

1975

FILE

SAIPAN, FEB. 18 (MNS)---WITH LESS THAN TWO WEEKS TO GO IN THE 50-DAY SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE SENATE AND HOUSE CONTINUE MOST OF THEIR BUSINESS IN PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THE SENATE ON TUESDAY (FEB. 18) PASSED THREE BILLS TO SUBMIT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ACTION.

ONE BILL WAS TO PROVIDE \$297,400 FOR EXPENSES OF THE REVENUE DIVISION OF THE TT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FISCAL YEAR 1976, WHICH BEGINS APRIL 1, 1975.

TWO OTHER BILLS WERE PASSED AFTER A HOUSE AND SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE HAD WORKED OUT DIFFERENCES IN THEIR TWO DRAFTS OF THE BILLS. ONE BILL WOULD APPROPRIATE \$31,000 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE TT PERSONNEL BOARD, (HB 6-7). SENATORS WILFRED KENDALL (MARSHALLS), BAILEY OLTER (PONAPE) AND LAZARUS SALII (PALAU) VOTED AGAINST THE MEASURE.

WITH SENATOR ANATA KABUA (MARSHALLS) AND SENATE PRESIDENT JOSIVO WAKAYAMA VOTING NO, ANOTHER HOUSE BILL TO PROVIDE THE BALANCE OF MONEY APPROPRIATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-4 TO THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD WAS PASSED AND WILL BE SENT TO THE HICOM FOR ACTION.

THE SENATE ALSO PASSED A BILL TO AMEND AN APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE MARIANAS, PUBLIC LAW 5-108, IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE MARIANAS, (SB 6-110). THE BILL WILL GO TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

SENATOR SALII PRESENTED TO THE SENATE TUESDAY (FEB. 18) A REPORT BY THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON FUTURE STATUS AND RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR MICRONESIA FROM JAPAN, KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES. THIS REPORT IS THE RESULT OF A VISIT TO THOSE COUNTRIES FROM SEPT. 22 UNTIL OCT. 10, 1974.

IN PRESENTING THE REPORT SEN. SALII ASKED THE SENATE TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT INVITING OFFICIALS OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY JAPAN, TO MICRONESIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE TT GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE STATED THAT, "IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT IS THE STATED POLICY OF THE U.S. FOR MICRONESIA TO LOOK FOR AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES THE U.S. FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE," SALII "HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEE FIT TO SANCTION THE INVITATION."

THE HOUSE HELD ITS LONGEST MEETING OF THE SESSION TUESDAY MORNING (FEB. 18) WITH HEATED DEBATE AMONG THE LAWMAKERS. THE DEBATE CENTERED MOSTLY ON A MEASURE CREATING A MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, (SB 6-76), WHICH WAS UP FOR SECOND READING. THE OTHER MEASURE THAT STIRRED UP MIXED FEELINGS AMONG THE CONGRESSMEN WAS A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$5,000 TO AID AN AGRICULTURE PROJECT ON ARNO ATOLL, MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 6-74).

ARGUMENT ON THE CREATION OF A MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE U.N. LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WAS QUESTIONING ON THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WOULD SERVE ON THE DELEGATION. TRUK REPRESENTATIVE LAMBERT AAFIN EXPRESSED HIS WISHES ON THE CLARIFICATION OF WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE ON SUCH A DELEGATION. HE ALSO ASKED THE HOUSE WHY MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED TO SERVE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA DELEGATION. FLOOR LEADER LUKE H. TWAN (YAP) POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS SECTORS, SUCH AS PRIVATE AND THE ADMINISTRATION, SHOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE ON SUCH DELEGATIONS. PALAU CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS OFFERED AMENDMENTS TO THE FLOOR WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DELEGATION FROM THREE TO SIX. THAT ALSO MET OPPOSITION. SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS VOICED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE AMENDMENTS BEFORE THE

HOUSE DEFERRED ACTION ON THE BILL ON A MOTION BY REP. BASILIUS.

THE HOUSE ALSO ADOPTED FOUR JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THEY ARE: A RESOLUTION EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING TO LOCATE ITS SUBREGIONAL OFFICE ON SALPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, (SJR 6-13); REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SEEK FUNDS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE PALAU AIRPORT, (HJR 6-39); REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF RUNWAY LIGHTS AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR GODING FIELD ON DABELTHUAP ISLANDS, PALAU, (HJR 6-50); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE WATER SHORTAGE ON EBEYE ISLAND IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HJR 6-30).

