

(COUNCIL ISSUES POSITION PAPER) 1975

SAIPAN, MAY 5 (MNS)---THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHARGED FRIDAY THAT THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GAMBLING IN MICRONESIA WAS "FATALLY DEFECTIVE."

IN A "POSITION PAPER" ISSUED MONDAY, THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CITED FIVE AREAS IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT WHICH THEY CLAIMED TO BE DEFECTIVE.

THE POSITION PAPER STATED THE COMMITTEE "ARRIVED AT RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPORTIVE" OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S POSITION. "THIS IS EVIDENT FROM THE VERY COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ITSELF, THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE A BUILT-IN BIAS AGAINST GAMBLING AND ITS EVILS, REAL OR IMAGINED."

"WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE EVIDENCE CITED BY THE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF ITS CONCLUSION JUSTIFIES OR PROVES THOSE CONCLUSIONS," THE COUNCIL CLAIMED. "IT DOES NOT...JUSTIFY THE CONCLUSION THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF GAMBLING IS THE ROOT OF SOCIETAL EVILS WHICH ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE RESULTED WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY." THE COUNCIL STATED THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S "SCAPE TACTICS"--NAMESLY THE THREAT OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND PROSTITUTION, FOLLOWING LEGALIZED GAMBLING "PRESENTS A SERIOUS LOGICAL FALLACY."

THE COMMITTEE, CONTINUED THE SAIPAN COUNCIL, DID NOT MAKE "SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN THE BENEFITS" THE SLOT MACHINES HAS BROUGHT TO SAIPAN. THEY STATED THAT THE ANNUAL REVENUES FROM LICENSING ARE ANTICIPATED TO EXCEED \$160,000, HALF OF WHICH IS EARMARKED FOR MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, THE REMAINING HALF WOULD BE DEVOTED TO MUNICIPAL PROJECTS. IT CLAIMED THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR ADA'S ORDER TO OUTLAW SLOT MACHINES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1976, THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN WAS "RELUCTANTLY FORCED" TO DISAPPROVE SOME 21 ORDINANCES APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS.

THE COUNCIL FURTHER CLAIMED THAT THE COMMITTEE FAILED TO CONSIDER THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CERTAIN RESPONSIBLE PERSONS INCLUDING THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

FURTHERMORE, "THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE SEEM TO RUN COUNTER TO THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OTHER, MORE HIGHLY QUALIFIED BODIES WHO HAVE EXPENDED SERIOUS EFFORT AND MUCH TIME ON THE STUDYING OF GAMBLING" LIKE THE TASK FORCE ON LEGALIZED GAMBLING OF NEW YORK CITY.

THE COUNCIL FURTHER CLAIMED THAT THE "SOLUTION TO THE EVILS IN GAMBLING LIES NOT IN OUTLAWING IT....BUT IN ITS PROPER CONTROL AND REGULATION."

CONCLUDING, THE COUNCIL STATED THAT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S ACTION ON APRIL 17 AND THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT SLOT MACHINES BE PROHIBITED WAS "TOTALLY UNWARRANTED" IN LIGHT OF THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE COUNCIL STATED IN THEIR "POSITION PAPER" THAT THEY WILL INITIATE LEGAL ACTION TO DECLARE THE ORDER "NULL AND VOID."

14259

(PONAPE LEGISLATURE COMPLETES 50-DAY SESSION)

PONAPE, MAY 5 (MNS)---THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WORKED UNTIL MIDNIGHT MONDAY (APRIL 28) CLEARING A HEAVILY LOADED CALENDAR OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

MONDAY'S MEETING WAS THE LAST OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 50-DAY SESSION AND THE FIRST TIME PONAPE'S 24 LAWMAKERS HAD MET IN THE

NEW PONAPE LEGISLATURE BUILDING WHICH WAS DEDICATED RECENTLY.

DURING MONDAY'S SESSION, THE LEGISLATURE PASSED 12 APPROPRIATION BILLS AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FOR LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TALLING NEARLY \$70,000.

THE LEGISLATURE ALSO PASSED A BILL WHICH, IF APPROVED BY PONAPE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR LEO A. FALCAM, WILL PROHIBIT ANY COMMERCIAL GAMBLING WITHIN THE DISTRICT. IT WOULD ALSO PLACE CERTAIN OPERATION AND AGE RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMEROUS ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL BINGO PARLORS IN PONAPE DISTRICT.

