

(ALL USERS, PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(ESSAY WINNERS ADDRESS CONT)

1975

File

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE TWO WINNERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S ESSAY CONTEST, HELD IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CONGRESS' TENTH ANNIVERSARY, READ THEIR PRIZE WINNING ESSAYS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MONDAY (FEB. 17).

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CATEGORY, 17 YEAR OLD JOSEPH ASANUMA, OF PALAU HIGH SCHOOL, READ HIS ESSAY ENTITLED: "ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS; TOMORROW'S CONGRESS." FOLLOWING HIS REMARKS, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY PRE-MEDICAL STUDENT MIGUEL SABLAW DENAPAN, 22 YEARS OLD, FROM SAIPAN, READ HIS PRIZE-WINNING ESSAY CALLED: "MICRONESIA AND THE CRITICAL MOMENTS OF DECISIONS."

BEFORE THE SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED, HOWEVER, HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, IN INTRODUCING THE YOUNG MICRONESIAN STUDENTS TO THE CONGRESS, SAID THAT HE FELT IT WAS FITTING THAT AS THE CONGRESS APPROACHES THE END OF ITS FIRST DECADE OF EXISTENCE THAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD "NOT HEAR FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, NOT FROM MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, BUT RATHER FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

ADDRESSING THE JOINT SESSION, 17-YEAR-OLD ASANUMA TOLD THE CONGRESS:

"EMERGING FROM A DIVERSITY OF CULTURES, CUSTOMS AND LANGUAGES MICRONESIA'S UNIFICATION WAS BUT A DREAM. MICRONESIA WAS A VERY WELL UNSTABLE TERRITORY AT FIRST. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE, IF ANY, UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL CONSENT BETWEEN MICRONESIANS THEMSELVES. THIS IS ACCOUNTED TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS OF THE MANY ISLANDS AND ATOLLS. THE ISLANDS ARE DISTANT AND COMMUNICATION WAS VERY POOR THEN. THE DIFFERENCES IN THE CULTURES, CUSTOMS, AND WAYS OF DOING THINGS COMPLICATED FURTHER THE SO-CALLED MICRONESIAN UNIFICATION. WITH THESE COMES ETHNOCENTRISM, A FEELING IN INDIVIDUALS THAT ONE'S OWN CULTURES AND CUSTOMS AND WAYS ARE BETTER THAN THOSE OF OTHERS.

"AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION WAS WORKED OUT ON THE BASIS OF A FREE AND EQUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDEAS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE FROM THE VARIED ISLANDS. THE FIRST LINK IN SUCH CONSULTATION THEN MUST HAVE BEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNICATION. SO THEN CAME THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN 1965. SINCE THEN IT HAS BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA. CONSTITUTED BY PEOPLE FROM ALL THE DISTRICTS THIS ORGANIZATION HAS COME TO BE RELIED UPON. IT IS HERE THAT DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS ARE SHARED AND COMMUNICATED TO OTHERS WHO POSSESS DIFFERENT VIEWS, AND IT IS THROUGH THIS ORGANIZATION THAT MICRONESIANS BEGIN TO SHARE AN IDENTITY. SEEING SENATOR TNETUOHL OR SALLI IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SENATORS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS MAKES ME COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY MYSELF FIRST AS A MICRONESIAN, THAN AS A PALAUAAN. I HOPE THE SAME IS TRUE FOR PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS.

"DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS HELD SESSIONS, MICRONESIA HAS BEEN AND UNDERGONE DRASTIC CHANGES. RAPID CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL SECTORS. TO SOME THEY ARE CHANGES FOR THE BETTER--YET TO SOME THEY ARE FOR THE WORST.

"AS A DEVELOPING NATION, EDUCATION WAS VIEWED AS A NECESSITY IN MICRONESIA. SCHOOLS, THEREFORE, WERE RENOVATED OVER THE LAST DECADE. TODAY, STUDENTS CAN LEARN IN THE COMFORT OF THE CLASSROOMS EQUIPPED WITH NEW CHAIRS AND NEW BOOKS AS WELL. FURTHERMORE, THERE TO TEACH THE STUDENTS ARE QUALIFIED TEACHERS. IT HAS GIVEN MONEY TO STUDENTS TO GO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION, AN EFFECTIVE CATALYST TO ANY DEVELOPING NATION.

