

Wakako ext

HIGHLIGHTS



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

April 1, 1978

Truk District to Elect Governor

Truk will become the first district to have a general election for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the full-time District Legislature.

District Administrator Mitaro Danis last month signed a proclamation designating August 8, 1978, as the date for the first general election under the new Charter for the Truk District Government.

In signing the proclamation, Danis urged all eligible and qualified voters in Truk to participate in this "historic" event.

In a brief ceremony in his office, DistAd Danis congratulated the members of the Legislature for a job well-done. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of the people of Truk to High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel for granting more political autonomy to Truk.

Prior to signing the proclamation, Danis went on the air at the radio station to inform the general public that the Charter for Truk took effect March 14, 1978.

High Commissioner Winkel recently amended the Truk Charter relating to the first general election. The amendment states that the general election shall be held not less than ninety days after the effective date of the Charter.

Winkel's amendment first called for the general election to be held on June 8, but he changed it later at the request of the Truk District leadership to August 8 to give sufficient time for the district government to prepare for the election.

To date, only the Truk District Charter has been signed into law. During the recently concluded Regular Session of the Congress of Micronesia, the Charters for Ponape, Yap, and Kosrae districts were passed and sent to the High Commissioner for action.

HiCom Signs Referendum Bill

High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel on March 27 signed into law a bill to provide a fair and impartial Referendum on the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia scheduled to be held in all six districts on July 12, 1978.

The bill provides for the establishment of a Constitutional Referendum Board, and special district referendum commissioners, special district referendum boards and procedures to insure that the referendum is properly conducted. The Board will have the overall responsibility of supervising and administering the Referendum.

Winkel said that he signed the bill with a "great deal of reluctance", adding that there are "many problems" in the bill which caused him to "seriously consider" disapproving it.

Saying that either approval or disapproval of the bill would "create problems", the High Commissioner asked the cooperation of the Micronesian leaders to insure "satisfactory administration of the Referendum."

"However, it is obvious that the Congress feels strongly that it should have a voice in the conduct of the forthcoming Referendum," Winkel stated. "Disapproval of the bill . . . could raise questions about the credibility of a Referendum conducted without the participation of the Congress."

Under the authority granted him in the bill, the High Commissioner appointed Tony DeBrum of the Marshalls District and Johnson Toribiong of Palau District to serve

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Five Peace Corps volunteers assigned to Yap took their oath of office from DistAd Edmund Gilmar in a brief ceremony held on Yap last month. The volunteers had completed seven weeks of training in Yapese languages and customs. They have been assigned to work in various government offices in Yap. Present at the ceremony at the DistAd's office were (l-r) Yap District Peace Corps Representative Constantine Yinug, DistAd Special Assistant Samuel Falanruw, volunteers Addison Hayes, Shi Ming Hu, Deborah Milks, Charles Novo-Gradac, Phyllis Schaffner, and DistAd Gilmar.



More on Referendum Bill

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on the Board. DeBrum is the Vice-Chairman of the Marshalls Political Status Commission and Johnson Toribiong is a legislator and a member of the Palau Political Status Commission.

Winkel also appointed N. Neiman Craley, Jr., Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs, to be his personal representative on the Board. Special Assistant for District Affairs J. Boyd Mackenzie is to serve full-time on matters relative to the administration of the Referendum as the HiCom's personal representative "because of the extreme seriousness and great importance" of this upcoming event.

The Congress of Micronesia members are Senator Hiroshi Ismael of Kosrae, Senate Vice-President Ambilos Iehsi of Ponape, and House Floor Leader Luke M. Tman of Yap.

Winkel summoned members of the Board for its first meeting, which was held March 21-24 at Headquarters.

The High Commissioner said that he approved the bill because it offers the people of Micronesia and their leaders "a vehicle by which they can demonstrate to themselves and to the world at large whether or not they possess the political maturity and stability to cooperatively engage in the exercise of their right of self-determination."

