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Marianas Variety
News & Views

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Governor Camacho
Two Appointments Prompt Reactions

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – Executive action by Governor Carlos Camacho just two days following his inauguration has set legislators and legal advisors to scrutinizing the Commonwealth Constitution.

Argument is presently raging on whether Camacho's appointment of a Governor's Representative to each of the municipalities of Rota and Tinian is constitutional.

The Legislature's Presiding officers in a terse letter to the Governor, have requested his transmission of "substantiating law under which the appointments can be justified," stating their view that Camacho's action is a "totally unwarranted usurpation of the functions of the duly elected Mayors of both communities."

And the Rota delegation to the Commonwealth Legislature has added strong objection to the appointments also on the grounds that they will limit the powers of the recently elected Mayors.

News of the appointments came in memoranda issued from the Governor's office on Jan. 12.

Expressing "disappointment and displeasure" at the appointment of Vicente M. Calvo to act as Governor's representative for that municipality, the delegation in a joint letter to Camacho declared that, "While you may not have intended such appointment as an affront to our Mayor, this is the way it is being interpreted."

Governor Carlos Camacho

Calvo, (Dem.-Rota) ran for a senatorial post in the Dec. 10 elections but was defeated.

"As a former member of the Constitutional Convention, we had hoped that you would be familiar with our intense desire to see our Mayor vested with broad administrative powers on our island," the delegation wrote.

Constitutional powers invested in the Mayor are, however, very limited, extending in part to conducting public hearings, making budgetary recommendations to the Governor, and review on affairs affecting local government, although the

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Marianas Consumers Pay 49¢ In The Dollar For Food - Report

SAIPAN – Northern Marianas consumers in 1977 spent 49 cents of every dollar on food purchases, according to the first Consumer Price Index report recently published by the Economic Development Office.

In comparison, the report noted, 44 cents of every dollar was spent on food in 1972.

The report is based on data gathered by the Statistical Research Center of the Economic Development Division in a survey covering 268 families on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and studies consumption patterns and price changes comparatively with data collected from Guam and the U.S. in similar studies.

The survey was performed to established a fixed "market basket" of goods and services representing purchases of typical consumer units in the Marianas, the report states.

It is noted that, "Because personal disposable income is low, a high percentage of personal expenditure must be applied to the purchase of essential goods, such as food and apparel items."

And in this connection, the report states, "It is important to note that the prevailing wage level in the Marianas is roughly one-third the level found in Guam, while food price levels in the Marianas either meet or exceed the Guam price level."

The report further states housing and transportation expenditures in the Marianas to be relatively low when compared with Guam and the U.S. due to the limited availability of credit throughout the islands, restricting expenditures for homebuilding, home improvements, consumer durable goods and motor vehicles, while noting that health spending is primarily influenced by government subsidy for drugs, medical, and hospital services.

According to the 1977 statistics supplied, 8 cents of every dollar go towards transportation costs with almost 14 cents being spent on health and recreation.

Included in the overall health and recreation spending statistics, however, are tobacco and alcoholic beverage purchases which, the report states, "received significant weight because of the frequent and widespread purchase and consumption of these items."

The statistical methods and economic concepts employed in the design of the index were examined by John Gillliam and Associates of Guam.

The consumer price index project was made available by Public Law 5-37 appropriating $5,000 to conduct the cost of living survey in the Northern Marianas. The act was approved by the 5th Northern Marianas Legislature and signed into law in September 1977.

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NEWSPAPER

Fire Destroys Family Home
Community Reacts To Assist

SAIPAN – A family dwelling complete with its belongings was destroyed by fire last week in San Vicente village.

The total of thirteen family members, including children, were absent from their home when the fire broke out, witnesses said. Cause of the fire was reported to be due to an electrical failure.

Prompt arrival of the fire truck could have saved part of the house if it had been possible to connect the hose to the closest hydrant, Fire Department officials said. But because the connectors do not match, time was wasted dragging water from a more distant hydrant.

The fire will not be the first tragedy to strike the family. Mrs. Linco Guerrero, mother of thirteen and owner of the house, lost her husband last year when he hanged himself following a family dispute. One son is also reported to have committed suicide.

The present plight of the Guerrero family and their past tragedies have touched the hearts of many people.

Donations to assist the family were made by many including Governor Carlos Camacho and Lt. Governor Frank Ada who handed over a Red Cross gift of a $400 check, a dozen chairs, and kitchen utensils.

Joeten Enterprises contributed $1,000 in construction materials and $400 worth of food and clothing, while employees of the company gathered together their own joint contribution of $679 in cash for the stricken family to be added to individual gifts from among the community.

Other donations of $500 from the Rotary Club and $500 from Micronesian Insurance Underwriters (MIU) in construction materials were collected to continue building a half-constructed house for the family estimated to cost $4,000 to complete.

Friends, neighbors and relatives were on hand to help kill the fire which destroyed the Guerrero's family home.

Commonwealth Legislature Reconvenes Its First Session

SAIPAN — The Senate and House of Representatives of the First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature reconvened its First Regular Session on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. at their respective chambers in the legislative building in Susupe.

It is expected that both houses will seek adoption of its official rules of procedure which in effect would determine the conduct of business in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The proposed Senate and House Rules of Procedure is under review by the respective Rules Committee in both houses.

It is also expected that the session will include the appointment of committee chairmenship to head the four Standing Committees of the House and Senate. The agenda includes among others, the assignment of members to serve in the various committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The Senate and House of Representatives each have four proposed Standing Committees. The former would have a Fiscal Committee, Program Committee; Government, Law and Judiciary Committee; and, Appointment and Governmental Investigation Committee. The latter would have the following proposed Standing Committees: Health, Education and Welfare, Resources and Development; Appropriations; and, Judiciary and Governmental Relations.

Meanwhile, the bicameral legislature is still undergoing reorganization to ascertain that the work of each committee and of the entire legislature is carried out effectively and efficiently.

Marianas Receives Coastal Zone Grant In Aid Award

SAIPAN – In the first item of business Tuesday (Jan. 10) Governor Camacho received a grant-in-aid award for $149,176 to provide assistance in the development of a management program for the land and water resources of the Commonwealth's coastal zone.

The grant will be matched by $10,000 in cash from the Northern Marianas Government and a $28,000 in kind contribution through the professional services of the Office of Transition Studies and Planning.

Granted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the grant was applied for by the Office of Transition Studies and Planning (OTSP) and is dated January 9, the date of the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

According to Peter Coffey, assistant regional manager for the Department of Commerce, Pacific Region, the grant award will provide the Commonwealth administration with the means to develop its own policies regarding coastal resources use and protection, and will provide for the recognition of economic development priorities.

An inter-government process is also set up through its application whereby there is an administrative emphasis on co-ordination between the Federal and Commonwealth governments to assist the Marianas in the development of those policies, Coffey said.

A second phase of the award will include annual grants for the implementation of the policies once they are established, he said.

Saipan Chamber Elects New Officers

SAIPAN – New officers elected last month to head the Saipan Chamber of Commerce were sworn in during a ceremony held at the Saipan Continental Hotel recently.

Invited to attend were Governor Carlos Camacho, Lt. Governor Frank Ada and former Resident Commissioner Erwin Canham. The three guests delivered brief remarks to Chamber members.

Elected president for the forthcoming year was Town House manager Bill Wade who remarked that, "The Chamber is entering what could well be the most important year in the history of Saipan." He added, "We must ensure prospective investors and tourists that once they come to Saipan they will be able to expect such basics as an adequate and consistent power supply, and well trained police and fire departments."

The new officers sworn in by Judge Felipe Salas were.

President: Bill Wade, Town House; Vice president: John T. Guerrero, Herman's Bakery; Secretary: Leo Pangelinan, Dairy Farms; and Treasurer: Tom Utley, Bank of Hawaii.

The board of directors are: David M. Sablan, Microl Corporation; Michael White, private attorney; George Richards, MTC; Howard Bowie, Maraus Enterprises; Tim Maulden, WSZE TV; and Bill Heston, of Palmer, Wiggs and Heston, accountants.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce newly elected officers at swearing-in ceremony held at the Saipan Continental Hotel.

Central Districts Affirm Support Of Constitution

KOLONIA, PONAPE, (COM) — Representatives of the four central districts of Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, and Yap have affirmed their support of the Micronesian Constitution.

Their agreement came during a meeting held on Ponape January 6-7, in which elected and traditional leaders from those districts met at the invitation of the Congress of Micronesia.