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"OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE SCANTY. THEY ARE ONLY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE POPULATION AT A SUBSISTENCE LEVEL. THEREFORE, WE ARE ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON LARGE GOVERNMENT PAYROLLS WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA OBTAINS FOR US. OUR ECONOMIC WELFARE AND PROGRESS ARE DEPENDENT UPON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, MARINE RESOURCES AND FOREIGN GOODS. ALL THESE HAVE BEEN STUDIED AND BETTERED. MICRONESIANS ARE MORE ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED TODAY THAN THEY WERE, SAY, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DISEASES HEALTH SERVICES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED. TRANSPORTATION WAS OBTAINED AS NEEDED. FARMING, FISHING, BANKING, PUBLIC UTILITIES AND POSTAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IN 1967 IS ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT WHICH WAS VERY IMPERATIVE FOR US. THE PURPOSE OF THIS VERY COMMISSION WAS TO DETERMINE THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS SUITABLE FOR MICRONESIA. A STRONGER SENSE OF POLITICAL UNITY IS NOW FELT AMONG THE INDIGENOUS LEADERS OF MICRONESIA; A BIG STEP FORWARD TO UNIFICATION. THE EXISTENCE OF THE CONGRESS HAS TRANSFORMED THE PROVINCIALISM OF MOST OF OUR LEADERS INTO A WIDER HORIZON OF NATIONALISM, WHICH, IS, AGAIN THE BIGGEST STEP EVER TAKEN TOWARD UNIFICATION. POLITICALLY, IT HAS ACHIEVED FOR US A NATION RELATIVELY FREE OF VIOLENCE, A NATION WHEREIN LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER PREVAILS. THOUGH SOPHISTICATED AS THEY ARE, AND THE ISSUES THEY DISCUSS, THEY STILL VALUE THINGS THEIR PEOPLE VALUE STILL SO MUCH.

"WITH EVENTS MOVING SO RAPIDLY IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROJECT FUTURE TRENDS. ALL ONE HOPES FOR IS THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONTINUES TO KEEP PACE WITH THE TIME AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE. WE CAN'T LAG BEHIND WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE MOVING UP WITH THE TIME. MICRONESIA IS AT A PRECARIOUS EDGE...ONE SLIGHT MOVE IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AND IT IS DOWN THE DRAIN. YES, IT IS A TOUGH JOB ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE TO DO IT FOR OTHERS' SAKE.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL CONTINUE ITS GOOD WORK TOMORROW. IT HAS PROVEN ITSELF ACTUALLY WORKING FOR MICRONESIA'S INTERESTS AND HOPEFULLY IT WILL REMAIN THAT WAY. AND TO MY "LOYAL" LEADERS, I JOIN WITH YOU IN THE HANDSHIP OF BEING A LEADER AND GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER DECISION YOU RENDER. BY FAITH IS WITH YOU ALL.

"IN OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM WE SING, "WE ALL WORK TOGETHER WITH HEART AND WITH HANDS." IT IS MY MOST SINCERE HOPE TO SEE THIS COME TO REALITY. MY HOPE FOR MORE THAN JUST A "DREAM" RESTS WITH YOU."

FOLLOWING ASANUMA'S ESSAY, 22 YEAR OLD MIGUEL SACLAN DEMAPAN READ HIS PRIZE WINNING ESSAY CALLED: "MICRONESIA AND THE CRITICAL MOMENTS OF DECISIONS."

"THIRTY YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STILL IS CONTINUING ITS ROLE AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR MICRONESIA. MICRONESIA CONTINUES TO HANG ON THE UNITED STATES, LIKE A MOTHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIP. IN REALITY, A CHILD THIRTY YEARS OF AGE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE WITH BREAST-FEEDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE: IN SUCH DEBILITATED HEALTH.

