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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INTELLIGENCE CENTER PACIFIC (IPAC)
NAVINSERVO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS
COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
RUFHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CGFMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
NAVFACENGCOMHQ ALEXANDRIA VA
CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

*1. House Postpones
Washington Office
Bill again*
*2. Bills Introduced
Friday Morning*

PACNAVACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI
SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
FCDNA-LGA KIRTLAND AFB NM
CDRUSAGO MAKIMINATO JAPAN//TTPI-LNO//
AMFMB CANBERRA AS
RUFHKO /AMFMB TOKYO JA
CORBMDSOM HUNTSVILLE AL//BMD SC-RO//
COMCOGARD MARSEC GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS

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AMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY
(HOUSE POSTPONE WASHINGTON OFFICE BILL AGAIN)
SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 20 (MNS) -- MEETING FRIDAY EVENING
(17B. 20), THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
ONCE AGAIN POSTPONED ACTION ON A BILL WHICH WOULD CREATE AND
FUND A MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE, (SB 6-225).
THE BILL WAS ON THE CALENDAR FOR ADOPTION. A CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE OF BOTH HOUSES RECOMMENDED PASSAGE OF THE MEASURE.

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THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS
OF THE BILL WERE THE MANNER OF SELECTING THE PERSON TO BE THE
LIAISON OFFICER AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO FUND THE OFFICE.
THE SENATE WANTS THE SELECTION TO BE DONE BY A CONGRESS
RESOLUTION BUT THE HOUSE PREFERRED A TRUST TERRITORY-WIDE
ELECTION.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS FROM
BOTH HOUSES, STATED THAT SINCE THE PERSON WILL BE A "LOBBYIST"
IN WASHINGTON, IT WAS FELT THAT APPOINTMENT WAS A MORE
APPROPRIATE METHOD OF SELECTION.

THE PERSON CHOSEN, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, IS IN
EFFECT, "AN AMBASSADOR FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT."

THE COMMITTEE ALSO INSERTED THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF
\$120,000 REQUESTED BY THE SENATE. THE HOUSE VERSION WAS
\$20,000.

THE BILL ALSO HAS BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE
OFFICE IS VACANT, THE SELECTION WILL BE MADE BY THE JOINT
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS. THIS SECTION
PROMPTED BRIEF DEBATE AMONG THE MEMBERS.

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YAP CONGRESSMAN JOHN HAGLELGAM ASKED WHETHER THE JCAA
WAS EMPOWERED TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS. CALLING THE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE REPORT "AMBIGUOUS", REP. SASAUD HARUD MOVED TO
POSTPONE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT. HIS MOTION WAS CARRIED.
IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE HOUSE FILED SIX BILLS UPON

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RECOMMENDATION BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY PALAU CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASSLEUS. THE FILED BILLS RELATE TO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WHICH THE COMMITTEE HAVE INCORPORATED INTO ONE BILL.

A BILL WHICH PROPOSES TO DOUBLE THE PENALTY FROM \$50 TO \$100 FOR ANY EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO SUBMIT A QUARTERLY REPORT AND TO PAY SOCIAL SECURITY TAX WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE QUARTER (HB 6-469) WAS FILED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE "DOES NOT FEEL THE PENALTY SHOULD BE INCREASED."

THE SENATORS, IN THEIR LATE AFTERNOON SESSION, APPROVED ONE BILL AND SENT IT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HIS ACTION. THE MEASURE WAS THE EIGHTH TO COMPLETE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

THE BILL WOULD EXTEND THE TRUST TERRITORY SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM TO NON-MICRONESIAN WAGE EARNERS, (HD 6-188).

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THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CHAIRED BY YAP SENATOR PETRUS TAN WHICH STUDIED THE BILL, REPORTED THAT "THERE ARE NON-MICRONESIAN WAGE EARNERS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, MANY OF WHOM HAVE MICRONESIAN DEPENDENTS WHO ARE NOT COVERED BY EITHER THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM OR ANOTHER COUNTRY."

THE COMMITTEE FOUND OUT THAT UPON THE DEATH, DISABILITY, OR RETIREMENT OF THESE NON-MICRONESIAN WAGE EARNERS, NEITHER THEY NOR THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO BENEFITS. A SIMILAR SITUATION ALSO EXISTS FOR MANY U.S. CITIZENS WITH MICRONESIAN DEPENDENTS WHO ARE COVERED BY THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM BUT NOT THE TT SYSTEM. THE BILL, ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, WOULD CORRECT BOTH OF THESE SITUATIONS.

OTHER BILLS WHICH PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING AND SENT TO THE LOWER HOUSE WERE: A BILL TO MAKE CERTAIN TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN PUBLIC LAW 6-55, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, (SR 6-292); TO REDUCE THE INCREASE IN BOTH EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1, 1976, (SB 6-296); AND A BILL TO PROHIBIT NONCITIZENS AND FISHING VESSELS TO ENGAGE IN COMMERCIAL FISHING WITHIN TERRITORIAL AND FISHING ZONE OF THE TT BY SEINING PROCESS,

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RE USE OF NETS OR OTHER NETTING CONTRIVANCES IN THE CATCHING OF CHINA AND SKIPJACK FISH, (R-358).

A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE 1978 UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY (SCR 6-104) WAS ADOPTED.

TWO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ALSO ADOPTED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. ONE WAS A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANY PRACTICAL ATTEMPTS TO THWART MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND URGING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO REQUEST THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO RESCIND HIS AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENTAL ORDER 2918 PROVIDING FOR A LIMIT OF A THREE PERCENT TAX ON THE U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-104); AND THE SECOND IS TO AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST THE FORMER STAFF ATTORNEYS OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO REVIEW AND ANALYZE THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-171). INFORMATION DERIVED THERE WOULD BE USED BY THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(BILLS INTRODUCED FRIDAY)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 20 (MNS)---FOUR MEASURES WERE OFFERED FRIDAY MORNING AT BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE BILLS WOULD: AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO ENACT LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE CONTROL OF GAMBLING, (SB 6-372); PROVIDE FOR PROMPT ACTION ON APPLICATIONS FOR FOREIGN INVESTOR'S BUSINESS PERMITS, (SB 6-371); PROVIDE FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (HB 6-545); AND TO CREATE THE MICRONESIA SEASHORE PROTECTION COMMISSION, AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE COMMISSION'S EXPENSES, (HR 6-546).

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: ON SUNDAY, FEB. 22, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE MEETING. CHECK YOUR COM-STATIONS ON THAT DATE FOR MNS CONGRESS DISPATCH).

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