

(SENATE PASSED 7 BILLS TO HICOM) (975)

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SIAPAN, MAR. 2 (MNS)---THE SENATE PASSED SEVEN BILLS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AN EVENING SESSION SUNDAY (MAR. 2). WITH LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION, THE BILLS PASSED WERE: TO AMEND THE TT CODE RELATING TO OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF THE CONGRESS MEMBERS, (HB 6-60), WITH SENS. IEHSI AND BOSSY VOTING AGAINST; A BILL TO PROVIDE \$616,000 FOR THE EXPENSE OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE, (HB 6-178); A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$94,046 FOR MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES, (HB 6-19); A BILL TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, (HB 6-67); A MEASURE TO EXPEND \$500,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SENATE, (HB 6-177), SEN. MANGFEL VOTING AGAINST; A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTION OF THE TT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, (HB 6-220); AND A Measure TO PROVIDE \$132,621 FROM THE CONGRESS AND \$44,207 FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE, (HB 6-4).

OTHER BILLS PASSED ON SECOND READING AND REFERRED BACK TO THE HOUSE WERE: APPROPRIATING \$90,000 FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-130); A BILL TO PROVIDE \$80,000 FOR THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHROITIES TO USE TO MAKE LOANS TO THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-131); TO APPROPRIATE \$671,223 FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OFFICE, (HB 6-154); AND A BILL AMENDING SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-88 RELATING TO THE BANK OF MICRONESIA, (HB 6-240).

SENATE BILLS PASSED ON SECOND READING WERE: TO AMEND SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 40-72 RELATING TO CHANNEL BLASTING PROJECTS IN THE OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP, (SB 6-156); A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$223,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, (SB 6-182); A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$100,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN YAP DISTRICT, (SB 6-98); AND FINALLY A BILL TO ESTABLISH A NEW PAY SCALE PLAN PURSUANT TO THE TT CODE, (SB 6-135).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE IN THEIR EVENING SESSION INCLUDE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN THE TT, (SJR 6-34); TO REQUEST THE TERRITORIAL PLANNER TO INVESTIGATE THE RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA IN PALIKIE, PONAPE, OR ALTERNATIVE SITE AND REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF CONGRESS, (SJR 6-41); REQUESTING THE HICOM TO ACT TO PLAN ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-34); A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE REV. EDMUND KALAU FOR INSTITUTING AND MAINTAINING AIR SERVICE BETWEEN YAP ISLAND AND ULITHI ISLAND AND TO URGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROMOTE SIMILAR SERVICE IN OTHER AREAS, (HJR 6-38); AND A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FOR MICRONESIA, (SJR 6-47).

EARLIER IN THE DAY, SEN. SALII INTRODUCED A BILL TO CREATE SUCH A COMMISSION, BUT SINCE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME LEFT IN THE SESSION FOR A BILL TO PASS INTO LAW, THE PALAU SENATOR INTRODUCED THIS RESOLUTION.

THE SENATORS FILED A RESOLUTION ASKING THE HICOM TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS IN APPLYING FOR FUNDS FOR THE OLD AGE PROGRAM, (HJR 6-18).

MEETING LATE SUNDAY NIGHT, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED FIVE BILLS ON SECOND READING AND SENT THEM TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS. THE FIRST IS A MEASURE RELATING TO THE DEVINITION OF "NONCITIZEN" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE FOREIGN INVESTORS PERMIT ACT, (HB 6-251). MARSHALLS REP. CARMEN BIGLER INTRODUCED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF NON-CITIZENS SO THAT MICRONESIANS MARRIED TO NON-CITIZENS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE BILL. HER AMENDMENTS WERE DEFEATED. THE BILL WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE. 13767

OTHER MEASURES THAT PASSED SECOND READING WERE: APPROPRIATING \$112,500 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-159); A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS AIRPORT AUTHORITY, (HB 6-290); EARMARK \$211,426 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN KWAJALEIN ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS, (HB 6-44); AND A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$511,000 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT.

THE HOUSE ALSO ADOPTED A CONFERENCE DRAFT ON A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$132,621 AND \$44,207 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1975, TO MARCH 31, 1976; AND MAKE PROVISIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING AND OPERATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. (HB 6-4).

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED: REQUESTING THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY BE CONDUCTED BY THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TUNA AND SKIPJACK CANNERY IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, (HJR 6-83); REQUESTING THE HICOM TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING SHIPS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU TO CARRY SURFACE MAIL BETWEEN THE U.S. WEST COAST AND THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-60); REQUESTING THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER OF THE TT, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING TO PROVIDE FUNDING FROM THE TT BUDGET FOR THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (HJR 6-13); REQUESTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO TRAIN MICRONESIAN CITIZENS IN FOREIGN SERVICES, (SJR 6-24); DIRECTING THE CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING FUTURE STATUS WITH OTHER NATIONS OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES, (HJR 6-89); REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO ALLOW AND GRANT APPOINTMENT DISCRETIONS TO THE HICOM AND CONGRESS RELATIVE TO ALL CONTRACTUAL AND MICRONESIAN POSITIONS IN PAY LEVEL 26 AND ABOVE AND FEDERAL GS-13 EQUIVALENT WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF REVIEW BY THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, (HJR 6-90); AND A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AND SEEK FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND VISIT THOSE COUNTRIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, (SJR 6-15).

