Marianas Variety
News & Views

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De Angelo's Opinion:

Law Section Unconstitutional

SAIPAN – The governor has a new cornerman in his fight over the requirement of Senate confirmation of his immediate staff;

Acting Attorney General Michael De Angelo has issued a requested opinion to Sen. Benjamin T. Manglona, chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation, saying it is unconstitutional for the Senate to require confirmation of any positions within the immediate staff of the governor.

Gov. Carlos S. Camacho has said he thinks Joaquin Pangelinan, administrative officer, Manny Sablan, planning and budget affairs officer, Vicente Santos, legislative advisor, and Elfreida Craddock, special assistant for protocol and public affairs, should not need Senate confirmation.

However, the Government Organization Act, which became law a few months ago when Camacho's veto of it was overridden, calls for all department heads and the governor's staff to undergo advice and consent of the Senate.

Since the law became effective, Camacho has been implementing it by submitting nominations for department heads to the Senate committee.

So far, the Senate has rejected one of Camacho's appointments – Michael White as Commonwealth Trial Court judge – and has yet to act on several other appointments, including De Angelo's.

In the opinion sent Manglona, De Angelo cited several court decisions concerning separation of powers, including an Alaskan decision which stated that the appointment of executive officers is an executive function.

De Angelo said the section in the Government Organization Act requiring confirmation of immediate staff is "an unconstitutional infringement upon the executive branch and violates the doctrine of separation of powers."

After reading De Angelo's opinion, some Senators commented that the attorney general went beyond his authority by judging a law as unconstitutional. The senators added that such a decision should be left for the court to decide.

However, De Angelo stated that he is not judging the law but merely giving his legal opinion of the matter.

Introduced:

Bill To Prohibit Prostitution

SAIPAN – The concern to put an end to recent activities by some prostitutes on Saipan is spelled out in a bill recently introduced in the Commonweath Legislature.

The explicitly-worded bill, entitled "To Prohibit Prostitution," imposes fines on anyone engaged in prostitution activities, including soliciting, patronizing or managing prostitution.

In the past few months, several women who were brought to Saipan to dance at a local night club were active as prostitutes at other bars and hotels.

In its introductary stage, the bill does not prohibit prostitution but states that a fine of $100 will be imposed on any person who engages in or permits any prostitution activities.

Some senators said the bill will bring out a heavy debate when it gets to the floor; but at the same time, the senators agreed that some sort of control and regulation will have to be defined.

Memorandum Spells COM Deficit

SAIPAN – According to a memorandum of understanding between Palau, the Marshalls, the Four Central districts, and the Trust Territory government agreed to during the transition talks on Saipan last month, it is recommended that the seventh congress will repeal or amend the "unalloted portions" of certain public laws dealing with appropriations for district projects and other loan funds.

While the memorandum of understanding is not "legally binding" to any of the four parties, it does spell out what should be done with respect to the congress deficit accumulated as of March 31, 1978.

The parties, stated the memorandum, agreed that the deficit of the congress shall be paid by transferring "liquid assets" of certain development funds into the general fund of the Trust Territory government.

The "liquid assets" of the following development funds shall be used to pay part of the $1,641,116.

–Production Development Load Fund, $423,003;

–Agricultural Development Load Fund, $315,961;

–Marine Resources Development Load Fund, $112,200;

–Microneisan Coconut Authority, $270,000.

Such transfer of the above funds would eliminate $1,121,166 which will then leave a balance of $519,950 in which "the appropriate action which may include reprogramming."

The Marshalls, prior to its separation, was contributing 40 percent of the revenues collected under the present tax structure to the Congress of Micronesia general fund. Palau contributed twenty percent, and the other 40 percent of the revenues came from the four central district–Kosrae, Yap, Ponape, and Truk.

In the event that the Congress of Micronesia during this special session fails to repeal or amend district appropriation bills, the three district legislatures–Palau, the Marshalls, and the interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia–are empowered to act on those laws as they apply to their respective districts.

For example, the Marshalls Nitijela (Legislature) will amend or repeal the following public laws: eight Congress of Micronesia elections, (Pl 7-72); Marshallese Teachers Funds, (Pl 7-118); Revenue Division, (Pl 7-106); Commission on Future Political Status and Transition, (Pl 7-110); Micronesia Washington Office, (Pl 7-7-97); Micronesia Maritime Authority, (Pl 7-96); Congress of Micronesia Operations, (Pl 7-87); and Marshalls Public Projects, (Pl 7-132).

The Palau Legislature would repeal the following: Micronesian Industrial Corporation Wharf Appropriation, (Pl 7-133); their Public Project Appropriation Bill, (Pl 7-129); as well as the following Public Laws which are similar to the Marshalls, (Pl 7-87; 7-96; 7-110; and 7-72).

The interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia: eight Congress of Micronesia elections, (Pl 7-72); Lukunor and Ulul Public Projects, (Pl 7-119); Mortlock Quitclaim Deeds, Truk public projects, (PL 7-121); Ponape public projects, (PL 7-115); Yap public projects, (PLS 7-117); and Kosrae public projects, (PL 7-126).

The parties of the subject memorandum further agreed that they shall meet for "further joint determination" regarding the memorandum's implementation. They plan to meet at a

(Con't. on page 2)

COM To Face Tough Decisions

PONAPE (MNS) – The second special session of the Seventh Congress of Micronesia got underway in Kolonia, Ponape, for 20 consecutive days.

The House of Representatives could not officially transact business due to lack of quorum. Only nine members showed up for the first day's session. Thirteen members are needed for a quorum.

The Senate, on the other hand, had a quorum. Nine of them were present for their brief meeting although there are no members from Palau and the Marshalls.

Because of the on-going session of the Ponape Legislature, the House conducted its meeting at the agriculture station office while the senate conducted its at the COM Library.

During this special session, the Congress of Micronesia will have "pretty difficult decisions to make", according to a congress spokesman.

One of the first issues to be discussed was the result of the investigation into the alleged election irregularities during the referendum on the Micronesia Constitution in Palau District.

Members of the Special Joint Committee on Referendum Review will decide what to recommend to the congress with respect to the Palau Referendum. An investigation into certain allegations has been completed and a report will be issued on the committee's findings.

