

CHICOM SIGNS 2 BILLS)

SAIPAN, MAR. 1 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON HAS SIGNED INTO LAW THE FIRST TWO BILLS THIS WEEK WHICH WERE PASSED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE FIRST IS TO APPROPRIATE \$30,000 FOR EXISTING VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS (HB 6-1) WHICH NOW BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 6-1.

THE SECOND BILL IS A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 5-31, WHICH APPROPRIATED \$225,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR USE ON ROAD PROJECTS ON BABELTHUAP ISLAND (HB 6-41). THE BILL WOULD AMEND THAT LAW TO PERMIT THE DISTRICT TO USE THE EQUIPMENT ANYWHERE IN PALAU DISTRICT AND NOT JUST ON BABELTHUAP. THE BILL IS NOW PUBLIC LAW 6-2.

IN SIGNING THE SECOND BILL INTO LAW, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID THAT HE IS VERY HAPPY TO SIGN THE BILL BECAUSE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF PALAU DISTRICT. ON HAND TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE BILL, WERE: SENATORS LAZARUS SALII AND ROMAN TMETUHL AND CONGRESSMEN POLYCARP BASILIUS, ISIDORO RUDIMCH, AND KUNIWO NAKAMURA, ALL MEMBERS OF THE PALAU CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. EACH MEMBER OF THE PALAU DELEGATION RECEIVED PENS WHICH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER USED IN SIGNING THE BILL.

CHICOM TO RECEIVE ONE MORE BILL)

SAIPAN, MARCH 1 (MNS)---A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (SB 6-2) PASSED SECOND READING AND WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HIS ACTION. ACTION ON THE BILL CAME FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE 48TH DAY OF ITS SCHEDULED 50-DAY SESSION. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS 30 DAYS IN WHICH TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE BILL.

THE PRESENT LAW HAS ALSO BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE TERM OF OFFICE. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS CHAIRED BY REP. POLYCARP BASILIUS, THE COMMITTEE "AGREES WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE THAT THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THESE JUDGES SHOULD BE SET BY LAW." FURTHERMORE, UNDER THE BILL, NO JUDGE MAY BE EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IN THIS WAY, THE COMMITTEE REPORTED, "THERE WILL BE NO CHANCE OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST." THE BILL PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$400,000 AS A GRANT TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF COPRA PRODUCTION (HB 6-223) PASSED SECOND READING AFTER A LONG DEBATE. THE BILL'S AUTHOR, REP. CHARLES DOWNICK FROM THE MARSHALLS, ARGUED STRONGLY FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL. EXPLAINING THE INTENT OF THE BILL, DOWNICK SAID THAT THE COST OF BUILDING THE COCONUT PROCESSING MILL IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$2.5 MILLION, WITH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA (LEGISLATURE) PROVIDING \$1 MILLION, ANOTHER \$1 MILLION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO DOWNICK, THE NITIJELA CAN PROVIDE THE FUNDING ON THEIR OWN BUT HE WANTED TO INCLUDE THE ENTIRE TRUST TERRITORY TO SELL THEIR COPRA TO MIDA. HE ADDED THAT THE PROFIT DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF THE COCONUT OIL WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE PRICE OF COPRA PER TON. MIDA HAS ALREADY BORROWED MONEY FOR SUCH PROJECT, DOWNICK SAID.

PALAU REP. ISIDORO RUDIMCH EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT MARKETING COCONUT OIL OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT A LOT OF PRODUCTS CAN BE DERIVED FROM THE COCONUT AND NOT JUST OIL. "YOU JUST DON'T PUT COPRA IN THE MILL AND PUSH THE BUTTON AND OUT COMES THE SOAP AT THE OTHER END," HE TOLD THE MEMBERS. BUT THERE ARE OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS BUTTONS, CHARCOAL AND MANY OTHERS, RUDIMCH ASSERTED. SEVERAL MEMBERS WANTED ACTION ON THE BILL TO BE DEFERRED SO THAT

MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, MAYORS OF TINIAN AND ROTA TO MAKE A STUDY OF WAYS TO GIVE THOSE MUNICIPALITIES MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR BUDGET, (HR 6-14).

THE HOUSE DEFERRED ACTION ON A BILL PROHIBITING THE GRANTING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND (EDLF) TO ANY NONCITIZEN (HB 6-238). THE BILL IS UP FOR SECOND READING.

