

WIP
(TRANSITION FUNDING OK'D BY U.S. SENATE) 1975
WASHINGTON, MAR. 19 (MNS)---THE U.S. SENATE TUESDAY
(MAR. 19) APPROVED 47-39 A BILL TO PROVIDE \$1.5 MILLION FOR
TRANSITION COSTS OF CONVERTING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TO ITS
PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH STATUS, ACCORDING TO A STORY CARRIED
ON WEDNESDAY'S (MAR. 19) EDITION OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.
BY A VOICE VOTE. THE SENATE ALSO APPROVED THE REST OF THE
BILL, WHICH PROVIDES A \$5.6 MILLION INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT).
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THIS WOULD RAISE THE ANNUAL LID FROM \$60 MILLION TO \$65.6
MILLION. THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED \$75 MILLION FOR
THIS YEAR.

THE MEASURE PROVIDED AN UNEXPECTED FORUM FOR THE FIRST
DEBATE IN YEARS ON U.S. POLICIES IN MICRONESIA, PDW POINTED OUT.

SEN. GARY HART, (D-COLO), AND SEN. HARRY BYRD, (D-IND),
BOTH VOICED OBJECTIONS, AND THEIR ARGUMENTS DREW AN UNUSUAL
MIX OF SUPPORTERS WHO CAME SURPRISINGLY CLOSE TO BLOCKING THE
"ROUTINE" BILL.

SEN. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON (D-LA), DEFENDED THE MEASURE.
HE ARGUED THAT THE COMMITTEE WANTED ONLY TO "EXPEDITE" CONGRESS'S
HANDLING OF THE TRANSITION MONEY. HART SAID IT DIDN'T MAKE
SENSE TO APPROVE THE MONEY BEFORE CONGRESS HAS A CHANCE TO
CONSIDER THE COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT RECENTLY SIGNED IN SAIPAN.
TO APPROVE THE MONEY NOW, HART SAID, WOULD COMMIT THE U.S. TO
RATIFY THE AGREEMENT LATER.

BYRD ARGUED THAT APPROVING THE TRANSITION MONEY WOULD
"GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT" TO PEOPLE VOTING IN THE JUNE PLEBISCITE
ON THE COMPACT AND THUS COMMIT THE U.S. TO SUPPORTING IT.

HART AND BYRD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH
THE NEW STRATEGIC ROLE THE U.S. IS SEEKING IN THE NORTHERN
MARIANAS.

"THE DECISIONS ON THE MATTER WERE MADE BY THE PENTAGON
AND THE WHITE HOUSE," SAID HART, WHO HAS WARNED THAT THE
U.S. IS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A "MILITARY COLONY" IN THE
MARIANAS.

BYRD SAID, "I HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE
MARIANAS. I HAVE SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, BUT
IS IT WISE TO UNDERTAKE THIS RELATIONSHIP? WHY SHOULD WE
UNDERTAKE THE DEFENSE OF A MULTIPLICITY OF ISLANDS 8,000
MILES AWAY FROM US? I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT."

SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, (R-ARIZ), SAID THAT SINCE THE U.S.
HAS GIVEN UP OKINAWA IT SHOULD "GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS" OF
ESTABLISHING A STRATEGIC BASE IN THE MARIANAS. SEN. HIRAM L.
FONG (R-HAWAII) ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE BILL.

JOHNSTON TOLD HART AND BYRD THAT THE U.S. ALREADY HAS
AN OBLIGATION TO DEFEND THE ISLANDS AND THAT APPROVING THE
\$1.5 MILLION NOW DOESN'T COMMIT ANYONE TO SUPPORTING THE
AGREEMENT.

BUT HART INSISTED THAT THE BILL WAS PUTTING THE "CART
BEFORE THE HORSE."

HART, A FORMER LAWYER IN THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, MANAGED
THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF DEMOCRATIC SEN. GEORGE S.
MCGOVERN. MCGOVERN AND MOST OF THE SENATE'S LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
VOTED WITH HART, BUT AMONG CONSERVATIVES WHO ALSO WERE PERSUADED
WERE JOHN C. STENNIS, (D-MISS.), CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEE; JOHN MCCLELLAN, (D-ARK), CHAIRMAN OF THE

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE; JAMES ALLEN, (D-ALAB), LLOYD M. BENTSEN, (D-TX), AND ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W. VA.), THE SENATE DEMOCRATIC WHIP.