"The leaders of Micronesia, and the people, will be on display for all of the world to see and to judge whether or not they are ready and prepared to cooperate in achieving their ultimate objectives, zealously protecting their own legitimate rights, and, with equal zeal, protecting and respecting the right of others," the High Commissioner said in his statement released to the press.

Winkel urged opponents as well as proponents of the Constitution to voice their opinions of the issues if the Referendum is to be successful.

High Commissioner Winkel said that he signed the measure to ensure that the forthcoming Referendum will be "a people's Referendum."

"Whether or not it will be, or whether or not it is so judged to be, will depend upon you, the people of the Trust Territory, and your leaders," Winkel concluded.

Mondale Will not Visit T.T.

United States Vice President Walter Mondale will not visit the Trust Territory during his up-coming tour of five Pacific and Asian nations, according to word received on Saipan.

Dick Moe, Mondale's chief of staff, has informed T.T. HiCom Adrian P. Winkel that the Vice President's tight schedule would not allow him to stop over on Saipan.

Winkel and Northern Marianas Gover Carlos Camacho in February invited Mondale to visit Saipan.

Mondale's tour of the five nations was originally scheduled for April 6 to 16. However, the trip has been postponed until shortly after the vote on the Panama Canal treaty in the U.S. Senate is taken, United Press International reported. The debate on the treaty is scheduled to be completed on April 25, UPI added. Mondale will visit New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Referendum Board

The recently-created Constitutional Referendum Board late last month appointed District Administrators of the six districts in the Trust Territory as Referendum Commissioners of the Referendum on the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia, according to N. Neiman Craley, Jr., the High Commissioner's Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs who was elected by the Board as its Chairman.

Craley told the Micronesian News Service on March 27 that during the March 21-24 meeting, the Board members decided that the Referendum Commissioners, on "this special assignment", will be responsible to the Board and will not be able to campaign freely in their districts.

During the meeting, Craley continued, the members reviewed a proposed list of regulations which will be used during the upcoming July 12th Referendum. The Board expects to meet again on Saipan on April 11 and will finalize the regulations, Craley said, adding that the Referendum regulations are based primarily on Title 43 of the Trust Territory Code, which is the Election Law.

The Board, in last month's meeting, requested the Referendum Commissioners to turn in to the Board by March 30 copies of their master voting lists. The Board has also requested the Commissioners to submit to the Board their suggested lists of their special district referendum boards by April 4.

According to Craley, the Board has asked the Referendum Commissioners to also submit their suggested lists of vote tabulators. Based on that, the Board will select the District Referendum Boards and the District Vote Tabulators during its next meeting.

"I am very pleased with the members of the Board," Craley said, noting that they were most helpful and contributed a lot to the successful completion of the meeting. The members have all returned to their respective districts.

Those who attended the Board meeting were Senator Ambilos Iehsi, representing Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama; Rep. Luke Tman, representing Speaker of the House Bethwel Henry; Senator Hiroshi Ismael, appointee of the Presiding Officers of the Congress of Micronesia; Craley, representing the HiCom; Tony DeBrum and Johnson Toribiong, appointees of the High Commissioner.

The Board, in last month's meeting, elected Craley as Chairman of the Board and Senator Ismael as Vice Chairman. Daiziro Nakamura, Chief of Political Affairs Division, was nominated Staff Director; and Janet Craley, Journal Clerk for the Senate, Congress of Micronesia, was chosen as Recording Secretary.

J. Boyd Mackenzie, Special Assistant for District Affairs, has been identified by the HiCom as "liaison" officer of the Board with the Executive Branch, and Tom Mattson, Congress attorney, as "liaison" officer of the Board with the Congress. Both of these men have attended the Board meetings, but they are not members of the Board nor are they Board staff members, Craley said.

Next Status Talks Announced

Formal invitations have been sent to the Marshalls, Palau and the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition for a "Heads of Delegation" meeting scheduled for April 7-9 at Hilo, Hawaii.

According to Jerry Bennett of the Status Liaison Office on Saipan, the U.S. "hopes to explore the proposal of the concept of Free Association advanced at the last meeting in San Diego, with a view toward reaching agreement on several principles which it (free association) contains."

The invitation came from Ambassador Peter Rosenblatt, the President's Personal Representative to the Micronesian Status Negotiations, to all negotiating parties last month.

Bennett said he has consulted with the heads of delegation of all three commissions and the new dates are acceptable to most.

All three Micronesian negotiating parties have not yet submitted names of their delegation, as of press time.

Bennett said Ambassador Rosenblatt and several others from the U.S. State Department and the Office of the Micronesian Status Negotiations in Washington will attend the meeting, which will be held at the Hilo Lagoon Hotel.

At the San Diego talks in January this year, all three negotiating parties rejected the latest U.S. proposal on Free Association.

Truk Airport Project Money

The U.S. Department of Transportation has allocated \$3.7 million for airport improvements during fiscal year 1978 in the Trust Territory.

According to Elias Okamura, Deputy Director of Transportation and Communications, the funds will be used as part of the \$20 million for the construction of the Truk International Airport.

The \$3.7 million was part of the \$66 million allocated for airport improvements across the nation by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Okamura said the Truk Airport project was advertised in November of last year and the bid was opened March 2nd. The Navy's OICC and the Trust Territory Government is still reviewing and evaluating all the bids and will make an announcement soon.

Approval of the bid needs FAA's permission, Okamura said.

Lokopwe Receives Travel Grant

A senior Micronesian student at the University of Guam has been selected by the U.S. State Department to receive the East Asian and Pacific Student Leadership grant. The project will enable the recipient to travel for six weeks to several points of interest in the United States.

Matthew, a political science major, began his U.S. tour March 28. He was selected by the Status Liaison Office on Saipan over the other candidates.

Lokopwe, President of the Micronesian Students Organization at UOG, is the second T.T. student selected for the program. The first was Flavian Carlos of Palau who received similar grant last year.

Winkel Attends Budget Hearing

Trust Territory High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel left Saipan for Washington on April 1 to attend hearings on the Trust Territory Fiscal Year 1979 budget before the Senate and House Appropriation Committees.

The \$106.92 million budget was submitted to the Interior Department in September of last year.

Program and Budget Officer Tom Crossan said if the bill is approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Carter, the funds will be available by August. Fiscal Year 1979 begins October first.

The High Commissioner was accompanied to Washington by Crossan and Budget Officer Haruo Wilter.

While in Washington, the HiCom plans to meet with Interior Department and other officials concerned with Ebeye problems, Kosrae Airport project, Indefinite Land Use Agreements, and the Bikini Rehabilitation Programs.

The HiCom is expected to return to Saipan the middle part of April.

Trusk & Harris Leave T.T. Government

Dr. Robert Trusk, Project Manager for the United Nations Development Program in the Trust Territory, and Pedro Harris, Chief of the Division of Plan Implementation within the Office of Planning and Statistics, recently concluded their employment with the Trust Territory Government, Lazarus Salii, Director of the Office of Planning and Statistics, said March 15 on Saipan.

Dr. Trusk, who has worked in the Trust Territory as head of the UNDP since October 1975, concluded his employment in the Trust Territory on March 17. He left Saipan March 19 for New York, where he will be reassigned to a position within the United Nations system, according to Salii.

A replacement to head the UNDP in the Trust Territory has been made to the United Nations, Salii indicated, but so far nobody has been nominated for the post.

Dr. Trusk came to the Trust Territory in 1975 to work on the Trust Territory Government's Five-Year Indicative Development Plan. While in the Trust Territory, Dr. Trusk was instrumental in getting teams of United Nations experts to help formulate the indicative development plan. Trusk also served as Senior Economic Advisor to the T.T. Government.

In other related developments, Pedro Harris, an employee of the Office of Planning and Statistics, resigned from the Trust Territory Government effective March 17, Salii said.

Harris has expressed his intention to return to Ponape to go into private business.

Before Harris joined the Office of Planning and Statistics in January of 1976, he worked in the T.T. Department of Personnel for three years as Chief of the Training Division.

Air Mike's Proposal Suspended

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) has ordered suspension of — and investigation into — passenger fare increases proposed by Continental Air Micronesia (Air Mike) on flights from Honolulu to Micronesia and flights within Micronesia.

The order, according to Gannett News Service, means no increases will be allowed until July.

In its March 16 order, the CAB said that although Air Mike explained in "considerable detail" its rationale, "the fact is that the fare structure proposed deviates substantially from its alleged cost structure."

Further, the CAB noted, "The proposal would increase fares in markets, which, by Continental's own calculations, are already above cost."

Air Mike General Manager Gene Hassing said on Saipan that delay on the implementation of the proposed air fare structures probably will result in additional loss to the airline of between six to eight hundred thousand dollars for the first six months of this year.

"We are confident and optimistic that (the CAB) will grant the increase in order for us to obtain a profit from the operation," Hassing said. "But whether they will approve the fare changes as presented or not, that I don't know."

The Air Mike General Manager said the airline is asking for a 15 per cent overall increase.

The airline has proposed that the first phase of the new fare increase become effective March first and the second phase in September of this year. Hassing said that he is not sure if there will be two phases because of the delay.

"... We'll have to restudy our position on it to determine if we can still (implement) the phase one and phase two type proposal," he said. "We may have to reevaluate the whole matter and look at a different method depending on what the CAB's findings are and how long it takes them to reach a conclusion," he noted.

Hassing said he has "no idea" when the CAB will begin its study on the proposal.

Former Deputy HiCom Passed Away



Former Deputy High Commissioner Jose A. Benitez died of heart attack in Puerto Rico on March 13. Benitez was Trust Territory Deputy High Commissioner from 1961 to 1963. He is survived by his wife Reina and two children. Mrs. Benitez's address is 1377 Wilson Avenue, Condado,

Puerto Rico.

The last time Benitez was in the Trust Territory was during the June 1975 Plebiscite on the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Covenant when he visited Saipan on personal business. It was during that time that Saipan's *Marianas Variety* took the above photo.

Dry Season in T.T.

A spokesperson for the Trust Territory Environmental Health Division confirmed last month that there is a severe drought in all district centers in Micronesia except Ponape.

The spokesperson was responding to an article which appeared in Guam's *Pacific Daily News* relating to drought.

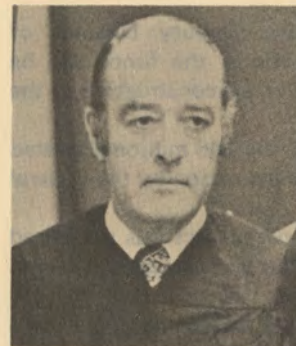
The water shortage, combined with substandard water quality, is posing serious health hazards in many district centers. Water must be boiled before use, the spokesman said.

TT officials expect the health situation to worsen if the drought continues.

Most of the district centers have been on water rationing recently. At present, the water is on for six hours a day in Koror, Palau; four hours a day in Colonia, Yap; 90 minutes in Moen, Truk; three hours a day in Majuro and two hours a day in Ebeye, both in the Marshalls.

In some district centers, the water has to be turned off for days. Colonia, Ponape, is the only district center not experiencing a water shortage. Kosrae District has enough water to avoid rationing. On Saipan, water is turned off from 9 p.m. until 5:30 a.m.

Judge Brown Dies on Ponape



Trust Territory Associate Justice Arvin H. Brown, Jr., died at nine o'clock Sunday night (March 19) in Colonia, Ponape. He was sixty years old.

Ponape District Attorney Minor Pounds said Brown died of a heart attack at his home. His body was flown to San Diego, California, for burial Tuesday night (March 21).

Funeral mass was held at the Catholic Mission in Colonia before the body was taken to San Diego.

District judges in Ponape, Pounds said, cancelled court hearings March 20-21, adding that flags in Ponape flew at half-mast from March 20 to the burial date.

Brown has served as Associate Justice for the T.T. High Court since October 1970. He first served in Palau, and went on to Yap in June 1972, serving there until his departure to Ponape in October 1974. He has been in Ponape ever since.

He is one of the four associate justices of the Trust Territory High Court. The other associate justices are Mamoru Nakamura, Robert Hefner, and E.F. Gianotti. The Chief Justice is Harold W. Burnett.

Brown is survived by his wife, Kathleen, who was on Ponape at the time of his death, and three sons and a daughter.

Winkel Approves Congress Budget

Trust Territory High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel late last month signed into law a \$1.7 million budget for the Congress of Micronesia for Congressional Fiscal Year 1979 (HB 7-400).

The breakdown for the Congress budget includes \$377,303 for the Senate; \$630,362 for the House of Representatives; \$452,309 for the Office of the Legislative Counsel; \$107,000 for miscellaneous expenses; \$126,000 for district delegations; and \$50,000 for "outside legal counsel."

The \$1.7 million appropriation was the largest amount to pass the recently concluded Second Regular Session of the Seventh Congress.

High Commissioner Winkel also approved \$239,848 to fund the operations of the Office of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents of the College of Micronesia (SB 7-156).

Other appropriation bills signed into law by Winkel are:

—\$187,186 from the Trust Territory Social Security Retirement Fund for the operation and contingent expenses of the Social Security Administration (HB 7-336).

—\$137,800 for the operating expenses of the Micronesian delegation to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference (SB 7-174);

—\$35,000 to offset recently increased per diem rate for Ponape District (SB 7-196);

—\$25,000 for the operating expenses of the T.T. Personnel Board for Congressional Year 1979 (HB 7-317);

—\$30,000 for the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) for agriculture training and research (HB 7-321); and,

—\$3,000 for Micronesia's contribution to the South Pacific Commission (HB 7-329).

A bill to codify the existing organizational structure of the Office of the Legislative Counsel and to create the Finance and Accounting Office within the Legislative Counsel's office was also signed into law (HB 7-319).

The purpose of this legislation is six-fold: to provide a new method of selecting the Legislative Counsel for the Congress of Micronesia; to provide for the position of Assistant Legislative Counsel; to update and clarify the duties and responsibilities of the Legislative Counsel; to provide for a Congressional administrative manual by statute; to outline the structure of the Office of the Legislative Counsel including a new Finance and Accounting Office; and to make the Legislative Counsel responsible for the equipment and supplies of the Senate and House.

Also signed into law was a measure to continue in force without expiration those chapters in the TT Code which provide guidelines for the acquisition of land by the government and establish a policy for the fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced by such acquisition (HB 7-332).

Other measures signed into law will:

—Make a technical amendment to the tax law relating to withholding of tax by employer under Title 77 of the TT Code (HB 7-235);

—Clarify the intent of Public Law 7-61 which appropriated \$100,000 to defray the relocation expenses of both the Congress of Micronesia and the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition from Saipan to Ponape District (HB 7-316).

—Extend the lapsing date of some \$314,000 appropriated funds under PL 7-47 for various public projects in the Marshalls District for one more year, to March 31, 1979 (HB 7-391);

—To raise the compensation of members of the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition from \$30 a day to \$50 a day while on the business of the Commission (SB 7-160), and the following private bills, which make Paul Santos (SB 7-210); Merly Apis (SB 7-207); Shingeko I. Bualuay (HB 7-384); Narciso Reyes (HB 7-346); and Robert K. Etscheit eligible for naturalization as citizens of the Trust Territory.

As of March 31, 23 bills from the recent session of the Congress had been signed into law and one bill vetoed.

Actouka Appointed Energy Planner



Marcelino K. Actouka of Ponape District recently joined the Office of Planning and Statistics, Headquarters, as the Energy Planner. In this capacity, he will be addressing the needs for renewable sources of energy, such as solar, bio-conversion, wind, ocean, geo-thermal, and hydroelectric.

Actouka worked with the Department of Public Works for over three years prior to joining Planning. From 1974-75, he was attached to the Utilities Division of the Ponape Department of Public Works. In the fall of 1975, he joined the Headquarters Department of Public Works as an Electrical Engineer in the Operations and Maintenance Division. He provided services to the Design and Engineering Division of the same department immediately prior to his transfer to Planning and Statistics.

An alumnus of Xavier High School in Truk, Actouka received a diploma in Electronic Engineering Technology from the Electronics Institute of Hawaii in 1970 and a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hawaii in 1974. While at the University of Hawaii, he participated in a pilot research project on solar-sea power plants.

Ballendorf Appointed Acting Chancellor

The College of Micronesia Board of Regents announced on March 23 the appointment of Dirk A. Ballendorf as the Acting Chancellor of the College of Micronesia.

Ballendorf is presently the Director of the Community College of Micronesia located in Kolonia, Ponape.

The Board's action came in a letter to Dr. Ballendorf from the Rector, Marcellino Umwech, after consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board.

Dr. Leonard Kaufer of the Headquarters Department of Education was the acting Chancellor named in January but he has had to leave the Trust Territory for the U.S. mainland for family reasons.

Umwech told Dr. Ballendorf in his letter to continue the development of the College's budget for presentation by the Regents to the Congressional committee which is in Washington this month for budget hearings.

T.T. Fire Protection Inadequate

Fire protection capabilities in all six districts of Micronesia are in a "deplorable state of affairs," said Tom Brennan, T.T. Deputy Superintendent of Public Safety.

Brennan recently travelled throughout the districts where he made on-sight inspections of existing fire facilities.

In his report to the Attorney General, Brennan stated that the fire trucks in all districts were five years old and some are "barely in running condition."

"This has resulted," Brennan reported, "... in Air Micronesia overflying airports because no fire protection is available."

Fire fighting equipment and accessories are nearly "non-existent" at all except Palau and the Marshalls Districts. Fire stations in Micronesia range from "non-existent to sheds, usually constructed with surplus corrugated steel."

He said most of the 19 firemen in the Trust Territory also function as police officers when manpower shortages occur. Their training has been "sporadic and inadequate".

In the past, he continued, about 50 firemen were hired and trained under CETA and EEA (Emergency Employment Act) programs but when the programs terminated, most of them were not retained.

Nearly all structures which have caught fire in the Trust Territory have been total losses.

Brennan blamed the inadequate fire protection facilities on the Administration, the Congress of Micronesia, and the district legislatures for their "failure to recognize the importance of the comparable growth of the fire protective function along with other areas of progress."

Brennan recommended that the T.T. Government attempt to obtain funds from Federal agencies to upgrade equipment, and possibly provide training for firemen.

He also reported that there is a "critical shortage of trained firemen" in all districts except Palau.

Brennan recommended that the T.T. Government establish its own Fire Code. "With the increase in tourism and the continued construction of high rise hotels, a fire code becomes a critical matter."

New Student Services Officer

Danny J. Leopold of Ponape District was hired effective March 29 as the new Student Services Officer for the Headquarters Department of Education.

In his position, Leopold will be responsible, among other things, for assisting Micronesian students attending schools outside of Micronesia as well as coordinating the placements of Micronesian students planning to attend institutions of higher learning.

The new Student Services Officer is a long-time employee of the Ponape District Department of Education. Prior to his selection, Leopold was the School Counselor at PICS High School. He was also the former Associate Assistant District Director of Education from 1973-1978, and worked as a Scholarship and Testing Coordinator for Ponape from 1969-1973. He was employed as the Elementary School Supervisor for one year.

Leopold received his B.A. degree in Theology at the Honolulu Christian College in 1961, received another B.A. degree in History from Heidelberg College in Ohio in 1964 and in 1974-75 took graduate courses in Education Administration in the same school.

He will replace Terry Edvalson, who terminated his employment with the Trust Territory Government last year.

Leopold and his wife, Anako, have seven children.

Young Adult Conservation Corps Announced

The Division of Community Development announced the start up on March 13, of the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC), a youth employment program aimed primarily at unemployed and out-of-school youth 19-23 years old. A total of 270 YACC enrollee slots are allotted to the Trust Territory for work on public lands, waters and facilities. The program is organized similar to the summer YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) for 15-18 year olds which has been operating for several years.

YACC provides 12 months of work on projects designed to make a meaningful contribution to island development and to increase the future employability of enrollees. Funds are provided by the Department of Interior through the Office of Territorial Affairs. An intensive administrative workshop was recently conducted on Saipan led by Interior Officials Peggy Roche from OTA and Richard Erickson of the Bureau of Reclamation. District YACC managers attending were Lomodaro Jonathan (Marshalls), Edison Kojjo (Ebeye), Wagner Lawrence (Ponape), Noah Rubin (Truk), Luke Moon (Yap), and Timarong Sisor (Palau). Representatives from Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas Government also participated.

Further information may be obtained from the district managers listed above or Jerry Craddock, Headquarters Community Development at telephone number 9328.

PERSONNEL NEWS AND INFORMATION

News

A current development in the program for replacing expatriate employees with qualified Trust Territory citizen employees is agreement by the Department of Labor that CETA monies be used to fund — for up to two years — interim positions understudy to the regular positions now occupied by the expatriates. The Trust Territory citizens understudying the positions will be selected by a special committee, through competition and in accordance with merit principles, on the basis of past performance, present level of readiness, and potential for assuming full performance of the target permanent position, to be an associate of the expatriate at a pay level a little below the target position. A specific plan will be developed for each associate for gradual take-over of the target position responsibilities until those positions duties are fully performed. Concurrently, the expatriate will participate in administering the "take-over" plan, in seeking employment elsewhere, and otherwise preparing for his exit. Upon qualifying fully for the regular position, the associate will be promoted to it from the understudy position.

The proposal that the trusteeship end in the near future and the increasing number of Trust Territory citizens with education at a higher level or in greater technical depth and with broader work experience work together toward realizing a maximum number of qualified Trust Territory citizens filling our governmental positions. This is as it should be. The above described program facilitates our objective.

Information

Job Qualifications — Task Evaluation.

After background research and all task gathering — including interviewing — have been completed and documented, the tasks are evaluated to determine the necessary knowledges, skills and abilities (KSA) required for successful performance of all the tasks comprising the job. This is possibly the most crucial part of the job qualifications determination process; if not properly done, the qualifications are not valid: the selection of the eligibles will be wrong, training will not be for the tasks to be performed, etc. The process of task evaluation is one of the most highly technical skills required in the personnel processes. A number of evaluating standards and methods are available to the personnel specialist when evaluating tasks for KSA.

One of the most used is their classification by relationship to people, relationship to data, and relationship to things. For relationship to people — does the task require the performer to counsel, to persuade, to supervise, to teach, etc? For relationship to data — is the data computed, analyzed, originated, copied, etc? For relationship to things — does the task require precision working, operating manipulating, etc?

Another category is educational skills: Does the task require reasoning, mathematical skill, language skill, etc? Aptitudes required are determined: learning, verbal, numerical, analytical, etc. And, for all of these, the kind

and degree (or level) must be determined; as an example, the task of writing for publication requires a different language skill than the task of a foreman of tradesman.

The importance of specific tasks is considered:

- frequency; is it often performed, or rarely.
- time required; some tasks are very time consuming, others are completed quickly.
- specific knowledges utilized.
- consequence of error; some tasks not performed correctly have little impact, but others could be quite serious — like giving the wrong medicine.
- relationship to other tasks.
- appropriateness to level of job; all jobs are a mix of tasks, some of which, while necessary, are not as important as others.

This type of evaluation permits determining the importance within the overall job of the KSAs required for the individual tasks.

As noted above, any job has a mix of tasks with varying degrees of value and importance: some tasks must be performed properly and efficiently, if the job is to be effective; other tasks, while necessary, do not have great impact on total job performance; and some tasks must be performed — even if not performed often — if the job is to be successful. Accordingly, sometimes supervisors, or acknowledged outstanding performers of the job, are asked to rate successful performance of the task as to not related, is related, and is critical to successful job performance.

All of the foregoing is part of task evaluation.

Truk Archeological Survey

Dr. Tom King, Project Manager of the Archeological Survey in Truk, said recently the group has uncovered "significant" findings at the Rock Quarry near the airport and at Iras Village on Moen.

Dr. King confirmed that Iras Village existed even before the Japanese built the airport. The excavators, according to District Director of Public Affairs Iskia Sony, has uncovered charcoal from cooking sites, shells, fishbones, glass, lumber, logs and coconut husks from the old village.

But the group has not yet found any evidence that the old village was occupied. The kinds of very old tools and weapons that archeologists have found elsewhere on Moen, Tol, and Fefan islands have not yet been discovered at Iras Village.

At the rock quarry, several caves, a searchlight pit, and the remains of old Japanese guns have been found. Surveyors are now making a map of these remains. The area, according to Sony, was heavily bombed by the U.S. forces during World War Two but much remains of the old Japanese fortifications.

Dr. King said he expects to work for another two or three weeks on the project. Analysis of the information obtained and writing a report on the project will take about a year, Dr. King said.

Measles Control Measures

If a measles epidemic breaks out in a district, various control measures can be employed to immunize those at risk:

- Immunize all school classmates, household contacts and close neighbors (less than 12 years of age) of each measles case if the contacts do not have evidence of previous vaccine.
- Do not allow children who lack evidence of measles vaccination to attend school until they are vaccinated (many cities and towns in the United States are adopting this control methodology).

The above control measures were announced recently by the Headquarters Communicable Disease Control Division on Saipan. The announcement came at a time when the measles epidemic in Ebeye, Marshall Islands, was well under control. The epidemic there reached its highest peak in mid-February, this year, when a total of 107 cases were reported. During December, last year, and January, this year, 48 cases of measles were reported on Ebeye. "These figures indicate the beginning of a severe epidemic which could last for months and possibly involve hundreds of children," reported a news bulletin from the CDC Division on Saipan at that time.

"Measles is a communicable disease which can be prevented by public health measures," the bulletin continued. "Death, usually from respiratory or neurological causes, is associated with measles in 1 of every 1,000 cases." The bulletin added that death rate is much higher in communities where malnutrition is prevalent.

According to the bulletin, the last epidemic of measles in the Trust Territory was in 1971 and was mainly centered in Truk and the Northern Marianas.

"This (recent) outbreak in Ebeye may be the beginning of measles epidemic in other island communities," the CDC bulletin noted. Officials at the Health Services Department encourage parents to make sure that their children have received the measles vaccine.

Burgess Leaves Micronesia



Jack Burgess, Director of Peace Corps in Micronesia, left April 1 for Washington, D.C.

"My five years with the Peace Corps are up," Burgess said on Saipan before leaving, "and by law I can't work with the Peace Corps any more."

The Peace Corps director has been succeeded by Ms. Nancy Blanks, who is already on Saipan.


Burgess returned to Washington to look for a job "that will hopefully keep me involved somehow with Micronesia and the Pacific."

Prior to his arrival in T.T. in 1975, Burgess was the Assistant to the Director of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., for two years.

When in Micronesia, Burgess redirected the Peace Corps program, which was first established in Micronesia in 1966, "into things that were more meaningful" to the people. In 1974, about three-fourths of the volunteers were serving as teachers, but now only 30 per cent of all the volunteers are teachers, he said.

"But we have much larger numbers in economic development," Burgess said. "We tried to be responsive as much as possible to the needs of the people of Micronesia."

Burgess emphasized that there is a need to move the Peace Corps teachers "out of the classrooms" because more Micronesians are capable of taking over.



H I G H L I G H T S

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