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# Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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## CONGRESS SESSION PASSES HALFWAY POINT

The Special Session of the Congress of Micronesia entered its final half last week with a flurry of floor action and speech making. A major bill amending the Constitutional Convention Law was passed by the Senate nine to two.

The bill, introduced by Senator Lazarus Salii of Palau, would amend the con con law to give all delegates voting rights in the convention, would require that the referendum on the constitution be conducted at the same time as the plebiscite on Micronesia's future political status, and would require a majority of Micronesians to approve the constitution for it to become law.

Salii's bill also proposed that at least one-fourth of all voters in a district would have to vote in favor of the constitution for it to become effective in that district. An amendment offered by Marianas Senator Olympio T. Borja, which passed four to three, changed that requirement from one-fourth to one-third.

In the House and Senate, a major administration drug bill was introduced by request. The 54 page bill, which High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston enabled the Congress to consider by virtue of a special message earlier in the week, would replace Chapter Seven of Title 63 of the TT Code in its entirety. The bill would substitute a new chapter on medicines and drugs to be known as the Trust Territory Controlled Substances Act.

While hearings on the bill will begin soon, some legislative observers expressed doubt that the Congress would be able to deal with the large and complicated measure in the short time remaining during the Special Session.

Other measures introduced included a bill to declare the constitutional convention election results in the Marshalls void, and to redraw some delegate district lines for a new election; a House bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$1.00 per hour after studies by the Departments of Personnel and Resources and Development are carried out; and, a number of appropriation measures ranging from the building of copra warehouses in each district to increased funding for Health Services personnel and for hospital feeding programs.

The Special Session will end on August 6, fifteen days after its start.

#### NON-CITIZENS MUST REGISTER FOR BUSINESS PERMITS

A Trust Territory law which became effective last week has been described by one Micronesian as "unfair" and "discriminatory," by the first person to comply with it. Designed to curb the practice of non-citizens using a Micronesian spouse or adopted child or other means to circumvent compliance of the TT's Foreign Investors Business Permit Act, Public Law 5-85 requires a non-citizen to register with special Report forms.

A non-citizen, under this law, is any person who is not a TT citizen; any person under the age of 18 years who is adopted by parents, at least one of whom is not a TT citizen; any person married to a non-citizen; or, any company, corporation, or association in which a person not a TT citizen owns any interest.

Mrs. Rosa Carpenter, a Micronesian married to an American citizen, was the first person to file a Report. She called the law unfair and stated that she felt she was being discriminated against because she married to a non-citizen. Her husband joined her in her feelings.

The law, which was passed by the Congress of Micronesia, was first vetoed by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston last February. He said at the time that the law was "discriminatory against Micronesians who have married or been adopted by non-TT citizens and are now being subject to rules and regulations not in effect at the time of their marriage or adoption."

The Congress again passed the measure charging that the bill does not "preclude such citizens from doing business in Micronesia, it merely requires them to comply with the Foreign Investment Act."

High Commissioner Johnston, who approved the law the second time, warned that it "could well be set aside by the courts as being illegal."

It is reported that a class action suit challenging the law will soon be filed in the Trust Territory High Court.

#### HICOM SAYS MARIJUANA STILL PROHIBITED

Even though a recent TT High Court ruling invalidated all TT statutes prohibiting the use of marijuana, High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston said last week that the possession of marijuana remains an offense.

According to the High Commissioner, the U.S. Federal Controlled Substances Act, which makes the possession of marijuana an offense, is fully applicable to the Trust Territory.

He also said that either Trust Territory laws prohibiting the use or sale of opium or heroin, as well as the Controlled Substances Act, will continue to be "vigorously enforced" by Trust Territory police.

Trust Territory drug legislation has been introduced in the Congress of Micronesia's Special Session. The High Commissioner said that many members of the Congress have indicated their willingness to pass such legislation.

#### SPORTS COUNCIL APPOINTED

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston announced last week the appointments of members to the Micronesian Sports Council.

The Council is designed to represent Micronesian interests and coordinate Micronesian activities for the upcoming South Pacific Games to be held on Guam next year. The Sports Council will also look into the possibility of Micronesian participation in the world Olympic games which will take place in Montreal in 1976.

Council members appointed by the districts are Dr. Manessa Emil, Marshalls; Yasuo Yamada, Ponape; Ermes Siales, Truk; Oscar C. Rasa, Marianas; Luke Moon, Yap; and, Demei Otobed, Palau.

Members appointed by the High Commissioner include Felix Rabauliman, Headquarters Education Department Coordinator of Adult Education; Elias Okamura, Acting Director of Transportation and Communications; and, Al Snyder, a Micronesian Legal Services Corporation attorney in Yap. Rabauliman will serve as interim chairman until a permanent chairman is elected. All nominations have been submitted to the Congress of Micronesia for their approval.

#### BRIEFLY, HERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS WHICH MADE NEWS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK

Bonifacio Basilius of Palau was appointed Chief of the Public Information Division of the Department of Public Affairs. He replaces James Manke, who left the Trust Territory after four years of service.

Six representatives of farmers and fishermen of Ponape and the Marshalls met with Truk Community leaders last week to discuss the upcoming "Human Resources Workshop" they will attend in Bangkok, Thailand.

Marianas District delegates to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention elected Lorenzo LG. Cabrera chairman of the delegation and Congress of Micronesia Senator Olympio T. Borja vice-chairman. Cabrera is deputy director of administration for the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation.

The Marshall Islands Seafood Enterprises Company, a firm designed to develop Marshalls' marine resources, had its application for a Trust Territory Business Permit approved last week.

The president of the American Medical Association, Dr. Malcom Todd, and Rear Admiral John S. Cowan (USN, ret.) arrived on Saipan last week to meet with Trust Territory officials. They hope to find ways the AMA can be of service to Micronesia.

The first ferro-cement fishing boat constructed in Micronesia was launched last week in Truk. The 37-foot ship was constructed under the Congress of Micronesia's Truk Boat Building Program.

Trust Territory Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett denied a motion for dismissal of a civil case against Mariana District Legislature President Vicente N. Santos who has been charged with misusing or converting to his own use more than \$35,000 in District Legislature funds.

Edmund Rabauliman of Saipan received last week an appointment to the California Maritime Academy. He will be studying under a full transportation scholarship.

John Welch, former Chief of the Communications Division, left the Trust Territory after 17 years of service. He is being replaced by Victorino Borja, now Acting Chief of the Division.

Ceremonies marking the successful completion of the Micro Planning School were held on Saipan last week. High Commissioner Johnston spoke to the Planner Trainees gathered for the course.

A fourth year medical student from the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, Paul Arrington, is completing a six week tour in Truk as part of the UH Medical Student Preceptorship Program. He is the first such student to be assigned to Micronesia.

Two Girl Scout trainers, Ms. Linda L. Le. Shanna and Ms. Ellen Joyce Davis, arrived on Saipan last week to conduct a week long training session for Marianas Girl Scout leaders.