

(SENATOR BLASTS MNS)

(975)

FILE

SAIPAN, FEB. 21 (MNS)--THE SENATE PASSED 18 MEASURES, INCLUDING FIVE NATURALIZATION BILLS AND A BILL DECLARING THE MARSHALLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION VOID, AND MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA BLASTED MNS COVERAGE OF THE CONGRESS SESSION IN ITS LONGEST MEETING TO DATE IN THIS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. ONE BILL WILL GO TO THE NICON FOR HIS ACTION.

IN A LENGTHY IMPROMPTU SPEECH TOWARD THE END OF THE MORNING MEETING, THE MARIANAS SENATOR TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE THOUGHT THE NEWS COVERAGE WAS TOO SHORT AND DID NOT INCLUDE ENOUGH REMARKS THE SENATORS MADE ABOUT MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION.

SEN. BORJA COMMENTED, "THERE'S A LOT OF DIFFERENCE TO COMPARE WITH PREVIOUS SESSIONS AND WITH THIS SESSION," WITH RESPECT TO THE QUALITY OF NEWS COVERAGE.

"SOMETIMES," HE COMPLAINED, "I TALKED 10 OR 15 MINUTES IN THIS CHAMBER AND NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD GETS IN THERE."

THE SENATE WILL SEND TO THE NICON A BILL EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTRIK, (SB 6-54).

IN FLOOR ACTIVITY THE SENATE AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE A BILL WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A MORTGAGE LAW AND PROVIDE FOR A FORECLOSURE SYSTEM IN THE IT. YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL ARGUED FOR POSTPONING ACTION ON THE BILL. HE STATED THAT SUCH A BILL MIGHT BE GOOD FOR SOME DISTRICTS BUT NOT FOR OTHERS, ESPECIALLY TAP DISTRICT. TRUK SEN. NICK BOSSY AND SEN. BORJA SPOKE INFAVOR OF THE BILL, BUT BORJA STATED THAT IF THE SENATE WOULD RATHER SEE A MORTGAGE AND FORECLOSURE SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH DISTRICT SEPARATELY, THEN HE WOULD SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENABLING DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO PASS SUCH LAWS.

THE SENATORS PASSED ON SECOND READING FIVE NATURALIZATION BILLS WHICH WILL BE SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION, (SB 6-44, 6-35, 6-43, 6-151, 6-46). DURING DISCUSSIONS ON THESE FIVE BILLS, SENATORS LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), ANBILOS IENSI (PONAPE), AND BORJA EXPLAINED THE REASONING AND PROCESS OF ACCEPTING A PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION. SEN. SALII STATED THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH HE CHAIRS, TO ONLY REPORT OUT THOSE BILLS IN WHICH THE PETITIONER HAS RECEIVED THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE IN THE DISTRICT WHERE HE RESIDES. SEN. IENSI QUOTED THE IT CODE, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY MARIANAS SEN. PEDRO TENORIO, THAT A PETITIONER MUST RENOUNCE HIS FORMER CITIZENSHIP BEFORE HE CAN TAKE HIS OATH TO BECOME A IT CITIZEN. AND SEN. BORJA EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURE OF BECOMING NATURALIZED AFTER A PETITIONER HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

PASSED WITH LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION ON SECOND READING WERE ELEVEN OTHER BILLS WHICH WILL GO TO THE HOUSE FOR DELIBERATION. THESE BILLS ARE: TO CREATE A BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA AND THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER, (CSB 6-76); TO DECLARE THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON IN THE MARSHALLS NULL AND VOID, TO AUTHORIZE THE NICON TO CALL ANOTHER ELECTION AND APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FOR IT, (SB 6-99), WITH SEN. MANGEFEL VOTING AGAINST; TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN PUBLIC LAW 5-73, (SB 6-125); AMENDING PUBLIC LAW 5-60, RELATING TO THE ADOPTION PROCEDURE AND THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE FOR RETIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, (SB 6-86); A MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE IT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES BY THE CONGRESS, (SB 6-20), SEN. TEN VOTING FOR; A BILL WHOSE INTENT IS TO REQUIRE THAT THE DAY ON WHICH THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP IS HELD SHALL BE THE SAME IN KWAJALEIN ATOLL AS IT IS IN THE REST OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-49); TO AMEND

