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SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1975

S. J. R. NO. 6-21

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing and directing the Joint Committee on Future Status (1) to reevaluate and reassess the strategies and alternatives with respect to the future political status of Micronesia whereby the trusteeship status of the Trust Territory may effectively be terminated; (2) to suspend further formal negotiations and talks on the future political status of Micronesia with representatives of the Executive Branch of the United States Government until after the holding of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention and until after the United States Congress is advised of the problems encountered and progress made in the status negotiations; and (3) to seek and secure such formal or informal advice and assistance from the United States Congress relative to the future political status of Micronesia.

- 1 WHEREAS, the United States as Administering Authority for the
- 2 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands assumed the international
- 3 obligation to promote the development of the inhabitants of the
- 4 Trust Territory toward self-government or independence as may be
- 5 appropriate to the circumstances of the people concerned; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the Congress of Micronesia in recognition of this
- 7 obligation on the part of the United States created a committee of
- 8 its own beginning in 1967, to explore political status alternatives
- 9 which may be available to the people of Micronesia, and in late
- 10 1969 created a successor committee to enter into discussions and
- 11 talks with appropriate officials and representatives of the Executive
- 12 Branch of the United States Government relative to steps necessary

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23 to achieve an early termination of the Trusteeship Agreement
24 governing Micronesia; and

25 WHEREAS, after more than five years of continuing political
26 status negotiations and talks with the Executive Branch of the
27 United States Government, this Congress of Micronesia through its
28 Joint Committee on Future Status has reached an agreement with the
29 representatives of the Executive Branch of the United States
30 Government on a Draft Compact of Free Association with the

1 exception of two essential articles on foreign affairs and financial
2 assistance commitments on the part of the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, this Congress of Micronesia finds the agreement
4 reached between the Joint Committee on Future Status and
5 representatives of the Executive Branch of the United States
6 Government on the level of financial assistance to Micronesia both
7 during the transitional period and thereafter to be unacceptable
8 insofar as the declining level of such a plan for financial
9 assistance will not place Micronesia on a road to self-reliance and
10 self-sufficiency; and

11 WHEREAS, the Article in the Compact of Free Association on
12 Foreign Affairs requires further amplification, evaluation and
13 scrutiny to the end that the responsibility of the United States
14 with regard to Micronesian foreign affairs is clearly understood
15 and delineated; and

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16 WHEREAS, it is unlikely that further progress or concessions
17 can be achieved in the continuing political status negotiations
18 and talks between the representatives of the Executive Branch of
19 the United States Government and the Joint Committee on Future
20 Status of the Congress of Micronesia, given the fact that only the
21 United States Congress would be able to make any binding financial
22 commitments for Micronesia on the part of the United States and
23 there appears to be no prospect in the United States Congress
24 binding itself to providing funds for the new government of
25 Micronesia should the Compact of Free Association be approved by
1 the people of Micronesia; and

2 WHEREAS, this Congress of Micronesia through its Joint Committee
3 on Future Status has to date not made any formal or informal attempts
4 to duly advise the United States Congress or its appropriate
5 committees as regards problems encountered and progress thus far
6 made in the negotiation talks with representatives of the Executive
7 Branch of the United States Government, and should therefore make
8 attempts at this time to so advise the United States Congress and to
9 seek consultations, advice and assistance as to ways and means
10 whereby the trusteeship system for Micronesia may be terminated at
11 the earliest possible time; and

12 WHEREAS, recent developments regarding the future political
13 status for the islands of Micronesia clearly indicate the need for

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14 new approaches and reassessments of possible alternatives available
15 for an early termination of the trusteeship status for Micronesia;
16 now, therefore,

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Sixth Congress of
18 Micronesia, First Regular Session, 1975, the House of Representatives
19 concurring, that the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress
20 of Micronesia is hereby authorized and directed to undertake the
21 following:

22 (1) to reevaluate and reassess the strategies and alternatives
23 open to the Congress of Micronesia and the people of Micronesia with
24 respect to their future political status and to the early termination
25 of the trusteeship system for Micronesia;