Investigator James Hamilton, a Washington attorney hired by the congress to conduct the initial investigation, is expected to return to Ponape from Washington October 16 to brief the entire committee on his findings. The report will serve as a basis on whether or not to certify the results in a six districts.

A congress spokesman said he

(Con't. on page 2)

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Yap Prepared To Elect Governor

YAP, (MNS) – Four persons have filed their nominating petitions for Governor of Yap and 16 others will vie for the 10 seats in the Yap Legislature.

The closing date for filing nominating petitions for the first election of the Yap chartered district government was Oct. 8. Elections will take place on November 7. However, to date, the names of the candidates have not been made known to the public because the Yap Election Board and the Yap District Attorney refuse to divulge the names pending examination and certification of the petitions.

Two of the nominating petitions for Governor received by the Election Board came from Yap proper and the other two will be coming from the Outer Islands on a field trip ship.

Under Yap's charter, the elected Governor shall appoint his Lt. Governor. If an elected Governor is from Yap proper, he will appoint a Lt. Governor from the Outer Islands with the advice and consent of the Council of Tamol.

If the Governor is from the Outer Islands, he will appoint a Lt. Governor from Yap Island proper with the advice and consent of the Council of Pilung.

Sixteen candidates, from both the Yap proper and the Outer Islands, have filed their nominating petitions for the 10 seats in the legislature. Six of the seats will be for Yap proper, and the remaining four are alloted to the Outer Islands.

The new Yap district government will be inaugurated next January.

Investigation In Palau Completed

By Gloria Worswick Hunter

SAIPAN – The Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Referendum Review, chaired by Julio Akapito from Truk, and its legal staff headed by James Hamilton, left Palau October 7, after a week of intensive investigation into the alleged misconduct during the July 12 Micronesian Referendum.

The allegations include irregularities, bribery and intimidation relating to the conduct of the July 12, referendum on the draft Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The investigation proceedings were observed by Sheila E. Harden, and G. Abebe, both representing the United Nations Trusteeship Council and Neiman Crailey, Jr., director of administrative services, representing the Administrating Authority.

Despite a letter, sent from Palau in September to Senator Ambilos Ieshi, vice chairman of the Referendum Committee, threatening the lives of the committee members, no incidents took place while the investigation was going on.

Witnesses cooperated by appearing and presenting evidence before the committee. About 50 witnesses appeared to present their sides, including both Unionists and Separatists.

July referendum results in Palau was 54 percent for separation and 46 percent voted yes for the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Since certification of the referendum results is one of the specified items on call for the COM special session, which resumed on October 12, it is expected that the committee will submit its findings on the investigation in Palau sometime this week.

The COM will take action to certify the referendum results of all districts after the investigation's recommendations are submitted.

COM Deficit...

(Con't. from page One)

mutually agreeable date and place but not later than November 15, 1978.

The memorandum of understanding does not commit the congress nor any of the three parties to anything. It merely gives recommendations on what should be done.

The parties may amend this memorandum at any time by mutual agreement. It is also expected that the financial information will become available on or before March 31, 1979, appropriation or allotments to TT Statutory Law may exists. The parties agreed that any sharing of such surplus or deficit shall be according to the following formula: Palau Legislature, 20 percent; Marshalls Nitijela, 40 percent; and the Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, 40 percent.

The secretarial order provides that the new FSM Congress should have an election before March 31, 1979, and should organize itself before May 15, 1979.

Session To Face Hot Debate...

(Con't. from page One)

is not sure what the congress will do if there is solid evidence of election irregularities in Palau as the pro-unity forces claimed. A secretarial order contains a provision to empower the congress to call another election in Palau if necessary. However, the secretarial order signed by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, contains no such provisions. Instead, it is up to the Secretary of the Interior to decide what to do.

The Seventh Congress of Micronesia will stay in existence until the referendum issue is resolved and the appropriation bills are repealed. Once they are resolved, the congress will dissolve itself and the four central districts representatives will serve as the Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. Palau and the Marshalls Delegations will become at-large members of their respective district legislature.

If the interim FSM Congress meets, it will discuss mostly transition matters relative to setting up the new FSM government.

If the congress does not resolved the referendum issue by November 1, it will ask for an extension of the special session beyond that date. High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel has given his informal indication that he will approve an extension if the referendum matter is not resolved at that time, a congress spokesman said he expects "hot debate" when the repealing of appropriation bills begins.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Director's Office will receive sealed bids for the construction of Public Elementary School, Saipan, Mariana Islands. Bids in duplicate will be accepted until 2:00 P. M., local time, November 14, 1978 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A bond of 10% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond, made payable to the Treasurer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. N6089000".

A non-refundable payment of $30.00 is required for each set of plans and specifications available on or after October 12, 1978 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Saipan, Mariana Islands.

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Teachers Recruited With High Pay

SAIPAN More than a month after Marianas High School opened for classes, six teachers have been recruited to fill the needs of that school's staff.

One social studies teacher arrived last week while the teachers of physical education, physical science, social science, mathematics, and home economics are expected to arrive next week.

Isaac Calvo, acting director of the Department of Education, and Antonio Camacho, acting personnel officer, flew to San Francisco three weeks ago to recruit the six teachers.

The problems with the shortage of teachers started in January when the Northern Marianas administration removed the so-called 80 percent differential which gave higher salaries to the non-Marianas citizens teaching in the public schools.

Complaining of discrimination to local-hire teachers, the administration removed the differential causing several teachers to take a cut in pay. The lower pay caused difficulty in recruiting replacements for those who left.

Local teachers receiving the low salaries and the non-Marianas citizens who lost the differential have opted for Guam and the United States for teaching positions with higher salaries.

However, the Dapartment of education offers "prime" contracts and "special services" contracts to teachers who are recruited in the United States. The six newly-hired teachers have received one-year prime contracts which are paying them from $10,000 to $14,000 plus transportation and housing.

In the past, qualified local-hire teachers have complained of their substantially lower pay but little action has been taken to alleviate the problem.

Camacho said teaching positions are filled after Calvo requests for them. The slots are advertised locally to spur competition, Camacho said.

He added that if no qualified teacher is available to fill the position, then one will be recruited from outside the Commonwealth.

Camacho said the six teachers hired have extensive backgrounds in their fields with the physical science teacher having a doctorate.