IT WAS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF AN OPEN DEBATE ON THE SENATE FLOOR OF AMERICAN POLICIES IN MICRONESIA THAT VETERAN PACIFIC WATCHERS IN WASHINGTON COULD RECALL, THE DAILY NEWS POINTED OUT.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SETIK REBUTTALS WILLIAMS STATEMENT)

SAIPAN, MAR. 19 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---A RESPONSE BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS TO A SPEECH CRITICAL OF HIM AND THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS (OMSN) BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK, HAS BEEN REBUTTED BY REPRESENTATIVE SETIK IN A MARCH 5, 1975 LETTER DELIVERED TO WILLIAMS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WILLIAM'S RESPONSE, RECEIVED FEBRUARY 27 IN SAIPAN, WAS IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT INSERTED INTO THE HOUSE JOURNAL ON FEBRUARY 14, 1975, IN WHICH SETIK CRITICIZED THE "UNDUE AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE" WHICH WILLIAMS AND OMSN HAVE ON THE FINAL MAKEUP OF THE TRUST TERRITORY'S ANNUAL BUDGET.

IN HIS SPEECH, SETIK CHARGED THAT WHILE OMSN WAS A SMALL OFFICE, IT HAS GREAT INFLUENCE IN CHANGING BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, INCLUDING SHIFTING OF \$3 MILLION IN THE 1974 BUDGET FROM FIELD TRIP SHIPS AND A LONGER RUNWAY AT TRUK, TO AN ACCELERATED LAND CADASTRE PROGRAM, AND POSSIBLE SHIFTING OF SOME \$4 MILLION IN EITHER FY 1975 OR 1976 TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL MARIANAS POWER FACILITIES. ALSO MENTIONED WAS THE FACT THAT AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED BILL FOR FY 1977 WAS FOR \$79 MILLION AND NOT \$85 MILLION AS TENTATIVELY PROPOSED EARLIER, BECAUSE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS HAD SLOWED AS AGAINST A PROPOSED TIMETABLE. SETIK HAD CONTENDED THAT THE REDUCTION WAS BEING USED AS LEVERAGE TO ENCOURAGE RESUMING STATUS TALKS.

WILLIAM'S LETTER INDICATED HE FELT THAT SETIK HAD BEEN MISINFORMED AND MISLEAD, THAT HE WISHED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. SETIK THEN REPLIED POINTING OUT DISCREPANCIES IN THE RECORD ACCORDING TO WILLIAMS.

IN HIS LETTER, WILLIAMS STATED:

"FOR ITS PART THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO ADHERE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDINGS AND THE AGREED SCHEDULE. IT IS FOR THIS REASONS THAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO RAISE THE U.S. CONGRESS' AUTHORIZATION CEILING. YOU WILL NOTE IN PARTICULAR THAT THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE CALLED FOR AN ADJUSTMENT IN LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE IN FY 1977 IN THE EVENT THAT STAGE I WAS EXTENDED FOR SOME REASON. THAT SLIPPAGE NOW SEEMS TO BE OCCURRING AND THE RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENT IS BEING MADE IN KEEPING WITH THE CARREL PLAN FOR TRANSITION, WHICH CALLS FOR A COMPENSATORY UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN FY 1979."

SETIK WHO CHAIRS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING REPLIED THAT WHILE HE WELCOMED WILLIAM'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT FIGURES FOR THE

TRANSITION AND POST TRANSITION PERIOD WERE TENTATIVE, HE NOTED THAT HIS REPLY "GLOSSES OVER THE BASIC AND UNALTERABLE FACTS THAT YOU AND YOUR OFFICE REJECTED THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS' INITIAL RECOMMENDATION OF \$100 MILLION ANNUAL GRANT, AND THAT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, THE "TENTATIVE" CEILINGS, THE SPIRIT OF WHICH "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO ADHERE", WERE PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON A "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" BASIS.

SETIK CONTINUED THAT EVEN THOUGH THE FIGURES WERE TENTATIVE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WAS ACTING ON THE BASIS THAT THEY WERE AGREED UPON, INCLUDING REDUCING THE PROPOSED FY 77 LEVEL BECAUSE OF "SLIPPAGE", A WORD WHICH HE NOTED BOTH ACTING DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS EMMETT RICE AND WILLIAMS HAD USED. SETIK POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WAS STILL PLANNED FOR JULY 1975, AND THAT THERE WAS ALSO TALK OF RESUMING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT "APPARENTLY SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE HAS DETERMINED THAT THESE EVENTS WILL NOT OCCUR."