The District Representatives agreed to support the Micronesian Constitution without any changes prior to the vote of the people of Micronesia on July 12, 1978.

It was also noted if any changes were needed, they could be made as provided by the constitution after it was approved.

The conference of the four districts grew out of a conference December 15-16, 1977 called by the Congress of Micronesia to discuss the implications of the district chartering process and related matters.

During that meeting, status matters were also discussed and it was agreed to hold another meeting prior to the regular session of the congress.

The group of nearly 70 district representatives elected Congress of Micronesia speaker of the House Bethwel Henry to chair the meeting. Acting as resources persons to the conference were the chairman and members of the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition.

Also invited to the conference was representative John Heine, adviser to the Voice of the Marshalls, a pro-unity organization in that district.

The conference also decided that in addition to the education for self-government program (ESG), that the Congress of Micronesia and the commission should centrally coordinate an information program on the Micronesian constitution, and send materials to district legislatures, congress delegations, and to former constitutional convention delegates and traditional leaders.

The conference, which met at the same time as the heads of the Micronesian negotiation commissions and the U.S. Delegation were meeting in San Diego, California, to consider a U.S. proposal concerning the compact and free association, decided to meet again and asked that the Congress of Micronesia provide additional funds for this purpose.

Some members of the conference decided to remain after its close in order to receive briefings from status committee chairman Bailey Olter and status committee member Hiroshi Ismael after their return from San Diego.

Also discussed during the two-day meeting were related political status issues as they affect the Congress of Micronesia and the Micronesian commission. Several questions concerning the constitution and future status were asked and answers were given by members of the commission.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, The Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory Government has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for full funding of $37,765 of the special grant to governors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Vocational Education	–	$ 19,263.00
State Manpower Services Council	–	$ 3,083.00
State Manpower Services	–	$ 15,414.00
	TOTAL	$ 37,765.00

The intention of the Trust Territory Government is to continue to provide manpower services and supportive services to State Manpower Services Council. Vocational Education Funds will be utilized to recruit participants for vocational education.

Residents of the Trust Territory Government of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on this application may do so at Headquarters Training & Employee Development Division, Department of Personnel Saipan or at each District Personnel Office. Comments within 30 days from this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
or
William J. Haltigan
Regional Director for Employment & Training
Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

Gov. Cabinet Appointments Soon

SAIPAN – Indications are there may be some surprises expected in soon to be announced appointments to Governor Carlos Camacho's immediate cabinet.

Camacho indicated yesterday that several appointments have been firmed up but the full slate of announcements will not be made for two or three weeks until final selection is complete.

The surprises may include some outsiders, "from Guam, Honolulu, the U.S., and maybe even a foreign country." Camacho said.

Confirming that he would be calling for the courtesy resignations of present department heads according to U.S. tradition, Camacho said that two vacancies had already been effected.

"I have reluctantly accepted the resignation of Education Department director Jesus Concepcion," Camacho said. Director of Public Works Tony Tenorio was under a civil service contract which expired on January 9, but is being retained at the Governor's discretion to conclude negotiations for a power plant proposal and is presently attending a pre-bid conference in Honolulu under a temporary contract.

Under the present structure of government, departments comprise those of Health, Public Works, Education, Public Affairs, Attorney General, and three sub-departments under Resources and Development.

It is understood that the Governor's transition committee is presently working on the new cabinet structure. Its extent is not immediately known but an announcement should be made shortly, confirmed Lt. Governor Francisco Ada.

Although not true in the past, Camacho noted, departmental appointments have now become political in nature. Although it is possible that future appointees may have affiliations with the Democratic Party, Camacho said, some will not. The effect of this administration will be to be equitable and fair and search for the best possible candidate, regardless of party leanings, he noted.

Under constitutional provision, executive department heads require advice and consent of the senate.

In other government action this week, Camacho announced that the Office of Transition Studies and Planning (OTSP) has been absorbed into the executive structure.

Camacho said that OTSP staff members will continue to provide planning services to the Commonwealth executive and that the unit would be headed in an acting capacity by Manuel A. Sablan, formerly executive officer under the Resident Commissioner.

OTSP is backed by federal funds until May of this year.

An agreement was also signed late last week between the Commonwealth Government and the U.S. Military to permit their continued use of the northern section of Tinian and the island of Farallon de Medillina for military maneuvers.

In a final matter, Camacho said that an executive assistant for Carolinian affairs has been selected whom he felt would be acceptable to the Carolinian community, but that an announcement to that effect would probably not be made before early February.

Appointments Prompt Reactions

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chief executive has the power to extend the Mayor's administrative authority under Article III, Section 17 of the newly effective Constitution.

Legislators are also questioning where funds would be obtained to pay the salaries of the two representatives, following the Governor's recent freeze on wages for government new hires after Jan. 9.

Sources at the Legislature have indicated the possibility of bringing suit against Camacho for the misuse of public funds diverted toward the salaries of positions considered unconstitutionally created.

Governor Camacho said in an interview Tuesday, that while his definition of the administrative powers to be extended to each of the island chain's four mayors is as yet undetermined, someone has to oversee the various government departments and supervise island services.

Camacho made it clear that the Governor's rep. position for both Tinian and Rota islands was a temporary assignment for that purpose, and until there has been adequate time to define the mayoral role in those municipalities. "The position may last three or even six months," he said.

Saying he understood the Rotanese elected leaders to be unhappy about the appointment, Camacho clarified that it was his prerogative to see to the continuity of services in the most efficient way possible, endorsing Calvo as the most appropriate and capable man for the job.

Making reference to the island's long-time Territorial Party advantage, and their "harrassing" activities during the December elections, Camacho added that the people of Rota have been involved in the running of the government to the extent they think it is their baby. "But this is going to change," he said. "I am not accusing any one individual - but it is not fair to every citizen.

The representative's job will be to oversee the services of the power plant, health and government services, Camacho pointed out, and any disruption of these duties will affect the people themselves.

Camacho added he did not think Calvo's appointment would meet with opposition among Rota's governmental leaders, a sentiment not fully shared by head of the Rota delegation and Senate Floor Leader Ben Manglona, who said that although" the people of Rota want to cooperate and don't want any tension, the Governor must bear in mind that the opposition is in the majority.

"We assume he took this action because the Rota majority supports the Territorial Party," Manglona said.

Manglona said he wanted it known that Rota was not consulted about Calvo's appointment in advance although he understood, he said, that Tinian's elected leaders had received prior advice of the appointment of Frank Chong to the equivalent position. Chong, also a Democrat, was formerly the Resident Commissioner's representative on that island.

The Tinian people overwhelmingly elected Democratic Party members to their Senatorial, Lower House and Mayoral slots, in the Dec. 10 elections.

"It is the feeling of the Rota delegation that the appointment of Fermin Atalig, previously acting ResCom rep would be acceptable because he was not involved in the last political campaign and as a neutral, could best serve in this position," Manglona declared.

It is understood the matter will be taken up by the First Commonwealth Legislature when its joint session reconvenes on Wednesday (Jan. 18).

Northern Islands Mayor Daniel P. Castro sworn in by Judge Russell E. Smith at the Governor's office on the day following the inauguration of the Commonwealth government.

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Bid Invitation

SEALED BIDS in single copy will be received at the Office of the Executive Director of Mariana Islands Housing Authority (MIHA), Government of the Northern Marianas, Saipan, Mariana Islands, for the Construction of Liyo Subdivision consisting of 30 housing units with site development work, until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 1978, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the amount of 10% of the total bid price. Bid security may be bid bond, certified check or cashier's check, made payable to MIHA, Saipan, Mariana Islands.

The payment of Thirty Dollars ($30.00) is required for every set of plans, specifications and other bidding instructions which can be secured from MIHA Office, Garapan, Saipan, M.I. There will be no refunds. Additional two (2) sets of drawings and specifications will be furnished the successful bidder without additional charge.

The work to be performed under this contract is on a project assisted under a program providing direct Federal financial assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 170lu. Section 3 requires that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for training and employment be given lower income residents of the project area and contract for work in connection with the project be awarded to business concerns which are located in, or owned in substantial part by persons, residing in the area of the project.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposals in the interest of MIHA.

/s/ Jesus T. Lizama, P.E.
Executive Director
Mariana Islands Housing Authority

Legislators Oppose Laureta Appointment

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – The presiding officers of the First Commonwealth Legislature in a cablegram to Washington D.C., have expressed strong opposition to the rumoured appointment of Hawaii Circuit Judge Alfred Laureta to the District Court here on Saipan.

