



Aug. 1, 1969

## Message to Congress Calls for TT and US to Move Forward Together

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston presented his State of the Territory message to the Congress of Micronesia on July 15, speaking before a joint session of the Territory's highest legislative body. "The United States is proud to be associated with Micronesia," Johnston said, "and we definitely desire to enter with you into a lasting and permanent partnership." This was the first formal declaration of the US position with respect to the future political status of Micronesia. "We are prepared and anxious, from this moment forth," he said, "to discuss with this Congress, as elected representatives of the Micronesian people, the exact nature which this partnership should take. We have invited representatives of the Congress, accompanied by members of the High Commissioner's staff, to visit Washington immediately after the conclusion of this current session, to assist in drafting the specific legislation to implement such a partnership."

In his half-hour address, delivered on the second day of Congress' summer session, the High Commissioner summarized the accomplishments and objectives of his administration which began with his appointment as Chief Executive on May 1, this year. "The first two and a half months of our new administration have certainly been crowded with important events," he stated. May 4, 1969, he described as the beginning of "a new era in the history of the Trust Territory ... when Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, visited Micronesia accompanied by Mrs. Farrington and other members of his staff. As of that moment, a new program was launched to drastically accelerate the rate of progress in the Trust Territory, a program which will have the full cooperation of other departments of the U.S. government, as well as the two Houses of the U.S. Congress."

Emphasizing the growing role which Micronesians will be expected to accept in the operation of their government, Johnston said, "One of the keynotes of this new administration is to repeatedly increase the involvement of Micronesians in the Administrative branch of their government and to tackle, and, eventually solve the problems of a government operated on three different pay scales. Our eventual



THE BAI of Ngesechel Ar Cherchar stands proudly in its permanent location at the Koror Botanical Park in Palau. For more photographs of the dedication see page 12.

goal, of course, is equal pay for equal qualifications and equal work." He revealed an increase in staff to accomplish this would include a "highly-qualified Personnel Administrator with considerable experience in personnel management and the integration of pay scales." A \$750,000 pay raise for Micronesian employees is included in the 1970 fiscal year budget currently before the U.S. Congress and "I shall leave no stone unturned to make this well-deserved increase effective at the earliest possible moment," the High Commissioner declared.

Progress in the field of education included a report on the Micronesian Occupational Center which will be opened this September in Palau. The vocational school will be staffed by 19 Micronesians and five Americans. The government's scholarship program has been reorganized since the last ses-

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## More on High Commissioner's State of the Territory Message

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sion of Congress, broadening opportunities for advanced education and making the use of scholarship funds more efficient. Counseling services, particularly at the high school level, have been increased.

In the area of health services, more Micronesians have become involved in key positions. All six District Directors, two soon-to-be-appointed Assistant Commissioners and the Directors of both the Division of Dentistry and the Division of Environmental Health now are Micronesians. Increased aid from America will be available, Johnston said, since the TT is now a full member of the US Public Health Service, Region 9. This means availability of funds for a new mental health program, a new and augmented maternal and child care program, and new activities in the field of sanitation. The TT government has organized a Health Council of 18 members, all Micronesians, a majority of whom are not in the field of medicine. This policy formulating body currently is preparing recommendations on private practice in medicine and dentistry and is developing plans to bring better health services to outlying districts.

Reviewing activities in the area of public affairs, Johnston noted the initiation of a program of political education and steps being taken to make the information and broadcast programs "even more responsive to the current needs of the people of Micronesia. By the end of fiscal year 1970 our radio stations will reach 97% of our total population." Military Civic Action teams are now on location in several districts, working with local residents to complete vitally needed construction projects. This Civic Action program is being coordinated by the Public Affairs staff.

"During the past year we started over \$25 million worth of capital improvement projects," the High Commissioner stated, "...an amount greater than that of any previous year." Some of the major facilities and services to be provided are: Micronesian Occupational Center in Koror, District Hospital on Moen, first phase of the new harbor for Pohnpei, water and sewer systems for Saipan, a telephone link between Guam and Saipan, a TT-wide communications system within 14 months, and improvements to power systems in Saipan, Moen and Koror.

