

(COPRA PRICE REDUCTION)

SAIPAN, MAR. 5 (MNS)---THE MEMBERS OF THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD HAVE VOTED TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF COPRA FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR. THE NEW PRICE IS EFFECTIVE MARCH 9, 1975, AND IS AS FOLLOWS: \$200 PER TON, \$190 PER TON AND \$180 PER TON FOR GRADES 1, 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY. FOR OUTER ISLANDS - \$175 PER TON, \$165 PER TON AND \$155 PER TON FOR GRADES 1, 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY IF SERVICED BY GOVERNMENT VESSELS AND \$165, \$155 AND \$145 PER TON FOR GRADES 1, 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY IF SERVICED BY PRIVATE VESSELS.

THE PRICE REDUCTION IS A RESULT OF DECLINING SALES PRICES IN JAPAN. NO COPRA IS SOLD IN THE U.S. AS THE LAST CRUSHING PLANT HAS CLOSED, ONLY ONE PLANT REMAINS OPEN IN JAPAN TO CRUSH TRUST TERRITORY COPRA.

(PONAPE SEMINAR)

PONAPE, MARCH. 5 (MNS)---AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "MICRONESIAN SEMINAR," CREATED AND RUN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CATHOLIC MISSION FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN MICRONESIA, WILL CONDUCT A FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN PONAPE, ACCORDING TO PONAPE BROADCAST STATION MANAGER HALVERSON JOHNNY.

THE CONFERENCE IS TO: ASSIST THE PARTICIPANTS IN CLARIFYING THEIR OWN THINKING ON THE MEANING OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND TO ASSIST THEM IN FORMULATING THEIR OWN PRIORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE INTENTION OF THE MICRONESIAN SEMINAR IS TO EXPOSE AS MANY OF THE ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT AS POSSIBLE AND ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN HIERARCHY OF VALUES ON THE SUBJECT, JOHNNY REPORTED.

THE CONFERENCE BEGAN TUESDAY (MARCH. 4) AT 4 P.M. FOLLOWED BY A DINNER FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE CONFERENCE WILL END ON SATURDAY (MARCH THE 8TH).

AS IN LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE, ABOUT 20 PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAIN DISCUSSIONS. BESIDES THESE SELECTED PARTICIPANTS, SEVERAL OTHERS WERE INVITED TO OBSERVE THE MAIN SESSIONS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND OPEN FLOOR SESSIONS. LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE THEME WAS, "EDUCATION FOR WHAT?"

THIS IS GOING TO BE THE THIRD CONFERENCE THAT MICRONESIAN SEMINAR WILL CONDUCT IN PONAPE DISTRICT.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SILK STATEMENT)

SAIPAN, MARCH. 5 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SUMMING UP HIS OPINION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONGRESS DURING THE JUST CONCLUDED FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS, HOUSE VICE-SPEAKER EKPAP SILK OFFERED SOME "GOOD NEWS" AND "BAD NEWS" IN A STATEMENT INSERTED INTO THE HOUSE JOURNAL MINUTES BEFORE ADJOURNMENT.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE "GOOD NEWS," SILK SAID HE HAS NEVER SEEN A "MORE ENTHUSIASTIC, DEDICATED, AND CONCERNED GROUP OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS." CONCERNING THE "BAD NEWS," SILK SAID HE HAS NEVER SEEN "MORE TIME SPENT IN DISRUPTIVE DEBATE, IN MOTIONS, COUNTERMOTIONS, POINTS OF PRIVILEGE AND INFORMATION... IN ALL HIS YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"WE SEEM TO THINK THAT THIS IS NOT A HOUSE CHAMBER," SILK CONTINUED, "BUT A WIND TUNNEL FOR TESTING THE RESONANCE AND VELOCITY OF OUR ENUNCIATIONS... THAT THIS IS NOT A LEGISLATIVE BODY, BUT A DEBATING SOCIETY... A FORUM FOR A POPULARITY CONTEST ON WHICH MEMBERS ARE SELECTED BY THE QUANTITY OF THEIR ABILITY TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE SPEAKER... OR NOT TO BE RECOGNIZED BUT SPEAK ANYWAY..."

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REGARDING THE POPULARITY CONTEST, SILK SAID HE THINKS IT IS "GOOD NEWS" THAT HIS "CHARMING" COLLEAGUE FROM THE MARSHALLS, REP. CARMEN BIGLER "HAS SET A PRECEDENT BY BEING THE FIRST FEMALE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES." HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE "BAD NEWS" OF WOMEN'S "LIBERATION SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE CONGRESS DURING OFFICE BREAKS."

