

RELEASE: 114-66

CONGRESSIONAL SCOREBOARD

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, July 22 . . . The Joint Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate of the Second Regular Session of the Congress of Micronesia began hearings on the Trust Territory 1967 and 1968 budgets on Monday, July 19. These hearings are scheduled to continue through July 29 with staff members of the Trust Territory Administration appearing as scheduled. Of major interest to the Congress will be the appearance of Dr. John R. Tabb of Nathan Associates on July 28 at 8:30 a.m. to testify on revenues and reimbursements available to the Congress.

As the Congress moved toward the close of its second week, the major portion of its time was devoted to committee hearings on the many bills, resolutions and joint resolutions introduced in the House and the Senate.

Although the High Commissioner has not submitted legislation designated as "urgent" to the Congress as yet, he has submitted 18 major proposals for Congressional action. Among these are acts to govern hotel operations, to provide for the registration and control of professional surveyors, to provide Territorial Government control for title surveys. Four proposals deal with the Judiciary, including

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extending the jurisdiction of district courts to include probate matters and granting the Trial Division of the High Court jurisdiction over petitions for change of name; providing that in districts where trial by jury has been adopted, special judges in such trials shall participate only on the question of sentence; and amending the Trust Territory Code to provide that the Insular Constabulary provide bailiff services for district courts when necessary.

Other Administration measures submitted are those prohibiting fraudulent practices in the sale and purchase of securities and to require the registration of broker-dealers, agents, and investment advisers; providing for promulgation of the laws of the Trust Territory; providing for the conservation of forests, recreation, archeological, historic, primitive, and scientific land areas; establishing a land commission in each district to proceed on a systematic geographical basis to accomplish promptly the registration of as much of the land as practical; and amending the Trust Territory Code to provide for authority in land matters of the Office of the Attorney General and the Land Management Division, respectively.

The Second Regular Session of the Congress of Micronesia convened at 10 a.m. July 11, with both the Senate and House of Representatives holding organizational sessions. Bethwel Henry, Ponape, was elected Speaker, Petrus Mailo of Truk, Vice-Speaker and Lazarus Salii of Palau, Floor Leader of the House. Tosiwo Nakayama of Truk,

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and Bailey Oltter of Ponape were re-elected President and Vice-President of the Senate.

Two new members of the House were sworn in at this meeting: Ekpap Silk, Marshalls, replaced Dwight Heine who resigned to become district administrator, Marshalls; and Naosy Pitioi, Truk, replaced Smart Lampson, who died in June. The Congress held these opening ceremonies in its new buildings on Mount Tagpochau, Saipan, which house the two meeting halls and administrative offices of the Congress.

High Commissioner W.R. Norwood was invited by joint resolution to deliver his state of the Territory message to a joint session of the Congress which met on July 12, Micronesia Day, in the capital hill theater in Saipan. In his message Mr. Norwood looked ahead to what the future of Micronesia might be. "I hope we will see the gradual development of a more traditionally democratic balance between the authority of the legislative and executive branches of our government." He stressed that the creation and preservation of political unity required the development of economic unity, and mentioned programs on which the Administration will embark to create this economic unity.

The second joint session of the Congress met on July 15 to hear the budget message of the High Commissioner which was de-

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livered by the Acting Deputy High Commissioner R.K. Shoecraft in Mr. Norwood's absence to testify before committees of the U.S. Congress in connection with a proposal for a capital improvement program of \$172,000,000 for the Territory. The High Commissioner's message to the joint session clarified revenues which are appropriate by the Congress since earlier budget preparations did not distinguish adequately between income from Government sales and services and income derived pursuant to tax and revenue laws. Budget estimates for fiscal year 1968 were presented concurrently for the review and recommendations of the Congress by the High Commissioner in accordance with Secretarial Order 2882.

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