

(COM VOTE TO VOID CONCON ELECTION IN THE MARSHALLS)

1975

FILE

SAIPAN, FEB. 28 (MNS)---THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED FRIDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 28) TO VOID THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON) IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HELD ON JUNE 4, 1975 AND AUTHORIZE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THAT DISTRICT, (SB 6-90).

THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, CHAIRED BY PALAU REP. POLYCARP BASILIUS, THAT STUDIED THE BILL REPORTED THAT THE "PROCEDURES USED IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT DO NOT MEASURE UP TO THE STANDARDS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LEGITIMACY AS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE." FURTHER, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, ONLY TEN PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE VOTED, CONSIDERABLY UNUSUALLY LOW WHEN COMPARED WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ELECTION.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR THE LOW TURNOUT, THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT. RESULTING IN CONFUSION AMONG THE PEOPLE "AS TO WHAT EFFECT A CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE ON THOSE AREAS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN REPRESENTED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION."

THE OTHER IS THAT THE "IROIJ" OR TRADITIONAL CHIEFS, ARE NOT ALLOWED VOTING RIGHTS AS THE CONCON. "TO THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE, THIS WAS AN INSULT, AN IGNORING OF THEIR NATIVE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS," THE COMMITTEE REPORT STATED. "TO DENY THEM VOTING RIGHTS IS TO IGNORE THE TIME-HONORED CUSTOMS OF THE MARSHALLESE TRADITION." IT CONTINUED.

IN A LONG DEBATE BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL ON SECOND READING, REP. CHARLES DOMICK URGED THE MEMBERS TO PASS THE BILL. SAYING THAT IT IS "VERY IMPORTANT" TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONCON, DOMNICK ASKED: "DO YOU WANT US TO BE UNITED WITH THE REST OF YOU (OTHER DISTRICTS) OR SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF YOU?" CONG. RESIO MOSES QUESTIONED THE CONGRESS MOVE TO INVALIDATE THE RESULT OF THE MARSHALLS ELECTION. REP. JOHN HAGLELGAM ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE SMALL TURNOUT IS GROUNDS FOR INVALIDATING THE ELECTION.

MARSHALLS REP. CARMEN M. BIGLER POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALLS WHO WERE CONFUSED AS TO WHAT THEY WERE VOTING FOR DURING THE CONCON ELECTION, WHICH RESULTED IN A SMALL TURNOUT. SEVERAL TIMES MEMBERS MOVED TO DEFER ACTION ON THE BILL UNTIL A LATER DATE BUT WERE MET BY SHOUTS OF OBJECTIONS FROM OTHER MEMBERS. REP. OSCAR RASA, WHO DID NOT CONCUR WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN WHICH HE IS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, SUGGESTED THAT THE HOUSE VOTE IN A SECRET BALLOT. HIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED. IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, CONGRESSMEN RESIO NOSES, RAYMOND SETIK AND EDGAR EDWARDS VOTED AGAINST. REP. SASAUO HARUO VOTED "CONFLICT OF INTEREST" MEANING THAT HE IS NEUTRAL ON THE MATTER.

THE OTHER BILL THAT PROLONGED THE SESSION WAS THE ONE APPROPRIATING \$90,000 FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF EACH OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-130). REP. POLYCARP BASILIUS SUCESSFULLY AMENDED THE BILL WHICH WILL GIVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE PALAU FISHERIES ASSOCIATION THE POWER TO REMOVE THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT OF THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY. BASILIUS SAID THAT THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHING AUTHORITY IS "NOT GOOD." REP. OSCAR RASA VOICED HIS OBJECTION TO THE AMENDMENT. HE SAID HE WANTED TO FIND OUT THE REAL REASON FOR REMOVING THE PRESENT MANAGER AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY "IN-HOUSE POLITICKING" INVOLVED. HE SAID THAT HE DOESN'T WANT THE CONGRESS TO GET INVOLVED IN PALAU'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HIS STATEMENTS DREW SUPPORT FROM HIS COLLEAGUE IN THE MARIANAS HERMAN R. GUERRERO.

FLOOR LEADER LUKE TWAN INFORMED THE MEMBERS THAT THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER THE BILL FOR THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY IS CONDITIONAL, MEANING THAT IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PALAU FISHING

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ASSOCIATION DOES NOT CHANGE THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT, THE FUNDS WILL NOT BE RELEASED.