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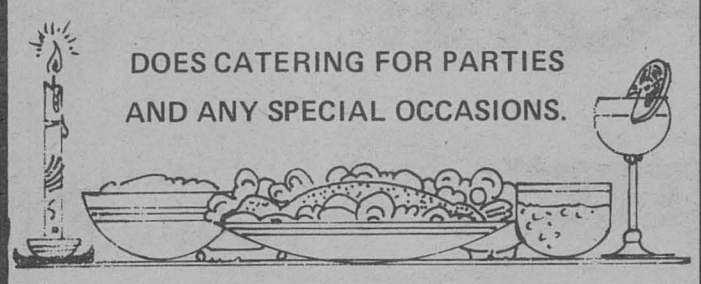

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2 Degress 5 Years Teaching And Discriminated

By Tom Bauer
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – If you're treated like a stereotype, you begin to act accordingly.

Fermin C. Kebekol, a teacher at Marianas High School, is not stereotypical but he said that he and the other underpaid local-hire teachers at the high school are victims of a system that should have been changed 25 years ago.

Kebekol, 33, holds two masters degrees – one in pyschology and the other in vocational education – and needs 15 more hours and write a thesis to obtain his doctorate. He began his teaching at MHS in 1973 leaving only to obtain his second masters at Oregon State University.

But Kebekol only earns about $9,000 a year. His American, prime-contract counterparts – most with less educational background – are earning anywhere from $10,000 to $14,000 plus transportation and housing.

When Kebekol started at MHS, his bi-weekly pay was $182 – less than half of what he is earning now.

Twenty-five years ago, money was used to attract the American teachers to Saipan, Kebekol said, "They thought they were getting expertise."

But Kebekol believes it is time system changed to where teachers, despite citizenship, were paid according to educational background and experience.

"We're paid like we were a sub-culture in the States," Kebekol said. "This psychologically effects us. We become stereotyped and we act accordingly."

He said the pay scale to the local-hire teachers offers no incentive. "It's a feeling of helplessness; our performance has no effect to change the situation. We just perpetuate the old way," Kebekol said.

Kebekol doesn't blame the American teachers for the low pay received by the local hire. He blames the local leaders for failing to rectify the out-of-balance pay scale.

The situation is further complicated by the new Commonwealth government, Kebekol said. "The senators, congressmen, and governor are overwhelmed by their new power. They now have to get the feel of the system before the impact can be felt by the commoners."

Kebekol received his BA degree and his first masters at the University of Guam before he began his teaching career at Marianas High School. He teaches psychology, sociology, and human growth and development.

"I've sold myself to the students here because I treat everyone equally. I want them to see more thoroughly," he said.

But despite his equal treatment of students, the unequal pay scale may be turning Kebekol's feelings of helplessness to feelings of hopelessness.

"No matter what we do, we can't change anything."

Burglars Caught On Second Attempt

SAIPAN – Two Saipan juveniles have learned that if at first you succeed, you should not try again.

Police arrested a 12- and a 16-year-old in connection with the July burglary of the Micronesian Photo Service when the two allegedly tried to repeat the burglary Tuesday.

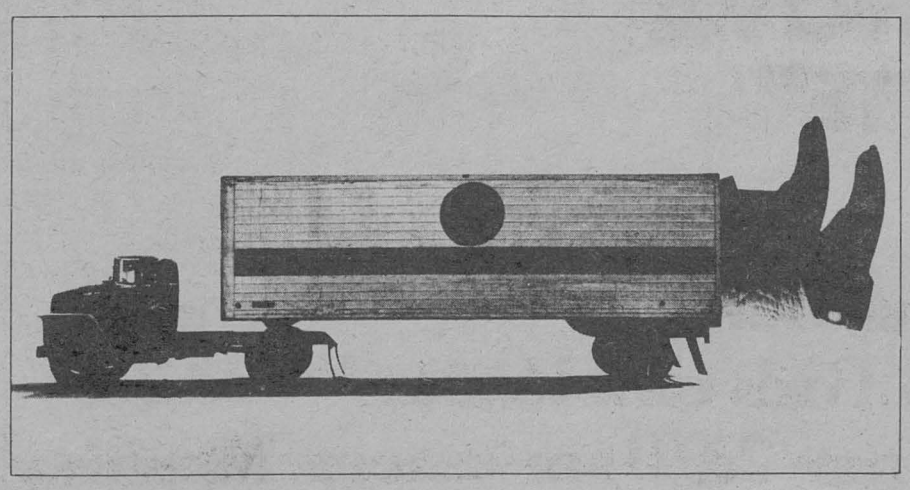
According to police Capt. Joe Babauta, the pair stole two .22-caliber rifles, two air rifles and a camera in July and returned to the store Tuesday to steal an air pistol.

The pair fled the store when the owner caught them after the break-in; they threw down the air pistol as they ran. A police stake out caught the two when they returned to get the pistol later the same afternoon.

Babauta said the suspects admitted the July burglary and implicated another juvenile who is now on Guam.

The two were arrested on charges of burglary and grand larceny but were released into the custody of their parents because of their juvenile status.

A Moving Experience



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Beach Road Flourishes With New Signs

SAIPAN – It's hardly like Los Angeles but a traffic jam is still a traffic jam.

But the observant driver along Beach Road may take the opportunity for a lesson in the slowly-changing culture next time he inches his way from Garapan to Chalan Kanoa.

The lesson is subtle and takes the memories of a few years back. But if the drivers will read the signs in front of the various business establishments, they'll learn that things aren't what they used to be.

Along both sides of the road, easy to notice the bars, restaurants and other business with foreign names which hardly depict the island or its local legend. With the exception of the Chamorro Hut, the names are alien, if not exotic.

For instance, there are the Korean Inn, Poppeys, Tapa, Seoul, Sakura, Big K, Western Auto, East West Travel, Kimchi Cabana, and Utopia, among others.

There used to be the Amatugula – a bar in Tanapag, Coral Reef – in Chalan Kanoa and yet another called Capillary. The former means come in and fill your belly while the latter signifies blood vessels, presumably filled with alcohol.

There also used to be a bar quite popular with the younger set and the rough types called Bonanza; and it would be quite remiss if we did not include Apollo 11, named after the spaceflight that first took man to the moon. And of course there is Galaxy, a popular place for office workers on their coffee breaks – it sells doughnuts.

