuation of this program is because we have had this program for so long, waiting for the production, and we have got zero production. We have bad schools, inefficient programs, and yet we are going to continue to subsidize these people because they are the experts. We have had enough of this.

Rep. Setik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have had enough debate on this bill. I move for the previous question.

(Several members seconded.)

Speaker Henry: I will refer this to the floor, and the House will decide by vote.

The motion to stop debate carried by voice vote.

The motion to pass H.B. No. 6-37, H.D.1, on First Reading carried by voice vote.

H.B. No. 6-64, HD1: To appropriate \$40,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to equip the super dispensary at Wotje Atoll, Marshall Islands District; to ~~construct~~ construct a dwelling for the resident medic, and for other purposes.

Rep. Nakamura: I move that we defer action on House Bill No. 6-64, House Draft 1, for First and Second Reading until the Appropriations Committee, to which this bill has been referred, acts on the measure.

Representative Guerrero seconded the motion, and the motion carried by voice vote.

H.B. No. 6-19, HD1: To appropriate the sum of ~~\$45,000~~ \$94,046 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to carry out the provisions of Public Law No. 5-82, and for other purposes.

Representative Setik moved for passage of H.B. No. 6-19, H.D.1, on Second Reading; Floor Leader Tman seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title.

Speaker Henry: Is there any discussion on the bill?

Rep. Aafin: Mr. Speaker, I thought before that it was \$45,000 on First Reading . . . sorry, my mistake.

Speaker Henry: Is there any more discussion on the bill?

The motion to pass H.B. No. 6-19, H.D.1, on Second Reading carried by roll call vote of sixteen ayes; Representatives Balos, Bigler, Haglelgam, and Rudimch voted no; Representative Haruo was excused.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

H.J.R. No. 6-14, HD1: Requesting the High Commissioner to undertake a study of diabetes within the Trust Territory, and to implement the resulting recommendations.

Representative Nakamura moved for adoption of H.J.R. No. 6-14, H.D.1; Vice Speaker Silk seconded, and the Chief Clerk read the title.

Speaker Henry: Is there any discussion on the resolution?

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, I have a proposed amendment. Will the Clerk read the proposed amendment?

Speaker Henry: The resolution is attached to Standing Committee Report No. 6-28. We will hear the proposed amendment offered by Representative Tman.

Chief Clerk: The proposed amendment offered by Representative Tman is as follows:

Beginning on line 17, after the word "Islands" delete in entirety through line 25, and in lieu thereof insert the following: "and the Trust Territory Director of Health Services are hereby respectfully requested to institute more effective control of diabetes, including appropriate dietary controls adaptable to those remote islands which have limited food sources and comprehensive health education of the general public about the control of diabetes; and"

Floor Leader Tman moved for adoption of the proposed amendment; Representative Setik seconded the motion.

Floor Leader Tman moved for the suspension of the rule on duplication of amendments; Representative Setik seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

The motion to adopt the amendment by Floor Leader Tman carried by voice vote.

Speaker Henry: We have before us House Joint Resolution No. 6-14, House Draft 1, House Draft 2. Is there any further discussion on the resolution as amended?

H.J.R. No. 6-14, H.D.1, H.D.2, was adopted by voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H.B. No. 6-211: Introduced by: Rep. Mafnas (and two others)
Assigned to: Resources and Development

To amend Sections 554 and 573 of Title 63 of the Trust Territory Code, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-212: Introduced by: Rep. Mafnas
Assigned to: Appropriations

Appropriating the sum of \$10,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for recreational facilities in San Antonio Village, Saipan, Mariana Islands District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-213:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$60,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia to construct a vocational building for the use of the Palau High School in Koror Municipality, Palau District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-214:

Introduced by: Rep. Refonopei
Assigned to: Ways and Means

To impose a moratorium on the construction of new buildings, office spaces, structures, and housing units, for the use and occupancy of any of the departments, divisions, offices, and agencies of the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government on Saipan, Mariana Islands District, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-215:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$175,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for Trust Territory Post Secondary Student Assistance, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-216:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the Student Loan Fund School Year 1975-1976, and for other purposes.