SILK SAID HE WAS "AMUSED" THAT CONGRESS HAS VOIDED THE MARSHALLS CONCON ELECTION AND FINDS IT "EXTREMELY IRONIC THAT CONGRESS HAS SEATED MEMBERS...DESPITE 'RIPE IRREGULARITIES'... EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NOWHERE NEAR THE IRREGULARITIES PREVALENT IN THE OTHER ELECTIONS." SILK WAS REFERRING TO THE TRUK CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION LAST NOVEMBER WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF NEARLY THREE WEEKS OF INVESTIGATION BY A SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS.

SAYING THAT HE HAS ADDITIONAL "BAD NEWS," SILK SAID HE WILL PERSONALLY PRESENT IN THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS THE "DONALD DUSK PERPETUAL SPEAKING AWARD," TO ANY MEMBER OF CONGRESS WHO UTTERS THE PHRASE: "MR. SPEAKER, WHILE I HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE SUBJECT (BILL, RESOLUTION, REPORT, ETC.) I WISH TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS..."

BEFORE WISHING HIS COLLEAGUES A SAFE JOURNEY BACK HOME, HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY READ TWO BOOKS IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION. THE FIRST BOOK IS "THE HOLY BIBLE," WHICH CONTAINS THE "RULES OF PRECEDURE" OF THE HOUSE OF HUMAN KIND. THE SECOND BOOK IS "CUSHING'S MANUAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE," WHICH ACCORDING TO SILK, MAY BE OF SOME PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS IN THE NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

(TRUK ANNUAL FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES)

TRUK, MARCH 5 (MNS)---SEVERAL HUNDRED SPECTATORS ASSEMBLED AT THE TRUK ANDERSON BALL FIELD FRIDAY, (FEB. 28) TO WITNESS THE ANNUAL FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES OF THE FIVE HIGH SCHOOLS IN TRUK DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDE; TRUK AND XAVIER HIGH SCHOOLS, MOEN JR. HIGH, SOUTHERN NAMONEAS JR. HIGH AND FAICHUK JR. HIGH ACCORDING TO TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NONA RUBEN.

TRUK EDUCATION DIRECTOR CHUTONU NIMVES GAVE A BRIEF OPENING REMARKS ENCOURAGING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AMONG THE STUDENTS AND REGRETTED THAT THE TWO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE OUTER ISLANDS (WEIPAT AND SATAWAN JR. HIGH SCHOOL) WERE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

TRUK RECREATION BOARD VICE PRESIDENT NAMIE ALEXANDER TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEET IS PERHAPS VERY IMPORTANT IN THAT IT WOULD HELP THE RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS IN SELECTING TRUK'S ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1975 SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN GUAM THIS YEAR.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FINAL SCREENING FOR TRUK'S BEST ATHLETES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN APRIL 22 THROUGH 26 OF THIS YEAR. HE URGED THE STUDENTS TO DISPLAY THEIR BEST SO THEY WOULD QUALIFY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES.

HE NOTED THAT DURING THE MICRONESIAN OLYMPICS, MOST OF THE ATHLETES FROM TRUK WERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

ACCORDING TO RUBEN, THE DAY'S EVENTS WERE LIMITED TO TRACK AND FIELD ACTIVITIES WITH SOUTHERN NAMONEAS JR. HIGH RUNNING AWAY WITH THE FIRST PRIZE, SECOND PRIZE IS SHARED BY TRUK HIGH AND MOEN JR. HIGH, AND THIRD PRIZE GOES TO FAICHUK JR. HIGH SCHOOL.

(DOUGLAS SHULT COMMENDED)

SAIPAN, MARCH, 5 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, DAVID SAMURII, ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THE AWARDING OF A LETTER OF COMMENDATION TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA (CCM) PROGRAM COORDINATOR DOUGLAS SHULT, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN BRINGING ABOUT A LEGAL MERGER OF THE NURSING SCHOOL WITH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

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RAMURII STATED, "MR. SHULT SHOWS ALL THE IDEAL QUALITIES OF AN EXPATRIATE WORKING CLOSELY WITH MICRONESIANS TOWARD A GOAL WHICH IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ALL." SHULT'S WORK IN BRINGING ABOUT THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS NEEDED IN THIS MERGER WAS AN OUTSTANDING POSITIVE EFFORT, RAMURII ADDED.