1 (2) to suspend further formal negotiations and talks on the
2 future political status of Micronesia with representatives of the
3 Executive Branch of the United States Government until after the
4 holding of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention and after the
5 United States Congress has been advised of problems encountered in
6 the status talks and negotiations and progress made to date;

7 (3) to seek and secure such formal or informal advice,
8 consultations and assistance from the United States Congress and its
9 appropriate committees relative to the early resolution of the future
10 political status question for Micronesia and termination of the
11 trusteeship system for the islands of Micronesia; and

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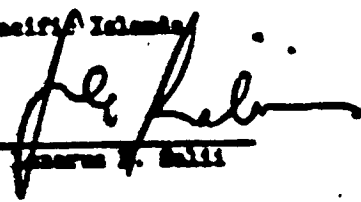
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12 (4) to undertake such other and additional matters deemed
13 appropriate, necessary or proper to determine and resolve the future
14 political status question for Micronesia and termination of the
15 Trusteeship Agreement; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Joint
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Joint Committee on
18 Future Status, United States Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams, the
19 President of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, and the
20 High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

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22 Date: 2-12-75

Introduced by: 
James H. Hall

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Congress of Micronesia - February 14, 1975

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE SETIK

MR. Setik: Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Representatives:

This afternoon I want to take the opportunity to speak briefly about revenue and, in this regard, I assure the gentle lady and her colleagues from the Marshall Islands District that I am not talking about revenue sharing. Rather, I want to talk about U.S. revenues, used as grant funds for allocation to Trust Territory projects and on-going programs.

As you know, the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning has the task of reviewing annually the High Commissioner's proposed budget for the Trust Territory. Formerly, it also reviewed five-year plans in connection with the annual grant. Once the committee has received the Micom's proposed budget, we hold hearings either on Saipan or in the districts and receive district input. After this process, we then make recommendations to add, delete, or change allocations according to the sense of the committee based on district input. We also go through a similar process for any special supplementals proposed under current ceilings, and, in addition, members of this Joint Committee also testify in support of authorization hearings on new funding levels as they are put forward in the U.S. Congress.

As I said, we make our recommendations and then submit them to the High Commissioner, who then makes the final determinations on the budget. Often, I suspect, these recommendations end up in the wastebasket, although to be fair, many times the administration accepts parts of some of our recommendations.

A particularly good example of what happens at this level is shown by the Joint Committee's recommendation to decrease administrative salaries and overhead at the Headquarters level in the FY 1976 budget by half a million dollars and to spend the money for capital improvement projects. In one instance we reallocated \$200,000 of this Headquarters cut to road construction in one district. The High Commissioner did not accept this recommendation, and the \$200,000 was restored to Headquarters. Ironically, however, when the Micom appeared in Washington budget hearings, he supported new budget ceilings by saying that Micronesia still needed replacement of a basic infrastructure, including the construction--of all things--road. All this would be very funny if it were not so pathetic.

Because of such examples, and for other reasons, the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning and its members have proposed that a block grant be given to this Congress to then allocate in the ways it sees fit. As was pointed out by Senator Kabua in his speech the other day, this was the practice of the Australian Government with the Trust Territory of Papua-New Guinea. Despite this, and despite support from the High Commissioner on this proposal, the hands of this Congress still remain tied in this as well as other areas.

As a consequence, some of my colleagues in both Houses have expressed their dissatisfaction with Congress of Micronesia participation in the budget process. Senator Tautuchi has described it, if I recall correctly, as an "exercise in frustration," partly because budgets are submitted in accordance with the U.S. budget cycle which inevitably does not allow us enough time to give full consideration to the budget as we would like.

Despite all these drawbacks, the committee has conscientiously continued to review and recommend and to support programs and projects, ceiling levels and special supplementals before the U.S. Congress because Micronesians have a vital interest in what happens with those funds, and also because if we are not concerned enough to care about this process, except to criticize it, then I doubt whether we are truly ready for that self-government many of us talk about in fine speeches.

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Therefore, we have continued with our often frustrating work because the committee is trying to work in the best interests of all of the Districts of Micronesia, and all its people.