Addressed to President Carter, the Secretaries of Interior and State, the United States Attorney General, and the Senate Sub-Committee on Intelligence, the dispatch states that "we are aware of the recommendation of Senator Inouye (Dem.-Hawaii) that a resident of Hawaii be appointed to the position, but with all due respect, we are constrained to oppose the appointment for the same reasons that the people of Guam cited in opposition to the appointment - - total lack of acquaintance with our area, our customs, culture, and mores."

Senate President Larry I. Guerrero and House Speaker Oscar C. Rasa pointed out that Section 401 of the Section by Section Analysis of the Covenant "assures that the views of the people of the Northern Marianas with respect to the person to be appointed Federal District Court Judge will be made known to the President through the Northern Marianas Resident Representative in Washington."

The presidential appointment, the presiding officers feel, should be given to legislative counsel Roger St. Pierre who, "in the 15 years that he has been among us, has accomplished more in inculcating acceptance of and respect for the American system of law that any other single individual of our time."

St. Pierre, 61, served as Public Defender for the Northern Marianas from 1962 until 1974. He spent one year as Special Prosecutor on Guam before joining the Legislature as a member of its legal staff.

He was recommended by resolution for the judgeship in a resolution adopted by the Fifth Northern Marianas in its last Special Session.

Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the State of Montana, Russell E. Smith, on temporary assignment to establish the Northern Marianas District Court said he was unaware that Laureta's appointment to the court was firm, indicating that he knew nothing more than he had read in the newspapers.

He added, however, that he was aware of an official FBI investigation into Laureta's background. Further checks would be made by the American Bar Association before a prospective judge's name would be submitted to the Senate, Judge Smith said, and this could take "several months."

Judge Smith said on Saipan that his recommendation to the former Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, Richard Chambers would be temporarily to assign incumbent Federal District Court Judge Cristobal C. Duenas of Guam to cover both courts until the volume of business here increases.

Another alternative would be to assign a series of senior U.S. justices to the court, he added, but the decision would be up to Judge Chambers.

The enabling act to establish the court, U.S. Public Law 95-157, also provides for the temporary assignment of justices of the High Court of the Trust Territory, or judges of courts of record of the Northern Marianas, whenever necessary.

The District Court is at present little more than a title and although it officially began its operation at the effective date of the Constitution on Jan. 9, has yet to adopt its official rules and procedures.

A rules committee chosen from among the 28 Trust Territory attorneys admitted to practice before the District Court in ceremonies this week, will be working on establishing its official recommendations.

But meantime, no official courtroom facilities exist, and Judge Smith, and temporary clerk W.J. Furstenau from Arizona, work out of rented offices in the Intercontinental Hotel.

Judge Smith also indicated that while a decision is pending on whether to construct a courthouse or to lease space in the as yet unopened Nauru Building, he would further recommend that facilities in the vacated Congress of Micronesia Senate chamber be used as a courtroom and related offices.

Unofficial estimates put the cost of construction of a courthouse, in compliance with federal specifications, to be in the region of $100,000. The cost of rented space at the Nauru Building in Susupe is reported to be $1.25 per square foot.

Lawmakers Against Continental Air Fare Hike

SAIPAN – The presiding officers of the First Commonwealth Legislature have come out in vigorous opposition to the proposed air fare and cargo rate hikes by Continental Air Micronesia.

In a cable to the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) in Washington, Senate President Larry Guerrero and House Speaker Oscar Rasa pointed out that under Public Law 94-241, the U.S. Government is obligated to consult with the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas on all matters affecting the two governments, "But contrary to the letter and spirit of that agreement, the proposed increase in air fares may be effectuated," they noted.

Saying that people travel between Guam and Saipan as if they are going to from work, the presiding officers declared that, "Any increase in the air fare will have a significant economic impact and would cause undue hardship to our people."

Continental Air Mike's proposed increase covering Saipan-Guam trips would raise the present $28.70 fare to $40 one way, but the airline's proposal to CAB includes a new 10% discount commuter fare for that route, obtainable in coupon form.

Senate President Larry Guerrero

House Speaker Oscar Rasa

Frequent travelers between Saipan and Guam would have available to them booklets of 10 coupons costing $360 and valid for 90 days, constituting a $4 per trip saving if used within the allotted period.

The proposal also includes a comprehensive rate change schedule for the entire Trust Territory.

Congressman Pedro Nakatsukasa, arguing that the proposed increases would affect the state of the family exchequer to the extent that it would rule out the frequency of family travel enjoyed in the past, said that, "It must follow. . .that drastically reduced passenger revenues will further distort Air Micronesia's fiscal picture rather than bring it into focus."

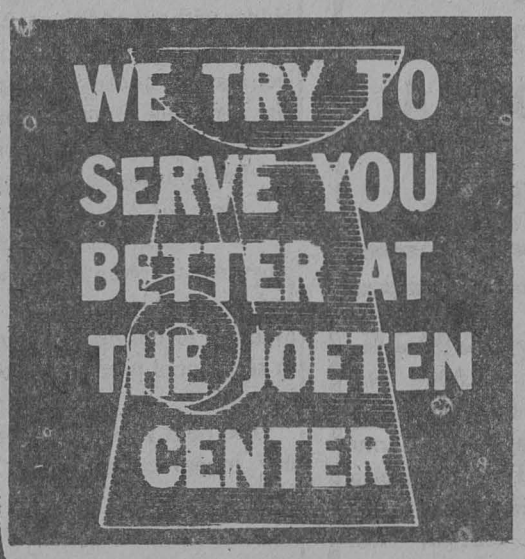
In a personal letter to Air Micronesia's General Manager Gene D. Hassing, Nakatsukasa predicted that "Air Micronesia will again resort to the unimaginative cure-all - - raising prices - - thus perpetuating the vicious cycle."

"It might well be that travel must be curtailed," he continued, but, "The burden of the inordinate increase falls squarely upon those economically least capable of bearing it: the commonfolk of the Northern Mariana Islands."

In their dispatch, the presiding officers urged the CAB to delay Continental Air Micronesia's request for rate increases until the Commonwealth Legislature has had an opportunity to be heard on the issue.

Members of the Legislature have, in the meantime, learned from a reliable source that the Department of Interior has already raised its objections to the proposed fare hikes.

J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES



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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, The Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory Government has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for FY '78 Title I full funding of $387,600 under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Geographical Distribution of Funds is as follows:

PALAU	$ 34,075
YAP	30,288
MARIANAS	37,860
TRUK	49,219
PONAPE	37,861
MARSHALLS	45,431
KOSRAE	3,786
HEADQUARTERS	45,431
ADMINISTRATION	56,790
SERVICES	37,859
TOTAL	$378,600

The intention of the Trust Territory government CETA programs is to provide various training programs such as classroom training, PSE and work experience under Title I.

Residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on this application may do so at Headquarters Training and Employee Development Division, Department of Personnel, Saipan, or at each District Personnel Office. Comments within 30 days from this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
or
William J. Haltigan
Regional Director for Employment and Training
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

Rota Delegation Upset At Governor's Action

SAIPAN -- If Mohammed won't come to the mountain, then the mountain must go to Mohammed.

These may not have been the exact sentiments of the Rota delegation to the First Commonwealth Legislature, but in the present impasse of dealings between Governor Carlos Camacho and the Rota delegees, their dealings seem to have reached a similar historic circumstance.

Hoping for a meeting with Governor Camacho one week after an apparent snub by the newly elected chief executive, the delegation, headed by Senator Ben Manglona, was told Monday that time did not permit, but that they could confer with his second in command.

Senator Manglona said in an interview later that efforts to open a dialogue between Rota's elected representatives and the NM chief executive were fruitless.

The second rebuff follows soon after the non-appearance of both Governor Camacho and Lt. Governor Francisco Ada at the Rota inaugural celebrations for Mayor Prudencio Manglona.

"We welcome the fact that he has been elected Governor," Senator Manglona said of Camacho, "and we were prepared to meet him with a full welcoming committee. We were surprised and very disappointed when neither the Governor nor the Lt. Governor came to greet the people, particularly since his (Camacho's) inaugural address stressed that we should all forget our differences," Manglona said.

Echoed Senator Joseph Inos, "This is a cloudy day for Rota."

Manglona added he was further embarrassed on Guam a few days later when asked why the Governor of Guam, Ricky Bordallo attended the ceremonies, whereas the Governor of the Northern Marianas did not.