IN A SPEECH BEFORE HOUSE MEMBERS, REP. HERMAN R. GUERERRO STRONGLY OPPOSED THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL. THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL IS A "DISSERVICE" AND "DISCRIMINATING" TO MANY MICRONESIANS ESPECIALLY THOSE MARRIED TO NON-MICRONESIANS, ACCORDING TO GUERERRO. TO PROHIBIT NON-CITIZENS FROM BORROWING FUNDS FROM THE EDLF IS IN VIOLATION OF THE "BILL OF RIGHTS" AND "IN CONFLICT WITH THE CONGRESS STATED POLICY OF IMPROVING THE ECONOMY OF MICRONESIA."

GUERERRO OF MICRONESIA LAST YEAR WHICH RESULTED IN THE RESIGNATION OF MANY LOCAL HIRE EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND URGED THE CONGRESS TO FILE THE BILL. (GUERERRO'S SPEECH WILL BE CARRIED IN DETAIL ON SUNDAY'S MNS DISPATCH MARCH 2).

IN THE SATURDAY SESSION OF THE SENATE, A BILL, WHICH BACKS UP THE BILL PASSED AND SENT TO THE HICOM FROM THE HOUSE FRIDAY (FEB. 28) DECLARING THE CONCON ELECTION OF JUNE, 1974, NULL AND VOID, PASSED FINAL READING AND IS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE HOUSE FOR ACTION.

PALAU SEN. LAZARUS SALII IN AN ORAL REPORT ON SB 6-185 STATED, IN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENT THAT THE HICOM DOES NOT GO ALONG WITH THAT BILL (DECLARING THE MARSHALLS ELECTION VOID), THIS ACT WOULD ENABLE THE MARSHALLS TO ATTEND THE CONCON." THE BILL WOULD TAKE EFFECT ONLY IF THE HICOM DID NOT DECLARE THE ELECTION VOID.

THE BILL PASSED SATURDAY (MAR. 1) BY THE SENATE WOULD ALLOW THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AND THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER TO CHOOSE A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATE AND TWO TRADITIONAL CHIEF DELEGATES AND ALLOW SIX MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT CONCON DELEGATION TO CALL A MEETING TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN. (SB 6-185).

THE SENATORS ALSO PASSED THREE OTHER BILLS ON SECOND READING TO SEND TO THE HOUSE. ONE WAS A BILL CREATING A COMMISSION ON POLITICAL EDUCATION TO, AS REPORTED BY EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PETRUS TUN, "CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE EXISTING ESG TASK FORCE TO MAKE SURE IT IS DOING THE JOB IT'S SUPPOSED TO DOING," (SB 6-171), SEN. OLTER VOTING AGAINST. THE COMMISSION, TUN STATED, WOULD INCLUDE THE ESG CHAIRMAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS), ONE HICOM APPOINTEE, AND TWO MEMBERS NAMED BY THE CONGRESS PRESIDING OFFICERS.

SEN. SALII COMMENTED THAT THE PRESENT ESG TASK FORCE IS "IN A VERY UNTENABLE SITUATION....THEY ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON." HE NOTED THAT A PAMPHLET THE ESG PUT OUT ON THE DRAFT COMPACT WAS RECALLED UNDER PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON. "THIS COMMISSION IS DESIGNED," HE CLAIMED, "TO WITHSTAND SUCH PRESSURE."

THE OTHER TWO BILLS WOULD ESTABLISH A PRICE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR STAPLE FOOD ITEMS, PETROLEUM, AND OTHER BASIC PRODUCTS, (SB 6-91); AND A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$21,283.10 FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE SERVICE TO SAIPAN CASE, (SB 6-187).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE WERE: AUTHORIZING THE HICOM TO ACCEPT A GRANT OFFER FOR THE PREPARATION OF A MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PALAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FROM THE FAA, (SJR 6-40); ASKING THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION TO INSTALL AN EXPERIMENTAL WIND-POWERED GENERATOR AND BATTERY-STORAGE SYSTEM ON SATAWAL ISLAND, YAP, (HJR 6-53); AND ONE RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HICOM, PUBLIC WORKS AND THE TRUK DISTRICT TO HAVE THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES REMOVED FROM THE DOCK AREA ON MOEN, TRUK, 13725 (HJR 6-66).

THE SENATORS DEFEATED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ESTABLISHING A MICRONESIAN MARITIME ACADEMY, (HJR 6-28). SEN. MANGEFEL NOTED THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY FEASIBILITY STUDY.

