

(SENATE HOLDS EVENING SESSION)

1975

File

SAIPAN, FEB. 27 (MNS)---THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MET FOR A SECOND TIME THURSDAY (FEB. 27), AND PASSED ANOTHER BILL FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ACTION AND PASSED THREE OTHER BILLS ON FINAL READING. THE SENATE'S POET LAUREATE YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL READ ONE OF HIS ORIGINAL WORKS OF POLITICAL POETRY TO HIS FELLOW SENATORS AND A SMALL BUT DEDICATED CROWD OF POETRY FANS IN THE GALLERY. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY FOR THE FULL TEXT OF SEN. MANGEFEL'S CREATION.)

A HOUSE BILL TO CONVERT THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM'S OPERATING BUDGET TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S FISCAL YEAR, (HB 6-118), WAS PASSED BY THE SENATORS, AND IT WILL BE SENT TO THE HICOM FOR ACTION.

OTHER BILLS THAT PASSED FINAL READING IN THE SENATE WERE: A MEASURE WHOSE INTENT, EXPLAINED PETRUS TUN (YAP), CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WAS TO USE FUNDS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED FOR SCHOOL BUSES FOR MICRONESIAN STUDENTS ON GUAM FOR STUDENT ASSISTANT GRANTS, (SB 647). SEN. TUN EXPLAINED THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON GUAM HAS DECREASED SO THAT MONEY FOR BUSES IS NO LONGER NEEDED. ALSO PASSED WAS A BILL TO RE-ENGINE THE MS KASELEHLIA, (SB 6-175); AND A BILL TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, (SB 6-148).

RECOMMITTED TO THE HEALTH COMMITTEE WAS A BILL RELATING TO ORDERLY DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL IN THE OUTER ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-84), AFTER MARIANAS SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA RAISED A QUESTION ABOUT THE CONSISTENCY BETWEEN TESTIMONY FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE TEXT OF THE BILL.

SEVEN RESOLUTIONS PASSED THE SENATE DURING THE EVENING SESSION. PALAU SEN. LAZARUS SALII REPORTED ON A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING ABOUT A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS B. CROSSAN, JR., AS TT PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER, (SJR 6-1). HE NOTED THAT COMMITTEE REPORTS TOOK NOTE OF AND DISAPPROVED OF THE ILLEGAL MANNER IN WHICH CROSSAN HAD BEEN APPOINTED, SINCE HE IS A U.S. CIVIL SERVANT. SEN. SALII ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH NOTE SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF THE CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION BECAUSE THE CONGRESS DID NOT WANT TO REFLECT BADLY ON THE NOMINEE.

PONAPE SEN. BAILEY OLTER COMPARED THE SITUATION WITH A WIFE WHO CONSTANTLY NAGGED HER HUSBAND, WHO ALWAYS AGREED WITH THE WIFE, BUT THEN WENT OUT AND DID WHAT HE WANTED.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS TO PASS THE SENATE WERE: A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HICOM AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDS TO COVER THE COST OF WATER AND SEWER LINE HOOKUPS TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSES IN EACH DISTRICT CENTER, (HJR 6-9); HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HICOM TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF DIABETES IN THE TT, (HJR 6-14); A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING EBEYE, MARSHALLS DISTRICT, A DISASTER AREA AND URGING THE HICOM TO ACT TO ALLEVIATE THE WATER SHORTAGE ON THAT ISLANDS, (SJR 6-16); TO REQUEST THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ONE OR MORE TT PORTS TO BE USED AS TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS, (HJR 6-49); TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE HIGH COURT SHOULD IMPOSE CERTAIN PENALTIES ON FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS VIOLATING THE TT WATERS AND CALLING UPON THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS NOT TO DEFEND SUCH VIOLATORS, (SJR 6-10); AND A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING FAITH IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HICOM EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, (SJR 6-3).

THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED DURING THE EVENING SESSION. THEY ARE: TWO NATURALIZATION MEASURES, (SB 6-190 AND 6-191); AND A MEASURE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, (SB 6-192).

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A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 TO PROVIDE FOR A UNICAMERAL CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (SJR 6-44).

TWO SENATE RESOLUTIONS WOULD AUTHORIZE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO EXAMINE THE PROGRAMS, TUITION AND FEE STRUCTURES OF MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER TO INSURE THAT THE PROGRAMS ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE IT, AND THE FEES ARE REASONABLE, (SR 6-6); AND REQUEST THE HICOM TO ESTABLISH A PRE-COLLEGE ORIENTATION CENTER IN EACH DISTRICT CENTER (SR 6-7).