"In the coming years," said Johnston, "we shall continue to provide needed capital improvements in the various districts. You will have a greater involvement than in the past in determining what should be provided and in what priority."

Some of "our most perplexing and, yet, most challenging problems" fall in the area of Resources and Development, said Johnston. Buttressed by a pledge

from Secretary Hickel to seek an increase in the TT's Economic Development Loan Fund to \$5 million, the Economic Development Division is seeking to provide more expertise at the district level "to develop marine resources, agriculture, tourism, retail and wholesale trade, and other means of making our economy increasingly less dependent upon government spending and government employment."

The development of tourism will be aided immeasurably, Johnston stated, with the construction of six first-class hotels by Air Micronesia, the first two about to go into the construction phase. Transportation will be improved with the arrival soon of six LCU's to be used as administrative vessels in the Districts. The ships will shortly be delivered through the cooperation of the Department of Defense and the TTPI representative, Commander in Chief, Pacific.

Land problems and war damage claims have been given increased emphasis. Said the High Commissioner, "This administration has given itself a goal of being well on the way toward completion of land registration throughout the Trust Territory not later than June 30, 1970 ... in this area we must ask for the consideration and understanding of every citizen of Micronesia as we attempt to solve in one year a highly complex problem which has not been solved by any previous administration under four separate governments." On war damage and post secure claims, he pointed out that serious efforts are being made to resolve the problem of post secure claims, so that payment of these can be integrated with the distribution of the \$10 million war damage payments to be made available by the US and Japan.

The High Commissioner devoted a portion of his message to the Congress in presenting "some basic thoughts and principles which will guide my Administration." He said, "It seems to me that the time has come for us to declare ... we will no longer establish 'selective priorities' in those areas which concern the health, safety and, possibly, the very lives of the Micronesian people. If we need six fire trucks, or twelve ambulances, or ten police cars, or 50 fully-equipped dispensaries, we must leave no doubt in anyone's mind that we need these items simultaneously and not spread over a period of several years." This statement referred to the High Commissioner's comment that in the past, the TT government has had an apparent unwillingness to let the US Congress know "how much we really need to accomplish the many things that must be done."

On funding of government operations, he said that although the Congress of Micronesia will consider legislation to increase local revenues, "we still will be faced with the fact that for at least the next few years the major funding for the operation of our government will come from the United States Con-

gress. In this respect, members of my staff and I have been assured on several recent occasions of the wholehearted cooperation of both the United States Senate and House of Representatives in properly funding our many new programs for the economic and political development of Micronesia."

Mindful of the changes that come with public improvements, with economic development, and with advances in science and technology, Johnston warned, "Let us, at the same time, pledge to ourselves that building the future must not be allowed to destroy the heritage of the past. Steps are already being taken to preserve historic sites, to build museums and to make them available for the education and inspiration of our own people, as well as to provide information on our historic past to visitors from abroad. I, for one, refuse to be convinced that progress necessarily destroys culture."

Naming Hawaii as an example, he noted its transition through the governmental stages of a Monarchy, Republic, Territory and finally, the 50th State of the U.S. "Certainly," he emphasized, "no one can deny that Hawaii has made progress during each state of this transition. Yet ... the various ethnic groups which have built Hawaii have tenaciously held on to their native cultures." He further emphasized, "I cannot for one minute accept the thought expressed by some who tend to think negatively, that there are two classes of people in the world -- Micronesian and all the others. I refuse to believe that the people of Micronesia would voluntarily reject the advances in science, health and education which are so eagerly sought by all the rest of the world. And I am equally unwilling to accept the thought expressed by some that to enjoy these benefits Micronesians must forget or deny the cultural background which has made them one of the finest groups of people on this earth."

Pledging continuing cooperation between the Administrative and Executive branches of the government, the High Commissioner noted the Adminis-

tration's assistance to Congress' Government Organization Committee. "We are looking forward to receiving their report ... so we may work together... to make possible a further decentralization of many ... activities and, at the same time, make possible more effective and realistic staff operations to guide and assist the District Administrators in carrying out their mission?" In addition, he pointed out that "as a result of the intensive efforts of your Joint Budget Committee during the past two months, your views, recommendations and priorities will be given full consideration in the development of the annual budget for the Trust Territory."