THE OTHER MEASURES THAT PASSED SECOND READING AND WILL BE SENT TO THE SENATE INCLUDED TWO SUBSTANTIAL APPROPRIATION BILLS. THEY ARE: APPROPRIATING \$709,221 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OFFICE, (HB 6-154) WITH MOSES VOTING AGAINST; AND A BILL APPROPRIATING \$370,000 FOR USE BY THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES IN MAKING LOANS TO THE FISHING COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS, (HB 6-131).

THE OTHERS ARE: TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMPENSATE MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION WHILE ENGAGED IN CARRYING OUT THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, (HB 6-220); A MEASURE TO AMEND THE LAW ESTABLISHING THE MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (PL 6-85) TO PERMIT THE BOARD TO SELECT ITS CHAIRMAN AND INCREASES THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CONGRESS FROM TWO TO THREE, (HB 6-240); AND A BILL TO PROVIDE CONTROL, ACCOUNTING, LIMITATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (HB 6-67).

TWO OTHER BILLS WERE FILED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY REP. JOAB SIGRAH. THEY ARE A MEASURE RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, (HB 6-61); AND A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 5-91, RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES, (HB 6-138). BOTH BILLS ARE IN CONFLICT WITH HOUSE BILL 6-84 (RELATING TO SURTAXES) WHICH ALREADY PASSED SECOND READING IN THE HOUSE AND WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE.

A NUMBER OF OTHER MEASURES PASSED FIRST READING, ENSURING THAT THE LAST THREE REMAINING DAYS OF THE 50-DAY SESSION WILL BE A BUSY ONE. THE HOUSE NEVER GOT TO THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR.

IN A SPEECH BEFORE HIS COLLEAGUES, SEN. ROMAN TMETUHL OF PALAU SUGGESTED AS MAN OF THE YEAR AND POET LAUREATE OF MICRONESIA THE NAME OF FELLOW-SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP. SEN. MANGEFEL'S MYRIAD CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MICRONESIA AND ITS CONGRESS WERE CITED AS REASONS FOR THE NOMINATION. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY FOR FULL COVERAGE OF SEN. MANGEFEL'S QUALIFICATIONS).

DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON SESSION FRIDAY (FEB 28) THE SENATORS PASSED THREE BILLS ON FINAL READING AND ADOPTED FIVE HOUSE AND SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WITH LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION.

THE BILLS THAT PASSED WERE: TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORDERLY DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL TO THE OUTER ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-84); PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, (SB 6-20); AND TO AUTHORIZE THE HICOM TO ENTER INTO A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH DROSTHOLM PRODUCTS OF DENMARK FOR THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A PILOT PLANT IN MICRONESIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILIZING LATERITIC AND OTHER SOIL DEPOSITS NEEDED IN THE "LATOREX" PROCESS AND PROVIDING \$500,000 FOR THAT PURPOSE, (SB 6-140).

THE FOUR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS THAT WERE ADOPTED INCLUDES: COMMENDING THE HON. J.B.P. NARAMIS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) FOR HIS PROMOTION OF PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT ESCAP MEMBER DEVELOPING NATIONS AND INVITING HIM TO VISIT THE TT, (HJR 6-2); INVITING THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC IN MANILA TO RELOCATE ITS REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE TT, (HJR 6-4); REQUESTING THE HICOM TO SEEK FEDERAL AIRPORT MONEY TO IMPROVE THE PALAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, (HJR 6-39); AND TO REQUEST THE HICOM TO SEEK FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF RUNWAY LIGHTS FOR PALAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, (HJR 6-50).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ATTAIN REACCREDITATION FOR THE TT SCHOOL OF NURSING, (SJR 6-11). REGARDING THAT RESOLUTION, MARIANAS SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA NOTED THAT THE NURSING SCHOOL IS NEGOTIATING TO BECOME AFFILIATED WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

ONE BILL WAS INTRODUCED WHICH WOULD PROVIDE \$17,000 FOR THE IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF DISTRICT JUVENILE OFFICERS AT THE YOUTH DIVISION OF THE GUAM POLICE, (SB 6-193).

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET AT 10:00 SATURDAY MORNING (MARCH 1).

