

(CONGRESS 38TH DAY)

1975

SAIPAN, FEB. 19 (MNS)---WITH TWELVE MORE DAYS REMAINING IN THE SESSION, BOTH HOUSES MET WEDNESDAY (FEB. 19) AND PASSED THREE MEASURES ON SECOND READING, TWO IN THE SENATE AND ONE IN THE HOUSE AND SENT THEM TO THE OTHER HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTIONS. IN THE HOUSE, A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$50,000 TO CLEAN UP PUBLIC LANDS ON WOTJE, WILI, JALUIT AND MALOELAP ATOLLS, MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 6-163) PASSED SECOND READING UNANIMOUSLY. THE BILL WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS.

THE HOUSE ALSO DEFERRED ACTION ON TWO BILLS TO GIVE THE MEMBERS TIME TO READ THE REPORTS BEFORE THEY ACTED ON THEM.

ONE SENATE AND THREE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED, TWO OF THEM BY ROLL CALL. THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS B. CROSSAN, JR., AS PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, (SJR 6-1) WITH HOUSE AMENDMENTS. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, CONGRESSMEN RESIO MOSES, EDGAR EDWARDS, SASAHO HARUO, JOHN HAGLELGAN AND KALISTO REFONOEI VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. THE OTHER RESOLUTION IS REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 TO PROVIDE FOR TWO REGULAR SESSIONS EACH YEAR FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (HJR 6-46). CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN BIELER CAST THE ONE NEGATIVE VOTE IN A ROLL CALL VOTE.

THE OTHERS ARE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING OF THE CONGRESS TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS TO COVER THE COST OF HOOKING UP WATER AND SEWER LINES TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSES IN EACH OF THE DISTRICT CENTERS OF THE TT, (HJR 6-9); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR TO FORMULATE A MASTER PLAN FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT ON TOL. PATTI, FOLLE AND WONEI ISLANDS IN THE FAICHUK AREA OF THE TRUK LAGOON AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BY DECEMBER 31, 1975, (HJR 6-31).

THE CONGRESS ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER FROM TWO PARAMOUNT CHIEFS OF PALAU DISTRICT, IBEOL AND REKLAI, INVITING THEM TO ATTEND UNITY RELATED FESTIVITIES DURING THIS COMING WEEKEND. CONG. POLYCARP BASILIUS URGED THE MEMBERS TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE INVITATION.

MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN ATAJI BALOS TOOK THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE AND SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF A MEASURE TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ROUGELAP AND UTIRIK (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

SENATE FLOOR ACTION WEDNESDAY (FEB. 19) WAS CONFINED TO THE PASSAGE OF TWO BILLS AND ADOPTION OF SEVEN SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. ONE OF THE BILLS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WOULD ADD A NEW SECTION TO TITLE 2 OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE SUBMISSION OF CONTRACTS BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR APPROVAL BY THE CONGRESS, (SB 6-120). THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT STATED, "TOO MANY TIMES IT HAS BECOME A HABIT FOR DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESORT TO HIRING CONSULTANTS, THUS UNNECESSARILY INCURRING EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS..."

THE OTHER BILL, A HOUSE BILL WITH AMENDMENTS, WOULD PROVIDE \$132,621 FROM THE CONGRESS AND \$44,207 FROM THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE FOR FY 1976, (HB 6-4). BOTH BILLS WILL BE SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

WITH THREE SENATORS OPPOSING (SENATORS WILFRED KENDALL, NICK BOSSY AND ROMAN TRETUCHL) ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, ONE OF THE SEVEN JOINT RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING AMENDMENT TO SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 RELATIVE TO THE CONGRESS SESSION, (SJR 6-30), WAS ADOPTED. THE RESOLUTION WOULD PERMIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION EACH YEAR BEGINNING ON THE SECOND MONDAY IN JANUARY AND ENDING THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER. IT WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CONGRESS MEET

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ON CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS. "CERTAINLY," COMMENTED THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT, "WE HAVE REACHED THE STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT WHERE WE DO NOT NEED SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON TO TELL US IN WHAT MONTHS AND FOR HOW LONG WE SHOULD MEET EACH YEAR."