13662

CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO EXEMPT MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ANY BODY OR POSITION CREATED BY A DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE TT PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM, (SB 6-73); A BILL TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF PUBLIC LAW

5-25 CONCERNING THE PORTS OF ENTRY FOR FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS, (SB 6-124); A MEASURE TO EMPOWER THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE CON CON TO APPOINT A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, (SB 6-63); AND FINALLY A BILL TO PRECLUDE THE TT GOVERNMENT FROM OWNERSHIP OF HOUSING UNITS AND TO DESIGNATE THOSE TT EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO HOUSING ALLOWANCES, (SB 6-67), WITH SEN. BOSSY AND KAUA VOTING NO. SEN. SALII COMMENTED THAT SUCH A BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN EVERY CONGRESS SESSION.

THE SENATORS FILED ONE BILL (SB 6-51) ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH REPORTED THAT THE PRESENT PUBLIC LAW 5-92 RELATING TO DISTRICT CONCON DELEGATION EXPENSES "COVERS EVERY EXPENDITURE WHICH IS NECESSARY TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES...OF A DISTRICT DELEGATION..."

ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON A BILL CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA, (SB 6-69).

ONE SENATE RESOLUTION AND ONE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE ADOPTED IN THE SENATE DURING THEIR MORNING MEETING. THE SENATE RESOLUTION DIRECTS THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS TO INVESTIGATE THE TT DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF CONGRESS, (SR 6-3).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED WOULD EXPRESS PRIDE AND FAITH IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND FORMALLY REQUEST THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING CHANGES IN THE EXECUTIVE WITH PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (SR 6-3). IN DISCUSSION PRECEDING THE VOTE, SEN. ROMAN TMEUHL OF PALAU COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THE RESOLUTION DID NOT IMPLY THAT THE CONGRESS IS SATISFIED WITH ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION. SEN. BAILEY DETER AGREED WITH THE RESOLUTION AND POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE MICRONESIAN PRIORITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN SHUNTED ASIDE BY THE ADMINISTRATION WERE NOT NECESSARILY THE FAULT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TT ADMINISTRATION IS AN AGENCY OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, AND SO THE BLAME FOR MANY OF THE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE TT ADMINISTRATION MUST LAY WITH THAT DEPARTMENT.

NINE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE FRIDAY MORNING (FEB. 21). THEY ARE: AN APPROPRIATION MEASURE OF \$106,100 TO MATCH THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FUNDS TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTION OF THE TT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD, (SB 6-167); AN AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC LAW 5-66 PROVIDING THAT ONE HAYOR FROM EACH DISTRICT SHALL BE A VOTING DELEGATE TO THE CONCON, (SB 6-169); TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM WAGE AND MAXIMUM WORKING HOURS FOR TT EMPLOYEES (SB 6-168); A BILL RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE MICRONESIAN BAR, (SB 6-170); CREATING A COMMISSION OF POLITICAL EDUCATION AND PRESCRIBING ITS DUTIES, (SB 6-171); EXEMPTING THE PUBLIC DEFENDER FROM THE TT PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FOR ITS SALARY, (SB 6-172); AMENDING A SECTION OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO FEES FOR RENEWAL OF ID CARDS, (SB 6-173); APPROPRIATING \$57,000 TO CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP ONE COMMUNITY MEETING HALL ON TOL, TRUK LAGOON, (SB 6-174); APPROPRIATING \$80,000 TO RE-ENGINE THE MS KASELEKHA, (SB 6-175); AND A BILL TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE PONAPE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, (SB 6-175).

13663

TWO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ALSO INTRODUCED: CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. GEAS KANSOU AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, (SR 6-36); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UN TO CLARIFY THE REASONS WHY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY

MAINTAINS THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN IN THE TT, (SJR 6-37).
IN THE HOUSE, THREE BILLS PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING
AND WERE SENT TO THE SENATE. ONE BILL WAS FILED AND A NUMBER OF
OTHERS PASSED FIRST READING.

