

5/22/75
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A.

Re: S.B. 6-89

Suggested reply IF ASKED:

The legislative history of SB 6-89 makes clear that the general referendum which it calls for is to be in the nature of a straw vote to provide indication of popular attitudes on status issues and guidance ^{to} in the JCFS, but would not be regarded as definitive in nature.

Date of the referendum has been set by the High Commissioner for July 8. If the plebiscite vote in the Marianas on June 17 results in a definitive affirmative vote for the Covenant it is likely that the Marianas District may decide not to participate in the TT-wide referendum since the District will already have made its choice as to its future political status. If on the other hand the vote is negative, the District would of course continue to have full opportunity, along with the other Districts, to participate in the referendum.

5/22/75
DMSN - not yet claimed

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA

17
7/6/3
AT REGULAR SESSION, 1975

SENATE BILL NO. 6-89, S.D.2, H.D.1

sent to committee

J

*test abstained (6) -
Reason*

AN ACT

4 in favor

Calling for a referendum throughout Micronesia; setting forth specific questions to be voted upon by the voters of Micronesia; requiring the results of the referendum to be submitted to the Congress of Micronesia; appropriating funds therefor; and for other purposes.

*Passed
Transmitted to
House*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA:

1 Section 1. In order to facilitate an early determination of
2 the future political status of the islands in Micronesia, the
3 Congress of Micronesia finds it imperative that the wishes of the
4 people throughout all six districts be ascertained on specific
5 public issues confronting them. The Congress of Micronesia finds
6 that the general public interest of the people of Micronesia
7 demands the carrying out of the purposes specified in this act
8 and that such purposes may be accomplished in great measure by
9 proceeding under the provisions of this act.

*FRB
Congress of
Micronesia*

10 Section 2. The High Commissioner shall, not earlier than
11 30 nor later than 40 days after the effective date of this act,
12 issue a proclamation ordering a general referendum on a day
13 designated by him in said proclamation throughout all six districts
14 of Micronesia, not later than July 12, 1975. He shall prepare the
15 referendum ballot and shall set forth separately, but on the same
16 ballot form, the following propositions:

GENERAL REFERENDUM

18 (1) With respect to future status, shall Micronesia
19 choose:

20 (a) Independence -- and become a fully YES

independent sovereign nation? NO

22 (b) Commonwealth of the United States

03-034890

- 1 joining the American political YES
- 2 family permanently? NO
- 3 (c) Free association with the United YES
- 4 States -- in a relationship which
- 5 may be terminated or changed in NO
- 6 the future?
- 7 (d) Statehood -- becoming a state YES
- 8 of the United States of America? NO
- 9 (e) The present status -- remaining YES
- 10 indefinitely as a United Nations
- 11 Trust Territory administered by NO
- 12 the United States?
- 13 (f) Other than above? YES
- 14 Specify: _____ NO
- 15 (2) Do you support the unity of YES
- 16 Micronesia? NO
- 17 (3) Shall the Congress of Micronesia YES
- 18 continue to negotiate the termination NO
- 19 of the Trusteeship Agreement and the
- 20 establishment of a new status on behalf
- 21 of all the districts?

22 Section 3. The High Commissioner, prior to the date set for

23 the general referendum, shall translate or cause to be translated

24 the propositions specified in Section 2 of this act into the

25 predominant languages of Yap, Palau, Ponape, the Marshalls, the

1 Marianas, Kapingamarangi, Kusaie, Ulithi and Truk, and shall allow
2 any voter so requesting to vote in the general referendum on the
3 ballot printed in the vernacular language commonly in use in the
4 district in which he casts his vote, instead of using the ballot
5 in the English language.

6 Section 4. All citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific
7 Islands who have the qualifications to vote for members of the
8 House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia and who
9 shall have met the voting requirements of Title 43 of the Trust
10 Territory Code, as amended, shall be eligible to cast their votes
11 in the general referendum. The general referendum shall be
12 conducted and the results of such referendum for each of the
13 propositions canvassed in substantially the same manner provided
14 by law for elections to the House of Representatives of the
15 Congress of Micronesia, except as otherwise provided in or
16 required to implement this act. No recounts shall be permitted
17 of the results of the referendum, unless the Congress of Micronesia
18 shall so authorize the same. The Election Commissioner shall
19 certify the results of the general referendum to the High
20 Commissioner, who shall transmit such certification to the
21 Presiding Officers of the Congress of Micronesia as soon as
22 practicable after their receipt. Such certificates shall be
23 accompanied by a statement of the votes cast for or against each
24 and all of the propositions. The Congress of Micronesia shall
25 be the sole judge of the general referendum and the results thereof.

1 Section 5. There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund
2 of the Congress of Micronesia the sum of \$30,000, or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expenses of the
4 referendum provided in this act. The High Commissioner shall
5 expend the funds appropriated herein to carry out the purposes of
6 this act. Any balance remaining unexpended and unobligated for
7 expenditure on July 12, 1975, or upon the completion of the
8 purpose for which such sums are appropriated, whichever shall
9 first occur, shall revert to the General Fund of the Congress of
10 Micronesia.

11 Section 6. This act shall take effect upon approval by the
12 High Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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14

_____, 1975

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Edward E. Johnston
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands

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