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ACTION INT-05

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P 021029Z MAR 75 ZNZ1
FM HICOMTEPPACIS SAIPAN MARIANAS ISLANDS
TO ALDISTADS TERPACIS
TT LNO GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
TT LNO KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
COMNAVMARIANAS GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
TPAC HONOLULU HI
NAVINSERVO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
RUERC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CGFMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
COMNAVFACENGCOM ALEXANDRIA VA
PACNAVFACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI

TT LNO HONOLULU HI
SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
FCONA-LGA KIRTLAND AFB NM
CDRUSAGO MAKIMINATO JAPAN//TTPI-LNO//
AMEMB CANBERRA ACT AS

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FINAL SECTION OF 02
SECOND READING AND SENT THEM TO THE SENATE XOR FURTHER ACTION.0
AMONG THEM WAS THE ADMINISTRATION BILL TO PROVIDE A NEW
SALARY SCHEDULE AS WELL AS NEW POLICIES AND STANDARDS WITH
RESPECT TO THE COMPZNSATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES COVERED

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BY TITLE 61 (HB 6-219). THE BILL HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY AMENDED BY THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEADED BY REP. POLYCARP BASILIUS OF PALAU DISTRICT. THE COMMITTEE AMENDED THE BILL INCORPORATING THE "DIVERGENT VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH" AS WELL AS VIEWS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

UNDER THE ORIGINAL BILL THE TASK FORCE ON WAGES AND SALARIES COMPOSED OF MEMBERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES

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RECOMMENDED THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE WOULD BE 80 CENTS PER HOUR. THE PRESENT MINIMUM WAGE IS \$.61 PER HOUR. THE BILL HAS BEEN AMENDED TO INCREASE IT TO \$1.05 AN HOUR.

IN A DEBATE ON THE BILL, CONG. SWSAUD HURUO URGED THE HOUSE MEMBERS TO BE "VERY CAUTIOUS" IN PASSING SUCH MEASURE. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED PAY INCREASES FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES REASONING THAT IT WILL MAKE MICRONESIA "MORE DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES IN THE FUTURE." THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN VOICED HIS CONCERN IN THE "UNWARRANTED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT" TO SEVERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT. HIS COLLEAGUE, REP. RAY SETIK POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN SALARIES TOTALLED \$1.6 MILLION AND ASKED WHERE CAN THE MONEY BE FOUND TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASES.

MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK ALSO SPOKE AGAINST THE BILL SAYING THAT THE INCREASE WILL HAVE A "LONG-RANGE EFFECT ON OUR ECONOMY" AND THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE OF \$10.00 AN HOUR WOULD RESULTED IN AN INCREASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN MICRONESIA. HE EXPRESSED THAT THE CONCERN INCREASE WOULD FURTHER RESULT IN MORE MICRONESIANS LOSING THEIR JOBS TO OUTSIDERS WHO ARE MORE QUALIFIED IN SOME OF THE JOBS AND URGED THAT CONGRESS TO GO BACK

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TO THE PROPOSED \$.80 AN HOUR. FURTHER, DOMNICK ASSERTED, THE PAY INCREASE MIGHT ALSO RESULT IN REDUCTION-IN-FORCE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

REP. OSCAR RASA OF THE MARIANAS STRONGLY URGED THE HOUSE TO PASS THE BILL. HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE CONGRESS FOR

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JUSTIFYING STRONGLY THE SUPPORT OF SALARY INCREASES AND OFFICE EXPENSES OF THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. "NOW WHEN IT COMES TO RAISING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SALARIES, REPORT AFTER REPORT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED OPPOSING THE MEASURE," RASA SAID. HE FURTHER SAID THAT IF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD BE ABOLISHED TO AID THE POOR PEOPLE, "LET IT BE DONE."

REP. JOAB SIGRAH OF PONAPE INFORMED THE CONGRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT CUT OFF SOME CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE SALARY INCREASES AND RECOMMENDED TO DEFER ACTION FOR MORE STUDIES.

THE MEASURE PASSED WITH REPS. BIGLER, SETIK, DOMNICK, SIGRAH AND ALBERT DISSENTING. THE BILL WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

OTHER BILLS THAT PASSED SECOND READING ARE: A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$95,000 TO DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE

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DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND TO ALLOW YAP HOUSING AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE THE FUNDS IT PRESENTLY HAS ON HAND DURING FISCAL YEAR 1976 TO PREVENT THESE FUNDS FROM REVERTING TO THE GENERAL FUND AT THE END OF FY 1975, (HB 6-249); TO EXEMPT SEAMEN FROM THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 61 UNDER THE GOVERNMENT SALARY PLAN, (HR 6-157); A BILL TO ALLOW TAX DEDUCTION ON SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP GRANTS, (HB 6-155); APPROPRIATE \$253,764 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIAN CONCON AND THE EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT DELEGATIONS, (HB 6-197); EARMARK \$50,000 TO SURVEY, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND IMPROVE ROADS, BRIDGES AND CAUSEWAYS IN THE FAICHUK AREA, IN TRUK, (HB 6-93); ESTABLISH PROCEDURES WHEREBY SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS ARE IN DANGER OF BECOMING EXTINCT CAN BE PROTECTED, (HB 6-243); APPROPRIATE \$111,000 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB 6-299); APPROPRIATING \$52,000 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN KUSAIE ISLAND, (HB 6-1595 PROVIDE \$430,000 FOR PROJECTS IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (HB 6-296); AND TO CREATE A REVOLVING FUND IN EACH DISTRICT; AUTHORIZE THE COLLECTION OF LANDING FEES ON AIRCRAFT; EARMARK LANDING FEES FOR MAINTENANCE OF AIRPORTS, (HB 6-263). (MSC TO SELECT ATHELETES)

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SAIPAN, MARCH. 2 (MNS)---THE MICRONESIAN SPORTS COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT FINAL SELECTION OF ATHLETES TO REPRESENT MICRONESIA IN THE 5TH SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY. THE ATHLETES WILL BE CHOSEN BY A FINAL SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH, THE HEAD BASKETBALL, THE HEAD SOFTBALL COACH, AND THE SPORTS DIRECTOR FOR THE COUNCIL.

THE ATHLETES CHOSEN DURING THIS FINAL SELECTION PROCESS WILL COME TO SAIPAN FOR TWO MONTHS OF TRAINING DURING JUNE AND JULY TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES TO BE HELD ON GUAM, AUGUST 1-10.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS FINAL SELECTION, YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN SPORTS COUNCIL. FOR OTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT STEVE REMLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OR KURT BARNES, SPORTS DIRECTOR FOR THE COUNCIL.

THE DATES FOR SELECTION IN EACH DISTRICT ARE: TRUK, APRIL 22, 23, 24, AND 25; EBeye, APRIL 26, 27, AND 28; MAJURO, APRIL 29, 30, AND MAY 1; PONAPE, MAY 2, 3, AND 4; TT STUDENTS ON GUAM, MAY 5, 6, AND 7; PALAU, MAY 9, 10, AND 11; YAP, MAY 12, 13, AND 14; ULITHI, MAY 15; AND MARIANAS, MAY 16, 17, AND 18.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WILL MEET IN DOUBLE SESSION SUNDAY. MNS WILL PUT OUT TWO SEPARATE RELEASES ON THIS DAY. CHECK YOUR COMSTATIONS FOR THESE RELEASES).

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