But if these names sound foreign, how about Round 2, a small bar in Garapan; and even more foreign is a disco near Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa simply called – WOW.

Saipan seems to be starting a pace set long ago by similar areas such as Guam, Hawaii and Puerto Rico which were and still are developing economically. Perhaps when outside investors come in and strike up an enterprise, they name their business venture with something that reminds them of home. Perhaps not, maybe the name makes no difference – no matter how strange sounding it is – as long as the right people are getting the profits.

Not all the strangely-named businesses are foreign owned, but the sign-reading may show an onslaught of small and large investors slowly making their way onto Saipan.

Although the lesson is not too startling, there is one word the driver might say next time the Datsuns, Toyotas, and Mazdas are backed up and he has a chance to read the signs. He just might shake his head and say, "WOW."

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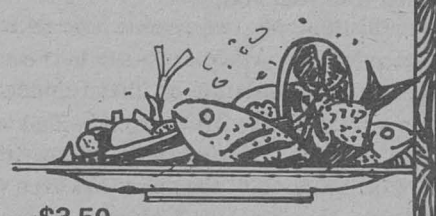

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Variety Views

How quickly we forget.

Saying he is personally against gambling and would much rather see some other source of income for the Northern Marianas, Gov. Carlos S. Camacho said he is still undecided as to whether he will veto the gambling bill or not. It was but a month or so ago when Camacho said he sees no good in gambling and will veto any attempt to legalize it on Saipan.

Now he has backpedaled to say he wants outside opinions before he can make a final decision.

Apparently, a 2500-signature petition urging him to veto the bill is not enough. But perhaps Camacho has overlooked the numerous studies – one done here in the Trust Territory – that point out the adverse effects of gambling. Perhaps he has forgotten that only two weeks ago the Northern Marianas Washington Rep., Edward Pangelinan, said U. S. officials were opposed to casino gambling on Saipan because too many other matters had to be looked into first.

The governor may have also overlooked all the crime statistics in the U. S. that link gambling to organize crime and countless other lesser criminal activities.

But surely he couldn't have forgotten that former District Administrator Francisco C. Ada – now Camacho's own lieutenant governor – was forced to ban slot machines on Saipan because the ruiness effects far outweighed the financial gain.

The governor may need a gentle reminder that these are outside opinions; and all show that staking the financial life of the Commonwealth on gambling is nothing but a losing bet.

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Being the first to separate from the other districts of Micronesia and stepping into a Commonwealth does not necessarily mean that the Marianas will always be first politically, economically, or even socially. At least as far as this first year's experience indicates.

Politically, the two main branches of the Commonwealth government are continuously acting, arguing and pleading for power, and forgetting political achievement and progress.

Economically, thanks to the commercial business enterprise for keeping progress and pulling the dollars out of our pockets, leaving small portions for internal and self progress.

Socially, the Marianas is first to think of everything for the growth of a society with contrast. Opening the doors to step from U.S.D.A. to food stamps, leaving the door open for free enterprise competition to escalate sky-high prices; closing one eye on the growing small establishments managed or owned by inviting foreign or third national investments with little local participation. Heading to turn the Marianas into a gambling paradise. And continually absorbing the local labor –using high pay – to work for the government;

With all of this, the Marianas doesn't seem to be first if the current trend is continuously moving in the trail of a turtle.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is annually given more than $24 million, plus other federal funds. How this money will be distributed and utilized without the proper plans to achieve the motto of being first and best instead of first and last, will have to be answered in moving along in a trail different than the one we are in now.

It won't be surprising at all to see the other districts – namely Palau, Marshalls and the Federated States of Micronesia – heading the way they are and getting to be first and doing the best, leaving the Marianas as a bridge between Hawaii and Guam for the leftovers to jump in.

Leaving Saipan's charm both physically and in heart and mind was expressed by two well-known friends before their departures on Thursday and Friday.

Gene Hassing, general manager of Continental/Air Micronesia for the past two years, left for Colorado after he received a promotion. Hassing is candid and hard working with many accomplishments – the Saipan-Japan route to name one. He is as commendable as his colleagues, former managers Barry Dugan and Don Beck, who left much to be remembered to this island.

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Dave Havard also received a promotion and had to leave for Manila after being on Saipan for four years with the Bank of America. Havard has said that in his home town he had but two friends, but on Saipan almost everyone is his friend. Leaving the island is difficult for Havard but he promised he will be visiting Saipan to keep in touch. When he and the family return, there will be one more as Havard and his wife are expecting their first child this week. Havard, through his hard work, contributed much to the bank, to Saipan, and to all of Micronesia.

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The Way it Goes...

by: John Del Rosario Jr.

The see-saw debate over the "unified budget concept" is continuing between the administration and the legislature. The latter has had its position strengthened by a parade of reputable legal minds including a professor of law who is an expert on tax and business law. But despite the lucid explanation given, it appears that the administration has closed its eyes and ears.

This warfare laden with political motivations worries my two friends, Juan and Pedro Malas. Once they offered that the strongest and highest man in office, when making certain critical decisions, must ask himself: Would this benefit my people? – Have I solicited the views of experts and not necessarily the sentiment of my political advisor. Juan and Pedro said these two questions should be the bottom line when confronted with vital decisions.

But this time my two friends have taken another step. They're wondering whether the people here can expect peace between the two branches at least before Christmas. They see the legislature as liberal minded and sometimes unrelenting often getting into a political tango with a strong-willed but stubborn governor.

Juan offered: "It seems rather strange that every issue which comes out of the legislature for the good of the public has been vetoed because the governor apparently feels he is right therefore, the legislature is wrong. It's ridiculous where things have gone. It's a game of who is right and who is wrong."

Pedro morosely commented: "The problem which has plagued every decision from both sides of the street is pride. Each declares publicly that he is right. Every vital issue has been approached from the basis of who is right. For as long as this is the case, we will never get anywhere. And when we do not get anywhere, it is the little people who get crushed by all these warfare."

Juan interject: "How then do we put a ceasefire to all these vicious interchange of views over three simple little words? It seems that no one is wrong nor right!"

Pedro explained: "While it is true that in politics, it's dog eat dog, issues must be approached not from who is right but rather what is right. There's, however, a problem even with this level of interaction. Even if at the end it is discovered what is right, pride would again overwhelm most political leaders and subsequently return to the original see-saw argument of who is right. There's every doubt that one would step aside and say: 'you win, let's get to work'."

