

MAGISTRATE ELECTION CONTESTED

James Milne filed a motion in the Trust Territory High Court last week to be reinstated as a Magistrate from Ebon Atoll in the Marshalls. Milne has served as a Magistrate for the past three years. After last January's elections, however, Milne was told by Marshalls District Legislative Liaison Officer Shiro Riklon that he would not be able to serve because he is not a Trust Territory citizen.

Assistant Public Defender Benjamin Abrams, representing Milne, said that there were no legal grounds for Riklon's action. "There are no Trust Territory laws," Abrams said, "that say a Magistrate has to be a Micronesian citizen." The complaint listed Riklon and Marshalls District Oscar DeBrum as defendants in the case. Both have been given 20 days to answer the charges.

TT HEALTH COUNCIL CONCERNED

The Trust Territory Health Council expressed grave concern last week over proposed cuts in Health Services monies from the 1975 fiscal year budget. "Slashes in health funding seriously impair Micronesian medical services," a spokesman for the Council stated. The group met in Koror, Palau for its week long semi-annual meeting.

The reduction of medical personnel, the Council said, will seriously curtail general medical care in each district hospital as well as preventing even minimally adequate coverage in medical dispensaries.

The Health Planning Council sent a letter to High Commissioner Johnston and the Congress of Micronesia asking that the new budget include adequate funds for Health Services projects.

BRIEFLY, HERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS THAT MADE NEWS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK:

Ulul islanders are contesting the ownership of their Namounuito Atoll island. They are asking that a 1967 ruling which determined that the TT owned the island be overturned.

Marshalls Senator Wilfred Kendall met with American officials in Washington, D.C., during his recent trip to the United States. He urged them to give Micronesians working at the Kwajalein Missile Range "equal pay for equal work."

The Trust Territory Diving Officer and the Demolition Supervisor both left Micronesia last week. John Oakes and Steve Aiken left with their families to return to the U.S. on completion of their contracts.

A food handling seminar sponsored by the South Pacific Commission will meet on Saipan, it was announced. According to Omer Roller, Trust Territory Sanitary Engineer, it will be held from July 1st to the 14th.