IN OTHER SENATE ACTION TUESDAY (FEB. 18) SEVEN BILLS AND ONE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE INTRODUCED DURING THE MORNING SESSION. OF THE SEVEN BILLS, FOUR WERE AMENDMENT MEASURES. THEY ARE TO AMEND: TITLE 49 OF THE TT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR A WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SYSTEM, (SB 6-150); TITLE 37 OF THE TT CODE RELATIVE TO THE BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT, (SB 6-153); TITLE 2 OF THE TT CODE PROVIDING FOR PROSECUTION OF WITNESSES FAILING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE CONGRESS, (SB 6-155); AND PUBLIC LAW 40-72 RELATING TO THE CHANNEL BLASTING PROJECTS IN YAP'S OUTER ISLANDS.

THE OTHER THREE BILLS INCLUDE: A NATURALIZATION BILL, (SB 6-151); A MEASURE TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT TRANSITION, PRESCRIBING ITS DUTIES AND POWERS AND APPROPRIATING MONEY THEREFOR, (SB 6-152); AND A MEASURE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR DISTRICT CONTROL OF CERTAIN LAWS RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND AMENDING TITLE 83 OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, (SB 6-154).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD REQUEST THE HICOM TO FORMALLY INVITE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO PROPOSE PROJECTS THAT THE JAPANESE AND THE TT GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN OF EACH NATION CAN PARTICIPATE IN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA, AND DIRECTING THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH AND ASSIST THE DELEGATION FROM JAPAN, (SJR 6-33).

SEVEN BILLS AND FOUR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED TUESDAY. THE BILLS WOULD: APPROPRIATE \$138,000 TO PROVIDE NEEDED HEALTH FACILITIES AND INSTITUTING HEALTH PROGRAMS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HB 6-234); AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO IMPORT TAXES, (HB 6-235); EARMARK \$41,900 TO PURCHASE PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES FOR THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HB 6-236); APPROPRIATE \$300,000 TO SUPPLEMENT THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-72, (HB 6-237); PROHIBITING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND FROM GRANTING LOANS TO NONCITIZENS, (HB 6-238); MAKE AVAILABLE \$30,000 FOR MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEE POSITIONS AT THE MICRONESIAN MARICULTURE DEMONSTRATION CENTER IN PALAU, (HB 6-239); AND TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-68 RELATING TO THE BANK OF MICRONESIA, (HB 6-40).

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE: REQUESTING THE HICOM, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE DISTAD TRUK TO REMOVE THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES FROM THE DOCK AREA ON MOEN ISLAND TO SOME MORE SUITABLE SITE, (HJR 6-66); REQUESTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR THE TT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, (HJR 6-67); REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO AMEND CERTAIN PUBLIC LAWS TO EXTEND PROGRAMS OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO FISHERIES TO THE TT, (HJR 6-68); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE TT GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF CRIMINAL CASES ON THE DOCKETS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY COURTS, (HJR 6-69).

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(ANTONINO DIES)

SAIPAN, FEB. 18 (MNS)---HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS VICTORINO T. BORJA RECEIVED NEWS SUNDAY OF THE UNTIMELY PASSING AWAY IN PALAU OF A LONG-TIME COMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEE SABURO F. ANTONINO.

ANTONINO, 44 YEARS OLD, DIED OF A HEART ATTACK EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1975.

"SAB," AS HE WAS KNOWN TO HIS MANY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY, HAD RECENTLY BEEN SELECTED FOR A COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT POSITION AT HEADQUARTERS AND WAS AWAITING HOUSING CERTIFICATION BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE TRANSFER.

HIS TRUST TERRITORY EMPLOYMENT INCLUDED A TOTAL OF MORE THAN TWENTY-TWO YEARS IN COMMUNICATIONS, WITH THE LAST 12 YEARS AS STATION CHIEF IN THE PALAU COMMUNICATIONS STATION.

BORJA COMMENTED, "SABURO'S HELP AND WISE COUNSEL WHICH WE HAVE HAD FOR MANY YEARS AND HAD HOPED TO RELY ON IN THE FUTURE WILL BE SORELY MISSED. THE SHOCK AND SORROW AT HIS UNTIMELY DEATH WILL BE FELT BY ALL IN THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION AND WE BELIEVE THE ENTIRE TRUST TERRITORY."

(TAX ASSISTANCE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE)

SAIPAN, FEB. 18 (MNS)---"AS A SPECIAL SERVICE TO THE U.S. TAXPAYERS IN SAIPAN, THE U.S. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS WILL PRESENT A U.S. TAX ASSISTANCE SEMINAR TO ASSIST TAXPAYERS IN FILING THEIR U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS.

BECAUSE THE TAX ASSISTOR IS NOT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN UNTIL THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL THE PLACE AND TIME THE SEMINAR IS TO BE HELD WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE. HOWEVER, U.S. BUSINESSMEN INCLUDING U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS PRIVATELY EMPLOYED NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH THEIR U.S. TAX RETURNS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU MAY CALL ELOY INOS OF THE REVENUE DIVISION AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS 9716 OR 9717."

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