THE OTHER SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED WERE: REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING SYSTEM IN REPORTING FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS VIOLATING TT WATERS, (SJR 6-9); AUTHORIZING THE NICOM TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR AN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AID (ADAF) PROJECT AT ISLEY FIELD ON SAIPAN, (SJR 6-14); AUTHORIZING THE SENATE AND HOUSE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES TO MAKE CONTACTS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC BASIN COUNTRIES FOR SECURING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, (SJR 6-15); EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO THE USE AND APPLICATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUNDS, (SJR 6-21); AUTHORIZING THE NICOM TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE TRUK DISTRICT AIRPORT, (SJR 6-22); AND REQUESTING THE UN ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING TO LOCATE A SUBREGIONAL OFFICE ON SAIPAN, MARIANAS, (SJR 6-13). THESE RESOLUTIONS WILL ALL GO TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

SEVEN HOUSE BILLS AND ONE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE INTRODUCED. THE BILLS ARE: ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN, (HB 6-241); TO ESTABLISH A TT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM, PRESCRIBING ITS GOALS AND POLICIES AND APPROPRIATE \$100,000 FOR ITS PURPOSE, (HB 6-242); TO PROTECT THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE TT, (HB 6-243); A BILL TO AUTHORIZE MONIES TO CONSTRUCT AND RENOVATE ICE AND STORAGE FACILITIES IN ANGAUR, OILEI AND KOROR IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB 6-244); TO REPEAL PUBLIC LAW 5-87 IN ITS ENTIRETY (CONCERNING UTILITY RATES FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSING), (HB 6-245); APPROPRIATE \$25,000 TO VARIOUS HEADSTART PROGRAMS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, (HB 6-246); AND A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$45,000 TO DEFRAY THE COST AND TUITION AND OTHER EXPENSES OF PALAU STUDENTS CURRENTLY ATTENDING SCHOOLS ABROAD AND WHO ARE SUBJECT TO EXPULSION IF THEIR TUITION AND FEES ARE NOT PAID DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, (HB 6-247).

THE JOINT RESOLUTION IS REQUESTING THE NICOM WITH ADVICE AND COOPERATION FROM CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA TO UNDERTAKE A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF CONSTRUCTING SHORT AIRSTRIPS IN THE VARIOUS MAJOR OUTER ISLANDS OF THE DISTRICTS AND OF FLYING SMALLER AIRCRAFT ON REGULAR SCHEDULES BETWEEN THE DISTRICT CENTERS AND OUTER ISLAND POINTS FOR CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND CARGOES, (HJR 6-70).

THE SENATORS INTRODUCED TWO BILLS DURING THE MORNING SESSION. THEY ARE: PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY FORFEITURE OF UNLICENSED FOREIGN VESSEL VIOLATING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE, (SB 6-153); AND AN APPROPRIATION MEASURE OF \$50,000 FOR RENOVATION THE PALAU DISTRICT MUSEUM, (SB 6-157).

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET AT 10:00 A.M. THURSDAY (FEB. 20).

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(BALOS ON RONGELAP AND UTIRIK)

SAIPAN, FEB. 19 (CONGRESS RELEASE) --- THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS, THE HOME OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MARSHALL ISLANDERS THAT WERE EXPOSED TO HARMFUL RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT FROM A NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT ON BIKINI 21 YEARS AGO, WAS THE SUBJECT OF A REMARK INSERTED INTO THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY ATAJI BALOS WEDNESDAY.

THE MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN SAID SINCE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS CREATED NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO, ITS WORK AND ITS THREE REPORTS HAVE BROUGHT "PRACTICAL RESULTS" FOR THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "UNIQUELY AND

UNFORTUNATELY ONE OF THE FEW GROUPS OF VICTIMS OF THE 20TH CENTURY'S NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY."

BALOS SAID BECAUSE OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THOSE REPORTS, RANGING FROM INJURY, TREATMENT, TO COMPENSATION, THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE:

-A DOCTOR HAS BEEN STATIONED IN KWAJALEIN TO GIVE CLOSER MEDICAL ATTENTION TO THE EXPOSED POPULATION FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE AND TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT;

-AN LCU CRAFT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE MEDICAL TEAM FROM BROOKHAVEN LABORATORY TO ENSURE MORE EXTENSIVE EXAMINATIONS;

-A BOOKLET HAS BEEN PRINTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND MARSHALLESE AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE PEOPLE TO EXPLAIN THE EFFECTS OF THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE FALLOUT FROM THE BOMB TEST NEARLY 21 YEARS AGO;

-THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP HAVE ORGANIZED A SPECIAL COUNCIL TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS CONCERNING THEIR TREATMENT OR COMPENSATION AS THEY FEEL NECESSARY.

CONGRESSMAN BALOS SAID AS A RESULT, THE BROOKHAVEN MEDICAL TEAM WHICH VISITS AND EXAMINES THE EXPOSED MARSHALLESE EACH YEAR HAS BEEN "GENERALLY MORE RESPONSIVE AND SYMPATHETIC" TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE. HE SAID THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ALSO SPONSORED A BILL WHICH BECAME LAW TO PROVIDE CERTAIN BENEFITS TO THESE PEOPLE.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT, HE SAID, INCLUDE AN "INCONVENIENCE PAYMENT" OF ABOUT \$125 FOR EACH RESIDENT OF UTIRIK ATOLL THAT WAS EXPOSED AND TEMPORARILY RELOCATED IN 1954, AND THAT THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAS ESTABLISHED \$20,000 REVOLVING FUND TO DEFRAY EXPENSES OF RONGELAPESE AND UTIRIKESSE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS THAT ARE NEEDED IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR YEARLY EXAMINATIONS.