Juan quereied: "Assuming that the legislature has given in on any issue but only to a certain degree, don't you think the governor has enough sense to meet them halfway or admit that his counterparts across the street are right and therefore must submit and swallow the bullet? It's understood that pride makes it awfully hard for anyone to confront reality–the truth. It could be a shattering experience for any unseasoned political leader."

Pedro said: "You have a point. The first two level of approach won't get us anywhere other than to point one. Therefore, the question which we must religiously remember in every argument which we must make is this: It is not who is right nor what is right; but rather WHO IS HUMBLE. Only then can we expect to get on with the business of this new government."

Juan remarked: "You're wiseman amigo. We ought to assign John DelRosario to explain the crux of our discussion with the governor. We have to have some peace before the Christmas Holidays. It's fast approaching."

Pedro concluded: "I love my fellow man however insignificant he may be. Our leaders must listen to the cries of the masses. Time must not be wasted on petty arguments. They MUST be humble in their daily work and especially when deciding on sensitive issues lest the Almighty may impose upon them King David's dilemma–a punishment–for prideful disobedience by giving him a choice between a seven-year famine, a three month defeat in battle, or a three day plague on his people. The price of leadership can bring on terrible suffering.

This writer finds his friends' conversation very interesting. Someday I will ask 'em to revive the same discussion because in more ways than one, it is helpful for every person treading the face of the earth especially those in whose palms rest the future of the Commonwealth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Two stories appearing on the front page of the Marianas Variety on September 29, 1978, were very misleading. I do not know where you obtained your information, but please let me make some important corrections.

It is a matter of record that every permanent Government employee of the executive branch received a pay raise retroactive to July 1, 1978. Instructions have been given that any complaints regarding this matter should be directed to the personnel Department. I have been informed that as of this date, no such complaints have come in. The persons referred to in your article who did not receive pay raises are trainees or public service employees and are paid out of various federal programs monies, and they are not permanent employees of the Northern Marianas Government.

The individual you referred to in your article who is on pay level 27/1 occupies the position of Chief of Labor and is, therefore, entitled to receive that salary.

On the very same front page on September 29 you carried an interview story with Edward DLG Pangelinan, the Northern Marianas Washington representative, wherein he appropriately enough urged everyone in the Northern Marianas Government (which incidentally according to textbook definition includes the executive, the legislative and judiciary branches) to work together toward a common goal. I can only agree with him on that point – all of us here are like a large family – the individual members may have differences of opinion – but when we approach the U.S. Congress we should present a united front and work together for the benefit of the people.

While it is true that Senator Byrd was critical of the Northern Marianas Government, it has to be pointed out that on the other hand Congressman Philip Burton, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs has stated on September 8, 1978, in a letter to Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrews: "In light of undisputed fact that the Covenant has committed the United States to certain definite annual grants, the Commonwealth has no obligation whatsoever to justify its budget expenditures. Any cooperation the Commonwealth offers in confirming its submission to our administrative practices may be useful and commendable, but it must be viewed purely as an accommodation rather than as a binding agreement. The second matter receiving attention is the schedule for meshing the budgetary cycles of the Northern Marianas and the United States. Any problems in this connection should be resolved so as not to interfere with Northern Marianas budget practices."

The letter from Congressman Burton, and incidentally, the Department of Interior concurs in this matter, also clarifies the "issue involving the procedures the Commonwealth will follow in requesting appropriations additional to those expressly provided for in Section 702 of the Covenant."

Without going into too many details here, these quotes should suffice to give an idea of the general tone of the letter. We trust that the above information will set the record straight.

My staff and I stand ready to provide assistance on all matters that are public information and we would appreciate being consulted before news articles of this type are released.

Sincerely,
Carlos S. Camacho
Governor

Dear Editor:

Reference is made to your October 6, 1978 edition "Budget Battle Begins," Second paragraph indicates gross distortion of information. I never stated nor implied the Legislature not approving the Executive Budget. In fact the Legislature is ready to approve the Governor's budget by a joint resolution. However, approval of a budget by joint resolution does not authorize anyone to spend Commonwealth funds. Appropriate legislation for the authorization to expend Commonwealth funds will be introduced and acted upon by both branches. But without appropriations act, commonwealth funds cannot be spent or obligated for any particular purpose.

Editor, kindly retract erroneous statement and print this for clarification.

Sincerely .
Oscar C. Rasa
Speaker
House of Representatives

Editor's note: Speaker Rasa is accurate in his statement that he indicated the budget will be approved by joint resolution at first and in the form of a bill at a later date. The Variety regrets the misinterpretation.

Dear Editor:

Although the writer in your last issue did not identify himself, I support his views on Casino Gambling and I can understand why he prefers to stay anonymous.

Whoever wrote it is a man of courage and frankly, a man with the ability to think rather than emote unnecessarily. It appears he's willing to dig out what available information is there for or against the issue, a rare quality these days.

In the absence of possible revenues, would the people at this point and time support additional taxes to be imposed on them like real estate or change and increase income taxes? Would those who are against Casino Gambling come up with the recommendations on how to impose additional taxes to the extend that those in the middle and lower income brackets, including fishermen and farmers, are not burdened with new and additional taxes?

Furthermore, the Constitution mandates the governor to come up with proposed taxes which he has to submit to the legislature for consideration. Could it be that while the governor opposes casino gambling, knowing full well that he must come up with alternative means to collect revenues; he is also playing the role of an ostrich? If he and other individuals oppose this issue, please give us some ideas as to how to impose additional taxes which is sufficient enough to cover funds for scholarship programs, medical referral, aid to non-public schools and plans for a retirement fund.

Until such time that opponents of this issue can satisfy the requirements (financial) of this new government, perhaps it would do them good to help us put forth legislation that would sufficiently guard against criminal elements and other evils that opponents can think of. We need money to meet the financial requirements of the Commonwealth. Let us help construct a piece of law for this issue that satisfies all concerns. Why are we afraid of a paper tiger?

Sincerely,
Richard Towai

Dear Editor:

In your October 6th edition of the Variety, a letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives concerning the much confused unified budget concept as researched by Professor Robert Desiderio is the most succinct and sensible explanation of such concept ever offered to date since the battle over these three words began six to seven months ago.