The island's inaugural festivities, held on January 10, the day following the Governor's own inauguration on Saipan, saw top level representatives from the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, NATO Ambassador Bennett and former Ambassador to the Micronesian Political Status Negotiations, F. Haydn Williams among others in attendance.

The Bishop of the Marianas, Felixberto Flores delivered a sermon preaching the message "Let us unite now," according to observers, making obvious allusion to the simmering problems between the two political parties and pleading for "unity and peace in Christ" and the separation of Church and state.

Urging the people to forget the political past and once again live together peacefully, Mayor Manglona's inaugural address promised a responsiveness to the people that, "The humanity of government is more important than the machinery."

Sources in Rota indicated unusually high feelings between families and friends at campaign time, and many political divisions between members of the community.

The Governor's greetings to the people of Rota were extended by campaign manager Micth Pangelinan, who was accompanied by Community Development chief Gil Ada and aide Ray Guerrero, armed with a .38 revolver, according to observers, and acting in the capacity of bodyguard.

As one official quipped: "We have the guard, now where's the body?"

According to several sources, Guerrero's presence caused some consternation aboard the C.130 carrying the dignitaries across the 80-mile straight and Ambassador Williams was heard to have expressed his discomfort.

Camacho later said he did not attend the festivities as planned because of his eighty-five year old father's illness, remaining on Saipan to attend to him and other pressing matters on his first day in office.

The obligation to attend the Rota inaugural ceremony was passed to Lt. Governor Ada, he said, but he also was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

The two heads of Commonwealth did, however, attend Tinian's inauguration for Mayor Felipe Mendiola on Saturday Jan. 14, an occasion reported to have been suitably celebrated with typical ceremonies and an island-wide fiesta.

Resolution Seeks To Suspend Micro Status Talks

PONAPE, (MNS) -- A Joint Resolution directing the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition to "suspend" status negotiations with the U.S. government until after the referendum on the proposed Micronesian constitution was introduced Friday (Jan. 13) in the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia.

The Joint Resolution (HJR 7-7-80), sponsored by five house members, stated that U.S. Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt announced some time ago that the status negotiations should be concluded by March of this year.

". . .The attempt to conclude such an agreement prior to the referendum on the proposed Micronesian constitution." The resolution stated, "is in itself an interference in the constitutional process whereby the people of Micronesia choose their form of government."

The resolution noted that a majority of the delegations and members who attended the leadership conference held earlier this month expressed their desire that the referendum on the Micronesian constitution should first be held before the next status negotiations could resume.

The Joint Resolution was assigned to the committee on judiciary and governmental relations chaired by Rep. Lambert Aafin for further studies.

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The Way it Goes...

by: John Del Rosario Jr.

The political gift-giving season is over. Each of us witnessed at the break of dawn (Dec. 10) which political party gets to control the administration and the legislature. The political fever has gone with the tide. It is now time to work in unison toward a better Marianas.

We have shared in celebrating the founding of the first Constitutional Government of the Northern Marianas. The occasion was heralded by Marianans throughout this island chain. It was history in the making for we have, for the first time, realized a dream predicated by over 26 years of hard work.

When the Governor took the Oath of Office and began awarding political gratuity to those who marched behind him during those difficult days on the campaign trail, the new legislature across the street commenced organization to meet the challenge of new government. What must be born in mind at the outset of this new government is the need to establish mutual respect between the two political parties as regards who controls what branch of government as mandated by the people. Unless mutual respect prevails, the administration and the legislature may very well be engaged in a political warfare that leaves the local people as the ultimate losers.

Perhaps both parties will protect their political pride as each settles down to get to work. But each must also be flexible enough to shove-off its political pride when the interest of the general public is at stake. It is the hope of the many that the administration and the legislature will not lock horns over vital issues requiring the soundest judgement and wisdom of both branches of government. "The tide waits for no man."

As we look back over those thorny years, I am sure you will agree that it is also fitting and most proper to give thanks and prayers to those of our long-gone statesmen who played a major role in our long journey to become a permanent part of the United States of America. Let's give our tribute to the late Elias P. Sablan, Judge Ignacio Benavente, Vicente Guerrero and Jose Pangelinan for they have guided our political course toward an enduring relationship with America.

It is also appropriate to give our salute and thanks to the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia and our brothers and sisters in the districts for we benefitted a lot from them when we were a part of the union of Micronesia. We may be on board a different canoe. But our aspirations are the same: We all are fishing side by side on the same fishing ground to feed, cloth and provide decent shelter for our fellow countrymen. We hope they too will reach their political destiny in the not too distant future.

My salute to the Governor and the leadership of the Legislature.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
LEGAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN LIEU OF BAR EXAMINATION

Throughout the United States and other countries, a person graduating from law school cannot automatically practice law unless and until he or she passes a prescribed bar examination. Recently, the High Court of the Trust Territory (Micronesia) adopted the Multi-State Bar Examination. The ostensible reason for such an examination is to determine whether or not a law graduate is qualified or competent to practice.

However, I firmly believe that a bar examination is neither an accurate instrument for measuring the qualifications of a lawyer nor a useful device for developing legal competency. This belief is based upon the following reasons:

1. Bar examinations, just as final examinations in law school, do nothing more than help an examinee to review the individual subjects which make up the traditional law school curriculum. These examinations touch only the academic side of the law. In order to become a competent lawyer, however, one must be trained in the practical side of the law as well.

2. Bar examinations, just as final examinations in law school, are closed-book examinations; i.e., the examinee is required to answer hypothetical questions without the aid of any reference materials whatsoever. A competent practicing attorney, however, does not handle cases without consulting legal references.

3. Bar examinations, just as final examinations in law school, are conveniently divided into the various substantive and procedural areas which make up the body of law. This tends to train an examinee to look at a set of given facts from only one angle. In order to be a competent lawyer one must be trained to deal with legal problems as a whole and not in their separate parts. For instance, if client X is charged with stealing coconuts from his neighbor's farm, a competent lawyer would be required to deal not only with criminal law, but the law of evidence and of real property as well.

4. Bar examinations such as the Multi-State Bar Examination contain hypothetical questions usually based upon U.S. legal situations which may not be applicable to our situation here.

The above are just some of the many reasons why a bar examination does not "weed out" incompetent lawyers. Therefore, I am suggesting that the Northern Mariana Islands should not adopt the Anglo-American legal tradition of using a bar examination as a prerequisite for practicing law here in our islands. What we need is a legal training program for graduates of accredited law schools who wish to practice in the Northern Mariana Islands. This program would focus on the practical side of the law rather than the academic side, which presumably would have been covered in law school.

Such a legal training program would be developed and operated by the Northern Marianas Bar Association, and it might consist of an intensive three to five week course in which the law school graduates would view and study the operating procedures used by our local courts, law enforcement agencies, and Attorney General's Office. Seminars or lectures could also be held which would cover those aspects of the law which are peculiar to the Northern Mariana Islands and may not have been covered in law school.

Alex Cruz Castro
Resident of Rota
Law Student/University of Papua New Guinea Law School

Variety Views

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Having been an observer of the local scene for several years, I will from time to time contribute my views on the workings of the newest constitutionally authorized Government to come upon the world scene in some years.

First, let me offer some views on the election campaign. There seemed to be a singular lack of interest on the part of the electorate in the "issues" and platforms of the parties, possibly this was so, due to both parties promising practically everything. Having heard the campaign rhetoric, it is very obvious that politicians here have a great contempt for the intelligence of the electorate. This is not wholly without reason, however. As we get back more and more of our young people with higher educations, the attitudes of the electorate will change.

Everyone on Saipan is waiting for word of the new Governor's appointments. The high hopes of the better educated among us for appointments with merit are doomed to disappointment if the initial actions of Governor Camacho are any indication. With the Governor's very slim majority and the opposite party in control of the Legislature, one would expect the administration to practice the art of compromise which is the heart of getting anything accomplished in this situation. So what happened?

Neither the Governor nor the Lt. Governor attended the inauguration of the Mayor of Rota where Camacho received only 42% of the vote, but did attend the inauguration of the Mayor of Tinian where with Ken Jones' considerable help, Camacho won with 58% of the vote.

Then to my knowledge, the first executive action taken was to establish a Governor's personal representative on Rota and appointment of a Populat/Democrat defeated candidate for the senate to the position. This first act has no constitutional sanction and may in fact be unconstitutional.

Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution clearly provides that the elected Mayors shall advise the Governor on local matters.