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(MANGEFEL NOMINATED MAN-OF-THE-YEAR)

SAIPAN, FEB. 28 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR ROMAN TMETUHL FRIDAY (FEB 23) NOMINATED YAP SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL FOR THE "MAN OF THE YEAR" IN MICRONESIA.

NOTING THAT A LOCAL SAIPAN NEWSPAPER HAS RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT MANGEFEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A "NATIONAL HERO" FOR MICRONESIA, TMETUHL SAID THAT MANGEFEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "NATIONAL HERO AND POET LAUREATE OF MICRONESIA."

THE PALAU SENATOR, WHO ALSO NOMINATED CONGRESSMAN ATAJI BALOS FOR "MAN OF THE YEAR" IN 1974, SAID THAT SENATOR MANGEFEL'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING HIS TENURE IN THE CONGRESS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- INTRODUCING A BILL TO SIMPLIFY THE LAWS IN MICRONESIA BY REPLACING THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS;
- INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION URGING THE MEN OF MICRONESIA TO DO THEIR BEST TO RESOLVE THE SEX IMBALANCE OF MICRONESIA'S POPULATION;
- ACTED AS A SALARY CONSULTANT TO A SENATE COMMITTEE AND PRODUCED A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF INEQUITIES IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT PAY SCALE BY DIVIDING ALL GRANT FUNDS EQUALLY AMONG ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES;
- SPONSORING A RESOLUTION ASKING THE ALMIGHTY TO ROLL BACK THE PAGES OF HISTORY SO MICRONESIA COULD AGAIN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND SELF-GOVERNING;
- WROTE AN INFORMATIVE LETTER TO HIS COUSIN IN THE UNITED STATES EXPLAINING WHY CERTAIN PROBLEMS THAT BEGAN 500 YEARS AGO STILL EXIST TODAY;
- SUGGESTED THAT WALT DISNEY ENTERPRISES AND ITS CARTOON CHARACTERS BE RETAINED TO STRAIGHTEN OUT MICRONESIA; AND,
- DELIVERED A MESSAGE TO THE SENATE THURSDAY (FEB. 27) WHICH PROVED THAT THE MIXTURE OF POLITICS AND POETRY CAN BE VERY EFFECTIVE.

IN NOMINATING THE YAP SENATOR, TMETUHL ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE TAKE SOME BETELNUT FROM MANGEFEL'S BASKET AND OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENT CHEWING TO HONOR HIM.

(PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY SUBMITS PLAN)

SAIPAN, FEB. 28 (MNS)---THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY HAS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA A PLAN TO BUILD THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR REEF FISHERIES IN PALAU.

THE 100-PAGE PLAN, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND BY ANY FISHING AUTHORITY, WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE PALAU FEDERATION OF FISHING ASSOCIATIONS AND WAS PREPARED BY GLOBAL ASSOCIATES OF GUAM AT THE COST OF \$3,000.

THE PLAN CALLS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CENTRAL REEFER FACILITIES IN KOROR AND BUILDING OF THREE SMALL SATELITE FACILITIES IN OLLEI IN NORTHERN PALAU, IN PELELIU IN CENTRAL PALAU AND IN ANGAUR IN SOUTHERN PALAU.

THE PLAN STATES THAT IT WOULD COST AT LEAST \$300,000 TO RENOVATE THE JAPANESE-MADE CENTRAL FACILITIES IN KOROR, AND \$72,000 TO BUILD THE FACILITIES IN PELELIU AND OLLEI AND \$66,000 FOR FACILITIES IN ANGAUR.

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IN A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF REEF FISHERIES IN PALAU IS FIRST GOAL AND ASKED THE CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE BUILDING OF THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE.

"UNLESS THESE FACILITIES ARE BUILT," THE REPORT TOLD THE CONGRESS, "DON'T EXPECT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN REEF FISHERIES IN PALAU."

THE FISHERMEN IN PALAU, ACCORDING TO FRANCISCO T. ULUDONG, THE AUTHORITY'S MANAGER, HAVE PETITIONED THE CONGRESS THIS YEAR TO HELP THEM BUILD THESE FACILITIES.

"WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN PALAU, ONE OF THEM BEING THE LACK OF THE NECESSARY FACILITIES, NOW IT IS UP TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO GIVE US THE MONEY THAT IT TAKES TO DEVELOP A SUCCESSFUL FISHERIES PROGRAM," ULUDONG SAID.