MARIANAS SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA GAVE A SPEECH ON THE AFFILIATION OF THE TT SCHOOL OF NURSING WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY FOR FULL COVERAGE).

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE INTRODUCED: A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 67 OF THE TT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND FOR JUST COMPENSATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELOCATION BENEFITS AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS AND BUSINESSES DISPLACED BY GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, (HB 6-300); A BILL TO CONTROL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, (SB 6-299); A BILL TO ILLEGALIZE GAMBLING IN THE TT, (HB 6-298); AND A BILL TO PROMOTE SAFE BOATING, (HB 6-297).

ONE JOINT RESOLUTION WAS ALSO INTRODUCED WHICH REQUESTS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO APPLY FOR AND SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIAN COCONUT COMMUNITY FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HJR 6-93).

WITH TWO DAYS LEFT IN THIS SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS, THREE BILLS AND ONE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE INTRODUCED. THE BILLS WOULD: PROVIDE \$150,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PONAPE. (SB 6-194); EXPEND \$80,000 FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MARIANAS, (SB 6-195); AND AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE FOR THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, (SB 6-196).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD REJECT TITLE IV OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION CONCLUDED BY THE JCFS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND DIRECT THE JCFS TO RENEGOTIATE A NEW PROVISION GOVERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MICRONESIA, (SJR 6-45).

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BORJA/GUERERRO CRITICIZE ADMINISTRATION)

SAIPAN, MAR. 1 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE TRANSFER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY SCHOOL OF NURSING (TTSN) THIS WEEK OFFICIALLY TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA BY THE TT GOVERNMENT MET CRITICISM FROM MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA AND REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN R. GUERERRO.

IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE SENATE SATURDAY MORNING (MARCH 1), SENATOR BORJA SAID THE SENATE'S HEALTH COMMITTEE "SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH OUR NURSING SCHOOL GRADUATES BEING AWARDED DEGREES FROM CCM...BUT WE SAW A GREAT DEAL WRONG WITH A COMMITMENT TO AFFILIATE WITH CCM, AND IN SO DOING TRANSFER CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL FROM HEALTH SERVICES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION..." ACCORDING TO A HEARING ON THE ISSUE LAST WEEK.

BORJA SAID HE DISAGREES WITH THIS BECAUSE IN HIS WORDS: "THE 'STATE OF EDUCATION' IN MICRONESIA HAS MORE THAN ONCE BEEN CALLED A DISASTER AREA IN MICRONESIA WITHIN THE HALLS" OF THE CONGRESS AND TO PLACE THE NURSING SCHOOL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WOULD "SERIOUSLY WEAKENED IT."

HE SAID FROM HIS EXPERIENCES "...GOOD NURSING SCHOOL ARE MORE OFTEN AFFILIATED WITH GOOD HOSPITALS THAN THEY ARE WITH GOOD UNIVERSITIES..." SENATOR BORJA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS TO RUN THE NURSING SCHOOL HE IS "AFRAID" CONGRESS WILL RUN THE RISK OF LOWERING THE HIGH STANDARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT CONGRESS HAS SET.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR SAID THAT THE NURSING SCHOOL MUST WORK TOWARD FULL ACCREDITATION TO MEET MICRONESIA'S DEMANDS FOR MORE QUALIFIED NURSES. HE SAID THAT THAT GOAL WILL NOT BE REACHED ANY FASTER THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR "WE MAY NEVER REACH IT AT ALL."

SENATOR BORJA NOTED THAT DESPITE THE HEALTH COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES WENT AHEAD AND TRANSFERRED THE NURSING SCHOOL TO CCM. HE SAID BOTH DR. KUMANGAI AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER USED THIS "SORRY"

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OCCASSION TO "BLAST" THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR ITS URGING AGAINST SUCH STEP.

BORJA CONCLUDED THAT IF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA'S SCHOOL OF NURSING "SINKS" TO THE LEVEL OF THE REST OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN "PROGRESS" TOWARD FULL ACCREDITATION UNDER THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT THEN "BOTH WILL REALIZE WHOSE CRITICISM WAS JUSTIFIED AND CONSTRUCTIVE. AND WHOSE WAS MALICIOUS AND DESTRUCTIVE."

LIKE BORJA, CONGRESSMAN GUERERRO SAID "ALTHOUGH THE TRANSFER OF THE PROGRAM TO CCM MAY BE NECESSARY SO THAT THE STUDENTS MAY RECEIVE A.S. DEGREES, CREDITS OBTAINED AT CCM ARE UNACCEPTABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND OTHER FULLY ACCREDITED AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES."