HE ALSO NOTED THAT ANY DELAY IN THE TALKS WAS A "DIRECT RESULT OF ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES TO CIRCUMVENT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA," HE CONTINUED, REFERRING TO THE RETURN OF LANDS ISSUE.

SETIK ALSO ADDED THAT "IT HAS BEEN, IS NOW, AND WILL IN THE FUTURE BE MY CONTENTION THAT CEILING AUTHORIZATIONS, THE ACTUAL APPROPRIATIONS, AND THE ALLOCATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THEM OUGHT TO BE DICTATED BY MICRONESIA'S REAL NEEDS AND NOT THROUGH AN ARBITRATION OR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO PARTIES IN ADVERSARY POSITIONS ON UNEQUAL FOOTING..."

SETIK WENT ON TO NOTE THAT IN WILLIAMS' LETTER HE ALSO REFERRED TO INTERIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUGHES'S ASSERTION THAT "YOU HAD NO ROLE IN REQUESTING A SUGGESTED REALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE MARIANAS POWER FACILITIES," SAYING THAT THESE CHARGES "HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT WHATSOEVER." SETIK SAID HE HAD DIFFICULTY RECONCILING THIS STATEMENT AND INDICATED WHY BY QUOTING FROM A JULY 25, 1974 MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS STANLEY CARPENTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF OMSN, JAMES WILSON.

"ATTACHED IS A COPY OF A JULY 10, 1974 LETTER FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON IN RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER OF JUNE 27, 1974, TO HIM, WHICH ENDEAVORED TO ACCOMMODATE AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS PROMISE TO THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION ON SEEKING A WAY TO FUND A POWER PLANT OUTSIDE THE PHASE II FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PLAN."

SETIK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUGHES HAD WRITTEN THAT OMSN HAD NOT MADE ANY "COMMITMENT" BUT "AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SIMPLY AGREED TO THE MARIANAS' REQUEST TO 'USE HIS GOOD OFFICE' WITH REGARD TO THE MARIANAS REQUEST."

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN WROTE THAT HE AS A MICRONESIAN HAD TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "PROMISE" AND "PROMISE TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICE", SINCE BOTH CARRIED THE MEANING OF "INFLUENCE."

SETIK THEN AGAIN QUOTED FROM WILLIAMS, WHO HAD STATED:
"FINALLY, LET ME SAY FLATLY ON THIS MATTER THAT I AT NO TIME SUGGESTED, REQUESTED, OR DIRECTED THE SUBSTITUTION OF A POWER PLANT FOR THE MARIANAS FOR FIELD TRIP SHIPS. I HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME EVEN BEEN CONSULTED ON FIELD TRIP SHIPS, OR ON ANY OTHER LINE ITEM IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS BUDGET AND I HOPE YOU WILL SO INFORM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MISINFORMING YOU ON THIS SCORE."

SETIK REFERRED TO CARPENTER'S MEMO TO WILSON OF OMSN, HE ASKED: "AM I TO INFER FROM THIS STATEMENT THAT YOU PERSONALLY HAVE NOT DONE SO, BUT THAT THE DIRECTOR OF OMSN HAS? DOES YOUR DIRECTOR...TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT OR KNOWLEDGE, OR WITHOUT YOUR CONSULTATION? OR ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO SAY THAT FORMER DOTA CARPENTER LIED? OBVIOUSLY, SOMEONE IS LYING ABOUT THESE MATTERS."

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK, CONCLUDED BY SAYING:

"MR. AMBASSADOR, IN SUM, I REMAIN UNCONVINced BY YOUR RESPONSE, WHICH MAY BE VALUABLE IN DEFENDING MY ALLEGATIONS FOR YOUR RECORD, BUT ARE OF LITTLE, IF ANY, VALUE TO ME, TO MY COLLEAGUES, OR TO MY CONSTITUENTS, EXCEPT PERHAPS TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE CLEAR POSITION OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, WITH REGARD TO THEIR NEEDS AND WANTS, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO YOU, AND HOW YOUR POSITION AS TO WHAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA SHOULD HAVE, AND HOW THEY SHOULD HAVE IT, IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US."

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK, ALONG WITH SENATOR BAILEY OLTER, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OVERSIGHT HEARINGS BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS CHAIRED BY SENATOR HENRY JACKSON (D-WASH).
(PALAU MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP CONFAB)

KOROR, MAR. 19 (MNS)---THE FOURTH ANNUAL PALAU MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK BEGINNING ON MARCH 24-28, IN KOROR.

