

CHICOM CALLS SPECIAL SESSION) 1975

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ISSUED A PROCLAMATION FRIDAY CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BEGINNING ON MONDAY, JUNE 23, AT 10 A.M. AND TO END NO LATER THAN 12 MIDNIGHT JULY 2, THE SESSION WILL BE HELD ON SAIPAN.

THE SPECIAL SESSION IS CALLED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF LEGISLATION:

-LEGISLATION ON BASE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.
-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY, PUBLIC LAW 6-56.

-SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE OPERATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

-LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON), SPECIFICALLY THE FOLLOWING:

(A) SENATE BILL 6-185- A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-60);

(B) AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC LAW 6-30 -- APPROPRIATING \$253,764 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIAN CONCON AND THE EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT DELEGATIONS;

(C) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE OPERATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 6-50;

(D) AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 5-89 APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SCHOLARSHIP;

(E) A BILL APPROPRIATING \$40,000 TO CODIFY THE SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE TT CODE;

(F) AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC LAW 5-97 --- APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION;

(G) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE GENERAL REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA (PL 6-20);

(H) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR THE PONAPE AIRPORT;

(I) OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH MAY BE SPECIFIED IN A SPECIAL MESSAGE BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHILE IN SPECIAL SESSION.

(MEEDS REQUEST WORDING CHANGE IN PLEBISCITE BALLOT)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---A MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO CHANGE THE WORDING OF THE CONTROVERSIAL "NO" BALLOT WHICH WILL BE USED IN THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE JUNE 17.

IN A LETTER TO INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON DATED MAY 12, REPRESENTATIVE LLOYD MEEDS SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM "CONCERNED CITIZENS" IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WHICH OBJECTED TO WORDING IN THE BALLOT AS SET BY SECRETARY MORTON FOR THE PLEBISCITE.

"I SHARE THEIR DISPLEASURE," REPRESENTATIVE MEEDS WROTE MORTON.

REPRESENTATIVE MEEDS, WHO SERVES ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, INFORMED THE INTERIOR SECRETARY THAT THE WORDING OF THE "YES" AND "NO" BALLOT "SHOULD BE AS SIMILAR AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID ANY INHERENT PREFERENCE ON THE PART OF THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSION."

"I URGED YOU TO REWORD THE BALLOT," MEEDS WROTE SECRETARY MORTON. "THE PLEBISCITE SHOULD AND MUST PROVIDE AS CLEAR AND HONEST INDICATION OF THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE."

14340

CONGRESSMAN NEEDS' LETTER TO MORTON WAS A RESPONSE TO A LETTER TO THE INTERIOR SECRETARY FROM THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION (UCA) IN THE MARIANAS.

THE UCA CHARGED IN THEIR LETTER TO MORTON THAT THE WORDING IN THE BALLOT FOR THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS "CONTAINS INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT, MISLEADING AND EVEN BIASED LANGUAGE."

ACCORDING TO THE PLEBISCITE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MORTON ON APRIL 11, THE WORDING IN THE BALLOT READS:

"YES- I VOTE FOR COMMONWEALTH AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"NO- I VOTE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT, RECOGNIZING THAT, IF COMMONWEALTH IS REJECTED, THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WILL REMAIN AS A DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WITH THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE DETERMINATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS."

UCA REQUESTED MORTON TO DELETE ALL OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE "NO" BALLOT SO THAT IT WOULD READ: "NO- I VOTE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SET FORTH IN THE COVENANT."

UCA INFORMED MORTON THAT UNLESS SUCH A CHANGE IS MADE "THERE CAN BE NO FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PLEBISCITE" IN THE MARIANAS.

(REFERENDUM PROCLAMATION ISSUED)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON SIGNED A PROCLAMATION THURSDAY AFTERNOON (MAY 15) DESIGNATING JULY 8, 1975 AS THE DATE FOR THE GENERAL MICRONESIA-WIDE REFERENDUM.

IN HIS PROCLAMATION, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER STATED THAT THE REFERENDUM IS NECESSARY TO "ASCERTAIN THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS CHOICE, THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA AND THE ROLE OF THE CONGRESS AS A NEGOTIATING AGENCY ON BEHALF OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SIGNED THE NONBINDING REFERENDUM BILL INTO LAW APRIL NINTH. THE BILL, NOW PUBLIC LAW 6-20 PROVIDES \$30,000 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE REFERENDUM.

THE REFERENDUM WILL NOT BE BINDING ON ANY PERSON OR GROUP, BUT WILL GUIDE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN ITS FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA.

THE LAW PROVIDES THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WILL VOTE ON FOUR SPECIFIC ISSUES. THEY ARE: THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA, WHETHER MICRONESIA SHOULD SEEK FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

THE REFERENDUM PROCLAMATION READS:

"WHEREAS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FINDS THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA DEMANDS THE CARRYING OUT OF THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT; AND

"WHEREAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 OF PUBLIC LAW 6-20, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SHALL, NOT EARLIER THAN THIRTY (30) NOR LATER THAN FORTY (40) DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DAY OF THIS LAW, ISSUE A PROCLAMATION ORDERING A GENERAL REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA; AND

"WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL REFERENDUM WILL NOT BE BINDING WILL NOT COMMIT THE PEOPLE TO ANY SPECIFIC COURSE

OF ACTION REGARDING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS; AND
"WHEREAS, THE ULTIMATE ADOPTION OF ANY STATUS ALTERNATIVE
WILL REQUIRE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AND SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA..."

(ZEDER ASSUME OFFICE)

WASHINGTON, MAY 15 (UPI)—FRANK MONROE ZEDER HAS BEEN APPOINTED CONDITIONALLY FOR 30 DAYS AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIES IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND IS EXPECTED TO ATTAIN FULL STATUS BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH, ACCORDING TO A STORY FROM WASHINGTON CARRIED ON FRIDAY'S EDITION PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

ZEDER, 54, A WEALTHY DALLAS, TEX., MANUFACTURER AND CIVIC LEADER, IS AWAITING COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAID ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS ZEDER PLANS TO ARRANGE IS A TRIP TO THE TRUST TERRITORY, GUAM AND AMERICAN SAMOA. THE THREE-WEEK TOUR TENTATIVELY IS SCHEDULED TO START MAY 30, THE DAILY NEWS STORY STATED.

THE POST, VACANT SINCE STANLEY S. CARPENTER RESIGNED LAST DECEMBER TO REJOIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IS A SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE SENATE CONFIRMATION.

ZEDER IS STEPPING DOWN FROM HIS POST AS CHAIRMAN OF HYDROMETALS INC., A FIRM THAT MAKES PLUMBING SUPPLIES, HAND TOOLS AND ELECTRONICS ITEMS AND RUNS A CHAIN OF 60 STEREOPHONIC-EQUIPMENT STORES. ZEDER HAS HEADED THE FIRM SINCE 1959.

A NATIVE OF MICHIGAN, WHERE HIS FAMILY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GROWTH OF THE CHRYSLER CORP. ZEDER IS A FORMER WORLD WAR II FIGHTER PILOT IN THE PACIFIC AND HAD EARLIER CAREERS IN ADVERTISING, ELECTRONICS AND INVESTING.