Why would the Governor in his first political payoff alienate three senators who have a vote on his appointments? From this one act, the significance of which cannot be denied, the Governor has let it be known that he is going to be Governor of only 51% of the people who elected him.

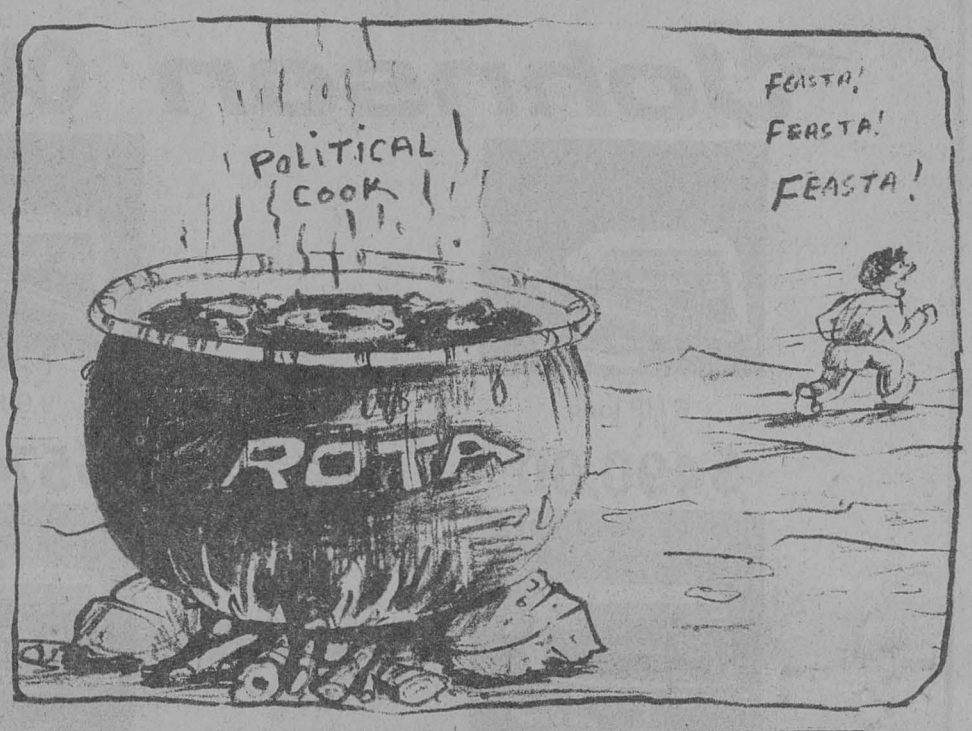
The second act of freezing all hiring within the administration, can only be translated to mean "hold everything until applicants can be cleared for political affiliation."

In this magnificent, first exercise of self-government the Governor must know that all the expertise we need is not in the Northern Marianas let alone in the Popular/Democrat Party.

While to the victor belong the spoils especially here at the start of constitutional government, both the Legislature and the Governor should exercise great restraint and care in appointments to high positions. Proven accomplishment and above all proven integrity are a must for high government office.

In his inaugural address, Governor Camacho said ". . . .The way this government starts out, the way it is organized, the kind of moral principles it starts out with. . . . . .will set its character for all time."

If what we have seen so far is the true start, we are headed for trouble.



Marianas Variety
News & Views

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The Marianas Variety welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of public interest. However, the letters must be signed with the full name and address of the writer. The Variety has received numerous unsigned letters, letters with fictitious names and letters with no return address. Those letters will not be published to conform to our policy.

Akapito

Sovereign Micronesia In Free Association

PONAPE, (COM) -- A sovereign Micronesia can have a free association arrangement with the United States, according to Truk representative Julio Akapito.

Rep. Akapito, who recently publicly criticized Ambassador Peter Rosenblatt for his comments on the Micronesian constitution and related matters, today inserted into the Journal of the House of Representatives a copy of a document titled "A Sovereign Micronesia in Free Association with the United States."

"Ambassador Rosenblatt has traveled in the districts telling us that the concept of free association is incompatible with the Micronesian constitution. I believe that this document contradicts the Ambassador, and argues that Micronesia can be sovereign and have a treaty of free association with the United States," he said before introducing the document.

The paper points out that one of the most important provisions of the Micronesian constitution is that which says that it is the "expression of the sovereignty of the people and is the supreme law of the federated states of Micronesia.

It notes that if the people decide the constitution is supreme, then no other law, compact, or treaty can have greater legal power than the constitution.

The Micronesian constitutional convention delegates recognized the importance of the sovereignty clause by approving it unanimously and the convention's committee report on that section said:

"As the birth certificate of a nation, the constitution is the announcement of our entrance into the international political system. It is our application for admission into the United Nations and other international organizations, and it establishes our credentials as an international personality."

The paper also stressed that the idea of sovereignty has often been confused with the idea of full independence "but in international law, sovereignty is compatible with less than complete independence." It said that many small states of the world delegate important powers to larger nations and exist as associated, protected, or interdependent states, but still retain their sovereignty and international personality.

A small state like Micronesia can maintain its own internal system of self-government and place itself under the protection of a larger country like the U.S. through a treaty, without affecting its sovereignty. It could also become a member of U.N. agencies, and a signatory to the Law of the Sea treaty "which would have great economic impact on Micronesia," the paper stated.

It continued that when Micronesians approve the constitution on July 12, 1978 a sovereign government will be created by the people and that Micronesia will then enter into a status agreement with the United States to be effective when the trusteeship is terminated.

Under that constitution, delegation of major powers like foreign affairs and defense must be by treaty, so that when the constitution is ratified "those provisions of the draft compact which are consistent with the constitution can be used as the basis for the future relationship between the United States and Micronesia."

"The result will be a treaty of free association which will describe as close a relationship between the United States and Micronesia as both countries desire. Micronesia will then receive international recognition as an equal and sovereign state in free association with the United States."

Similar examples of this, cited the paper, were Papua New Guinea which, while independent in 1975, delegated some defense and foreign affairs powers to Australia, and the former Trust Territory of western Samoa which gave similar powers to New Zealand."

"Lichtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Nauru, Oman, the Maldive Islands, Cape Verde, Surinam, Grenada, the Seychelles, . . .as well as other small states around the world have similar treaty relations with larger countries," noted the paper.

"These small states are not all fully independent. Each one has delegated important powers of government to a larger state. But each of the small states is recognized in international law as a sovereign state."

"Close association and cooperation- - - provided it is freely chosen- - -between the United States and Micronesia will constitute a form of interdependence. Micronesia will claim its sovereignty when the people approve the constitution. But Micronesia will not be fully independent if important powers of government are given to the United States through a treaty of free association," concluded the paper.

Fight Over Political Differences

Ex-cop And Woman Hospitalized

SAIPAN -- A fight between two San Antonio families over party political differences ended in the cirtical injuring of former police officer David O. Sablan.

The stabbing occurred during a Saturday night (Jan. 7) drinking bout between members of the two families, ending in an argument between Sablan and Juan S. Pangelinan over voting issues, according to police reports.

Reportedly, Pangelinan's brother Joaquin entered into the altercation, and with a kitchen knife, cut Sablan about the face and body, severely wounding him.

Pangelinan was later arrested and charged with assault and battery, and although permitted bail, chose to remain in jail apparently fearing for his personal safety.

The ex-cop has been in guarded condition at Dr. Torres Hospital resulting from the knife wounds which punctured his large and small intestines, and rendered cuts to the face and thighs. He was not taken off the critical list until several days after the incident, hospital officials report, and is still being closely watched for possible complications.

Sablan was suspended from the Public Safety Department during November last year for off-duty misconduct. His case has come under the Trust Territory Personnel Review Board but a hearing will not take place until Sablan's health is in a more satisfactory condition, the Board said.

In an added incident the same night, Jose Iba, brother-in-law of David Sablan, allegedly shot and wounded Maria, wife of Juan Pangelinan. Reasons for the shooting, although apparently related, were not known.

Iba was arrested Sunday (Jan. 8) and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and was later released to the Public Defender.

Mrs. Pangelinan was detained at the hospital although her condition was not considered serious.

Governor Carlos Camacho and Lt. Governor Francisco Ada presents a Red Cross assistance to Mrs. Guerrero from San Vicente who her house destroyed by fire. (See story on page 1)

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Immigration Officer has announced that Article III Section 304 of the Marianas Covenant will be administered separately after January 9, 1978 for immigration purposes. Citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States will be accorded free entry into the territory without restriction, except that they must complete form 958, arrival and departure record for official immigration records.

