

1975

FILE 11

(MORTON NOMINATED SEC. OF COMMERCE)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 28 (MNS)---THREE'S GOING TO BE A SHUFFLE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S CABINET, ACCORDING TO A RECENT ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C. B. MORTON WILL BE NOMINATED AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE. NO REPLACEMENT FOR MORTON WAS NAMED.

BUT PRESIDENTIAL NEWS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SAID THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL FOR THE INTERIOR POST.

NESSEN SAID PRESIDENT FORD HAS CHARGED MORTON WITH THE MISSION OF PERSUADING AMERICAN INDUSTRY TO SWITCH TO COAL AS ITS PRIMARY FUEL. MORTON WILL KEEP HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CABINET-LEVEL ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL WHICH ADVISES THE PRESIDENT ON ENERGY POLICY.

(GUAM SENATORS VISITS YAP)

YAP, MARCH 28 (MNS)---THE PRESIDENT OF THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATORS (PCL) GUAM SENATOR BEN ADA, VISITED YAP RECENTLY, AND DEPARTED ON WEDNESDAY, (MAR. 26) FOR KOROR, PALAU, -ACCORDING TO YAP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER WILLIE GORONGFEL. TRAVELING WITH SENATOR ADA ARE SENATORS BENIGNO M. PALOMO AND CARL T. GUTIERREZ, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GUAM LEGISLATURE RULES COMMITTEE AND PCL COORDINATOR PET ROBERTO. GORONGFEL REPORTED.

THE GROUP MET WITH THE YAP DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HOLD-OVER COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE UPCOMING JULY PCL WORKSHOP. SENATOR ADA SAID HE INTENDS TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO PCL, WHICH WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH GUAM AND MICRONESIA. "WE NEED YOUR HELP AS BROTHERS IN IMPROVING OUR DIFFERENCE AND EASE OUR ECONOMIC TENSIONS," ADA TOLD THE YAP LAWMAKERS.

SENATOR ADA SPOKE ABOUT LEGISLATIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP CURB DRUG ABUSE, THE MICRONESIAN MINI-COMMON MARKET AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AS WELL AS IMPORT AND EXPORT BETWEEN GUAM AND MICRONESIA. THERE IS NO REASON FOR GUAM TO IMPORT BANANA FROM MEXICO WHEN IT WILL ONLY TAKE AN HOUR TO FLY THEM IN FROM YAP, HE SAID. EXPERTS SHOULD BE HIRED TO DO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN LIFTING THE BAN ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCES FROM MICRONESIA AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE ISLANDS MUST BE IMPROVED IN ORDER TO GET BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE THE GUAM SENATOR ADDED.

THE YAP DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TREATED THE GUAM LAWMAKERS TO A DINNER RECEPTION AT THE RAI VIEW HOTEL, AND A TOUR AROUND THE ISLAND. ANOTHER RECEPTION WAS HOSTED BY SENATOR ADA AND HIS PARTY AT THE RAI VIEW.

WHILE IN YAP, THE GROUP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY YAP DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER JOACHIM PALMON.

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(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CONCON LEGISLATION DISCUSSED)

SAIPAN, MARCH 28 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, VICTOR UHERBELAU, CONTINUED HIS COMMENTS FRIDAY (MAR. 28), ON LEGISLATIONS PASSED DURING THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

UHERBELAU SAID SENATE BILL 6-86 SETS UP THE PROCEDURE ON HOW THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WOULD BE RATIFIED (OR APPROVED) AFTER IT IS ADOPTED BY THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HE SAID THE BILL AUTHORIZES THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SET UP A SPECIAL DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM (OR VOTE) ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA.

THE BILL, UHERBELAU EXPLAINED, FURTHER PROVIDES THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WILL TAKE EFFECT IF IT IS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING IN A LEAST FOUR OUT OF THE PRESENT SIX DISTRICTS OR TWO-THIRDS OF WHATEVER MICRONESIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE COMPOSITION MAY BE AT TIME OF THE REFERENDUM. HE SAID THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT IN ANY DISTRICT IF IT IS DISAPPROVED BY TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTES IN THAT PARTICULAR DISTRICT.

UHERBELAU FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT SHOULD A MINIMUM OF THREE DISTRICTS DISAPPROVE THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, IT WILL NOT COME INTO FORCE AS THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND. IN THE EVENT THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION IS DISAPPROVED IN THE REFERENDUM, ONE WAY OF RESOLVING THE SITUATION IS FOR THE DELEGATES TO CONVENE AGAIN AND REWORK THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION IN A MANNER TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE DISTRICTS WHICH VOTED AGAINST IT.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RELATED THE CONGRESS APPROVED HOUSE BILL 6-197 WHICH APPROPRIATES FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$205,764 TO PAY FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING \$48,000 TO PAY FOR THE EXPENSES OF EACH DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATION. OUT OF THE 48,000 DOLLARS, \$12,000 IS EARNMARKED FOR TRUK; \$12,000 FOR THE MARSHALLS; \$10,000 FOR PONPAE; \$6,000 FOR YAP; \$5,000 FOR PALAU AND \$5,000 FOR THE MARIANAS. THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES SAFEGUARDS AS TO HOW EACH DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATION WILL SPEND THE FUNDS ALLOTTED TO IT. THE REMAINDER OF THE MONEY WILL BE USED FOR THE GENERAL OPERATION OF THE CONVENTION.

THE CONCON DIRECTOR SAID THE BILL (HB 6-197), I ALSO AMENDS A PORTION OF PUBLIC LAW 5-60 CONCERNING PAY FOR DELEGATES. HE SAID IT ENTITLES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, WHO ARE DELEGATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE WITH PAY WHEN THEY ARE ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION. IN OTHER WORDS, DELEGATES WHO ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WILL BE PAID THEIR REGULAR SALARY WHILE ON THE BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION OR ITS COMMITTEE.

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ACCORDING TO UHERBELAU, THE BILL FURTHER RAISES THE PAY OF DELEGATES FROM \$25 TO \$32.85 PER DAY DELEGATE. HE SAID GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MAKING LESS AN \$32.85 WILL BE PAID THE DIFFERENCE OUT OF THE CONVENTION FUNDS. FOR INSTANCE, HE NOTED, IF A DELEGATE ONLY MAKES \$12 PER DAY IN HIS GOVERNMENT JOB, HE WILL BE PAID AN ADDITIONAL \$20.85 FROM CONVENTION FUNDS IN ORDER TO BRING HIS COMPENSATION UP TO \$32.85. UHERBELAU ALSO SAID DELEGATES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES.

THE CONCON DIRECTOR ALSO MENTIONED THAT CONGRESS CONSIDERED SENATE BILL 6-185 DESIGNED TO ALLOW THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT DELEGATES WHO WERE ELECTED ON JUNE 4, 1974 TO ORGANIZE. HOWEVER, THAT BILL DID NOT PASS AND INSTEAD CONGRESS ENACTED SENATE BILL 6-90 WHICH, IF SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE HICOM, WILL NULIFY THE CONCON ELECTION IN THE MARSHALLS. HE SAID THE BILL AUTHORIZES THE HICOM TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THAT DISTRICT.

UHERBELAU CONCLUDED THAT IF THE FOUR BILLS ARE SIGNED INTO LAW, THEY WILL GREATLY ASSIST THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO CONVENE ON SAIPAN THIS COMING JULY 12TH