Unfortunately, the budget process does not stop at the Territory-wide level, for after our recommendations are submitted, and the High Commissioner prepares the budget, it is then given to the Department of the Interior for review, where additional changes may be made. After that the budget then goes to the President's Office of Management and Budget, where the practice has been to reduce if possible the total, in order to stay within Presidential fiscal guidelines. Finally, the budget gets to the appropriate committees in the U.S. Congress, and often when we appear before them, the final diversion is quite different than what we originally reviewed or what the Micom recommended. As a result, often the Congress of Micronesia representatives and the High Commissioner present a strong united front in requesting additions and changes to be made in committee. However, actual practice indicates that rarely are these requests granted, as the U.S. Congress is rightly reluctant to change a submission in our case because a Presidential veto would have extremely serious consequences for the Trust Territory, and would result in a lot of time, energy and money being spent to rush through a measure to continue funds for the civil administration of the Trust Territory. After all, as we have pointed out time and time again, the Trust Territory is not simply another agency or branch of the U.S. Government, it is a developing nation, populated by men, women and children who need certain basic human services. Furthermore, Micronesia is a Trust Territory for which the United States Government has special obligations. Therefore, a veto or sudden reduction for Micronesia does not have the same effect as, for example, vetoing a line item in a military appropriation bill. A veto or sharp reduction would have a disastrous effect on all districts and all of our citizens.

My intention in delivering these remarks is not to speak of vetoes, however, or even of the possible effect recent controversy and proposed hearings in Washington, D.C., in connection with the mismanagement of TI funds and programs, but rather to note certain disturbing, new trends in the budget process, about which I believe each and every member of this Congress should be aware.

I think I can sum up this new tendency by saying that, formerly, the bone of contention in the budgetary process was usually between this Congress and the High Commissioner's office. Therefore, in a sense, the final outcome was determined at the appropriate level, meaning at the Territory-wide level, where the money was actually to be spent. More recently, and by this I mean in the past two years, it appears that the Department of the Interior is making both initial and final decisions in budgetary matters, which the High Commissioner is obligated to follow and the Congress of Micronesia is powerless to stop. More particularly, this new direction appears to be coming from Ambassador Franklin Williams' Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations and while Territorial Affairs Representatives disclaim this fact, and while OMSN is a relatively small, special branch within Interior, it is my considered opinion that most of the crucial matters handled by Territorial Affairs are decided upon by OMSN. OMSN is the tail wagging the dog, although the dog claims that he wags his tail when he wants to.

I say this for a number of reasons, some of which you will recall, and others I have yet to present.

With regard to the former, I believe you may have heard members of the Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning, the Presiding Officers of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, and others strenuously objected to Department of the Interior moves to supply about \$4 million for Mariana power facilities either out of new field trip vessels in the 1975 budget or from various district projects in the 1976 budget. This change came about not from the Office of the High Commissioner, but through the influence of OMSN. Previously, we had also objected to cutting funds for a new field trip vessel, and an expanded airfield facility in Truk District, and reallocating them to an accelerated land cadastral program. This, too, was requested by OMSN.

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It is, therefore, obvious to me that our budget is no longer dictated by what it is that we Micronesians, or our High Commissioner feels is needed in these islands, but by the promises, plans, and personal ambitions of certain highly-placed bureaucrats in the Administration in Washington, D.C.

To further illustrate this point, it is necessary to bring in the relationship between the current suspended status negotiations, and the budget process. During the early spring of 1974, members of the Joint Committee on Future Status met with members of the U.S. Negotiating Team to discuss, among other things, funding levels for the period of transition to a new status, and for the period thereafter as specified in the Draft Compact of Association. This meeting was held due to the inability at an earlier meeting to agree on funding levels. The U.S. side proposed certain levels which appeared to be more acceptable, but no definite agreement or commitment was made by our representatives since such levels would have to be agreed upon by this Congress. Contrary to this understanding, the U.S. Negotiators then proceeded to act as though these figures were agreed upon. As a consequence, a bill was introduced into the U.S. Congress based on these new ceiling figures which are \$75 million for 1975, \$80 million for 1976, and \$85 million for 1977, including a built-in inflation, or "constant dollar" factor.