INDICATING THAT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IS NOW ENTERING ITS FINAL STAGES, BALOS ASKED THE CONGRESS TO ACT FAVORABLY ON SENATE BILL 6-54 TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ALSO "BECOME REALITIES."

BALOS ALSO SAID THE EXISTENCE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS "DEMONSTRATED TO THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP, UTIRIK, AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS IN GENERAL, THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, PALAU, TRUK AND OTHER DISTRICTS, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELFARE."

SAIDING THAT HE WOULD BE HONORED TO SERVE ON ANY SPECIAL COMMITTEE CREATED TO SOLVE A SPECIAL PROBLEM IN ANY OTHER DISTRICT, BALOS SAID, "THE MICRONESIANS CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER AND ARE WILLING TO WORK ON THAT BASIS."

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(JOINT R&D REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 19 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---A REPORT ON TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR MICRONESIA FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTH CONGRESS THIS WEEK BY THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE STATUS.

CHAIRMAN BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, THE TWO JOINT COMMITTEES WERE DIRECTED BY SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 79 ADOPTED DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS LAST YEAR "TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC REGION..." THUS, THE JOINT COMMITTEES VISITED THOSE COUNTRIES LATE LAST YEAR AND MET WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS INFORMING THEM OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC POTENTIALS AND HOW EACH CAN MUTUALLY BENEFIT FROM OPENING UP TRADE RELATIONS WITH MICRONESIA AND HOW AND WHERE EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS CAN

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ASSIST MICRONESIA IN ITS STRUGGLE FOR ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THE REPORT OUTLINES AND RECOMMENDS THE VARIOUS INITIAL STEPS WHICH MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY MICRONESIA BEFORE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN JAPAN, KOREA, PHILIPPINES AND MICRONESIA.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT A LAW BE ENACTED TO PROVIDE FOR A LONG-RANGE, COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARED ON A DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT BASIS, INCLUDING KUSAIE, AND ACCORDING TO CURRENT AND PROJECTED FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OBJECTIVES.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO HANDLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MICRONESIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION, THE PROMOTION OF TRADE BETWEEN MICRONESIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR AND THAT OF OTHER ASIAN/PACIFIC NATIONS; AND, CREATION OF TRADE MISSIONS TO ATTRACT BUSINESS CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD. THE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE TT GOVERNMENT EXTENDS FORMAL INVITATIONS TO OFFICIALS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO VISIT MICRONESIA TO EXPLORE FOR POSSIBLE JOINT ECONOMIC VENTURES WHERE TRADE AND COMMERCE COULD BE DEVELOPED, FOSTERED AND EXPANDED.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT THE TT'S DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT BE REQUIRED TO KEEP CURRENT AND MAINTAIN A LISTING OF TECHNICAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH COULD BE OBTAINED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND STAND READY TO HELP EACH OF THE DISTRICT IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE AT A BANK AND ASSIST IN FORMULATING ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE TRAINING OF MICRONESIANS ABROAD IN ECONOMIC AREAS.

THE REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT THE LAW CONCERNING FOREIGN INVESTORS BUSINESS PERMIT ACT BE AMENDED FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING A SECTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO HANDLE NON-MICRONESIAN ENTITIES OPERATING IN MICRONESIA THUS ALSO PROVIDE THAT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF R&D PROMOTE OR "SELL" THE BENEFITS OF MICRONESIA AS AN ATTRACTIVE LOCATION FOR THEIR INDUSTRIES AND WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC STABILITY.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT SELECTIVE TARIFF AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BE ENACTED FOR PURPOSES OF DOING AWAY WITH THE IMPORTATION OF COMMODITIES WHICH CAN BE PRODUCED IN MICRONESIA AND THUS ENCOURAGE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES TO PRODUCE THESE COMMODITIES LOCALLY.

IN SUMMARY, THE REPORT NOTED THAT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL AID CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MICRONESIA FROM JAPAN, KOREA AND ON A LIMITED BASIS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT ALSO NOTED THAT TRAINING AVAILABLE IN SPECIFIC AREAS WHICH CAN ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MICRONESIA, IN ADDITION TO PRIVATE JOINT VENTURES IN EXPLORING THE MINERALS OF MICRONESIA WHERE MORE FOREIGN CAPITAL IS CHANNLED TO BENEFIT FOREIGN INVESTORS AND MICRONESIA AS WELL.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS AND IT IS UP TO THE MEMBERS TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN IT DURING THE REMAINING DAYS OF THE CURRENT FIFTY-DAY SESSION.