

PACIFIC
DAILY
NEWS
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Ronn Ronck's

Notes on MICRONESIA

The U.S. Senate has scheduled action today on the bill to create the commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

If asked to prophesy I'd guess that the Senate will approve the bill, but there is an outside chance that the vote will be delayed.

Sen. Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, a man with much influence in Congress, is offering an amendment that essentially puts off a Marianas decision until there is a plan for the rest of Micronesia.

"On page two (of Resolution 549)," the amendment reads, "beginning with line 3, strike out all through line 14 on page 42 and insert in lieu thereof the following: 'That the Congress hereby recognizes the desires of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to enjoy self-determination, but declares that it is the sense of the Congress that the obligation of the United States to promote the development of the peoples of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands toward self-government or independence can best be accomplished by the submission to the Congress for its consideration of an agreement or agreements resolving the political status of all the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands rather than on an individual basis.'"

Pell is offering the amendment—No. 1330—to the full Senate with Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia. Along with Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado these men have led efforts in Congress to defer action on the covenant until the people of the Northern Marianas have the opportunity to vote on the constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

It's been suggested that such a referendum be held July 12, 1977. That date is significant because the first Congress of Micronesia convened on July 12, 1965 and the Micronesian Constitutional Convention opened on that date 10 years later.

Whatever happens on the Senate floor today—or in the next few days—certainly will be exciting, but I'm especially interested in the back-door politics that are going on. In recent months lobbyists from both sides have stalked in and out of Senate offices pleading their cases to anybody who'd listen.

My friend Robert Wenkam, on the side

Micronesia's status, is another place and the world of 1981 is another time. In the meantime, though their jurisdiction is questionable, other U.N. bodies may debate Micronesia in the future. Only later will we know whether it is possible, even if it is wise, to go against so many trends as the U.S. is doing in Micronesia."

According to The Interdependent McHenry's report is available for \$3.95 from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 345 E. 46th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

I haven't seen the final published report—only the preliminary one handed out to key congressmen last November—but as soon as I get a copy I'll devote some space to it in this column.

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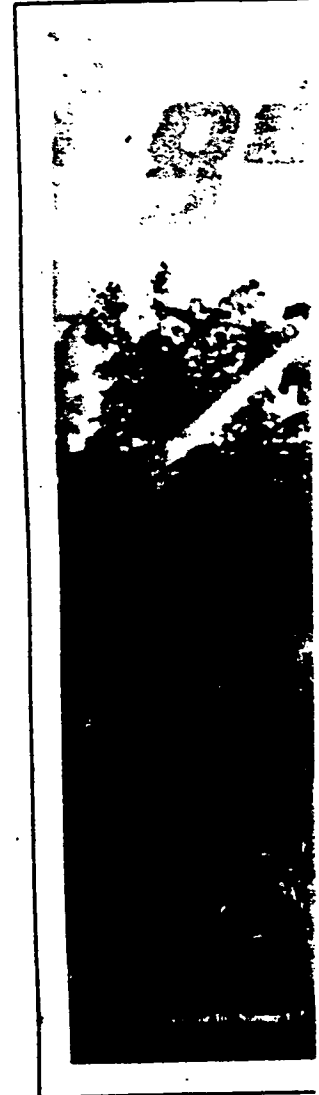
Since early 1973, when I wrote a long series about Tinian for this newspaper, I've read all I could about this plucky little island. You probably can imagine my joy then when I picked up the latest issue of Glimpses of Guam and read the cover story, "Tinian Gold."

Author Frank Cunningham and photographer Tom Walsh have combined their talents in this piece to produce a colorful portrait of the island centered around Pacific cowboy Ken Jones and his Bar K Ranch.

I especially like Walsh's photograph of Jones as he stands waist high in a field of green milo, hands on hips and wearing a blue country shirt with dangling white fringe to match his wavy hair. It captures perfectly the pioneer spirit of a man who's done the impossible.

I raise my glass of milk to you, Ken, and may there be better days ahead.

There's plenty more in this issue of Glimpses to rave about, including a tour of Agana Swamp with Nick Drahos, a



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My friend Robert Wenkam, on the side favoring an independent Micronesia in close association with the United States, tells me that the corridors of Congress are overflowing with admirals and generals who favor the commonwealth agreement. They keep following him around to see who he's talking to next and he keeps following them around to see who they're talking to next.

It's a confusing game, to say the least.

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In a note related to the above the February issue of "The Interdependent," the monthly newspaper of the United Nations Association, carries an interesting article by Donald F. McHenry entitled "Micronesia: The Last Trust."

"Whichever way the Senate votes," McHenry explains, "the issue of Micronesia will not be closed. The Marianas negotiated in good faith with representatives of the executive branch, and their expectations are such that a negative vote by the Senate would come as a severe blow and might not result in their willing return to the always-difficult task of building a unified Micronesia among such a diverse population. More important, the attitude of the U.N. will remain uncertain. The Trusteeship Council, which has performed oversight responsibilities on Micronesia for the Security Council, has acquiesced in U.S. plans, in part because of a boycott of the council by the People's Republic of China and in part because of Soviet reluctance to criticize U.S. policy lest they endanger detente."

McHenry, who has stirred up much controversy with his recently released report "Micronesia: A Trust Betrayed," is with the Humanitarian Policy Studies Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

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profile of Adm. Kent Carroll by Donna Grimm and Mary Browning's historical account of how part of the American Civil War was fought in Ponape. Guam's Jack Jones also provides readers with an architectural journey through historic Inarajan in "Walls Of A Village."

Glimpses, a quarterly, can be purchased for \$1 an issue at many island retail stores. Subscriptions are available for \$5 a year (surface mail) and \$8 (air-mail) by writing Glimpses of Guam, PO Box 3191, Agana, Guam 96910.

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Just off the press—and our Guam Publications' press at that—is a new book that should revolutionize the local teaching of English to bilingual and second-language students.

It's entitled "The Customs Of Written English" and is authored by John A. Spade of the University of Guam.

The book, which draws on Spade's 12 years of classroom experience with Pacific-area second-language students, is

will have a workbook aimed at English problems encountered by speakers of Chamorro, Pa'paya and other languages.

"This manual," Spade says in his teachers' introduction, "is based on the principle that language is not a set of arbitrary and inconsistent patterns. In order to use language correctly the student must master the systems or patterns of language. Other than simple vocabulary, which are relatively correct, the mistakes made by second-language students are always pattern errors: verb inflection or construction errors, frequently, whole sentence mistakes."

This book is being sold by Spade great success. If you're not a teacher or a student of English as a second language, you should pick up a copy to come to a better understand