"GLANCING AROUND MICRONESIA, ONE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE COGNIZANT OF AMERICA'S FAILURE DURING ITS PAST ADMINISTRATION. FOR AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONTINUED ITS ROLE OF ACCOMPLISHING ITS WANTS WITHOUT MUCH REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THIS IS A SYMBOL OF JUST HOW MUCH, AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE UNITED STATES NEEDS MICRONESIA.

"THE PURPOSE AND INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES PRESENCE HERE IN MICRONESIA IS SIMPLE. MICRONESIANS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THEIR PRESENCE WITH THEIR LANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS LIKE A SHIELD IN FRONT OF THE OLD ROMAN WARRIOR. OUR LANDS ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AND THE GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD CONSIDER

THEM TO BE ONE OF THEIR FOREMOST NEEDS. THESE SMALL PIECES OF LANDS HAVE BEEN THE SHIELDS OF MANY FORMER WORLD POWERS.

"MICRONESIANS MISUNDERSTOOD THE PURPOSE OF THE AMERICANS HERE IN MICRONESIA. WE TEND TO LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES AS IF THEY ARE HERE MAINLY TO HELP DEVELOP OUR ISLANDS. WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT AMERICA'S GOAL IS DIFFERENT. IT IS THIS SELFISH INTEREST FOR ONES SELFISH WELL-BEING THAT VOICES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN TONES CONTINUE TO BE HEARD. HERE AGAIN, WE COULD SEE THE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN'S GOAL FROM MICRONESIANS' EXPECTATIONS.

"IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TODAY TO HEAR ANTI-AMERICAN VOICES IN MICRONESIA. THESE ARE THE VOICES WHICH CHALLENGE THE DECISIONS OF THE AMERICANS IN WASHINGTON. THESE ARE THE VOICES OF PEOPLE WHO COULD NOT STAND IN JUSTICE PRACTICED ON THEIR OWN SOIL. THESE ARE THE VOICES WHICH CONTINUE TO MANIFEST CHANGES IN OUR GOVERNMENT, CHANGES THAT WILL BENEFIT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE. THESE CRIES ARE NOW BEING HEARD BY THE FEW AMERICANS WHO ARE NOW RUNNING THE AFFAIRS OF OUR LIVES. THESE CRIES ARE JUST SYMBOLS OF WHAT WE WANT AND HOW MUCH OF THE SHARE WE NEED SO OUR DESTINY BE ALSO CALLED, "THE MICRONESIANS' DESTINY."

"TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE IN MICRONESIA COULD SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR LAND AND PEOPLE: THE ELDERS AND THE YOUNG GENERATION.

"AT THE PRESENT, THE ELDERS OF MICRONESIA ARE NOT AS ACTIVE IN PERFORMING THE PRESENT STATE. THE REASONS ARE SIMPLE: LACK OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE FEELING OF APATHY WHICH IS COMMON AMONG THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THIS APATHETIC FEELING HAS CAUSED THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO LOOSE THEIR IDENTITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND THEIR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE YOUNG MICRONESIANS TODAY ARE RESPONSIVE AND AT TIMES CRITICAL OF LIFE. THEY SEE THE WORLD WITH WIDER PERSPECTIVES AND CLEARER VISION THAN THE ELDERS, FOR THE REASONS THAT THEY HAVE ATTAINED HIGHER EDUCATION AND ALSO THEY GREW UP IN A MORE LIBERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE YOUNG GENERATIONS OF TODAY THAT RISE FOR QUESTIONS ON MATTERS CONCERNING THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE STATES. THIS IS THE GROUP THAT HAS RESHAPED OUR THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE AND DESTINY. THIS IS THE GROUP THAT WILL ESTABLISH A PLACE SUITABLE OR NOT, FOR THOSE MANY MICRONESIANS WHO ARE YET TO COME.