THE PONAPE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY RECEIVED A BOOST FROM THE LEGISLATURE EARLIER IN THE WEEK WHEN IT AUTHORIZED \$100,000 FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, CHANNELS AND DOCKS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE LEGISLATURE IS MEETING AGAIN THIS WEEK FOR A FIVE-DAY SPECIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS AND VARIOUS PROPOSED REVISIONS OF THE PONAPE DISTRICT CHARTER, REAPPORTIONMENT AND APPROPRIATION BILLS ALONG WITH OTHER PENDING LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

(TRUK LAW DAY CELEBRATION)

TRUK, MAY 5 (MNS)---HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHERED AT THE TRUK HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM THURSDAY (MAY 1) TO HEAR SPEECHES BY SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR MITARO DANIS DELIVERED IN OBSERVANCE OF MICRONESIA'S LAW DAY.

TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR MITARO DANIS, IN BRIEF REMARKS, URGED THE STUDENTS TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE LAWS BY VISITING COURT HOUSES, THE LEGISLATURE AND POLICE STATION. HE CALLED UPON ALL TRUK RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA SAID THAT IN MICRONESIA, THERE ARE "TOO MANY LAWS" AND STILL THERE ARE PROBLEMS. HE TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT "THERE IS NO EXCUSE" FOR IGNORANCE OF THE LAW. THE SENATE PRESIDENT, REFERRING TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAY, WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE "OBSERVED MICRONESIAN LAWS BUT DOESN'T OBSERVE THOSE LAWS THAT WERE MADE OUTSIDE OF MICRONESIA. WE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT LAWS THAT DON'T FIT IN MICRONESIA AND ITS PEOPLE," NAKAYAMA SAID.

DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER KOICHI SANA URGED THAT TRADITIONAL LAWS BE RESPECTED.

(FALCAM'S REMOVAL URGED)

PONAPE, MAY 5 (MNS)---A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF PONAPE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR LEO A. FALCAM WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THE FIVE-DAY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE WHICH BEGINS MONDAY (MAY 5).

THE RESOLUTION, INTRODUCED LAST WEEK BY LEGISLATOR JOSEPH MOSES, WHO REPRESENTS FALCAM'S HOME MUNICIPALITY, CHARGES THAT "THE CALLOUS, AUTOCRATIC CONDUCT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AND THE GROSS MISMANAGEMENT OF HIS OFFICE HAS NOT ONLY HAMPERED THE VITALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT, BUT HAS CAUSED WIDE-SPREAD DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT."

LEGISLATOR MOSES FURTHER CHARGES IN THE RESOLUTION THAT

FALCAM'S CONDUCT HAS "CRITICALLY IMPEDED THE DEVELOPMENT (OF  
PONAPE DISTRICT) TOWARD SOUND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT."

THE STRONGLY WORDED RESOLUTION, IF APPROVED, WOULD  
REQUEST THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO REMOVE FALCAM FROM OFFICE  
IMMEDIATELY AND DIRECT THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO CONDUCT AN  
INVESTIGATION INTO THE PONAPE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

CONTACTED IN PONAPE BY THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE,  
DISTAD FALCAM SAID THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN OR READ THE RESOLUTION.  
HE ADDED THAT HE "CAN'T STOP ANYBODY" OR ANY LEGISLATOR FROM DOING  
WHAT HE WANTS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

"MY RECORD OF WORK AS A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR IS CLEAR,"  
HE MAINTAINS. "ANYBODY CAN COME IN AND CHECK. AS A  
LEGISLATOR, (MOSES) HAS THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT HE WANTS," FALCAM  
SAID.

#### (1974 INCOME TAX REFUNDS)

SAIPAN, MAY 5 (MNS)---"THE 1974 TRUST TERRITORY INCOME TAX  
REFUND CHECKS WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED ON FRIDAY, (MAY 2), INCLUDED  
ONLY A FEW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD FILED INDIVIDUAL TAX RETURNS.  
THIS WAS BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ONLY A FEW HAD APPLIED  
FOR A REFUND.

"THEREFORE, ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A REFUND  
SHOULD SECURE AND APPLY FOR ONE. APPLICATION FORMS ARE  
AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICE OR AT HEADQUARTERS  
REVENUE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, SAIPAN, MARIANA  
ISLANDS 96950."