Third country nationals who are permanent residents of the United States will be required to obtain entry permits prior to entry into the Northern Mariana Islands, for any purposes except in the case of tourists.

Northern Marianas Immigration Office
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Announcement

BARBWIRE RELEASE

Eligibility

Individuals requesting barbed wire must use the wire to fence animal pasture or crop areas to prevent damage from outside animals.

Application

Application at the Agriculture Office at Civic Center. Upon receiving your request Agriculture will check the area and determine the eligibility of the applicant. If the individual is eligible to receive barbed wire, he will be instructed to set fence posts and brace posts in compliance with the instructions given.

Issuance

1. Wire in the amount of 50% of the required amount will be issued after the posts are placed and inspected by an Agriculture Agent.
2. The remaining 50% of the wire will be issued when the applicant notifies the Agriculture Office that the wire previously issued has been properly attached to the fence posts and an Agriculture Agent has made inspection to certify that such is the case.
3. Farmers and Livestock men who were previously issued barbed wire must prove to the inspector that the wire issued is installed properly before he is eligible to receive additional barbed wire. Upon satisfactory proof, he will receive additional barbed wire in accordance with the conditions in 1 and 2 above.

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Angaur Loran Station Turned Over To T. T.

PALAU, (MNS) – The Angaur Loran Station in Palau was officially turned over to the Trust Territory Government on January 6, ending more than 30 years that the U.S. Coast Guard has maintained its station there.

Palau District Administrator Thomas A. Remengesau, on behalf of the Trust Territory Government, signed the document officially accepting the transfer of the station, according to Palau information officer, David Ngirmidol.

Representing the U.S. Navy at the ceremony was Captain William Chin, who signed the turn-over document with Captain R.C. Gillet from the Coast Guard.

In accepting the facilities, Remengesau said: "On behalf of the High Commissioner and the Trust Territory and the people of Angaur Municipality, I would like to thank the Coast Guard for serving the people of Angaur as they many times work beyond their normal duties to provide humanitarian needs for the people such as medical assistance and other emergency needs."

The magistrate of Angaur, Masao Gulibert, and the people of Angaur gathered at the facility to witness the raising of the T.T. Flag and the lowering of the U.S. and Coast Guard flags and to say good-bye to the departing Coast Guard personnel.

The Angaur Loran Station is one of the four Loran stations in the Trust Territory to be closed early this year, Ngirmidol reported.

Ponape Legislature Elects New Speaker

PONAPE (MNS) -- Ponape legislator Edwel Santos was elected speaker Monday in a major reorganization of the legislature, defeating incumbent speaker Itor Harris by a vote of 13-6. One member who came in late did not vote.

Santos will be speaker for two years. The present legislature charter provides that there should be an election for the leadership every two years. Members are elected for a four-year term.

The vote results caught many people sitting in the gallery by surprise. One member of the legislature later said he knew "something big was going to happen.

Some people interviewed later said they were surprised at the outcome. All refused to elaborate.

Santos, who hails from Kitti Municipality, was the only legislator in Ponape who won the election two years ago as a write-in candidate. Harris had been the speaker for more than ten years prior to this election.

In another surprise move, legislator Hilary Conrad of Sokehes was elected vice-speaker. Conrad defeated Bernard Helgerberger 11-9.

Legislator Salter Etse of Metalanim retained his floor leadership position defeating Joseph Moses of Uh Municipality by 11-9.

Former vice-speaker Kasiano Joseph was elected chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He ran unopposed.

John Edmond of Net Municipality also retained his judiciary and governmental relations chairmanship. Harris was elected chairman of the Resources and Development Committee.

Helgenberger won in a three-way race for the chairmanship position on the Education, Health and Social Matters Committee.

The Ponape District Legislature, which convened this morning, will meet for 40 consecutive days.

Yap Men's House In Construction

SAIPAN, (MNS) – A group of Yapese citizens has begun the massive task of clearing and rebuilding one of their traditional men's houses, abandoned and covered with jungle for many years.

Under the direction of Francisco Luktun, a member of the Trust Territory Historic Preservation Review Board, about 14 Yapese are laboring after their regular work to clear the vegetation from the massive stone platform where the men's house once stood, in Okow Village in western Yap. Once the clearing has been done, and repairs have been made to the platform, the work of building itself will begin.

The house will be constructed in an entirely traditional fashion, with massive wooden support posts, coconut rope lashings, and thatch. The work is estimated to take at least a year.

According to workers on the project, it is hoped that when the men's house is completed, people will be attracted to return to the village to live, reversing a recent trend toward movement into the district center at Colonia.

Charges Against Sanile Dismissed

SAIPAN – A manslaughter charge brought against 23-year old Ponapean Pensile Sanile for the death by stabbing of a Kosraean seaman has been dismissed, according to the NMI Attorney General's office.

The charge was dropped Wednesday (Jan. 12) after a motion to dismiss the case by Acting A.G. Patrick Hubbard who said that following interviews with the witnesses concerned, it became obvious that Sanile's action was a "clear cut case of self-defense."

Dismissed of the case came just one hour before Sanile's trial by jury was to have begun.

The Kosraean seaman, Swinger Charley, 22, was knifed on board the field trip vessel MS Fentress on October 21 last during a fight with Sanile, sustaining wounds in the arm and lower abdomen.

The Kosraean was admitted to Dr. Torres Hospital where he underwent an emergency operation. Although later reported to be recovering well, the stabbing victim died three days later from an infection of the abdominal cavity, medical officials stated.

Hubbard and Public Defender attorney William Sabo, Sanile's defense counsel, interviewed six witnesses aboard the Fentress when she docked on Tuesday last week. Both the defendant and the victim were employed as members of the ship's crew.

According to Sabo, a number of the witnesses reported Charley to have been drunk and "looking for a fight" among other of the seamen aboard the vessel and that Sanile had "backed off to avoid a confrontation."

But after disobeying an order from the Captain of the ship, Charley lurched into the mess quarters and picked a fight with Sanile, which resulted in the Kosraean's stabbing, Sabo stated.

Marshalls Nitijela Proposes Way Out Of Fishery Act

MAJURO, (MNS) -- The Marshalls District Legislature (Nitijela) convened on Majuro January 9 for a five-day special session to consider a number of urgent matters affecting the Marshalls. One was a proposal to remove the Marshalls District from the application of Public Law 7-71 relating to the TT's 200-mile fishery zone.

The special session will also consider matters relating to the Marshall Islands Political Status Commission and will be asked to appropriate money for the referendum authorized under District Law 24-2.

DistAd Oscar DeBrum addressed the special session on the opening day.

Galbraith Agrees To Help Palau Status Commission

PALAU, (MNS) -- Palau leaders, after discussions held recently in Cambridge, Massachusetts, have announced that Professor John Kenneth Galbraith has agreed to become an advisor, friend, and associate to the Palau Political Status Commission.

Galbraith is a former U.S. Ambassador to India under the late President John F. Kennedy and former Paul M. Warbug Professor at Harvard University.

He has written at least 14 books and numerous articles primarily on economics. Two of his most noted books are "The Affluent Society" and "The New Industrial State."

Senator Roman Tmetuchl, Chairman of the Palau status commission, said: "We need somebody like Professor Galbraith to help bring the status of our negotiations to be considered a top-level one."

Professor Galbraith is slated to visit Palau in March this year, Palau information officer David Ngirmidol reports.

Conover And His Yacht- A Rough Voyage

SAIPAN – A dream came true for one man a short while ago as he sailed into Saipan harbor to moor his dream - a 60-foot custom built cruising ketch.

Lee Conover, lately of the Trust Territory Attorney General's office, who all his life has been associated with the sea and boats, has now realized a life-long ambition, to own a large world cruising sailboat.

Conover did not reckon, however, with the enthusiastic turnout his return to Saipan would bring. Sailing his ketch, the Viking Spirit in a thirteen-day voyage from the Taiwan shipyard where she was built, Conover and crew members Don Hazlewood and Harry Ash Jr., were piped, firecrackered, and cheered into port by a welcoming armada of envious local boating enthusiasts, among them members of the Coast Guard and Over the Reef Yacht Club.

The 6'8" red-haired sailor, who quit his post as attorney to the TT AG in late November, flew to Taiwan to supervise the final stages of the Viking Spirit's construction. A copy of a William Garden design, she sports a fiberglass hull and is powered by a 120 hp diesel engine.