"MY CONCERN IS NOT ONLY HOW WELL THE NURSING PROGRAM IS BEING RUN TODAY," GUERERRO CONTINUED, "BUT WHETHER THE CREDITS FROM CCM COULD BE ACCEPTED IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHOULD THE STUDENT CHOOSE TO CONTINUE HIS OR HER STUDIES."

CONGRESSMAN GUERERRO SAID HE LEARNED THAT FIVE STUDENTS FROM THE MARIANAS, PALAU AND PONAPE WERE WILLING TO TAKE UP THE 'CRASH PROGRAM' BEING OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY. HE SAID SOME POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM ARE AVAILABLE IF THE TT GOVERNMENT COULD PUT UP MATCHING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"IF THE TT GOVERNMENT CAN FULLY FINANCE THE EXPENSES OF THESE FIVE STUDENTS WHO WISH TO GO TO GUAM," GUERERRO CONTINUED, "I FEEL IT IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO," HE SAID THAT RATHER THAN CONTINUING THE UOG/TTSN AFFILIATION AND UPGRADE THE SCHOOL'S STANDARDS TO MEET UOG ACCREDITATION STANDARDS, THE ADMINISTRATION CHOOSES TO GO WITH CCM WHICH IS NOT ACCREDITED ITSELF TO GRANT DEGREES.

GUERERRO CONCLUDED BY SAYING: "CCM'S A.S. DEGREE PROGRAM IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PIECE OF PAPER AND I FEEL THAT THIS ACTION IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF PROMOTING THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS OF MICRONESIA. FRANKLY, I HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON THE ALTERNATIVE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION."

GUERERRO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT MET WITH UOG OFFICIALS LAST WEEKEND CONCERNING THE NURSING SCHOOL'S RECENT LOSS OF ACCREDITATION.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(EDWARDS ON MICRONESIAN ECONOMY)

SAIPAN, MAR. 1 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE EDGAR EDWARDS TOLD THE MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SATURDAY (MAR. 1) THAT IF MICRONESIA IS EVER GOING TO HAVE "SELF-GOVERNMENT" AND "SELF-RESPECT" TO ANY MEANINGFUL DEGREE, CONGRESS MUST TAKE EVERY STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY.

IN A SPEECH INSERTED INTO THE HOUSE JOURNAL SATURDAY MORNING (MAR. 1) EDWARD SAID THE "KEY" TO BUILDING SUCH AN ECONOMY REQUIRES "FOR A UNIFIED MICRONESIA" AND ONE WHICH IS BASED UPON "MUTUAL" RESPECT AND "CONFIDENCE."

CONGRESSMAN EDWARDS ALSO SAID THAT UNITY IS ONE ASPECT WHICH MICRONESIANS MUST PRACTICE WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT AND IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH CANNOT BE PURCHASED THROUGH "REVENUE-SHARING" LEGISLATION OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR ISSUE.

NOTHING THAT SOME MEMBERS MAY DISAGREE WITH HIS POSITION, HE SAID IT IS HIS SINCERE OPINION THAT "SHARING" IS A MICRONESIAN CUSTOM WHERE MICRONESIANS TAKE PRIDE IN SHARING WHAT THEY HAVE WITH IMMEDIATE AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS. HE NOTED THAT IT IS NOT A MICRONESIAN CUSTOM TO BARGAIN FOR SOMETHING IN RETURN. HE SAID SUCH "IS A FOREIGN POLITICAL TACTIC WHICH OFFENDS MICRONESIAN SENSIBILITIES." 13727

EDWARDS ALSO SAID THAT WHILE VIEWS AND CONVICTIONS MAY DIFFER ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION, HE SAID HE HOPES

THAT CONGRESS' ACTIONS ARE "DONE" IN A MICRONESIAN WAY. HE SAID THE MICRONESIAN AND NOT THE FOREIGN WAY WILL ALSO BE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

THE PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE HOPES THAT THE CONSTITUTION WHICH THE DELEGATES WILL DRAFT IN THE UP-COMING CONVENTION WILL NOT ONLY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY, BUT WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIVE TO SATISFY ANY MINORITY DISTRICT VIEWPOINTS.

CONGRESSMAN EDWARD CONCLUDED BY SAYING: "LET FAIRNESS, AND THE MICRONESIAN WAY PREVAIL OVER OUR FUTURE WORK AND THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA."

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