SHULT, 34, IS A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER WITH TEACHER EDUCATION SERVICE IN SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE INITIALLY CAME TO CCM IN AUGUST OF 1973 TO SERVE AS A TEACHER TRAINING SPECIALIST. HE AND HIS WIFE, LEE, WHO WORKED WITH THE DISTRICT EDUCATION STAFF, RESIDE IN PONAPE WHERE HE NOW COORDINATES ALL PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

(DR. PRETRICK ATTENDED CONFERENCE)

SAIPAN, MARCH 5 (MNS)---DR. ELIUEL PRETRICK, PONAPE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, HAS RETURNED FROM A SOUTH PACIFIC MEDICAL DIRECTORS HEALTH CONFERENCE HELD IN THE COOK ISLANDS FROM FEBRUARY 4-10, 1975, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS OF VARIOUS PACIFIC AREAS ON DENGUE FEVER; AN OVERVIEW OF SURVEYS AND STUDIES OF HEALTH REGULATIONS REGARDING VACCINATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL; AND AN ASSESSMENT OF TERRITORIAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL HEALTH NEEDS AND PROGRAMS.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEW ZEALAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, JAPAN, AMERICAN SAMOA, FRENCH POLYNESIA, COOK ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA, FIJI, NEW CALEDONIA, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA, NEW HEBRIDES, NAURU, GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS, NIUE AND THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BORJA SPEECH)

SAIPAN, MAR. 5 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF THE MARIANAS, IN A STATEMENT INSERTED INTO THE SENATE JOURNAL SHORTLY BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE RECENT SESSION REVIEWED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEASURES WHICH HE SAID WILL "OFFER MICRONESIA THE BEST RESULTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD."

AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT MEASURES, BORJA SAID, WAS A BILL CALLING FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM FOR ALL OF MICRONESIA WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FINE OUT "ONCE AND FOR ALL" WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT FOR THEIR POLITICAL DESTINY. BORJA SAID ALTHOUGH HE HAS RESERVATIONS ON THE BILL AS FAR AS THE MARIANAS DISTRICT IS CONCERNED, "A CLEARER MANDATE OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE" IS IMPORTANT.

ECHOING THE WORDS OF PALAU SENATOR ROMAN TMETUHL, THE MARIANAS SENATOR SAID "THE LIKELIHOOD OF MICRONESIAN UNITY MANY NOT AND MAY NEVER COME TO REALITY IF THE CONGRESS IS NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT."

"THEREFORE, A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY," HE SAID, "WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP ON THEIR OWN AND GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTARILY JOIN THE UNION IN THE YEARS AHEAD."

BORJA SAID ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE IS AMENDMENTS TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HE SAID THE CONGRESS HAS "RESPONSIBLY ATTENDED TO VALID REQUESTS" FROM THE DISTRICTS IN THIS AREA, WHICH HE CALLED "A GOOD SIGN IN TERMS OF OUR TOTAL EFFORTS TO UNITE MICRONESIA."

TURNING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BORJA SAID SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF PRICE CONTROL LEGISLATION WILL ENCOURAGE BUSINESSMEN TO MAINTAIN FAIR PRICES, AND THAT IT WAS ONE MEANS TO HELP FIGHT INFLATION. HE ADDED THAT ENACTMENT OF A NEW

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SALARY SCALE TO ASSIST LOWER PAID GOVERNMENT WORKERS WILL HELP FAMILIES FIGHT RISING PRICES.

BORJA SAID A MORTGAGE LAW WOULD ENABLE MICRONESIANS TO USE THEIR LANDS AS SECURITY IN OBTAINING LOANS FROM BANKS AND LOANING INSTITUTIONS AND CONTRIBUTE IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY.

CONCERNING THE RECENT TRANSFERRING OF THE IT SCHOOL OF NURSING TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA, BORJA SAID HE HAD "SERIOUS RESERVATIONS" ABOUT IT, SINCE THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS OF TRANSFERRING CREDITS FROM CCM TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE UNITED STATES.

"THOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CHOSEN A DIFFERENT COURSE OTHER THAN WHAT THE CONGRESS RECOMMENDED, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WE DID VOICE OPPOSITION AGAINST THE HASTY MOVE," HE SAID.

REGARDING THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF REVENUE SHARING, BORJA SAID THE CONGRESS' ACTION WAS "INDICATIVE OF OUR ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THE WISHES OF VARIOUS DISTRICTS ON THIS VITAL ISSUE." HE SAID THE DECISION TO "PAY NEED" TO THE DISTRICTS' NEEDS TO FUND ITS PROJECTS IS IMPORTANT.

BORJA SAID HE ALSO TAKES PRIDE IN THE CONGRESS' CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WHICH OFFERS FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS FISHERIES ALL OF WHICH HE SAID WE CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF IN THE FUTURE.

"WE HAVE JUST BEGUN EXPLORING WHAT WE CAN REAP FROM SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS ESCAP AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK," HE SAID, "AID WHICH WILL PROVE INVALUABLE IN ATTAINING ECONOMIC FREEDOM WHICH MEANS POLITICAL FREEDOM."