I agree, Mr. Editor, that the definition of a 'unified budget' "cannot be arbitrarily-developed; one must refer to the Northern Marianas Constitution, its analysis, committee reports, and paractices of a Republican form of government."

The definition is clear and requires no further debate. Furthermore, that is how the government should operate and I quite couldn't figure out what seems to be troubling our government. Thank you for allowing me to express my views. Seven to six months of arguments on these three little words is excessive, if not, unreasonable.

Sincerely,
Rudy M. Sablan

The Marianas Variety welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of public interest. The letters, however, 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. Such letters will not be published to conform with policy. The Variety reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

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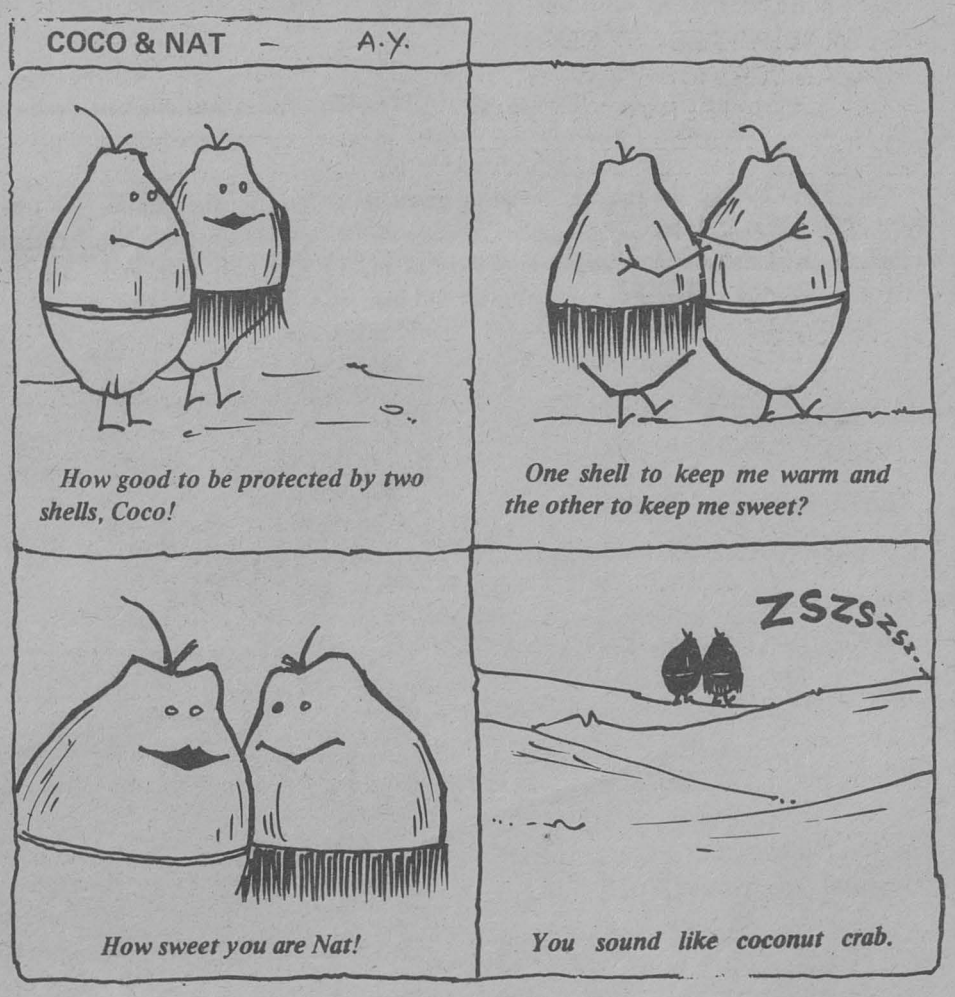

Public Money For Public Purpose

SAIPAN (NMCL) – What was past practice with the Fourth and Fifth Marianas District Legislatures of giving financial assistance to local citizens who suffered from a personal tragedy, has stopped in the Commonwealth Legislature because legal counsels have said it is unconstitutional.

A number of requests have come in recent weeks from people who have lost their home and have been relocated because of recent flooding. The issue of whether the Legislature can make appropriations for financial assistance has been the subject of lengthy research by the legal consultant and the legal staff of the Legislature.

Roger St. Pierre, legal consultant, and Joe Nason, former assistance legislative counsel, said in March 10 that most states prohibit the granting of special legislation unless the appropriation of public funds is for a public purpose.

More recently, David Price, legislative counsel, agreed with St. Pierre and Nason saying, "any bill which appropriates funds in order to provide relief for victims who have personal tragedy or misfortune is unconstitutional."

All three attorneys agreed that legislators may be liable should they enact legislation appropriating funds to help the victims.

House Speaker Oscar C. Rasa said that although the Legislature would like to assist, "the Constitution gives us clear definition of appropriation of public money, and, therefore, restricts us from appropriating public funds for non-public purposes."

Legislature Requests To Reinstate SSI Funds

SAIPAN (NMCL) – The House of Representatives and Senate of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature railroaded a joint resolution last Thursday requesting the U. S. Congress to disapprove a rider to House Resolution 13511 which would deny Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to about 576 recipients in the Northern Marianas.

Approval of the resolution came without debate in both the House and Senate. The contents of the measure will be telexed to members of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives' conference committee today, according to House Speaker Oscar C. Rasa and Senate Vice President Pete P. Tenorio.

The SSI program, according to the resolution "has proven to be of significant assistance to recipients in the Commonwealth and suspension after 10 months of operation will impose a serious and undue hardship" on those who now benefit from it.

"The implementation of the Supplemental Social Security Income Program," the resolution says, "was agreed to in good faith by both the people of the Northern Marianas and the Government of the United States.

SPC Meets In Noumea

The 18th South Pacific Conference will meet at SPC Headquarters in Noumea from October 7 to 13. It will be chaired by the Toalipi Lauti, prime minister of Tuvalu, whose country will attain independence a week before the Conference begins. It will be the first occasion in the 31 years of SPC's existence that a South Pacific Conference held in Noumea under the SPC flag has been chaired by the prime minister of an independent Pacific Island nation.