THREE INTRODUCED BILLS WERE INADVERTANTLY OMITTED FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS ON CONGRESS ACTIVITY. THEY ARE: TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CONCON LAW RELATING TO SELECTING ONE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION BY A CERTAIN DATE AND SELECTING TRADITIONAL CHIEFS BY A CERTAIN DATE, (SB 6-185); TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CONCON LAW RELATING TO COMPENSATION OF DELEGATES, (SB 6-186); AND A NATURALIZATION MEASURE, (SB 6-189).

THE SENATE WILL RECONVENE AT 3:30 P.M. FRIDAY (FEB. 28).

(MANGEFEL ON MICRONESIAN UNITY)

SAIPAN, FEB 27 (MNS)---YAP SENATOR HOHN MANGEFEL OFFERED SOME THOUGHTS THURSDAY (FEB. 27), ABOUT MICRONESIAN UNITY AND THE ROLE OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IN "A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FORM." SENATOR MANGEFEL STATED THAT HE WAS "COMPELLED" TO CHOOSE A DIFFERENT FORM AFTER SEEING A PICTURE OF HIMSELF IN THE HALLWAYS OF ONE OF THE CONGRESS BUILDINGS WHICH SHOWED HIM AS A "YOUNG, DASHING," AND "RATHER HANDSOME STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII" WITH A CAPTION RECOGNIZING HIS "TALENT" IN WRITING POETRY AND SHORT STORIES. HIS POEM IS ENTITLED "ODE TO ABE." THOSE ARE TIMES IN MICRONESIA, SO CRUCIAL AND SO CRITICAL; TO FIND THE WAY, TO UNIFY, THE MICRO BODY POLITICAL, WE SET A SPELL, SCRATCH OUR HEADS, DO SOME HEAVY THINKIN'; COMES TO MIND, FOMOUS MAN, ABRAHAM, PRESIDENT LINCOLN. IN U.S. CIVIL WAR, OF ONNG AGO, BROTHERS BECOME FOES, BUT DEMOCRACY, AND THE UNION STAYED, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS. OLD ABE' WAS A MASTER, HIS NATION GONE DESPERATE; BUT HE HELD THE PARTS TOGETHER, ONE INSTEAD OF SEPARATE. FROM THIS I DREW A LESSON, AS ANY SCHOOLBOY COULD; AMERICA WAS EXAMPLE, OF UNITY, EQUALITY AND GOOD. UNITY WAS THE SOIL, WHICH GREW THE FLOWER DEMOCRACY-- DESPITE RECENT NIXONIAN, PRESIDENTIAL HYPOCRACY. DESPITE ALL ASSURANCES, MY DOUBTS BEGAN TO GROW, WHEN SEEDS OF DISCORD, THE U.S. BEGAN TO THROW. THEY LANDED ON OUR ISLANDS, GREW BY NIGHTS AND DAYS; AND FROM THEM, STRANGE PLANTS, CAME IN TWISTED WAYS. WE ARE NOW IN A QUANDRY, COMPLEX, FRUSTRATING, AND DEEP TO SEE AMERICAN SOW THESE SEEDS, AND FROM THEM, DISUNITY REAP. WE SEE OUR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, MOTHER TO LINCOLN AND OTHERS FOOL OUR MICRONESIAN FAMILY, OUR SISTERS AND OUR BROTHERS. RECENT EVENTS IF NOTHING, ENFORCE OUR ABIDING AWARENESS THAT AMERICANS TRULY BELIEVE, IN THE IDEA OF DEMOCRATIC FAIRNESS. BUT FINE PRINCIPLE, ACTUAL PRACTICE OFTEN BOTHERS--- THEY BELIEVE IT FOR THEMSELVES, BUT NOT ALWAYS FOR OTHERS. I RECENTLY VISITED D.C., AND LINCOLN'S MEMORIAL PLACE AND I SAW THAT GRANITE SADNESS, THAT LINED AND NOBLE FACE. I WAS SUDDENLY STRUCK, AS THE SUN ON HIS VISAGE SHONE REVEALING SOFT TEARS, BENEATH THOSE EYES OF STONE. THE MORAL TO THIS TALE, IF THERE IS ONE TO BE FOUND; AMERICA FORSOOK THE IDEA, OF STRENGTH, THRU UNITY BOUND NIXONS AND FORDS--NOT LINCOLNS, RULE AN AMERICAN AUTOCRACY; MICRONESIANS ARE UNWILLINGLY, NOW PRISONERS OF A DEMOCRACY.