All of this is by way of providing background and therefore meaning to what follows. I have recently, unofficially acquired a copy of an undated memorandum to Ambassador Franklin Williams from the Acting Director of Territorial Affairs, Emmett N. Rice. This memorandum indicates that

(1) Senator Henry Jackson has introduced a bill which, instead of raising the ceiling for 1975 and thus providing an additional \$15 million for this fiscal year, authorizes only \$5.65 million for fuel and supplies for power plants and ships, \$1.4 million for the Yap Hospital, and \$105,000 for matching funds for dispensaries. Not included are \$8 million for new field trip ships, \$1 million for Transpac debts, \$200,000 for architecture and engineering, and \$150,000 for development planning.

With regard to this matter, it seems clear that these cuts are not a result of ONSI's doing, or interference by the department. However, undoubtedly Senator Jackson is not willing to restore these amounts until he can be convinced in forthcoming oversight hearings next month, that the Trust Territory really needs this money for the stated purposes. While I am sure that each and every one of us realize the need for these items, you can be sure that those members of the Congress who do attend the hearing will amply explain the need for them, especially for such vital items as field trip ships, and development planning.

(2) It is curious to note, because it is consistent with my belief, that a separate \$1.5 million for Marianas transition on Senator Jackson's desk will not be "a problem," according to the memorandum.

(3) What is perhaps the most galling, the most upsetting of all about this memorandum, is that it indicates that the Interior Department, meaning Territorial Affairs, which means ONSI, is submitting a bill which would provide the above-mentioned amounts for 1975 and 1976, but which would only provide \$79 million for 1977 and not \$85 million as earlier indicated because, as the DOTA put it, of the "delay in reaching agreement with the Joint Committee on the Future Political Status of Micronesia, FY '77 will drop from Stage II into Stage I." Granted, we have not agreed to these funding levels, but despite that, it is obvious that an increase, not a decrease, is needed—not only for the United States of America to discharge its duties under the Trusteeship Agreement and provide a basic infrastructure and services to our people, but also because of runaway inflation which has hit Micronesia harder than Seattle, Washington, or Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or Miami Beach, Florida.

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But that is not the main point in question. The main point is that our funding levels are apparently now being based on how quickly status negotiations proceed in favor of the United States, and not according to the real needs of Micronesia. This memorandum reveals that the mentality prevalent in the Interior Department is that spending levels will be reduced unless the Micronesians come around to the U.S. position. The budget now has become a tool, a political lever to be used to force an agreement, rather than as it properly should be, to provide those basic components of infrastructure necessary for Micronesia to decrease its dependence upon the United States. What is most ironic in this matter is that the delays mentioned in the memorandum resulted from U.S. policies and actions. As a consequence, it appears that we are being "punished" for delays caused by someone else. We are being penalized for not rushing into an agreement on terms dictated by certain representatives of the United States Government.

I bring these matters to your attention because I want it made clear to all of us and to our Micronesian citizens that this Congress has never, and does not now have the final say with regard to the Trust Territory budget, and that political appointees 30,000 miles away in Washington are the ones who determine if an island gets a new dispensary or not, or if a new school is built or not. I want all Micronesians to know that if their copra lies rotting on the outer islands today it is because Washington officials consider land surveys more important for political reasons than dependable field trip vessels for our hard-working citizens.

I want to make it clear that the shortest and most dangerous airfield in Micronesia has not been made longer, because a political appointee made a deal to take away those funds for another purpose.

I want everyone to know that if roads, schools, water facilities, or other projects are not constructed, it is from a calculated decision to defer them because of the personal ambitions of people who have no love for Micronesia, but only their own careers.

The only way such problems can ever be settled is when we can control allocations of grant funds, and when we can generate enough revenues to replace those grant funds. Unfortunately, the very people toward whom we look to assist us in such endeavors are the very people who have designs upon Micronesia different from our own.

I would like to believe that the actions of these people do not actually reflect U.S. policy, and I would also like to believe that if they were removed in a general house cleaning, that attitudes and actions would change, and we could conduct our budgetary, status, and other relations with the U.S. on the basis of mutual respect and friendship, instead of an adversarial or unequal footing.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, recent experiences indicate that the day when we will control these funds, and control our own destiny, seems to be getting farther away--instead of closer.

