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MICRONESIAN LAWMAKERS CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Aug. 22 . . . The final legislative action for the Second Regular and Special Sessions of the Congress of Micronesia will take place this week here when the President of the Senate, the Honorable Tosiwo Nakayama, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Bethwel Henry, will certify and enroll the last of the measures which passed each and both houses of the Congress of Micronesia, and transmit them to the High Commissioner. The actions of the two presiding officers will conclude administratively the legislative business of the most successful sessions of the Congress thus far.

The Second Regular Session, which began on July 11, was preceded by a pre-session conference of one week which gave the Congressmen the opportunity to make organization arrangements, staff their respective houses and committees, gather data and make decisions on legislative programs and matters pertaining to public finance.

In High Commissioner W.R. Norwood's "State of the Territory" message and in the opening addresses of the President and the Speaker during the Joint Session held on July 12, a theme of working together toward

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achieving mutual goals in economic growth and better standards of living for Micronesia was emphasized.

In the ensuing days of the Regular Session, a total of 290 measures were introduced in both houses of the Congress. Legislation dealing with economic development, land matters, education, health, governmental reorganization and public finance were especially prominent in the Congress proceedings and deliberations. Measures dealing with the possible future political status of the Trust Territory as well as up-dating the Code of the Trust Territory were also considered. Major legislation which will have far reaching effect in the Trust Territory if signed into law pertained to a Trust Territory merit system covering terms and conditions of employment of Trust Territory citizens in the executive branch of the government; establishment of land commissions which would undertake registration of title to land and to land ownership in the Trust Territory; acquisition of land for public use; and changing the school entering and leaving ages from 7 to 6 and from 13 to 14.

Upon the adjournment of the Second Regular Session on August 9, the High Commissioner called a special session to consider the Trust Territory's budget request for federal appropriations and grants for fiscal periods 1967 and 1968. Included in the special call was the authority for the Congress to consider appropriation measures for the

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operating and contingent expenses of the Congress for fiscal years 1967 and 1968, as well as the authority to appropriate for programs support the revenues raised pursuant to the tax laws and other revenue laws of the Trust Territory. During this special session the Congress of Micronesia also considered and passed the Election Law which will govern the election for members of the Congress of Micronesia slated to be held on November 8th of this year as prescribed by Section 9 of the Interior Secretarial Order No. 2882, as amended.

A total of 13 measures passed during the Second Special Session.

For the Second Regular and Special Sessions a total of 316 measures were introduced and a total of 29 bills, 27 House Joint Resolutions, 21 Senate Joint Resolutions, 17 Senate Resolutions and 18 House Resolutions passed.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are expected to remain here for approximately one week in order to take care of any unfinished administrative business of the Congress.

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