Taking delivery of the vessel on December 15, and joined by his two crew members, the party faced a 1,700-mile voyage back to the Marianas, which as luck would have it, was less of a cruise than a battle against the elements.

Passing through the side-swipe of Typhoon Mary and two tropical storms on their south-easterly journey, Conover said they experienced only four or five calm days throughout the entire trip. "But gourmet meals cooked up by Chef Hazlewood with Harry acting as gallery slave kept us all well fed even though we did lose weight because of the hard work," Conover smiled.

Throughout both calm and stormy weather, they were all lashed by safety harnesses to the boat's deck, and just as well, Conover said, indicating 60 mph winds and 40 to 50-foot waves that cracked over the decks through the typhoon experience.

Almost more unnerving though than the adverse sailing conditions was the forty-one mile trucking of the Viking Spirit from the Pelee Factory down to Kee Lung harbor, he grinned. "But we experienced no mechanical failures, no breakages, and for a cruise of that length, it went extremely well," the yachtsman attested.

And what will the erstwhile attorney do now he has time on his hands and the kind of boat that would bring tears to most yachters' eyes? He will certainly not forsake his career entirely, although the draw must be strong to give it all up and sail around the world.

Conover will be attached on a temporary contract to the Northern Marianas Attorney General, assigned to clear up outstanding criminal cases, but there will be some satisfaction in planning for sunset cruises for locals and tourists, provided he can get the necessary permits from the government. Good luck, Lee, and welcome back to Saipan!

Kusina Talk

By Nancy Rody

Nutritionist

Dear Friends,

Try a new way of serving our old favorite, rice.

Green Rice Casserole

1 1/3 cups evaporated milk
½ cup cooking oil
3 eggs
¼ small onion, minced
2 cups chopped fresh green vegetable such as sweet potato tops or parsley (1 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained, can be used, but vitamin content will be lower)
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 cup shredded sharp cheese
3 cups cooked rice

In a large bowl beat milk, oil and eggs together until well mixed. Add all remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into a greased casserole dish. Cover. Bake at 375F for 30 minutes. You can also cook this dish in your rice cooker. Eat and enjoy! This casserole is high in vitamin A and iron. How about serving it at a party next to a dish of Red Rice?

Hafa Adai, Nancy

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Funds Shift For Satellite Criticized

PONAPE, (MNS) – Members of the Congress of Micronesia Friday (Jan. 13) received briefings from the chairman of the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition, Andon Amaraich, about the U.S. position paper on the free association compact given to the three heads of delegation at the recent San Diego meeting.

The U.S. proposal was received from U.S. Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt.

In other developments, two members of the House today criticized the recent shift of funds from various departments in the Trust Territory administration to the newly installed satellite communication system in Ponape, Majuro, Palau and Saipan.

Rep. Sasauo Haruo of Truk said he was "disturbed" by the amount of money taken from the Department of Resources and Development. He said the $75,000 taken from the department will have an "adverse effect" on the economic development of Micronesia.

Rep. Daro Weital of Ponape told the congress that the $25,000 which was removed from the department of Education and placed on the satellite program "will affect the activities" of the department.

Rep. Haruo is the House Committee chairman on Resources and Development while Rep. Weital chairs the committee on education and social matters.

The Senate today postponed action on a resolution inviting High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel to deliver his "state of territory message" after vice-president Ambilos Iehsi informed his colleagues that the High Commissioner will not be able to come to Ponape this weekend.

Senator Iehsi said the HiCom has some "urgent problems" on Saipan which will delay his arrival. The High Commissioner was to have delivered his speech Monday (Jan. 16). No firm date has yet been made on when Winkel will address the Congress of Micronesia.

Both House of Congress went on recess until Monday Jan. 16.

Congress Of Micronesia Legislations Introduced Last Week

PONAPE, (MNS) – The following bills were introduced in the senate Friday (Jan. 13):

– To amend certain sections of the TT Code ralting to violation of license and registration provisions, (SB 7-130);

– To dissolve the Micronesia Development Bank and divide equally among all six administrative districts the remaining balance of production loan funds and to establish a district production revolving fund, (SB 7-131);

– To lower the age qualifications for members serving on the land registration teams from 35 to 25, (SB 7-132);

– To appropriate $489,800 for the operation and contingent expenses of the revenue division, department of finance, (SB 7-133);

– To establish a disaster contingency revolving fund, (SB 7-134);

– To add a new section of the TT Code pertaining to the immunity of witnesses, (SB 7-135);

– To earmark $80,900 for the administrative and contingent expenses in holding the general election of the members of the Congress of Micronesia in November, 1978, (SB 7-136); and,

– To appropriate $150,000 to fund the Palau war claims committee, (SB 7-137).

The following bills were introduced in the House of Representatives:

– To amend PL 7-29, which established a college of Micronesia under a board of regents, (HB 7-330);

– To change the reversion date of unexpended and unobligated funds appropriated for public projects in Ponape district so that the funds shall remain available for public projects on Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi, (HB 7-331);

– To provide for criminal penalty for loss, damage, destruction, misuse, or wrongful disposition of governmenf property, (HB 7-333);

– To increase the delivery of services to handicapped persons of the Trust Territory, (HB 7-334);

– To appropriate $147,441 for the operating expenses of the Micronesian Washington office, (HB 7-335); and,

– To appropriate $176,932 to defray the operation and contingent expenses of the TT Social Security System, (HB 7-336).

The following House Joint Resolutions were offered:

– Requesting the Interior Department secretary to repeal departmental order 2918 relating to appointment new offices, (HJR 7-77);

– Confirming the nomination of Manuel Sound of Truk district for reappointment to the Trust Territory Board of Education, (HJR 7-78);

– Requesting the Board of Directors of the Micronesian Legal Services to relocate its central office from Saipan to Ponape, (HJR 7-79); and

– Directing the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition to suspend status negotiations with the representatives of the U.S. government until after the referendum on the proposed constitution of the federated states of Micronesia, (HJR 7-80).

– The following bills were introduced Wednesday (Jan. 11) in the House of Representatives, which would:

– Amend certain sections of the TT Code relating to withholding of tax by employer, (HB 7-325);

– Add a new section to the TT Code pertaining to the immunity of certain witnesses, (HB 7-324);

– Establish a commission on land tenure and appropriate $110,000 to carry out its purpose, (HB 17-323);

– Place the responsibility, control, accounting, management and supervision of all operational funds of the Congress of Micronesia in its finance and accounting officer, (HB 7-319);

– Amend certain sections of the TT Code relating to the office of the legislative counsel of the congress, (HB 7-319);

– Amend PL 7-61 to provide supplemental funding for the relocation of the congress to Ponape and the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition, (HB 7-316);

– Amend certain sections of the TT Code relating to the compensation, expense allowance, and office space for members of congress, (HB 7-3111);

– Amend PL 6-108 relating to criminal penalty for authorizing obligations in excess of available funds, (HB 7-310);

– Appropriate $50,000 for medical evacuation from the outer islands of the Marshalls district, (HB 7-314);

– $72,000 to purchase six modern fire engines, one for each district, (HB 7-313);

– $25,000 to complete a water system for Dud municipality in the Marshalls, (HB 7-312);

– $2,500 for the construction of toilet facilities and a kitchen for the Ponape district development and learning resource center, (HB 7-315);

– $43,700 to defray the operational and contingent expenses of the TT personnel board, (HB 7-317);

– $250,000 to construct meeting chamber, conference room and office facilities for the Congress of Micronesia in Ponape, (7-318);

– $30,000 for the Ponape agriculture and trade school, (7-(7-321);

– $420,000 for certain public projects within Ponape, (HB 7-322).

Also introduced were the following Joint Resolutions:

– Requesting the board of regents of the University of Guam to take all necessary steps so as to afford resident status to all Micronesian students attending university, (HJR 7-70);

– Requesting the Director of the Officer of Territorial Affairs to expedite by all possible means, the placement elsewhere of U.S. Civil Service employees now working for the TT government, (HJR 7-71);

– Urging all parties to the Future Status Negotiations to insure a guarantee that continued financial support for health care services will continue and that the level of health care delivery does not diminish, (HR 7-13);

– Requesting the High Commissioner to continue the relief program for the people of Ifalik and Eaurpik whose atolls were hit by Typhoon June, (HJR 7-73); and,

– Resolving that the two houses of the Congress meet in a Joint Session for the purpose of having High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel present the "State of the Territory" message, (HJR 7-72).