Also during his address to the lawmakers, High Commissioner Johnston commended the Congress for appropriating funds for the Micronesia Olympic Games which took place between the 4th and 12th of July. "The first MicrOlympics accomplished, in a manner even exceeding the prediction of the most optimistic, its dual goals of training our Trust Territory athletes for competition in many events and bringing together for the first time, in a non-political, non-governmental fashion, the people of all six Districts of Micronesia," Johnston said, adding, "I am sure that the members of the Congress would join with me in thanking the Olympic Committee, the Peace Corps, the citizens of our friendly neighboring island of Guam, and the Armed Forces of the United States, for their excellent teamwork in making this occasion so successful."

Beginning and concluding on a note of determination to "constantly promote the welfare and progress of Micronesia," the High Commissioner proposed adapting "Forward Together," the theme of the Nixon Administration, "to our situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I would conclude this message to the distinguished members of the Third Congress of Micronesia with the hope that you would agree with me that our task and our challenge in these coming months and years is to lead Micronesia FORWARD TOGETHER."

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ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION at a reception given by High Commissioner and Mrs. Johnston for the members of Congress, is the hostess, Mrs. Johnston, together with Senator and Mrs. Olympic T. Borja (facing away from camera), Rep. Polycarp Basilius (left), and Lt. Melvin Sellers, (right), Commander of the Coast Guard's Ioran station on Saipan.

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## Teams of Scientists Commence Starfish Survey

All of the Territory's Districts, except Palau, now have teams of scientists actively examining reefs to determine how serious is the infestation of Crown of Thorns starfish. The groups are at work in Yap, Ifalik, Woleai, Malotrek, Truk, Ponape, Pingelap, Kapingamarangi, Nukuoro, Majuro, Arno, Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The latest reports reveal the sea animals are to be found in serious quantities at Rota, Tinian, Saipan and Truk. First indications at Yap and Ifalik are that these areas are not seriously infested. Reports from other locations have not yet been received.

No visiting team has been sent to Palau since that area already has been fully surveyed and control

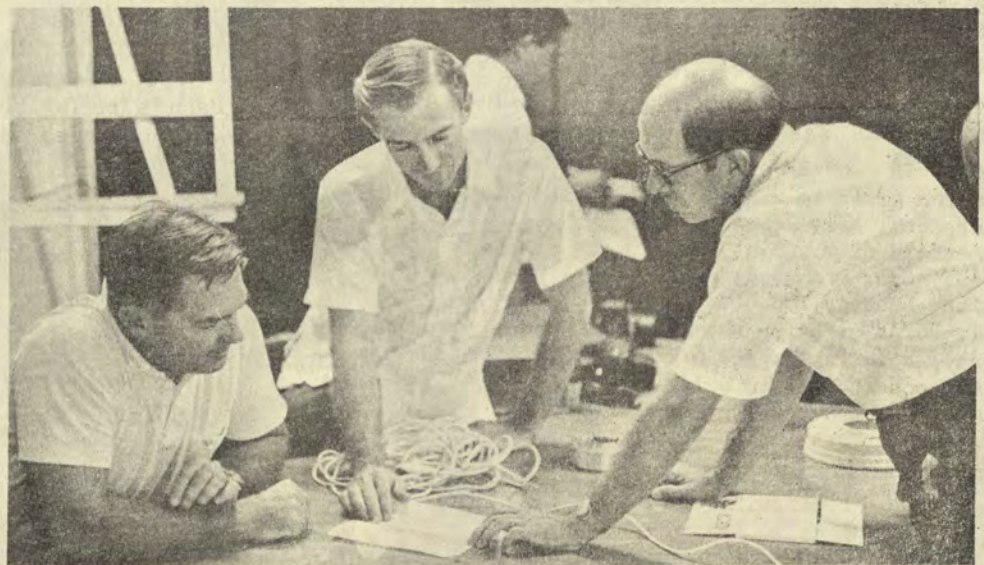
measures there are being taken. By the end of Summer, the groups of scientist-divers will have completed their underwater studies and by Fall an analysis of the extent of the starfish danger is expected.