More than 100 representatives of SPC's Participating Governments, Pacific Island Administrations and governments and international organizations will attend the Conference. President Hammer DeRoburt of the Republic of Nauru and Dr. T. R. A. H. Davis, premier of the Cook Islands, are expected to attend, and many of the delegations will be led by government ministers.

One of the main tasks of the Conference is to examine and adopt SPC's work program and budget for 1979.

The Conference will discuss two special themes: "Education for what? Preparation of youth for real life - are community high schools the answer?" and "Special problems of small island countries". It will also evaluate work undertaken on a Pacific approach to rural development, which was discussed as a special theme at last year's Conference.

An important topic on the agenda is the possibility of all countries and territories of the SPC region becoming full members of SPC through accession to the Canberra Agreement by which SPC was founded.

The Conference will also discuss the venue and arrangements for the 19th South Pacific Conference, to be held in 1979.

The Committee of Representatives of Participating Governments will meet in Noumea during the days immediately preceding the Conference to discuss a number of administrative matters.

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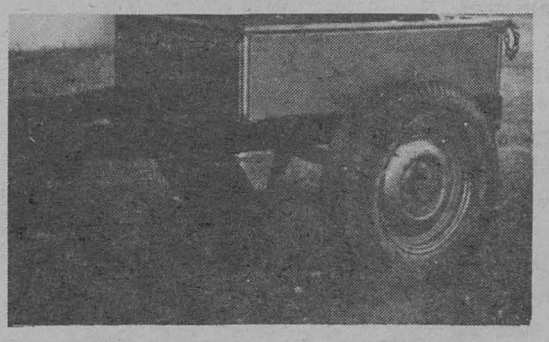

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PIDC Concludes Its Meet On Saipan

SAIPAN – It's been said that you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.

Not so, says the American tuna industry after it left the three-day annual meeting of the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation with the lion's share of $2.5 million in federal money earmarked for tuna fishing.

The three-day meeting, held last week at the Saipan Continental, was attended by representatives of the foundation.

The industry, represented by the U. S. Tuna Foundation, Western Fish Boat Owners, American Tuna Boat Association, American Tuna Research Foundation, and the American Tuna Fishermen Association, received $1.6 million for tuna purse-seining in the western Pacific.

The tuna foundation is the offspring of the Pacific Islands Development Commission and is composed of island governments as well as the American tuna industry.

The government members are Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and the Trust Territory. All except Guam are represented by voting members.

During the meeting, the foundation decided the funding of 21 tuna development projects submitted by the industry and the governments. The two sides vie for their share of the $2.5 million with the industry giving about $120,000.

Other projects include, $187,300 for baitfish resources development in Ponape; $135,900 for pole and line fishing in Turk, $87,666 for leeward Hawaiian islands tuna development; and $28,250 for tuna aggregation project in the Northern Marianas.

However, the meeting only recommends funding for the projects; the final decision will be made by the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service which administers the federal grants.

Coleman Move To Promote Regionalism

SAIPAN (MNS) – Closer economic ties among the four American Pacific territories and the South Pacific nations may result from a recently concluded Pacific Islands Development Commission (PIDC) meeting on Saipan, according to Governor of American Samoa Peter T. Coleman.

Coleman, who served as Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory before becoming governor of American Samoa, told reporters on Saipan: "We're trying to push very hard on the concept of regional cooperation." Coleman is also the current president of PIDC, which is made up of the chief executives of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory, and the Northern Marianas.

The Commission ended a three-day meeting on Saipan Oct. 11. In a move to promote regionalism, the commission will invite Tonga, Niue, Western Samoa, and the Cook Islands to join PIDC as observers, Coleman said. This is the first time the eight-year-old commission has opened its doors to non-American islands, he said.

Coleman, American Samoa's first elected governor, mentioned tourism and fishing as among the reasons to encourage regional cooperation in the Pacific. "Out of PIDC was born the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation and also the Pacific Islands Tourist Development Council," he said.

The former Deputy HiCom was scheduled to depart Saipan for Honolulu. This was his first trip to Micronesia since he left the territory in early 1977 after serving nearly 15 years in executive positions.

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CCM Will Survive Regardless Political Structure

By Tom Bauer
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – With all the political changes in Micronesia, the times are exciting but a little scary for Edward L. Donovan, chancellor of the Community College of Micronesia.

Though Donovan only started his job in July, he is heaped with the problems of finding funds for the college as well as continuing to develop the college's services and curriculum.

CCOM has three branches besides the college's extension service: the community college in Ponape, the nursing school on Saipan, and the Micronesian Occupational College in Palau.

"Our priority right now," Donovan said, "is to ensure first-rate education at all three institutions."

But money is another priority for Donovan. With the recent referendum in Micronesia, which divides the districts into three entities, the college has gained its independence.

Along with independence comes a stop in Trust Territory funds for the college. Instead, Donovan said he will appeal to the three legislatures for funds the college. "Regardless of the political structure, one united college is to everyone's benefit," Donovan said.

There is also the question of $8 million authorized by the U.S. Congress for building the college. "I have guarded optimism that the money will be freed up this year," he said.

The 37-year-old former Dean of College at the Lake Tahoe (California) Community College has already compiled a list of seven priorities for expanding the college's services. Although the details of the plans will be worked out later on Yap, the list includes,

–developing an independent personnel system,

–transfering property from district ownership to the college's,

–developing the staff to "bring in acceptable people at more than an adequate level of expertise and background,"

–developing an independent financial system,

–getting a master plan for a new campus on Ponape,

–expanding the extension program to all the districts, including the Marianas,

–determining the fate of the nursing school.

The extension program, Donovan said, will be expanded to specifically help elementary teachers gain Associate of Arts degrees – which will be required in 1980 – as well as bring general education and vocational education to all the districts.

The new campus at Ponape, to be funded through the $8 million congressional grant, would be an updated version of a 1973 plan for construction.

And the fate of the nursing school lies in the hands of the Commonwealth leaders but Donovan said he would like to keep the school on Saipan.

"I want to convey the message that the college is meeting the needs of all students. It makes more sense to have one united college than a college for each," Donovan said.

Other plans for the college include training Micronesians to take over the leadership of the various colleges and programs for CCOM.

But all the plans for the school seem to revolve around getting enough funds. Donovan said that although he has the encouragment of High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel, the college still has "a long way to go in getting the money."