ALL OF THE 16 TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND 16 ELECTED MAGISTRATES FROM THE VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS WELL AS SEVERAL MICRONESIAN LEADERS AND OFFICIALS FROM HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN.

WELCOMING REMARKS WILL BE GIVEN BY HIGH CHIEF EBEDUL AND THE MAYOR OF KOROR, RUBASH FRITZ. ACTING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR HARUO I. REMELIIK IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE ON MONDAY (MAR. 24).

AMONG THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE INCLUDES: PROSPECT OF MICRONESIAN UNITY AND FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, WITH SENS. LAZARUS SALII AND ROMAN TMETUCL AS GUEST SPEAKERS; JOHN O. NGIRAKED ON THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; SADANG SILMAI ON THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; PALAU LEGISLATURE SPEAKER ITELBANG LUII AND LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL JOHNSON TORIBIONG ON THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS; EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT WITH DAIZIRO NAKAMURA, CHIEF OF CIVIC AFFAIRS DIVISION; THE THIRD ANNUAL MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER JUAN A. SABLAN, AND HIGH CHIEFS IBEDUL AND REKLAI.

ADDITIONALLY, ALL DEPARTMENT AND ACTIVITY HEADS ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT THE CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE IS COORDINATED BY THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

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(NITIJELA ELECTED ITS OFFICERS)

SAIPAN, MAR. 19 (MNS)---ATLAN ANIEN HAS BEEN REELECTED SPEAKER OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS NITIJELA FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM. IROIJ (TRADITIONAL CHIEF) NANO HERMIOS WAS ELECTED VICE-SPEAKER REPLACING LAURENCE EDWARDS, WHO WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. JINA LAVIN WAS ELECTED FLOOR LEADER. ELECTION OF OFFICERS WAS HELD TUESDAY (MAR. 18).

ACCORDING TO THE HEADQUARTERS LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION, THE 30-DAY SESSION OF THE NITIJELA WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE COURT HOUSE BUILDING IN MAJURO.

OTHER OFFICERS ELECTED ARE: JETON ANJAIN, JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS; KUNAR ABNER, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; TOKE SAMIJ, WAYS AND MEANS; AND AJIDRIK BIEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE IS STUDYING THE CREDENTIALS OF IROIJ LITOKWA TEMEING, A NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER FROM NITIJELA ELECTION DISTRICT 3. THE SEAT WAS FORMERLY HELD BY IROIJ BUILLEJ JIBAS. DISTRICT 3 IS COMPOSED OF JALUIT ATOLL, KILI ISLAND, EBON ATOLL AND NAMORIK ATOLL.

(ROTA POSITION STATEMENT)

SAIPAN, MAR. 18 (MNS)---"THE PEOPLE OF ROTA WISH TO BE PART OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE OF ROTA CANNOT APPROVE A FORM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PERPETUATE THE DISCRIMINATION PRACTICED IN THE PAST AGAINST OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY," THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION STATES.

INTRODUCED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, THE RESOLUTIONS SUBMIT FOUR PROPOSALS DEMANDED BY THE COUNCIL "IF ROTA IS TO PARTICIPATE" AS PART OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

THEY ARE: EQUAL NUMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES FROM EACH MUNICIPALITY; BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE; LOCAL BUDGETARY CONTROLS; AND PLEBISCITE ON COVENANT AND REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY.

ACCORDING TO THE "POSITION STATEMENT", THE CONCERNED FELT BY THE PEOPLE OF ROTA "STEMS FROM BOTH A DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE PAST AND A GUARDED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE." THE RESOLUTION FURTHER CHARGED THAT ROTANESE HAVE BEEN "CONSISTENTLY TREATED AS THE POOR COUSINS" OF SAIPAN.

"WE HAVE SUBMITTED BUDGET REQUESTS WHICH HAVE BEEN IGNORED" WHILE THE APPROVED BUDGET AFFECTING ROTA IS CONTROLLED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ON SAIPAN, THE RESOLUTION STATES, ADDING, "WE HAVE SOUGHT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE" FOR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S OPERATING EXPENSES AND THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN "UNSATISFACTORY."

RECOMMENDATIONS, CONTINUED THE RESOLUTION, BY ROTA DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS DEPARTMENT HEADS, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY "DISREGARDED."

COPIES OF THE RESOLUTION HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, (MPSC), AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, ROTA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND MPSC, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE INTERIOR SECRETARY. 17899