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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE IN SESSION

KOROR, PALAU DISTRICT, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
(APRIL 11, 1966) - - - The 1966 Spring Session of the Palau District  
Legislature was convened by Speaker Jacob Sawaichi on the morning of  
April 5.

Following the opening ceremonies District Administrator J. Boyd Mackenzie, in his "State of the District Message", outlined current district programs as well as those plans which the District Administration proposes to accomplish. He also informed the legislators that he is planning to draft a "master developmental plan" for Palau District, a plan which would encompass all phases of political, economic, social, and educational advancement of that district. Emphasizing that the "master plan" would be within the general framework of existing territorial policies, Mr. Mackenzie told the Legislature that the final draft of such a plan would require the endorsement of the people of Palau District, and that the District Legislature would be consulted from time to time as the work progresses.

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Mackenzie also took time to outline the proposed administration bills and resolutions to be submitted to the Legislature during the course of its session. He said that the most important administration bill is the budget bill for fiscal year 1967. The bill is divided into two sections, Mackenzie said; one containing the appropriations for the operational costs of the Palau District Legislature, and the other section stipulating the appropriations for district programs.

Along with this appropriation bill are various authorization bills supporting amount of funds authorized in the proposed district program budget. Another important administration bill is a new retail sales tax, which would provide needed additional revenues for fiscal year 1967. Other administration bills include a bill adopting trial by jury, a bill repealing certain district orders, and a bill providing for salaries of elementary school cooks. An important administration resolution is one calling for the establishment of a central planning committee for the Palau District. One of the responsibilities of this committee would be to assist the District Administrator in drafting the proposed "master developmental plan."

Following the delivery of the State of the District Address, the Legislature's first order of business was the house reorganization. Mr. Itelbang Luii captured the Speakership from former Speaker Sawaichi, with a 14 to 13 vote margin. Mr. Santos Olikong was elected vice speaker of the Legislature. The following legislators were appointed

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chairmen of the four standing committees: Jacob Sawaichi, Appropriations;  
Hiroshi Tarkong, Economics; Polycarp Basilius, Political; and Ronald  
Sakuma, Social.

The present session is expected to run for two weeks.

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