"I don't know what the budget will be for this year but I hope it's not less than last year's," Donovan said. He added that he is also looking for funds from outside sources such as the federal government and private foundations.

"These are exciting times and with all the political changes, I don't know what is going to happen next," Donovan said.

"But if you can't afford to take the risks, now is not the time to be in Micronesia."

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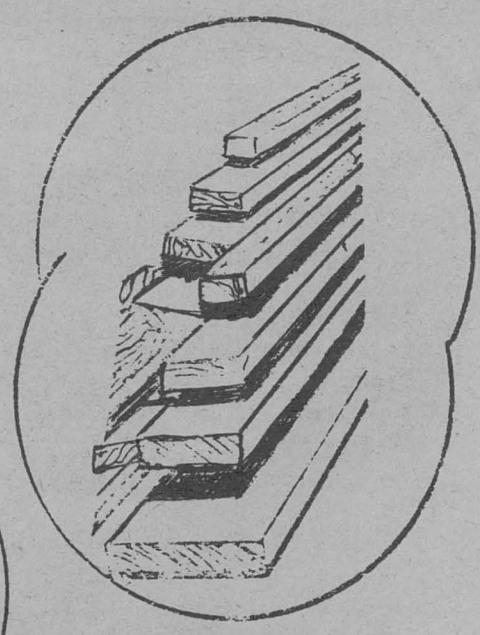

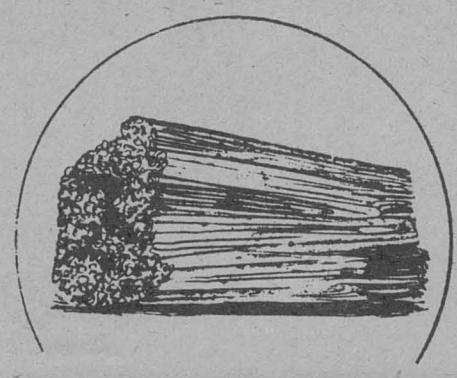

Military Liaison Officer Arrives On Saipan

SAIPAN (MNS) – A New Trust Territory Military Liaison Officer has arrived on Saipan.

Lt. Commander Roy G. Adkerson will serve as a bridge between the Trust Territory Government, Northern Marianas, and the military. He will coordinate search and rescue operations involving military aircraft or ships, "missions of mercy" if the need arise to evacuate sick persons in the Trust Territory or Northern Marianas to hospitals on Guam and Hawaii, and practically everything that involves military participation.

Adkerson arrived on Saipan late last month to participate in recent status negotiations between Micronesia and the United States.

He said he will eventually tour the various districts to meet with its leaders with whom he will be working for the next two years.

Adkerson received his BA degree in Biology and Chemistry from Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, in 1962. He later received his masters degree in Administration from Pepperdine University in California in 1975 and has completed all the required classroom work toward his Ph. D. in Education at the University of Southern California. He is working on his dissertation.

The new TT Military Liaison Officer joined the Navy in 1963 and was commissioned an officer in April 1964. He eventually attained the rank of lieutenant in 1968 and was promoted to his present rank in 1972.

Prior to his assignment, Adkerson was stationed at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu.

His predecessor, Lt. Cmdr. Pat Roth, left Saipan October 5 and will become the Executive Officer aboard a destroyer stationed in Seattle, Washington.

Adkerson and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Michele, 6, and Rob, 12. They are residing on Navy Hill.

Univ. Of Hawaii Offers Micro Course

HONOLULU (MNS) – Chaminade University in Honolulu will again offer its 24-day course on Micronesia from late this year to the summer of 1979, according to Honolulu newspapers.

Entitled "Micronesia: Water, Man, Land" and offered for either undergraduate or graduate credit at the university, the tour-course was offered for the first time last summer and was limited to teachers.

This school year, it will be open to all members of the community and will be scheduled first from December 26, 1978, to January 18, 1979, and again from June 28 to July 19.

The participants of the course will be able to examine the interrelationships of environment, animals, plants, and cultures of Micronesia and to meet with the people on several islands of Micronesia.

A similar tour is currently being prepared for Papua New Guinea next summer.

NMI Students Eligible For Financial Aid

The School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has announced that graduate students in social work from the Northern Marianas are eligible for financial aid under the Disadvantaged Minority Recruitment Program funded by the U. S. National Institute of Mental Health and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

To qualify for financial assistance, a student must first be admitted to the School of Social Work at the university in Honolulu. The program offers a tuition waiver for two years, a monthly stipend of $325 for two years and job counseling. Study in social work includes the areas of family and children services, mental health, and programs for the aged among others.

Interested applicants can write to Dr. Helen N. Miller, Project Director, Hawaii Hall, Room 211, School of Social Work, University of Hawaii, 2500 Campus Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, or they may contact the student assistance officer in the Department of Education in Saipan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO AUCTION THE M/V DOLPHIN

Governor Carlos S. Camacho wishes to announce that pursuant to a decision by the Northern Marianas Economic Development Loan Fund Board the M/V Dolphin with all its equipments and supplies will be publicly auctioned at the Office of the Northern Marianas Chief of Police on Monday, November 6, 1978 at 9:00 a. m. The minimum auction bid will be $18,000 (U. S. money) and the highest bidder must place a deposit of 10% of the auction price in cash or by certified check payable to the Northern Marianas Economic Development Loan Fund and the balance will be payable seventy-two (72) hours later. In the event that the highest bidder fails to pay the balance of the purchase price within seventy-two (72) hours, the Northern Marianas Economic Development Loan Fund Board reserves the right to declare a forfeit of the 10% deposit.

The M/V Dolphin is a 42 feet fiberglass - reinforced plastic (FRP) fishing vessel which was purchased by the Rota Fishing Cooperative Association in 1975 from Japan. The vessel is available for inspection at the Port Control (Saipan) Monday - Friday from 7:30 a. m. -11:30 a. m. and from 12:30 p. m. - 4:30 p. m. Permission must be requested from the Port Control Division to inspect the M/V Dolphin. The general public is welcome to attend. For further information contact:

Mr. Pedro Dela Cruz,
Acting Director
Department of Natural Resources
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, M. I. 96950
Phone: 6561

or

Mr. Joaquin P. Villagomez, Acting Chief,
Marine Resources Development
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