H.B. No. 6-217:

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

To appropriate the sum of \$600,000 from the General Fund of the Congress of Micronesia for Trust Territory scholarship, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H.J.R. No. 6-51:

Introduced by: Rep. Balos (and five others)
Assigned to: Judiciary and Governmental Relations

Supporting the intentions of the Conference for a Nuclear Free Pacific, and urging the High Commissioner to declare April 1-6, 1975, a "Nuclear Free Pacific Week" in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

H.J.R. No. 6-52:

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

Requesting the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to amend Secretarial Order No. 2918, as amended, allowing the Congress of Micronesia to determine at its own discretion the length of its regular sessions as well as dates to recess or adjourn its regular sessions.

H.J.R. No. 6-53:

Introduced by: Rep. Haglelgam (and two others)
Assigned to: Appropriations

Requesting the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation and Communications jointly to install an experimental wind-powered generator and battery-storage system on Sataawal Island, Yap District, for the use of the people in that area, and for other purposes.

H.J.R. No. 6-54:

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

Directing the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia to appoint a special committee to investigate the United States Department of Agriculture food donation program in the Trust Territory and to report its findings and recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the Sixth Congress of Micronesia, 1976.

H.J.R. No. 6-55:

Introduced by: Rep. Guerrero (and two others)
Assigned to: Health Matters

Respectfully requesting the Director of the Department of Health Services to give patients, who are sent to Guam for treatment and stay with relatives instead of at the Micronesian Hotel, the money which would have been allowed them if they had stayed at the Micronesian Hotel.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to request the House to recognize the presence of the Mount Carmel High School speech class, accompanied by its teacher, Mrs. Dana Smith.

Rep. Rasa: Mr. Speaker, may I address the House?

Speaker Henry: You have the floor.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE RASA

Rep. Rasa: Mr. Speaker, and distinguished members: For three days, I have been absent from this House, basically because I am a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, and I have the responsibility at the same time that I inform this Congress of the plans of the Commission. As a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, I have nothing to say, other than to follow the desires of the people of my district which have caused them to seek a different course from the rest of Micronesia.

At the present, the Commission is considering signing a covenant with the United States, and a yes or no vote on it by the people of the Marianas is expected to take place very soon. In fact, some of my constituents have said that the vote will take place too soon, because the agreement has yet to be translated into our local languages, and also because there is so little time left for political education before they cast their votes.

You, therefore, might expect me to discuss the Marianas Political Status issue. However, it is my intention to discuss the status question as it pertains to the remaining five districts, and if it appears that indirectly I am talking about the Marianas Status issues, I would have no objection to that conclusion, although that is not my primary intent.

Simply consider what I have to say as "friendly advice" from one who knows, since my constituents and I have gained a lot of expertise in this area.

My first piece of advice is not to let cultural differences--racism, if you will--be

the basis for the relationship between people of other districts or of people within districts. Experience shows that while people rightly value their cultural heritages, they should not serve as impediments to cooperation and harmonious relationships. In this connection I am sure that every Micronesian will understand his responsibilities under a relationship with the United States, similar to that of the Marianas as a part of the American political family, in which there can be no discrimination based on class, culture, or custom.

Furthermore, I hope the people of the other districts maintain their integrity and not look to other island communities, like Guam, to serve as an example toward which to strive. Political goals should not be set on the basis of cultural or racial reasons, but rather on the commonality of social and economic problems, and resources such as those in the other districts.

I also want to advise the other districts that no matter what political status arrangement they may choose, that the people (meaning the common people) do so with the full knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities and obligations and with a clear understanding of any limitations or disadvantages.

In short, we have to look before we leap, and know what it is that we are buying. Be sure that any status agreement, for example, is understood by the people, so the people can have a chance to know what they will be doing. In this connection, I might add from the experience that we gained through negotiations with the United States delegation, don't be rushed into an agreement, even if you ask for it first. Sometimes the other side can use your very request against your own best interests, by pushing harder than what you want, or by using your request to justify doing something you don't want done.

In this regard, the work of any duly-constituted body dealing with political status negotiations is extremely important in representing and working for the best interests of the people from whom it gains its mandate. Therefore, I would like to praise the single most effective, thoughtful, and mature status group in existence today: The Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

Even though I do not consider a Free Associated Status to be the best possible political arrangement for the other five districts, and even if the rest of Micronesia fails to achieve a unified status in the future, I have the highest possible regard for the accomplishments and actions by the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status to protect the rights and interests of all the other districts of Micronesia.

This group has existed for seven years now. It has thoroughly studied status alternatives. It has rejected one that is unacceptable, and it also has been mandated to seek a third alternative in the event that the main choice cannot be negotiated. It also has made numerous trips to the other districts in connection with its work, and it has also published many documents--one of them in the principal languages of the districts--concerning its work. In short, it has tried to lead the people of Micronesia, and yet be responsive to them.