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, The Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory Government has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for CETA Title III, Part C-subpart 3 (YETP) Allocation of $102,340 for Fiscal Year 1978.

Geographic Distribution of Funds follows:

PALAU	$ 9,211
YAP	8,187
TRUK	13,304
PONAPE	10,234
KOSRAE	6,142
MARSHALLS	12,280
HEADQUARTERS	22,514
ADMINISTRATION	20,468
TOTAL	$102,340

The intention of the Trust Territory Government CETA under the Youth Employment and Training Programs (YETP) is to enhance the job prospects and career opportunities of youths served under this subpart.

Residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on this application may do so at Headquarters Training and Employee Development Division, Department of Personnel, Saipan, or at each District CETA Office.

Comments within thirty days from this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
or
Mr. William J. Haltigan
Regional Administrator
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

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Truk Airport Expansion Would Damage Historic Sites

SAIPAN, (MNS) --- Expansion of Truk International Airport, planned by the Trust Territory Government since the early 1970s, would damage a site of archeological value and places sacred to the Trukese people, according to testimony at a hearing held on Moen, Truk, January 10.

The airport project, including a new 6000-foot runway, extensive quarrying and dredging, and construction of electric beacon lights on adjacent Mt. Tonnachau, was the subject of a hearing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, at Truk January 10.

The purpose of the hearing, which lasted some 13 hours, was to consider whether the Army should grant a permit to the Trust Territory Government to discharge dredged material into the waters of Truk Lagoon while constructing the airport.

Mt. Tonnachau was nominated to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in early 1976 by the Truk District Historic Preservation Committee, and was accepted soon thereafter. This fact was overlooked by the airport planners, who said in their Environmental Impact Statement that the project would have no impact on historic places, according to Dr. Tom King, head of the Micronesian Archeological Survey.

King testified that a survey of the project area indicated the likelihood of several types of destructive effect. The airport itself will be built on the site of pre-World War II Iras Village, reputed to be the oldest village in Truk Lagoon, King said.

The residents of Iras were removed by the Japanese in 1942 when the original airport was built, and the village destroyed, but it appears that remnants of the village still exist adjacent to the present runway, King reported.

The people of Iras returned to their village in 1947-48, and now live in what was once their taro swamp, between the airport and the upper slope of Mt. Tonnachau. They oppose expansion of the airport, which they say will subject them to extreme noise pollution, cut them off from fishing and shellfishing areas, and commit land improperly taken from them by the government under "indefinite use agreements" early in the U.S. administration, King reported.

Expansion of the quarry, Dr. King noted, will destroy World War II Japanese fortifications that should be recorded before they are lost. Most significant, he said, are the upper slopes of Mt. Tonnachau, where according to Trukese tradition the first great chiefs and leaders had their homes and meeting house.

According to translations of Trukese traditions, produced by King, the culture-hero Sakochau, who came to Truk from Kosrae, held council on the mountains, as did the high chief Souwooniiras.

King reported finding stone walls and platforms on the mountain, together with some Japanese structures, and surmised that these might be associated with the ancient chiefs. Construction of the warning beacons and their power lines would damage these sites, he said, and asked the Trukese whether construction would be compatible with the sacred nature of the mountain.

Senator Nick Bossy stated that the historic sites need not be protected because his uncle, Moen Mayor Fujita Bossy, approved of the project and had given his permission.

Other Trukese testifying did not agree. Nuda Pawe of Mechitiw Vilalge applauded U.S. efforts to protect Micronesian culture and historic sites, constrasting this with the attitude of the Japanese administration. Puun, also of Mechitiw, reported that the mountain was the ancient Trukese administrative center, and hoped that it would not be disturbed. Others referred to the mountains as tabu, and reported additional historic and sacred areas at its feet. Nessa of Tunnuk Village, identifying herself as the owner of the Mountain's top, agreed that the ancient meeting house was situated there and noted that the government had never consulted her about placing beacons on it.

Other testimony touched on fishing rights, land rights, compensation, noise and dust impacts, and economic issues. The Corps of Engineers will study the entire hearing record before making a decision about whether issuance of its permit, and construction of the project, will be in the public interest, King concluded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, The Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory government has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for Title VI stimulus funds allocation of $2,563.556 for FY '78 under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

Title VI Stimulus Funds Allocation

Geographic Distribution of Funds follows:

PALAU	256,356
YAP	205,084
MARIANAS	333,262
TRUK	461,440
PONAPE	281,991
KOSRAE	128,179
MARSHALLS	333,262
HEADQUARTERS	179,449
ADMINISTRATION	384,533
TOTAL	$ 2,563,556

The intention of the Trust Territory Government Comprehensive Employment and Training Act under Title VI is to continue on-board participants in various unmet public service jobs and public service projects.

Residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on this application may do so at Headquarters Training and Employee Development Division, Department of Personnel, Saipan, or at each district CETA Office.

Comments within 30 days from this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
or
William J. Haltigan
Regional Administrator
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Japanese Singer Continental's Mascot Girl

By Guadalupe Borja

Carmen, a young Japanese singer who sounds like Brenda Lee, sang at Saipan's Continental Hotel from December 27 until the week of January 13.

Although she stood only five feet, one inch, Carmen sang with a strong voice "Where the Boys Are," "Johnny, Get Angry" and "Fujiyama Mama" in Japanese.

As Continental Air Micronesia's "mascot girl" in Japan, the 20-year old singer will be doing the Airlines' television commercial in Japan, said Mikio Kondo, Carmen's manager. She also will be able to sing in any Continental Hotel around the world, Kondo said.

"Apple Doll," a Japanese song which Carmen said sounds like Paul Anka's "Diana", is Carmen's current big seller in Japan, Kondo said. Carmen's English rendition of it, "I Love Him So (the More I Try to Forget)" will be sold in the United States January 25, Kondo said.

Kondo said that Carmen wants "to be just like Brenda

Lee." At a recent meeting between Carmen and Brenda Lee in Japan, the American singer predicted that Carmen will be an international entertainer in three years, Kondo said. He added however, that Carmen is learning to speak English so she can sing in other countries.

Although the majority of Carmen's fans are Japanese teenagers, Kondo said he wants Carmen to sing soul music, country songs -- "all the popular songs."

Carmen, whose real name is Yoshie Saiki, said she thought Saipan was "nice".

Saipan was the first place she sang outside Japan.

U.S. Social Security Reps Here

The U.S. Social Security representatives will be on Saipan until January 31, 1978, to help residents of the Northern Mariana Islands apply for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Anyone who is over 65 years of age, blind, or disabled should contact a U.S. Social Security representative to find out if they are eligible for monthly cash benefits.

The U.S. Social Security people can be contacted at Hamilton's Restaurant in Gualo Rai Monday thru Friday, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

After January 31, 1978, representatives of the Guam office of U.S. Social Security will make periodic visits to administer the Supplemental Security Income program in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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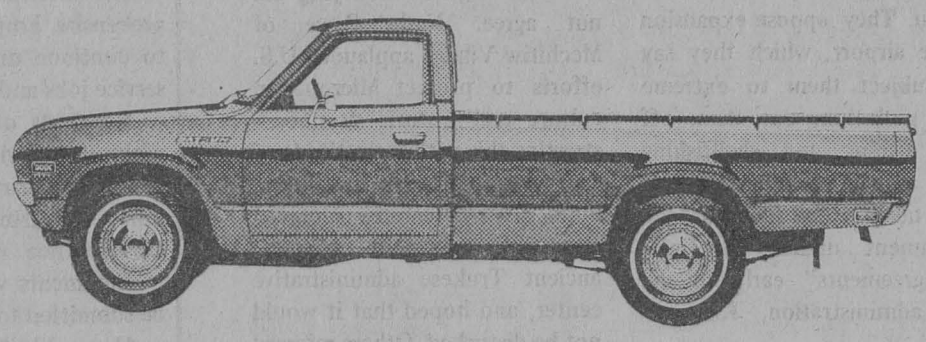

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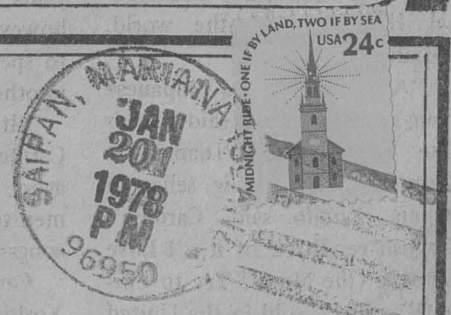

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