"THE MOST CONTAGIOUS DISEASE THAT IS PLAGUING MICRONESIA AND ITS DEVASTATING EFFECTS SHOULD BE DIAGNOSED AND TREATED NOW. THE FEELING OF APATHY IS THE DISEASE THAT IS PRESENT AMONG MANY MICRONESIANS, YOUNG AND OLD AND MUST BE DIAGNOSED AND PROMPTLY TREATED. APATHETIC FEELING HAVE COST US MICRONESIANS OUR MOST VALUABLE HAND-DOWNS FROM OUR ANCESTORS. IT IS TIME FOR US TO STOP BEING LISTENERS, FOR WE HAVE LISTENED LONG ENOUGH, AND BE SPEAKERS OF OUR MANIFESTED GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS. IT IS TIME FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO BE CONCERNED OF THE DAILY HAPPENINGS WHICH WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF OUR FUTURE. IT IS TIME FOR US TO STAND UP AND PROTECT THE LITTLE THINGS WE HAVE LEFT, AFTER YEARS OF EXPLOITATION BY FOREIGN POWERS. CONCERN SHOULD BE THE EPITOME OF EVERY MICRONESIAN TODAY.

"TRULY, WE CAN NOT AVOID THE SUDDEN TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACT AND ITS EFFECTS, BECAUSE WE NATURALLY HAVE TO COPE WITH TIME AND MODERN TECHNIQUES. MICRONESIA SHOULD ABSORB WESTERN MODES OF LIVING TO SOME DEGREE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD OF DISILLUSIONMENT AND CONSTANT CHANGE.

"HOWEVER, THIS GRADUAL TREND TOWARD WESTERNIZATION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OVERCOME OUR LAST CULTURAL HERITAGES. LOOK AROUND YOU AND YOU WILL SEE THE IMPACT OF WESTERNIZATION. OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL LIVES ARE ALL AFFECTED. MOST AFFECTED AMONG OUR CULTURE IS OUR SOCIAL LIVES. PEOPLE ARE NOT AS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER NOW, THAN BEFORE.

"THE CRITICAL MOMENT OF DECISIONS FOR MICRONESIANS IS

HERE. IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO IDENTIFY OUR STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES, OUR PAST TRUE HERITAGES FROM OUR MAKE-BELIEVE ONES, OUR RIGHT AND PROPER DESTINY SO THAT WE COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS PEOPLE AND NOT AS ROBOTS. OUR DECISIONS NOW WILL BE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY OF OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE YET TO COME IN THE FUTURE. LET US UNITE IN HARMONY AND STRUGGLE A UNIFIED FUTURE INSTEAD OF A DISORIENTED ONE. LET US FORGET ABOUT PAST BITTERNESS AMONG OUR FELLOWMEN SO THAT COOPERATION COULD BE INSTALLED FOR A STRONGER THRUST INTO THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING US TODAY. LET US GIVE MORE CONFIDENCE TO OUR CONGRESSMEN SO THAT OUR PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL."

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SETIK SCORES CMSN)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 14 (COM)---REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK OF TRUK DELIVERED A SPEECH CRITICAL OF THE U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS' INFLUENCE ON BUDGET PROCESS SAYING RECENT CHANGES HAVE BEEN BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND NOT ON THE REAL NEEDS OF MICRONESIA.

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING, OUTLINED THE BUDGET PROCESS FROM THE DISTRICTS TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND INDICATED A NEW TREND WAS DEVELOPING RECENTLY.

NOTING THAT FORMERLY THE "BONE OF CONTENTION" ON THE BUDGETARY PROCESS WAS "USUALLY" BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE HICOM'S OFFICE, HE SAID THAT RECENTLY OR WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS IT APPEARS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR IS MAKING BOTH INITIAL AND FINAL DECISIONS IN BUDGETARY MATTERS WHICH THE HICOM MUST FOLLOW AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS "POWERLESS" TO STOP. HE SAID THIS "NEW" DIRECTION "APPEARS" TO BE COMING FROM THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS HEADED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS "DISCLAIMS" THIS FACT AND WHILE THE CMSN IS A RELATIVELY SMALL, SPECIAL BRANCH WITHIN INTERIOR, IT IS HIS CONSIDERED OPINION THAT MOST OF THE "CRUCIAL" BUDGETARY ASPECTS FOR MICRONESIA IS HANDLED BY THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS," SETIK CONTINUED, "IS THE TAIL WAGGING THE DOG, ALTHOUGH THE DOG CLAIMS THAT HE WAGS HIS TAIL WHEN HE WANTS TO."

TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, SETIK SAID THAT A WHILE BACK SOME MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON P&BP AND THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS "STRENUOUSLY" OBJECTED TO INTERIOR'S MOVES TO SUPPLY ABOUT FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FOR MARIANAS POWER FACILITIES EITHER OUT OF THE NEW FIELD TRIP VESSELS IN THE 1975 BUDGET OR FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT PROJECTS IN THE 1976 BUDGET. HE SAID THIS "CHANGE" DID NOT COME FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER BUT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

SETIK NOTED THAT IT IS THUS OBVIOUS THAT THE BUDGET IS NO LONGER "DICTATED" BY WHAT IT IS THAT WE MICRONESIANS OR THE HICOM FEELS IS NEEDED IN MICRONESIA, BUT BY THE "PROMISES, PLANS, AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS OF CERTAIN HIGHLY PLACED BUREAUCRATS IN THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C."

CONTINUING, SETIK NOTED THAT ABOUT THE MOST "CALLING" OR "UPSETTING" ASPECT OF A RECENT MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS WAS "DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, MEANING TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, WHICH MEANS OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS" IS SUBMITTING A BILL CONTAINING AN AMOUNT CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977 WHICH HE SAID INDICATED THAT THE CUTS WERE BEING DONE BECAUSE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS' FAILURE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION.

CONGRESSMAN SETIK POINTED OUT THAT TODAY, APPARENTLY, FUNDING LEVELS FOR MICRONESIA ARE NOW BEING "BASED" ON HOW "QUICKLY" STATUS NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. AND NOT ACCORDING TO MICRONESIA'S REAL NEEDS. THE MEMO THUS REVEALS, ACCORDING TO SETIK, THAT MICRONESIA'S FUNDING LEVELS WILL BE "REDUCED" UNTIL THE MICRONESIANS COME AROUND THE UNITED STATES' POSITION AND THE BUDGET NOW HAS BECOME A "TOOL," A "POLITICAL LEVER" WHICH WOULD BE USED TO "FORCE" AN AGREEMENT RATHER THAN AS IT SHOULD PROPERLY BE, PROVIDING THE NECESSARY BASIC COMPONENTS OF INFRASTRUCTURES SO THAT MICRONESIA CAN GRADUALLY DECREASE ITS DEPENDENCE UPON THE UNITED STATES.

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN SAID IT APPEARS THAT MICRONESIANS ARE BEING "PUNISHED" FOR DELAYS CAUSED BY SOMEONE ELSE, AND ARE ALSO BEING "PENALIZED" FOR NOT "RUSHING" INTO AN AGREEMENT ON TERMS "DICTATED" BY CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

CONGRESSMAN SETIK SAID HE WANTS TO CLARIFY TO EVERYONE THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA "DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL SAY" AS TO HOW MICRONESIA'S BUDGET SHOULD LOOK, BUT IT IS IN THE HANDS OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES 10,000 MILES FROM MICRONESIA IN WASHINGTON.

IN SUMMING UP, SETIK SAID, "I WANT ALL MICRONESIANS TO KNOW THAT IF THEIR COPRA IS ROTTING IN THE OUTER ISLANDS TODAY;... OR IF THE SHORTEST AND MOST DANGEROUS AIRFIELD IN MICRONESIA HAS NOT BEEN MADE LONGER;... IF ROADS, SCHOOLS, WATER, FACILITIES OR OTHER PROJECTS ARE NOT CONSTRUCTED, IT IS BECAUSE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS CONSIDER OTHER THINGS TO BE MORE IMPORTANT FOR POLITICAL REASONS..."

SETIK CONCLUDED: "...RECENT EXPERIENCES INDICATE THAT THE DAY WHEN WE WILL CONTROL THESE FUNDS, AND CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY, SEEMS TO BE GETTING FARTHER AWAY - INSTEAD OF CLOSER." BUT DESPITE IT ALL, HE SAID, LET US NOT "GIVE UP. THESE ARE OUR ISLANDS, AND WE AND OUR CHILDREN WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE LONG GONE," SETIK SAID.