It thus follows, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, that it would be advisable for the elected officials of the other districts to continue to exhibit the dual qualities necessary for any Congressman, and that is to seek an appropriate balance between leading and following the wishes of the people. Do not fall into the trap of thinking that you must only lead, and others will follow, for soon you may find that no one is following you. On the other hand, but in the same vein, do not be afraid to speak out and warn the people of any danger if you feel it is justified, even if it means the end of your political career. To do any less is to avoid your responsibilities as a legislator. To do any less means you are either a fool, a coward, or a prostitute.

Another piece of advice, Mr. Speaker: I ask that all the people in Micronesia not be fooled by labels. Don't be fooled by the different names given to different status arrangements.

Labels are just words, and words are abstract symbols man uses to represent reality, for the convenience of intellectual discourse among other things. The question is not whether the rest of Micronesia will be under Free Association, or Commonwealth, or will be Independent. What is really at stake is what kind of relationship is provided for under the label. Look at the details of the arrangement, not at the name. If the people are certain that their rights are protected and that they are happy with the kind of agreement proposed, that is the most important aspect, and they can give it any name. Therefore, do not fall in love with labels. Cast them aside, and see what is within.

Despite what happens with the Marianas, it is also my hope that the rest of Micronesia does stay together in some form--and not just for "old times' sake." No, Micronesia should not stay together simply because it was administered that way under a Trusteeship as an historical accident, but it should stay together because in unity there is strength.

I am sure there will be flaws and problems, but the economic, social and political advantages of staying together are much greater than those gained by separation. Interdependence is a basic fact of global relations today. Separation of the remaining districts would fly in the face of reality, and would represent a fundamental political notion of absurdity in Microcosm.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would close with advice paraphrased from the Bible, and I quote: "What shall it profit a man to gain the entire world, if in so doing he loses his soul?"

In this case, I ask my colleagues to consider that there is a difference in meaning between "change" and "progress." All progress involves change--that is understandable--but not all change is progressive. Change in political status is not necessarily progress. Do not confuse the terms or what they mean. When you do accept political change, make sure that it is also progressive. And for it to be progressive, this change must be done on your own terms. I say this because in the negotiations of the other districts, what you will be doing will have great impact on the future generations--those are the people you really are supposed to represent and for whom you are working. Let them look back into the history books without shame, to read your words and to know that you were thinking of them, not yourselves, or for any kind of personal considerations, when you signed and voted on lasting agreements which will hurt or help them.

Mr. Speaker, the experience that I have gained now does not in any way push me to support the covenant that we will be signing on Friday. But I take this opportunity just to see that in the future, let there be no more separation, whether on the basis of revenue sharing or what have you, because Micronesia cannot exist if we continue to strive for regionalism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Representative Nakamura was excused by the Speaker.)

Rep. Mafnas: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the members of your Committee on Resources and Development of the public hearing this afternoon at 5:00. Also, the scheduled hearing for tomorrow at 1:00--your Committee will not be able to meet until further notice.

Rep. Moses: Mr. Speaker, I will again remind the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that there will be a public hearing tonight at 7:30, on four measures all dealing with revenue sharing and surcharge tax. Also, I would like to announce the inclusion of House Bill No. 6-155, relating to certain tax exemptions. I would like to invite anyone who is interested to attend and participate. Thank you.

At the request of Representative Sigrah, the Speaker declared the House recessed, at 3:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

The House reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

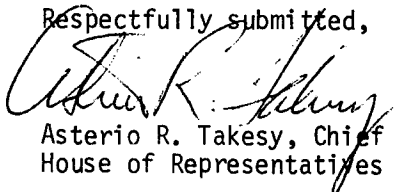
Rep. Sigrah: Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Education and Social Matters will have a public hearing tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., in this Chamber, and also at 1:00 p.m. in this Chamber (since your Committee on Resources and Development will not be using the Chamber). I would like to mention that our hearing will be continued in this Chamber.

Rep. Setik: Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Appropriations will have an executive meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow in Conference Room No. 1.

Floor Leader Tman: Mr. Speaker, before I make any motion, I would like to remind the members that we will meet in executive session right after this session, as agreed upon yesterday.

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 4:02 p.m., until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,



Asterio R. Takesy, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives