

# HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



April 15, 1969

## Future Political Status Commission Reports On Study Tour

The Congress of Micronesia's Future Political Status Commission arrived home Apr. 2 after a month-long fact-finding tour of the South Pacific, and "a long way toward the goal of making a recommendation" for Micronesia's future. The report is due in July, but Chairman Lazarus Salii revealed that the Commission may let its position be known before the report is in. "We are in the process of winding up our position," Salii said to reporters and the Congress of Micronesia staff.

Senator Salii noted that the Commission was grateful for all the help given by the host countries. He also said they were given a great deal of help from U.S. embassy and consular staffs along the route. "They were all really very good to us," he noted.

Salii went on to say, "As a result of this trip, the members look at things from a much broader perspective. In some respects, the administration here compares favorably with other administering authorities."

Salii was understandably reluctant to make strong statements of preferences until the consensus of the Commission is arrived at, but he had plenty to say on what they saw on their tour.

### AMERICAN SAMOA

The structure of the American Samoa government was observed to be similar to that of the TT. It is "almost a replica of the situation here...the legislature is elected and the governor is appointed," he said.

In contrast to the Congress of Micronesia, however, the American Samoa Legislature did not appear to Salii to be an effective voice of dissent.

The Commission gained the impression that the American Samoan leadership is conservative, but that there is an undercurrent of breaking up of the traditional matai system among young people.

"Young people want to become American citizens (they are U.S. nationals now) in order to accelerate the breakdown of the matai system," Salii said. While the territory appeared conservative, there is a desire for an elected governor.

Salii is sure that Micronesia can get a better deal in its development than that given American Samoa. He noted that the U.S. has been in American Samoa



NEW LICENSE PLATES for the TT are being issued during the month of April. The designer (and winner of the \$50 cash award) is Marianne Fire Chief Ignacio Aldan, above. The new design will be used Territory-wide, with each District's name on its own plates. Intended for use over a period of years, the license plates in future registrations will have yearly date changes affixed to the end opposite the circle of stars.

for almost 70 years, and yet there are only 40 college graduates and one U.S. trained lawyer. "They could have done better," the Senator said. However, from the Samoan viewpoint, they are satisfied and there is no reason to expect a change in attitude, he added.

Looking at the economic condition of American Samoa, Salii said that it is very dependent on U.S. grants. The two fish canneries are the major industry and tourism is not yet a major economic factor. Salii did like the new hotel, however.

Because much of the land is steep, the agricultural potential cannot really be developed unless there is a great need. American Samoa, incidentally, does not have private ownership of land.

In summary, Salii said, "There is a parallel with Micronesia in that no economic base has been built... the same approach as here."

(Continued on page 2)

1500  
245  
1.2

## More on Future Political Status Commission Report

(Continued from Page 1)

### WESTERN SAMOA

"Going from American Samoa to Western Samoa is going to a different world. Apia (the capitol) is old and there are German buildings," Salii observed. Western Samoa's standard of living is low in comparison with American Samoa. The reason is that New Zealand, the former administrator, did not do much.

Western Samoa has been independent since 1962 and was described by Salii as "fiercely independent" and was not missing New Zealand. The Samoans have no regrets about independence.

The economic conditions have not changed in Western Samoa since independence, but there was also no drop in economic conditions when New Zealand left. Salii noted that the country was having difficulty getting assistance; the World Bank turned down a request for a loan to improve the airport and roads. Despite the sub-standard airport, tourism is a big business. While on the one hand, certain types of capital are not available, Western Samoan elders do not want too much western influence and therefore turn down outside capital. Western Samoa's biggest problem is the rate of population increase.

The Status Commission measured Western Samoa by "a different yardstick." Asked what he learned with his measuring, Salii replied, "We learned that independence is a possibility for a small island."

The government is a modified parliamentary system which meets in a Samoan fale and on some matters reaches consensus through the fa'a Samoa (old way) and then formalizes the decisions in the parliament.

Salii evaluated the role of the chiefs as "basically democratic" since the titles are not inherited.

Looking at education, it was noted that expatriate teachers are paid the going salary in New Zealand. Western Samoa does not have universal education, nor can it afford to send lots of students out for higher education.

### FIJI

The Status Commission members met the Chief Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamanise Mara, in Western Samoa and then again in Fiji. Salii described him as one of the great leaders of the Pacific. They also met the government ministers individually.

Fiji is very largely self-governing and the Status Commission did not sense any anti-United Kingdom feeling. "I don't think the Fijians want independence," Salii said. However he noted that the racial division in the population (more than half the population is of

Indian origin, but the Fijians control the government) may be a deterrent to independence. "The situation with the minority Fijians controlling the government is potentially dangerous, but it is working out well," the Status Commission Chairman said. Many of the Indians are in business, but they cannot get land.

Fiji was observed to have a good economy, resources and booming businesses. Fiji wants foreign capital, and the government leases land for foreign businesses. There was no doubt that Fiji can survive economically. Salii felt the Fijians are satisfied with the rate of economic development and therefore happy about political conditions.

"The reason for the relative dissent in Micronesia has been slow rate of development. Unless we wrest more political power, the slow rate will continue," Senator Salii said.

Salii saw an interesting civil service arrangement in which British civil servants are paid a salary by the Fijian government, and differentials by the British government. There is also a unified pay scale for all employees.

Fiji was a second class British Colony which provided resources and markets. Britain benefits by a higher standard of living in Fiji: The more they can buy, the more Britain can sell. Their prosperity is a plus on the books of the United Kingdom," Salii stated.

In a concluding observation on Fiji, Salii said, "They have a very smart way of going slowly toward full self-government...Great Britain has made it clear that when they want more self-government, they can have it."

### COOK ISLANDS

While the Commission did not visit the Cook Islands because of the lack of regular air transportation, the members did meet with New Zealand officials who deal with the internally self-governing Cook Islands.

"New Zealand is very generous to the Cooks; it is generosity only. New Zealand doesn't get very much out," Salii said.

The Commission was told that the only way the New Zealand grant--given three years at a time--can be cut is for the Cooks not to spend all the money over a long period. If more money is needed, the amount can be reevaluated.

The situation with the Cooks is very similar to that of Puerto Rico. "Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens when they step into New Zealand, but the benefits and obligations cease when they return," Salii concluded.

## PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

The Status Commission learned that the Australian position on Papua and New Guinea is that when P.N.G. wants independence, Australia will grant it. "I don't think Australia wants New Guinea (the only other Trust Territory remaining) to become a state of Australia. The Australians give the impression that the current arrangement is very temporary," Salii disclosed.

Papua and New Guinea is a very diverse area, with many languages and cultures. The Commission members noticed a good deal of difference between the Highlands and the coastal areas. "It is perhaps like the difference between the district centers and the outer islands in Micronesia," Salii observed. Port Moresby, the government center, is a much more developed city than anything in Micronesia.

"The Highlanders fear the coastal people. Yet the Highlanders are good businessmen. In the Highlands the people are fiercely pro-Australia. They go along with the step-by-step idea, but they might have been repeating what the Australians told them," Salii commented. He suspected that the coastal people are not so business minded because they have to compete with Australian settlers - (the government encourages settlers).

In the Highlands the Commission was told not to listen to the young radicals in the coastal regions. They did, however. One of the young leaders is John Gise, former head of the Pango Party which attracts young, educated people.

There are quite a few Papuans and New Guineans in ministerial positions, and only a few official (as opposed to elected) members in the House of Assembly.

While the Micronesian Status Commission was not subject to any discrimination, they viewed some in Port Moresby. There was at least de facto segregation in the bars and dining rooms in the hotels. In some places the Status Commission never saw non-Europeans (except themselves) and in other places, they never saw a white man.

## STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Numerous parliamentary systems of government were observed on the trip and prompted this comment from Senator Salii:

"I have a feeling as a result of this trip, that some basic features of a parliamentary system would suit our situation much better than the present system." Continuing, he noted, "The parliamentary system is much more flexible than the U.S. system. It tends to minimize the differences between the executive

and the legislature. If we had a parliamentary system, there would not be so much antagonism."

Salii said that the Congress will expect an outline of the forms of government suitable to the recommended alternatives. Hence the Commission is looking at the system in the long run.

"Our system is very expensive. A more self-dependent Micronesia may not be able to afford the present system," Salii thought.

"A strong chief executive--such as a governor--who would come from one district, may not be desirable. An executive council would take into account the differences. We are looking at the parliamentary system pretty seriously but one problem is that we are accustomed to the division of power in Micronesia. Personally I like the present system--if we can afford it," Salii said.

## OKINAWA

The Commission extended its trip to include Okinawa in order to take a closer look at the question of Okinawa's reversion to Japan. They also wanted to see the possible consequences of a huge military base in an island situation, and try to draw some parallels to Micronesia.

"The situation in Okinawa is not one-sided. While there are strong emotional ties to Japan, the U.S. military accounts for about 50 percent of the economic activity. The Okinawans seem reluctant to revert to Japan because of the economic impact that would come with the removal of the military bases.

Actually, Okinawa did not turn out to be very similar to a potential Micronesian situation since the population of Okinawa is about one million, and while the military is a major proportion of the population, it does not overwhelm.

"Here in Micronesia where you don't have an economic base, it is not a similar situation. Once you get tied up with the military, it is both good and bad," Salii commented.

## PLANS

The Commission will split into two groups to meet in the districts. The first, consisting of Sen. Salii, Rep. John Mangefel and Sen. Tosiwo Nakayama will start in Palau on the 16th of April and will go to Yap on the 25th and to Truk on the third of May, and leave Truk on May 12th for Saipan.

The other group, consisting of Senators Amata Kabua, Bailey Olter and Francisco Palacios will start in Ponape on the 16th of April and they will go to Majuro on the 26th, and then return to Saipan on the 12th of May.

## Self-Healing Bridge for Yap

A "self-painting" bridge, the first of its kind in Micronesia, will soon go under construction at Tomil Harbor in Yap. The two-lane, 100 foot long parabolic arch bridge across the lagoon entrance at Colonia, will be made of special steel alloys, causing the bridge to literally paint itself, even to healing surface scratches. No maintenance is required to give this structure its estimated life of 80 to 100 years.

The contract for fabrication of deck support beams and girders was awarded early in April to the Export Division of U.S. Steel Corp. Steel fabrication will take about 16 weeks and just before the superstructure steel arrives in July, work on the foundation will start. Some 18 weeks will be spent by District work forces on the structure itself, along with work on fills, approaches and embankment protection. The bridge opening is scheduled around the end of this year. It not only will reopen the road across the causeway, but will also permit small boat passage into the lagoon and will result in needed periodic tidal flushing of the enclosed water area.

At the same time bridge construction work is going on, the District forces will build two concrete culverts to be installed on the road to Keng Village. These 42 ton structures, 34 feet long with 9' by 18' water openings will be floated to their final position, north of Colonia, and sunk in place to repair the typhoon damaged causeway.

## Japan Visa Fees Eliminated

The Government of Japan has eliminated visa fees for TT citizens and inhabitants entering Japan. The waiver of fees went into effect April 1 after more than two years of negotiations.

Until now, TT residents had to pay a \$4.50 visa fee for every trip to Japan while residents of Japan were not charged for entries to the Trust Territory. As early as January, 1967, the then Deputy High Commissioner, Martin P. Mangan, urged that the U.S. State Department inform the Japanese government that unless the \$4.50 fee was eliminated "we shall find it necessary to achieve reciprocity through our own imposition of a charge of \$4.50 for entry permits for Japanese applications for entry to the Trust Territory."

The matter was reinforced by a 1968 Congress of Micronesia House Resolution, introduced by Representative Carlos Camacho, which formally requested the administration to urge Japan to approve such an agreement.

The conclusion of negotiations was announced simultaneously by Japan's Foreign Office and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on March 20.

## Seminar Works on Vital Statistics Improvement

The workshop seminar for TT Vital Statistics Registration Technicians concluded its two-week session April 11 on Saipan. The purposes of the seminar are to seek ways and means of improving the registration of births and deaths, to have more complete records, to review new certificates and instructions for completing them, to discuss the legal aspects of registration, and to insure that infants are given names and develop an identity.

Chief Health Statistician, Miss Virginia Breaks, observed that this particular type of seminar is the first of its kind held in the Territory in 16 years. Miss Breaks hopes for future seminars leading to more accurate population statistics on Micronesia.

## USS Tanner to Survey Ulithi Waters

The USS Tanner will soon be surveying the waters around Ulithi in Yap District as part of a Pacific-wide program to bring up-to-date the navigation charts for this area. Vital to the world's merchant shipping, as well as to vessels of Micronesia and the U.S. Navy, navigation charts for this region have not been updated for 23 years. The Tanner's survey operations, now in their fifth month, will produce complete current charts of island harbors and surrounding waters. Oceanographic surveys already have been completed by the Tanner in Truk, Palau and Ponape. The new charts will be available to the public through the U.S. Geodetic Office in Washington.

## Typhoon Relief and Field Trip Funds Sought

In order to provide funds for field trip services and typhoon relief, all conference travel outside the TT has been abolished, and conference travel within the TT may be only for essential budget planning activities for the rest of this fiscal year.

The announcement was made through a memorandum from Deputy High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan just before he left office March 31. He called for a thorough and critical review of all expenditures for the rest of the fiscal year. In addition, he directed the Commissioner for Administration to approve any proposed increases in staffing.

The moves came in anticipation of permission to reprogram funds to pay for field trip services, about \$400,000, and about \$200,000 to pay for materials given to people after Typhoon Sally in Palau in 1967. While Saipanese received over \$8.5 million in Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) aid after Typhoon Jean in 1968, Palauans had not been declared eligible for these federal funds after the 1967 typhoon Sally. The TT Administration decided to request the reprogramming of its budget to take care of this cost of materials.

## Marine Corps General Walt Meets with Territory's Leaders

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, together with Rear Adm. Philip P. Cole, Brig. Gen. H. Poggemeyer and seven other officers made a one-week swing through the Trust Territory during early April. The group spoke with elected and traditional leaders at open meetings to explain the purpose of the trip. General Walt said the Marine Corps is looking for possible training sites for fleet marine forces. His stop-over in Micronesia was planned as part of his return trip from Viet Nam to Washington, D.C.

"We are always looking for training sites, and I think you have some (in Micronesia)," the three-star general said. "There is no urgency. We need new and different areas to train in order to maintain our efficiency." Babelthup and Pelellu in Palau were listed as having good terrain. He explained that the Marines like to have many different types of training areas and those now being used in the Philippines do not provide a continuing, sufficient variety of terrain.

General Walt, the first military officer in recent times to meet publicly to discuss his visit, talked a great deal about Vietnam and particularly about civic action programs which he described as "the other half of the war in Viet Nam" that is little known outside of Southeast Asia. He pointed to improvements in medical care, construction of village dispensaries manned by U.S. military corpsmen, new schools, roads and bridges, and the progress in education which has seen the number of students in school increase from 200,000 to over 2,000,000 since the military's civic action program began.

He stressed that if the Marines were to use areas in Micronesia, they would be very interested in practicing their civic action tactics, just as they need to practice fighting tactics. He cited building roads or bridges where the people want them as

possible civic action training projects for Marine engineers.

Asked directly if the military was going to move into the Marianas, General Walt answered by saying that after he finished his reconnaissance he would report his findings to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Several times during his meeting on Saipan he said, "If we come, we will come as your guests. We won't come if you don't want us to."

Walt said that in Oknawa, where the Third Marine Division is stationed in peace time, he did not get the feeling that the Oknawans want the military out. However he noted he is always looking for basing areas.

Senator Olympio Borja of the Congress of Micronesia told Walt that the people of the Marianas would like to make the military a development program. However, he stated he would like to have outstanding land problems settled before the military comes in again.

General Walt was presented copies of resolutions passed by the Marianas District Legislature and the Saipan Municipal Legislature asking for military activities in the Marianas Islands.

Acting High Commissioner Joseph Screen concluded the meeting at the Saipan District Legislature building by noting that among the possible civic action projects, training programs could be conducted for the people of the areas involved.

After the meeting Walt was asked, "If you decide tomorrow that you wanted to use some sites in Micronesia for training, how soon would it be before you could use them?" The question was not answered with the mention of a specific period of time, but the General explained that the people of Micronesia, the Interior Department, the State Department, and other level agencies first would have to be consulted.

On the podium, at a meeting of Saipan's elected and traditional leaders, from left to right, are Adm. Phillip P. Cole, Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Brig. Gen. H. Poggemeyer, and Acting High Commissioner Joseph F. Screen.

In photo below, at an early evening reception given by Acting High Commissioner and Mrs. Screen, General Walt joins in a discussion with Bank of America's Juan B. Blanco, center, and with Air Micronesia's Phil Yates, right.



# MICROLYMPICS

## Report from Truk District Training Center

From the Eastern Carolines comes this training dispatch from the Truk MicOlympics Committee:

With the arrival of April, the preparations in selecting and training, financing and publicity of a MicOlympic team to represent Truk in the first Micronesia Olympic Games are well under way. As July rapidly approaches, it becomes obvious that this effort requires a determined and well-meaning attempt at cooperation between all residents of the Trust Territory.

Truk plans to have an entry in every event, both squad and individual, so in several sports this involves much training. Swimming, on a competitive scale, is probably the least known event, and therefore involves the greatest amount of learning. Several students have shown an interest in doing just that and are presently training under the guidance of experienced Peace Corps swimmers. The female swimmer in Truk is a bit bashful--with the social restriction on the showing of too much leg -- but girls can swim in garments other than the traditional tank suit.

The remaining, essentially Western style sports of baseball, basketball, volleyball, track and field, tennis and ping-pong are all at about the same stage of preparation and by July, Truk should have several anxious squads awaiting competition in Saipan.

The people of Truk District are particularly excited over the paddling and sailing canoe and Micronesian All-Around events. Because these involve the traditional skills of the native Micronesian, it

is expected that a great deal of excitement will surround these events and that they will draw the interest of all islanders.

Truk has been fortunate enough to have the complete support of their own District Legislature, in the form of a \$5000 appropriation, to cover the cost of training, housing and feeding during the training period, and for equipment and uniforms. The Truk MicOlympic Committee, the organization responsible for the district team, is busy publicizing the Games within the District and attempting to raise the additional money needed for this venture.

Probably one of the biggest problems facing Truk is that of transportation within the District. In order to have a team that truly represents the District, it is essential that athletes be drawn from all sections of the District and given the opportunity to try out for the MicOlympic Team. This is being done as much as possible with government support, in the form of regular Field Trip service, but the natural geography of Truk combined with the little time remaining, continue as an obstacle.

The people of Truk District are getting ready and are sure that the 1969 Micronesia Olympic Games will provide to be a tremendous occasion for unity and TT-wide enjoyment. The MicOlympics should cast the spotlight on athletic competition, and perhaps give sports a new impetus, something that has long been lacking in the Trust Territory. People throughout Truk and Micronesia have something very special to talk about -- their first MicOlympics.

### PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST MICROLYMPICS



Truk District's Women's Track and Field, and Volleyball Teams.

## Work Starts on New Truk Hospital

Truk's new \$2.9 million hospital went into its construction phase early in April with the start of \$2.2 million worth of contracted services. In addition to work by the contractor, the TT government will spend another \$.7 million in site preparation and the final equipping of the hospital. By the middle of 1970, the new general hospital should be ready for operation, offering complete general medical services in a 150-bed plant.

The project, which is expected to employ as many as 120 local residents, is a joint venture of three Seattle-based firms, operating as Beck and Associates.

In an interview with Truk's newspaper, *Met Poraus*, Project Manager Bill King said that only about ten American supervisors would be on the job and that all labor will be hired locally. This will include carpenters, iron workers, painters and others. "We'll take the people and teach them," King said, adding, "We built a hospital in American Samoa using locally hired personnel whom we trained."

The first shipment of material and a portion of \$200,000 worth of equipment arrived at Moen late in March aboard the cargo ship *Aase Nielsen*. Also unloaded was a prefabricated 8-unit apartment building which will house the supervisors of the multi-million dollar project.

The month of April will be spent in site preparation by District Public Works and simultaneous form construction by the contractor. Among the first jobs was the start of drilling 400 holes, 40 feet deep, as part of the new hospital's foundation.



Getting into condition are Truk's Men's Track and Field Team and

## Educators Return from Hawaii Training

Eighteen Micronesian educators have returned home from a six month refresher education program sponsored jointly by the East-West Center, College of Education of the Univ. of Hawaii, and the TT Department of Education. The group, representing all six districts, included principals and education administrators from elementary school division. Their studies included classes and seminars in educational administration as well as individual college courses selected to meet their own interests.

According to Carl Daeufer, coordinator of secondary and teacher education, the main intent of the program was to give Micronesian administrators a broader view of education and to enlarge their understanding of eventual goals of education in Micronesia. Daeufer explained that many of the Micronesians in the education department have plenty of experience but very little training in administration. He said he hoped this program in Hawaii would give them the confidence they need to do their job effectively.

Last year, vice-principals of TT high schools were sent to Hawaii for special training and next year's plans call for sending 24 more Micronesians to Hawaii with emphasis again on elementary education.

Participants in this year's program were: Isaac Calvo, Roman Villagomez and David Sandbergen, Marianas; Kenzi Mad, Umetaro Ngiramengior, and Masami Siksei, Palau; Thomas Tamanged and Cyril Uluch, Yap; Pancer Lippwe, Net Sangau, Sachuo Bulichi and Rerat Robert, Truk; Jima Alik, Lee Mellan and Hatfield Lemae, Marshalls; and Aaron Sigrah, Martiniano Rodriguez and Conrad Musrasrik, Ponape.

Coach Susumu Aizawa's Baseball Team.



Eight TT high school juniors have been awarded American Field Service Scholarships to study during their senior year in American high schools. Recipients of the scholastic awards include Sebastian L. Anefal, Yap; Francisca Bismark, Palau; Magdalena Castro, Saipan; Rosalie Kono, Marshalls; Luey L. Luey, Ponape; Robat Ngacheed, Palau; Epel K. Suuthe, Truk; and Maurina B. Weilbacker, Ponape. This will be the third group of TT students sponsored by this particular scholarship.

The American Field Service International Scholarship is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping foreign students acquire an education in the U.S. The TT government has provided transportation to and from the States plus a \$100 clothing allowance. In addition, the students will receive about \$14 for monthly incidental expenses from the AFS Scholarship.

As part of the program AFS has arranged for each student to stay with an American family while attending school.

**Justice and Equality Depends Upon Law and You!**

May 1 was proclaimed as Law Day for the TT by former Acting High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan just before leaving office. An annual occasion, which coincides with Law Day in the U.S., this observance has as its 1969 theme "Justice and Equality Depends Upon Law and You!"

In issuing the proclamation, Mangan said, "All of us recognize that representative government depends for vitality and strength upon citizen participation in its processes. The broader that participation, the more effective and just government will be.

The Eleventh Regular Session of the Ponape District Legislature adjourned on Friday, Mar. 14, after three weeks of work. Some 59 bills and 22 resolutions were introduced, according to Ponape's newspaper, Senyavin Times.

Twenty-two bills and 10 resolutions were passed and sent on to the District Administration for approval. If approved, the largest share of funds would go to the Ponape Transportation Board with the second greatest amount to the operation of the District Legislature. Many of the minor appropriation bills passed were not funded because of lack of sufficient funds.

Speaker Itor Harris complimented the lawmakers for accomplishing more than expected and commended them for their honest consideration of all bills and resolutions assigned to them. He further stated that the standing of the Legislature has greatly improved as can be witnessed by the intention of each piece of legislation passed during such a short period of time.

"Every citizen thus has a responsibility to his country and his community," the Acting High Commissioner said, adding, "he has a duty to observe the laws, to support the agencies of law enforcement and the courts, and also to recognize the rights of others and assist in advancing the equality of justice and opportunity for all."

This May 1st will be the 12th annual Law Day for the U.S. and the 7th for the Trust Territory. It is proclaimed by joint resolution of the President and Congress for the United States and by proclamation by the High Commissioner for the Trust Territory.

**Did You Know**

that a COMMITTEE, in legislative language, is a small group of members appointed to investigate, or study or act on a specific matter ?

Because there are so many bills and resolutions introduced in Congress, it is most efficient to have small groups of lawmakers study the legislation rather than have the full Congress try to examine every one in detail. Therefore, new legislation is assigned to a committee - - school matters to the Education Committee, medical affairs to the Health Committee, money raising matters to the Ways and Means Committee, money spending matters to the Appropriations Committee, etc.

The committee makes a thorough study of the proposed legislation. It calls in witnesses

from outside Congress to present their thoughts and advice. When the hearing is completed, the committee makes its recommendation.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives will consider its committee's reports and after debate, each house will vote on the matter. Sometimes the committee's recommendations are approved and sometimes they are not. But in studying the matter and making its report, the committee has performed its function.

Most Congressional committees meet during the Congressional sessions. Often a committee will be appointed to carry on work between sessions; such as the Future Political Status Commission or the Committee on Government Organization. These groups are conducting their hearings now and will offer their recommendations when Congress convenes again in July.



# Briefly

Truk High School reopened Mar. 31 after having been closed for five weeks due to unsanitary conditions brought on by the current water shortage. According to Met Poraus, Truk District newspaper, Truk High's principal, Harold Christensen, said the school administration is proud of the studies and work done by students during the period of interrupted classes. The pupils carried out projects including work on construction of a 2,000 gallon water catchment, painting some classrooms, developing a bathing area below the water tank, and clearing up of Southfield, an off-campus community development project. Seniors did not miss any classes and some thrice-weekly "enrichment" classes were begun for the other on-campus students. Christensen estimated that close to 200 students had not been attending any classes as a result of the closing of the school. "The time lost," he said, "will be treated the same way it would be in the American high school with the teacher covering the high points of the lessons missed." The temporary shut down of the school had been recommended by the Department of Public Health.

Palau's district newspaper, Didal A Chais, celebrated its first anniversary April 1 with a 27 page well-rounded, informative, lively edition. States an editorial, "Putting DAC's first issue alongside this one, the difference is enormous. DAC has experience and has attained self confidence. DAC is now a man." As a birthday wish, the mimeographed weekly (sometimes bi-weekly) newspaper has its heart set on a printing press of its own.

Two representatives of Interior Secretary Walter Hickel made a six-district tour during the second week of April together with a member of the staff of the Commander in Chief of Pacific armed forces. The two civilians, Ron Walker and Edgar Kaiser and Navy Captain, Larry Budnick, were accompanied on the territory-wide tour by Commissioner for Public Affairs, N. Neiman Craley, Jr.

The Nam Trading Company (NTC) has gone out of business after 12 years of operation in the Yap District. Most of the stock is owned by Outer Island people. Continuous financial problems finally brought NTC's board of directors to make the decision to sell all its remaining merchandise and close its books.

Two Palau residents, who set off on a lobster expedition Sunday afternoon, Mar. 16, lost their boat and became stranded on an eastern reef of Koror during a period of high waves. Rescued by the Bureau of Fisheries boat Emeraech after spending 20 hours on a coral rock were Robert Moncrief of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Patrick Bryan, a Peace Corps Volunteer. An all night search was conducted by the Emeraech and three Van Camp fishing boats.



Joseph Ayin, Community Development Officer for Yap District, has left on a six-month field study tour of Southeast Asia under the sponsorship of a United Nations technical assistance program. His UN Fellowship will take him to five countries, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Pakistan and Ceylon where he will study social life. The fellowship is programmed to give each participant a broader knowledge in his specific field of work.

Yap's newly independent newspaper, Mogethin, was revived Mar. 28 after eight months of absence from island wunbeys. Formerly delivered free house-to-house around Yap (a unique service in Micronesia) the paper will now go on sale for a nickel a copy with the hope of soon operating on a financially independent basis.

The TT's proposed budget for fiscal year 1970 includes pay raises of approximately 10% for Micronesian personnel. If approved, this will be the first increase since 1967.

Three bills have been introduced in Washington relating to TT matters: one is a Senate bill calling for a 15-member commission and up to \$200,000 for studying future political status and meeting with the Micronesian Future Political Status Commission. A second is a Senate bill allowing Micronesians to enlist in the U.S. Army and Air Force without first having to attain permanent U.S. residence status. The third, a pair of identical bills presented in both the Senate and House, would eliminate tariffs on Micronesian goods exported to the U.S. The tariff bills would have the TT treated the same way as the American territories of Guam and American Samoa.

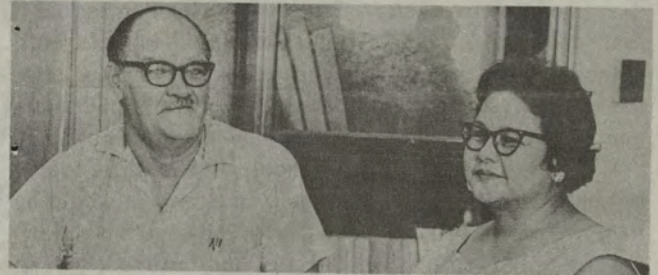
## Employees Rewarded for Excelling in Job Performance

Four government employees have been rewarded for excelling in their jobs and have received cash awards totaling \$500. Ceremonies honoring the group were held Apr. 11 in the office of Acting High Commissioner Joseph F. Screen. The incentive award system provides that employees may receive a dividend by investing into their jobs more skill and effort than is required. Based on savings to the government, the awards system pays off in two ways: one, for tangible savings such as inventions or other improvements to a job method, and two, for intangible savings such as an individual's work performance much greater than the job requires.

Receiving official thanks, congratulations and a check from Acting HiCom Screen were Bernice Pangelinan, clerk-typist in the Budget Office, Jaime Sasamoto, teletype-mechanic with Communications and Jose Taitano, electronics-mechanic with Communications, all of whom received checks for \$100 each. A \$200 award was given to Asuncion Torres, senior medical clerk. Hers was larger than the others because of the length of outstanding service, more than five years.

An employee may be nominated for an award by his supervisor. All nominations are studied by the Incentive Awards Committee which recommends appropriate action to be taken by the High Commissioner.

Bernice with her check, Asuncion with her Supervisor E. B. Andrew, and James Gima stands between his two award winning employees, Jose & Jaime, with the HiCom.



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 C. M. Ashman, Editor  
 Public Information Office  
 TRUST TERRITORY of the PACIFIC ISLANDS  
 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950



VIA AIR MAIL