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 27 (MNS)---THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PASSED TWO MAJOR BILLS THURSDAY (FEB. 27) MAKING THE CONSTITUTION THE SUPREME MICRONESIAN LAW, (SB 6-139), AND CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA FOR A FORMALIZED EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ISSUE OF FUTURE STATUS FOR MICRONESIA, (SB 6-89). MARIANAS SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA CASTED THE ONLY NO VOTE ON THE LATTER BILL, WHICH WILL NOW GO TO THE HOUSE FOR DELIBERATION, AND HE ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST SUCH A REFERENDUM IN THE MARIANAS.

IN LENGTHY DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM SEN. BORJA ARGUED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THEIR OPINION ON THEIR CHOICE FOR FUTURE STATUS. HE STATED THAT HE HAD TWO RESERVATIONS ON THE BILL: ONE OF TIMING, SINCE THE REFERENDUM IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD BEFORE JULY 12, 1975; AND ONE ON THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS IN THE BILL TO TAKE CARE OF A SITUATION IN WHICH SOME DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA WOULD CHOOSE A DIFFERENT POLITICAL STATUS THAN THE OTHERS. SEN. BORJA STRESSED THAT THIS WAS ESPECIALLY THE CASE FOR THE MARIANAS.

THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTED THAT THE REFERENDUM WOULD BE ON FOUR ISSUES: "THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA, WHETHER MICRONESIA SHOULD SEEK FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS." THE REFERENDUM WOULD ALSO INCLUDE QUESTIONS ON WHICH POLITICAL STATUS - COMMONWEALTH, FREE ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENT, STATUS QUO, STATEHOOD, OR ANOTHER SPECIFIED STATUS VOTERS WOULD CHOOSE.

SEN. SALII CAUTIONED HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS IS "NO LONGER THE SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR MICRONESIA ON THE STATUS QUESTIONS. THE DISTRICTS ARE ASSERTING THEIR ROLES AND GETTING THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY."

"IF THE VOTERS DON'T SUPPORT THE CONGRESS, THEN SOME PEOPLE FEEL THAT THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE LOST THE PRIMARY ROLE," HE CONTINUED. "IF THE VOTERS INDICATE THEY WANT TO FOLLOW A DIFFERENT COURSE, THEN THE SOONER WE KNOW ABOUT IT AND FOLLOW IT, THE BETTER."

THE PALAU SENATOR ALSO TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT CONGRESS IS NOT TRYING TO UNDERMINE ANY DISTRICT THAT WANTS TO PURSUE A DIFFERENT COURSE FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA.

FLOOR LEADER AMBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE BITTERLY TOLD THE MARIANAS SENATORS THAT "AS FAR AS THE MARIANAS ARE CONCERNED, THE DOOR TO THIS (CONGRESS) CHAMBER HAS BEEN LOCKED, NAILED AND BOLTED-FROM THE OUTSIDE."

"WE WON'T CHANGE THE REALITIES IN THE MARIANAS," HE CONTINUED. BUT HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICTS THINK."

"WE AT THE CONGRESS AND THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES GATHER AND ASSUME WE SPEAK FOR OUR PEOPLE," SEN. IEHSI STATED. "I WONDER IF THAT IS TRUE."

YAP SEN. JOHN MANGFEL STATED ON THE ISSUE THAT "THE YAPESE DON'T NEED THIS REFERENDUM. THEY WANT FREE ASSOCIATION."

SEN. PEDRO A. TENCIO OF THE MARIANAS ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION BY CONGRESS OF THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM. HE SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE CHOOSE A DIFFERENT COURSE THAN THAT ALREADY FOLLOWED BY THE CONGRESS, THEN ALL THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL BE NEGATED.

PONAPE SEN. BAILEY OLTER COMMENTED THAT THE ISSUES OF POLITICAL STATUS SHOULD BE FULLY EXPLAINED TO THE PEOPLE BEFORE A REFERENDUM WOULD TAKE PLACE. HE NOTED THAT PRESENT POLITICAL EDUCATION IS "SCANTY."

WITH SEN. MANGFEL VOTING AGAINST, THE SENATORS ALSO PASSED ON FINAL READING A BILL WHOSE INTENT IS TO DECLARE THE