Despite this, I do not intend to give up, and I urge all of us not to give up. These are our islands, and we and our children will be here long after certain people are long gone.

So let us keep trying to the best of our efforts, despite the fact that the odds are against us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Congress of Micronesia - February 10, 1975

Senator Rahn: Mr. President and fellow Senators:

As I look back over the past years in the Senate, I have the sense of gratitude for not only the rewarding experiences in the legislative work, but also of the pleasant fellowship which has broadened and enlightened my views on important aspects of life.

We have been working at this job for nearly ten years, and I believe we have accomplished a great deal in terms of legislative undertaking for the betterment and advancement of Micronesia and its people. We can be proud of some of our accomplishments in the past which, to me, are unquestionably worthy of the trust and honor bestowed upon us by our constituents.

Generally speaking, we know what we want for our people. We know what the problems are. And yet, it seems that we have not been able to come to grips with definitive and effective resolutions in the attack on and the removal of the very cores of those important problems in Micronesia. Such a condition may probably be attributed simply to our financial inadequacies as evident in our Congress' perennial financial tribulation. It may be ascribed to our political uncertainties as evident in the variance and discordance shown by the barometer of our national unity. But it appears more so that the reason could be that we have not fully agreed together with our people on what should be our objectives, priorities and the methods by which they should be reached and accomplished. The need for a Micronesian united front is increasingly apparent and should be foremost in importance and consideration.

Mr. President, today we are not too sure that we can honestly say we are satisfied with our progress so far. We are not too sure that many of our constituents can confidently say that they have been and still are with us all along, fully endorsing the path we have chosen to resolve the matters of critical importance to them today and in the future.

These are most trying days for us as we face these complex and intricate problems which scrupulously demand careful and tactful handling. They are delicate problems and should find their solutions from not only the toil of our minds but also from the warmth of our hearts. We are on the threshold of political maturity, and our success in coping with the problems of Micronesian unity and of our relationship with the administering authority can only be responsible for the beginning of our move toward attainment of what Micronesia aspires to achieve.

We may have failed, in one sense, that we did not in several instances appreciate and respect the unique desires and needs of the individual districts in Micronesia; and that, to a greater extent, our efforts have been directed to political matters which have outweighed and greatly overshadowed the importance of our economic development problems, which are so closely related and vitally essential in the overall development of our people. What is more vitalizing and fortifying for Micronesia in meeting its external challenges that its becoming self-sufficient and self-reliant?

Mr. President, we have tried our best; and we know that has not been the end; we shall make our best better.

The best remains that many of us have carried a heavy burden of responsibility in the past, and still carry it today, as a result of these perplexing problems which have been thrust upon us, and which we have encountered in trying to make life better for our people. There has been seemingly endless struggle on our part in our search for this quest. But we have overcome many of the obstacles on our way, and we shall continue to move forward. We have come a long, long way.

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Perhaps, after a span of ten years in this job, a reappraisal of our aspirations, goals and the methods we have employed for their pursuit is in order. Conceivably, we must search our souls and conscience to know seriously what our real wishes and desires are, what problems will be encountered in their pursuit, and, more importantly, whether the people whom we represent are clearly with us and sharing the same sentiments. In so doing, we will have taken the right and fundamental approach to resolving our currently pressing problems. We will be better informed, better equipped and highly confident to take stock to chart a course for Micronesia and to pursue that course decisively and firmly together, apologizing to no man or nation.

Specifically speaking, these problems of our future political status, our relations with the United States with respect to our overall political development and the relations among our districts are difficult, but, perhaps, not insuperable. It seems that each one of them leads us back to the central issue before this Congress: the issue of our economic dependence. It is very easy to infatuate ourselves in complex theoretical discourses of future political status. However, in doing so, we may not be totally realistic at this time since many of us feel that political status in the final analysis will be essentially dictated by economic realities. We have spent an enormous amount of monies which, in light of our other needs, we could not afford; however, we take consolation in that the action we have taken was not in vain; in return we have gained invaluable knowledge in dealing with our mother country. At least, we have discovered some of the truths, painful truths, that should make us rethink our future position. But the fact remains that there can never be any realistic and satisfactory answer to the political question we face until there is a realistic and satisfactory answer to the economic one. In essence, our political aspirations cannot come to fruition and become realities without some kind of economic base to support them, and to strengthen our position as we pursue them.