PASSED ON SECOND READING WERE: A BILL TO CONVERT THE SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM'S OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1975 FROM A
FISCAL YEAR WHICH TERMINATES ON JUNE 30, 1975 TO A FISCAL YEAR
WHICH TERMINATES ON MARCH 31, 1975, (HB 6-118); A MEASURE TO
PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY FOR
MICRONESIA, (HB 6-97); AND A MEASURE TO AMEND THE TRUST TERRITORY
CODE RELATING TO NATIONALITY, CITIZENSHIP, AND NATURALIZATION
AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANTS INTO THE TRUST
TERRITORY. CONGRESSMEN CHIRO ALBERT, SASAHO HARUO, RAYMOND SETIK
AND SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY VOTED AGAINST THE LATTER BILL.

THE HOUSE ALSO FILED A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$28,000 FOR SCHOOL
BUSES FOR MOEN ISLAND, TRUK DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO THE EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL MATTERS COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN JOAS SIGRAH
FROM PONAPE, AT THE PRESENT TIME HOUSE BILL 6-3 WAS INCORPORATED
THE NEED FOR SCHOOL BUSES SET OUT UNDER THIS BILL.

FIVE BILLS, TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND ONE HOUSE RESOLUTION
WERE INTRODUCED. THEY ARE: A MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS
IN THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE RELATING TO THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR
WHICH A STAY OF DEPORTATION CAN BE GRANTED, (HB 6-267);
APPROPRIATING \$30,000 TO TRAIN SIX MICRONESIAN POLICE OFFICERS,
(HB 6-268); AMEND A SECTION OF PUBLIC LAW 93-83 TO EXTEND THE
REVERSION DATE FOR FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO ESTABLISH THE MICRONESIAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK, APPROPRIATE \$54,300 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE
BANK, AND APPROPRIATE \$200,000 TO PROVIDE EQUITY CAPITAL OF THE
MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, (HB 6-269); AND TO EARMARK \$106,100
TO MATCH UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FUNDS TO
CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD,
(HB 6-271);

THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ARE: REQUESTING THE TT DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND FINANCE AND THE TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR
SELF-GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS FOR THE TRANSITION
OF KUSALE TO A SEPARATE DISTRICT, (HJR 6-76); AND A RESOLUTION
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DR. NGAS KANSOU TO THE POSITION OF
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, (HJR 6-77).

THE HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NICON TO DIRECT THE
YAP DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR TO DISSOLVE ALL DISTRICT-WIDE
COMMITTEES IN YAP DISTRICT, (HR 6-15).

SINCE MOST OF THE MEMBERS WILL BE TRAVELLING TO PALAU OVER
THE WEEKEND FOR THE UNITY RELATED FESTIVITIES, BOTH HOUSES WILL
MEET MONDAY EVENING AT 7:00.

(THREE RECEIVE CERTIFICATES)

SAIPAN, FEB. 21 (HNS)--ANTONIO R. SABLAN OF THE MARIANAS
DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICE AND JOAQUIN C. CABRERA OF THE HEADQUARTERS
REVENUE DIVISION RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FROM
HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY HELD
IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE ON FRIDAY (FEB. 21) ON SAIPAN.
THE CERTIFICATES WERE AWARDED TO SABLAN AND CABRERA IN
RECOGNITION OF THEIR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A CUSTOMS ORIENTATION
AND TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY IN
HAWAII LAST NOVEMBER.

ALSO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE COURSE WAS PETER E. GILTUS
OF THE YAP DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICE, WHO WAS IN YAP AT THE TIME
OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATES BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.
HIS CERTIFICATE WILL BE PRESENTED TO HIM ON YAP BY YAP DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATOR LEONARD AGHIGU.

ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE RON PETERSON,
IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MORE EMPLOYEES OF THE REVENUE DIVISION

WILL BE ATTENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY PROGRAM IN HAWAII
IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

13665