

OFFICIALS ATTEND HEARINGS)

1975

FMS

SAIPAN, MAR. 6 (MWS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON LEFT RECENTLY FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS CHAIRED BY SENATOR HENRY M. JACKSON. THE HEARINGS WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK ON MARCH 10 AND 12.

IN A LETTER TO INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON LAST WEEK, SENATOR JACKSON LISTED THE AREAS IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL PROBE. HE STATED THAT THE MAIN SUBJECT WILL COVER THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WITH SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

SEN. JACKSON REQUESTED SECRETARY MORTON TO APPEAR OR SEND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROYSTON HUGHES TO SPEAK ON ISSUES REGARDING THE TT.

THE COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED WITH THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE TT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AND WISH TO EXPLORE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF TT OFFICIALS. THEY HAVE REQUESTED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR SOLICITORS OFFICE BE PRESENT TO DISCUSS THOSE QUESTIONS.

THE WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE EACH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR PRESENT TO TESTIFY ON THEIR DISTRICT'S VIEWPOINTS. ACCORDINGLY, ALL DISTADS EXCEPT TRUK ACTING DISTAD MITARO-DANIS, WHO WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FORMER TRUK DISTAD JUAN A. SABLAN, LEFT THE TT FOR WASHINGTON.

THE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED A STATEMENT ON OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE TIME PERMANENT STATUS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO WISHES TO HAVE A DISTRICT BY DISTRICT PRESENTATION ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE PLANS OF SUCH BASIC FACILITIES SUCH AS DOCKS, AIRPORTS, SCHOOLS, WATER, ELECTRICITY, HOSPITALS AND ROADS.

ALSO THE EXACT ROLE PLAYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, HIGH COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS, DISTRICT LEGISLATURES AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN FORMULATING ALL BUDGETING FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS WILL BE STUDIED BY JACKSON'S COMMITTEE.

THE MEDICAL EVACUATION PROGRAMS, CONTRACTING PROCEDURES, CAPABILITIES OF PAST CONTRACTORS AND PLANS FOR IMPROVING CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCES WILL BE LOOKED INTO.

ALTHOUGH SENATOR JACKSON SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES, HE WELCOMED THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION'S PRESENCE AT THE HEARINGS.

ACCOMPANYING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO WASHINGTON ARE: RICHARD I. MIYAMOTO, ATTORNEY GENERAL; JOSEPH BEADLES, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS; JAMES WHEELER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS; FORMER PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER WILLIAM OYLER; PHILLIP CHAMBERLAIN, TERRITORIAL PLANNER; THOMAS O. REMENGESAU, PALAU DISTAD; FRANCISCO C. ADA, MARIANAS DISTAD; OSCAR DEBRUM, MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTAD; EXECUTIVE OFFICER JUAN A. SABLAN, (FORMER TRUK DISTAD); LEO A. FALCAM, PONAPE DISTAD, AND LEONARD AGUIGUI, YAP DISTAD.

FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA: SENS. LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), BAILEY OLTER (PONAPE), AND PEDRO A. TENORIO, (MARIANAS), REPS. EXPAP SILK (MARSHALLS), OSCAR RASA (MARIANAS), RAYMOND SETIK, AND CONGRESS ATTORNEY MICHAEL A. WHITE.

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(MINIMUM WAGE, PUBLIC-LANDS AWAIT ADA'S SIGNATURE)

SAIPAN, MAR. 6 (MNS)---A BILL PROVIDING FOR A \$2.25 MINIMUM WAGE FOR PRIVATE EMPLOYEES AND ONE FORMING A MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION WERE AMONG 20 PASSED DURING THE 30-DAY DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SESSION WHICH ENDED TUESDAY, (MAR. 4), ACCORDING TO THURSDAY'S EDITION (MAR. 6) OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS (PDN).

THE DISTRICT LEGISLATORS ALSO VOTED TO ESTABLISH FULL-TIME POSITIONS FOR THEMSELVES AT SALARIES OF \$8,000, WHILE THE LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE \$12,000. IF APPROVED BY MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA, THE LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, AND THE \$2.25 MINIMUM WAGE WILL TAKE EFFECT UPON PROCLAMATION FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PDN REPORTED.