After thirty years of United States tutelage over Micronesia under the United Nations trusteeship system, with the administering authority agreed to being responsible to promote and advance our economy, the principal economic base of Micronesia today remains the United States Treasury. This is a cold fact, a very unpleasant fact, that is very much indicative of the United States having been somewhat reluctant to diligently carry out its promise to assist Micronesia to become self-sufficient. There seems to have been too many can'ts and don'ts that set the red tape machine in motion to mastermind not our economic development, but our economic dependence. It is hard to believe that such an inart economic situation in Micronesia has been intended; it may just be serious oversight on the part of the Administration. The situation grows clearer and sadder each day to us, and we dare say we don't like it. As John Steinbeck wrote of charity in The Grapes of Wrath, it "make a burn that don't come out."

Mr. President, I do not know if Micronesians can ever be a prosperous people. I gather that our success in attaining such a virtuous economic status will largely depend on what we Micronesians can do for ourselves and perhaps, to a great extent, on the good intention and proper attitude of the administering authority to live up to its pledged responsibilities. But I know that we can be strongly developed enough to know and speak our own minds, and this Congress and the district legislatures must take bold strides toward the goal of self-sufficiency through economic development which we ourselves plan and control, particularly in the full and proper cultivation and harvesting of our soil and marine resources.

We must take these steps now while we are yet able to break free of dependency. We must now account and direct our means and efforts to actual production of what we have — what we can and should have — and not to further studies of what we already know, not to piecemeal appropriations by the Congress that have no significant impact on our total national economy. Micronesia must feed itself.

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It is necessary to a man's self-respect and well-being that he is free from his basic economic wants, that he is able to stand on his own feet to feed himself through his own labor, to build his roof with his own hands. Only then will he be free to think with his own mind. Wouldn't it have been the noblest and fairest thing this Congress could have done to set our people free from their basic economic wants and worries before putting the most important question to them as to what kind of a political status, or what kind of a government they want?

The thought of economic freedom for the Micronesian people is, indeed, noble, but it should not cast any false notion that such a freedom could be easily had. Contrary to what many of us may have wished, under the present circumstances of a monoactive government which is not too sensitive and responsive, it would not be surprising that the road to achieving it may be even steeper and harder than the one we have just trod in search of a suitable political status for the Micronesian people. Nevertheless, it is our conviction that our people must have this freedom and we shall try to secure it for them at any cost. We hope and pray that the United States Administration will review its attitudes and become more sincere and sympathetic toward helping us in this direction; we hope and pray that our people will be together with us, ready to work hard and assist in bringing about a more favorable trade balance in the national economy by the increase of self-dependence, and ready to sacrifice some of their personal comforts if and when necessary. We hope and pray that this Congress will also be more prudent and sensitive in the allocation of its funds in the direction which will generate a desired greater impact on our national economy.

Mr. President, I am a father of a few children. From real experience, I know well that there comes a time when a father must say to his son or daughter, "You are a grown person. You can and must make your own decisions now. I will help you if you ask for help, but it is you who must take charge and make a go of your life." This was not easy for me as a father to say, but it was necessary, and I could not hide the pride my wife and I felt in two of our children as they grew up and became capable of assuming the responsibility for their own lives. They may burn their fingers occasionally, but they learn pretty fast that way how they went wrong.

Today Micronesia has grown up to be about thirty years under the tutelage administration of the United States, and perhaps, at this time, we can rightly feel that the time has come for America to give Micronesians that same kind of recognition and responsibility for their own lives. I believe that we will not disappoint America. I believe Micronesians will give America a parental pride in his offspring if Micronesians are given the chance to do so. We may burn our fingers from time to time; that's a necessary part of the process. But if we are to learn from our mistakes to become a viable people whom America can be proud of, the time to do so is now while an American administration is here to give advice and assistance. I do not imply here that the Trust Territory Government should continue to interfere with our Constitutional Convention legislation which we consider to be purely Micronesian affairs in the sense that Micronesians must be given a fair chance to exercise their right of self-determination.