THE SENATE AND HOUSE ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY (MAR. 3) FOR THEIR LAST DAY OF DELIBERATION BEFORE THE SIXTH CONGRESS FIRST REGULAR SESSION COMES TO A CLOSE.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(EDUCATION REPORT SUBMITTED)

SAIPAN, MAR. 2 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---A REPORT ON MICRONESIAN STUDENT PROBLEMS AT UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S (USIU) MAUNAOLU CAMPUS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SIXTH CONGRESS SUNDAY (MARCH. 2) FOR ITS REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION

THE REPORT WAS JOINTLY PREPARED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, SENATOR PETRUS TUN AND REPRESENTATIVE JOAB SIGRAH, RESPECTIVELY. THEY WERE DIRECTED LAST YEAR BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE THE MAUNAOLU SITUATION WHEN CERTAIN EVENTS DEVELOPED CONCERNING PROBLEMS OF MICRONESIAN STUDENTS.

IN SUBMITTING THE REPORT TO THE SENATE, SENATOR TUN SAID THE REPORT PRIMARILY CONCENTRATES ON THE PROBLEMS OF MICRONESIAN STUDENTS ENCOUNTERED IN A PRE-FRESHMAN PROGRAM AT MAUNAOLU CAMPUS OF USIU. HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT ALSO CONSIDERS VARIOUS RELATED PROBLEM AREAS AS THEY AFFECT MICRONESIAN STUDENTS IN GENERAL ATTENDING SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF MICRONESIA.

TUN ALSO SAID THE REPORT CONTAINS MANY RECOMMENDATIONS BUT FEELS ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ONES IS THAT IT HAS BEEN OVER FIVE YEARS SINCE THE CONGRESS HAS TAKEN A "HARD LOOK AT OUR

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EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF MICRONESIA." HE SAID SINCE CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING POLITICAL STATUS AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE DURING THIS CONGRESS TO AGAIN CONDUCT A "THOROUGH REVIEW OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT SYSTEM." A SIMILAR STATEMENT WAS GIVEN IN THE HOUSE BY CONGRESSMAN JOAB SIGRAH ON THE SAME REPORT.

THE REPORT DEALS LARGELY WITH MICRONESIAN STUDENTS' PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THEIR PRE-FRESHMAN PROGRAM AT USIU'S MAUNAOLU CAMPUS AND OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS AS A GUIDELINE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO FOLLOW IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF MICRONESIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD.

IT RECOMMENDS THAT THE IT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THROUGH ITS HEADQUARTERS AND SEVERAL DISTRICTS OFFICES AND THROUGH ITS COUNSELORS, URGE STUDENTS TO BE "EXTREMELY" CAUTIOUS IN CHOOSING PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF HIGHER LEARNING. THIS IS BECAUSE IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, SOME 30 PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES HAD CLOSED DOWN IN THE U.S. DUE TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE REPORT STATED. IT URGES THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADVISE STUDENTS OF THIS SITUATION FOUND IN MANY SMALL PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT MAUNAOLU AND USIU IN GENERAL ARE PERHAPS EXAMPLES OF "GOOD INTENTIONS, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS." IT NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE "SHAKY" FINANCIAL SITUATIONS OF MANY SMALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE U.S., THERE "IS GREATER COMPETITION AMONG THESE SCHOOLS TO SECURE STUDENTS TO KEEP THEM OPERATING."

THE REPORT ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE HEARSAY, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN THE MIDWEST WHO LEARNED OF THE MAUNAOLU SITUATION HAD ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT MICRONESIAN STUDENTS, SOME OF WHOM HAD BEEN ACCEPTED WITHOUT SUBMITTING APPLICATION. IT SAYS THAT THE MIDWEST PRIVATE SCHOOL IS ALSO ENCOUNTERING THE SAME PROBLEMS FROM MICRONESIAN STUDENTS SIMILAR TO THE MAUNAOLU SITUATION. THE REPORT NOTED THAT THIS PROBLEM COMES ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE CONCENTRATION OF MICRONESIAN STUDENTS IN ONE SMALL CAMPUS.

THE REPORT RECOMMENDS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE MAUNAOLU-USIU SITUATION AND ADVISE MICRONESIAN STUDENTS ACCORDINGLY.