THE GUAM NEWSPAPER ALSO INDICATED THAT THE BILL RETURNING SOME 90 PERCENT OF MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TO THE PEOPLE SETS UP A PUBLIC CORPORATION TO RECEIVE THE LAND, WHICH HAS BEEN HELD BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER, THE PASSED BILL GIVES THE TT GOVERNMENT "THE RIGHT TO REGULATE ALL ACTIVITIES AFFECTING CONSERVATION, NAVIGATION OR COMMERCE IN AND TO THE NAVIGABLE WATERS, TIDELANDS, FILLED LANDS, SUBMERGED LANDS AND LAGOONS, PROVIDED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE TRADITIONAL RIGHTS OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE IN SUCH LANDS, REPORTED PDN.

CORPORATION MEMBERS, ACCORDING TO THE BILL, ARE TO BE: THE MAYORS OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN, NINE PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE-EIGHT OF WHOM SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND AT LEAST TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION, FIFTEEN PERSON APPOINTED BY THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL-SEVEN OF WHOM SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, NINE PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ROTA-FOUR OF WHOM SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND SEVEN PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL-THREE OF WHOM SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS INDICATED THAT, REVENUES, GENERATED FROM THE "USE, SALE, DISPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST LANDS PURSUANT TO THIS ACT", ARE TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL FUND OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE.

THE INCORPORATORS OF THE CORPORATION ARE TO BE TWO PERSONS EACH FROM THE LEGISLATURE, THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND TINIAN, ROTA AND SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

(PONAPE ESG PROGRAM)

PONAPE, MAR. 6 (MNS)---AN INTENSIVE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL TASK FORCE ON ESG KNOWN AS SOWESE KAWENWEH KOPEREMENT (S.K.K.) WAS CONDUCTED RECENTLY IN WONE, IN KITTI MUNICIPALITY, PONAPE DISTRICT, ACCORDING TO PONAPE BROADCAST STATION MANAGER HALVERSON JOHNNY.

TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE S.K.K. TEAM WERE SENT TO THE AREA AT THE REQUEST OF THE PEOPLE OF WONE. THE TWO INCLUDED PENSILE LAURENCE AND HALVERSON JOHNNY, BOTH MEMBERS OF THE PONAPE S.K.K. TEAM.

JOHNNY ADDED THAT THE S.K.K. MET EACH DAY WITH MORE THAN A HUNDRED ADULTS/CHILDREN EXPLAINING THE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES NOW BEFORE THE MICRONESIAN PUBLIC, NAMELY: FREE ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENCE, STATUS QUO OR TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS. SESSIONS STARTED AT 9 O'CLOCK EVERY MORNING AND LASTED UNTIL NOON. THE PEOPLE WERE TOLD ABOUT DISADVANTAGES AND ADVANTAGES AS WELL AS CONDITIONS UNDER EACH POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE.

MANY QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WERE RAISED BY THE PEOPLE SUCH AS: WHO MADE THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT; WHO REALLY CONTROLS PUBLIC LAND IN MICRONESIA; WHAT POWERS AND AUTHORITIES MICRONESIANS

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WOULD HAVE OVER PUBLIC LANDS UNDER EACH OF THE FOUR POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES; WHICH OF THE ALTERNATIVES WOULD PROVIDE FULL FREEDOM, POWER, AND WISDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA; AND WHAT ECONOMIC STEPS MICRONESIA WOULD HAVE TO TAKE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE STATUS.

THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED WERE USED AS THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG PONAPE ESG REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PEOPLE OF WONE. THE CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE SEEMED TO BE IN FAVOR OF THE INDEPENDENCE STATUS, BUT THEY NEEDED MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED IN ORDER TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A STATUS, JOHNNY EXPLAINED. THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION UNDER EACH OF THE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES IS NECESSARY, JOHNNY CONTINUED, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO DECIDE WHICH POLITICAL STATUS THEY WANT TO PURSUE.

A FILMSTRIP IN BOTH PONAPEAN AND ENGLISH REGARDING EVENTS IN MICRONESIA FROM SPANISH TIMES TO THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WAS SHOWN TO THE PEOPLE AND STUDENTS IN WONE. THEY WERE VERY GRATEFUL THAT SUCH FILMS WAS SHOWN, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO PONAPEAN, HE INDICATED.