Right now money comes from the United States often entailed and hedged about with restrictions arising out of programs designed for Detroit and Watts, not for Rota and Moon and Ujae. Let's be thankful for the good uses to which that money has been put in these islands in spite of these restrictions.

But I would recommend to the United States the example of the Trust Territory of Papua and New Guinea. For a number of years Australian support for that territory has been in the form of money made available for direct appropriation by the territorial parliament for the programs it considers necessary and wise. This is an example to follow if we are to develop a meaningful and lasting relationship with the United States. It is the example of a father who understands that his son has come of age. It is a sign of trust, and many Micronesians are today looking for such a sign. To trust us is the only way to develop our trust.

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Of course, the United States has important security interests in Micronesia, but this should not be its excuse to hold the reins tight in other areas. Like a father, the United States must be willing to give its children their chance. No one minimizes the importance of security and defense. We Micronesians fully understand that we cannot on any account impose the United States to danger. But the United States has security interests elsewhere in the world, important strategic interests, for example, in Greece. It protects those interests through diplomacy, as it should. Those interests are not an excuse for the United States to veto acts of the Greek legislature or to take land from the Greeks for its security purpose without any or fair compensation. To do so here keeps us children. Strategic interests are not an excuse for the United States to insist on any particular terms by which the Greek people must govern themselves. To do so here keeps us children.

We Micronesians must rethink not only our relationship with the United States and with the rest of the world, but also our relationship with each other. The several districts of the Trust Territory have been yoked together by the violence of the world wars for the administrative convenience of successive foreign powers. This union has had its strains and pressures, but on the whole it has been instructive and beneficial for Micronesians, and it has held up so far, and time alone can tell of its fate. I believe that the union can have a future, and I am ready to help cooperate in bringing this about. But not on the basis of a forced marriage held together by foreign control, not on the basis of a forced marriage under any condition decided by this Congress and anyone without the consent and approval of the people of each district. Real unity of our several districts will come only from the people themselves, their habit of positive, meaningful, and fair association among one another, a habit of trust which may develop when each district has seen evidence that it has nothing to fear, that its particular interest will not, in a future governing association, be ignored by its sister districts.

As of today, the problem presented by the majority of the people of the Marshall District with respect to a revenue sharing principle and disparity still lingers and haunts our unity. The constant demands and pressures upon the delegation of the Marshalls by the adamant position of the people regarding their fairer share in the national fiscal responsibility have become almost unbearable.

I sincerely urge the Congress to settle this matter to save our unity in Micronesia.

One other issue, so crucial to the Marshall Islands District, is the Constitutional Convention election law, which is erroneous, improper and embarrassing to the Marshallese people. The election held under this law in the Marshalls had some effects which prompted the Senate in the last Congress Session to pass corrective measures to rectify the critical situation. I again urge the Senate to take every possible action to clear this matter, as I strongly believe that on such basic organic questions as the form of our future Constitution, districts must be reasonably satisfied with every step before we proceed. We cannot afford to build a government based on a deficient mandate of the people, and may I urgently remind us that there is as yet no real mandate at all from the Marshallese people.

Mr. President, we in this Congress must lead, but we cannot push our people. Effective leadership in this day and age is persuasive, not coercive. Our Congress should be the melting pot in which our differences cool down. It should have been the forum whereby unity of Micronesia is shaped, fostered and nurtured by mutual respect and understanding, not a forum for Machiavellian diplomacy, or comic opera power struggles. We in the Congress must take a look at ourselves and our attitudes, before pointing our accusing fingers at some of our districts trying to free themselves from the fear and wrath of dominance. Are we not responsible in some way for their becoming fearful and dissident? Mature realistic decisions will come, but they will come only when our people are economically as self-sufficient as possible, and when they develop through association as equals a sense of trust in the United States as a nation they may some day wish to share their future with and that some sense of trust in each other. Let's give our Micronesians unity a chance.

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The goals of this Congress should be to provide for the basic, self-sufficient needs of Micronesians, and at the same time respect and accommodate their internal political needs. Accordingly, we can then act together to finally accept harmoniously the responsibilities and authority of self-government in which the will of the people -- all of the people -- will be supreme.

Thank you, Mr. President.