THE WONE ESG PROGRAM WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, ACCORDING TO MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE SESSIONS. THEY REQUESTED THAT THE SAME PROGRAM BE CONDUCTED IN WONE AGAIN IN THE FUTURE JOHNNY ADDED.

WHILE THE ESG MEMBERS WERE HAVING THEIR MEETING IN WONE, THE CATHOLIC MOBIL TEAM WAS THERE CONDUCTING ITS SESSIONS EVERY AFTERNOON UNDER THE THEME, "HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS". PEOPLE LEARNED ABOUT AND DISCUSSED FAMILY LIFE, HOME ECONOMIC, THE GAP BETWEEN THE OLDER AND THE YOUNG GENERATION, AND MANY OTHER TOPICS THAT RELATE TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ITS FULL SENSE. THE CATHOLIC MOBIL TEAM IS MANNED BY MANUEL AMOR OF UK, ADALPERT MADLEY OF NETT, WENDOLINN OF NGATIK, AND ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR FROM THE LUKOROR COMMUNITY IN SOKENS. JOHNNY REPORTED.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CONGRESSMEN TO ATTEND WASHINGTON HEARINGS)

SAIPAN, MARCH. 6 (CONGRESS RELEASE)--- SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL LEAVE THE TRUST TERRITORY THIS WEEK TO ATTEND OVERSIGHT HEARINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SLATED TO BEGIN EARLY NEXT WEEK.

THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION WILL ATTEND THE HEARINGS AT THE INVITATION OF U.S. SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS.

THE HEARINGS WILL DEAL WITH THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA, ASIDE FROM THE "OVERSIGHT" HEARINGS INTO THE PUBLIC WORKS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

SLATED TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON HEARINGS ARE: SENATOR LAZARUS SALII AND CONGRESSMAN KXPAP SILK WHO WILL REPRESENT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS; CONGRESSMAN RAYMOND SETIK AND SENATOR BAILEY OLTER; SENATOR PEDRO TENORIO AND CONGRESSMAN OSCAR RASA; AND, CONGRESSMAN SASAUO HARUO AND ISIDORO RUDIMCH.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN RUMORED THAT HEARINGS WILL BE HELD BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP BURTON (DEM.) CALIFORNIA.

ACCOMPANYING THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION ARE KALEB UDUI, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, IN ADDITION TO CONGRESS STAFF ATTORNEYS MICHAEL WHITE AND STEVE MILLER.

(PINGELAP CHURCH DEDICATED)

PONAPE, MARCH. 6 (MNS)--- CEREMONIES DEDICATING A NEW CHURCH BUILDING ON PINGELAP, AN ATOLL IN PONAPE DISTRICT LOCATED 160 MILES EAST OF PONAPE ISLAND, WERE HELD FEBRUARY 20. THE NEW CHURCH IS 120 FEET BY 42 FEET, ACCORDING TO HALVERSON JOHNNY.

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RADIO STATION MANAGER OF PONAPE'S WSZD. JOHNNY REPORTED THAT
"THE NEWLY BUILT PINGELAP CHURCH BUILDING IS BETTER THAN ANY
ONE ON PONAPE ISLAND OR MOST OF THE OUTER ISLANDS."

ALL KINDS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES WERE PERFORMED FOR THE
SPECTATORS BY LOCAL PEOPLE, JOHNNY REPORTED. DIGNITARIES FROM
BOTH CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS ON PONAPE WERE INVITED TO
THE CEREMONIES, AND THEY TRAVELLED TO PINGELAP FROM PONAPE ON
A CHARTERED VESSEL.

BEFORE THE INVITED GUESTS WENT ASORE, THEY WERE WELCOMED
TO THE ATOLL BY A LIGHT SHOWER, SUBSTANTIATING A LEGEND THAT
THERE IS ALWAYS SUCH A LIGHT SHOWER NEWCOMERS ARRIVE AT
THE ATOLL. THE LIGHT RAIN WAS SIGN OF WELCOME TO THE VISITORS
AND INDICATED THE HOSPITALITY OF THE ISLANDERS. THE CEREMONIES
WERE HELD FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE CHARTED VESSEL TOOK
THE TIRED BUT HAPPY VISITORS BACK TO PONAPE.

MORE THAN \$10,000 IN CHURCH MONEY AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
WERE DONATED TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.
THE BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY THE LOCAL CARPENTERS OF PINGELAP,
JOHNNY CONCLUDED.