A report of the earlier Palau study has been released by the TT's Fisheries Management Biologist Peter T. Wilson who warned that action must be taken by the people of Palau themselves if the reefs are to be saved from destruction. Wilson reported that the April reef survey was conducted by Dr. Richard Chesher, an Echino-dermologist from the University of Guam who is one of the few persons in the world to have studied this particular species of starfish, *Acanthaster planci*, nicknamed the Crown of Thorns starfish. In addition, Chesher has specialized in the study of all forms of starfishes, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and life forms known as Echinoderms. He has traveled all over the world in the course of his work and has studied these animals from the tidal zone down to as deep as 600 ft. where he was able to dive with a special diving rig of mixed gases.

Since arriving on Guam, Chesher has been heading a program to control the Guam population of the Crown of Thorns starfish. Guam has a very serious problem with these starfish as there they have multiplied so rapidly over the past two years that they

MARINE SCIENTISTS with tons of underwater gear have been transported to the Districts in search of the threatening *Acanthaster planci* starfish.

DR. RICHARD CHESHER, center, discusses a logistics problem with High Commissioner Johnston, right, and the TT's Marine Biologist Pete Wilson.



have killed off ALL of the coral between Apra Harbor and the northwest corner of Guam, Ritidian Point, a distance of approximately 20 miles. The starfish has killed off all the coral from the very shallow water along the shore to as deep as 200 ft. off the island. He went on to describe how all of the reef fish which used to be abundant in this area have now deserted it leaving only barren rubble with no life and only a few sea weed eaters prowling the bottom looking for food.

Immediately after his arrival in Palau in April, with his assistant James Bell, Chesher, Bell and members of the Marine Resources Development Program spent a full week examining the reefs from Peleliu, in the south, to the northern tip of Babelthuap island. Following the underseas study, a radio broadcast was made to the residents of Palau and meetings were called with the District Administration, members of the Congress of Micronesia and the Economic Development Committee of the Palau legislature. George's Theater offered its facilities for several slide presentations to the public, including classes of school students.

In these presentations, Chesher stated that Palau has a serious infestation of the Crown of Thorns starfish and that this can result in the death of all living coral in and around the islands of Palau within the next few years if preventive action is not taken immediately. Chesher reported on the present condition of the Great Barrier Reef, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, whose very existence is now threatened by the Crown of Thorns starfish. He explained how the people of Palau can fight this serious infestation and urged them to do so. He cautioned them against cutting them up as these animals have the unique ability to rapidly heal and grow all new parts, if cut up into two, three, four, or more parts.

Dr. Chesher drew a comparison between the Rhinoceros Beetle, which kills coconut trees and this starfish which kills coral. He stated that if adequate preventive action had been taken when the first Rhinoceros beetle was found in Palau, it might have been possible to save most of Palau's coconut trees. He went on to say that while other trees grew up and replaced the dead coconut trees, in a short period of time, a new coral reef will not grow for a hundred years or more. And if the coral reef is lost, the reef fish that live in and around this reef will also be lost. In addition, the protective barriers now furnished by reefs will also be lost as once dead, coral becomes brittle and just falls apart. This will result in the loss of much of the shore line around Palau. It will result in the loss of the sand beaches in the Rock Islands and along the coast of Babelthuap.



FEASTING ON A CORAL HEAD is the menacing Crown of Thorns starfish. The light areas were killed by the one spiny star in the previous 24 hours.

It will also result in the loss of all of the reef fish as the fish will have no place to hide, and nothing to feed on. It will result in the loss of the now promising tourist industry for Palau as few tourists will want to come to Palau to see dead reefs, islands with no beaches, and lagoons with no fish.

Said Wilson in his report, "If the people of Palau will wake up to the fact that this is not a bad dream, there is still time to save Palau's reefs. However, failure of the people to act now will insure that the high schools students of today will grow up and live on an island with no reef fish, no coral, no beaches and no real beauty. If the Crown of Thorns starfish gets better established than it is at this time, it may not be possible to save Palau's reefs. The time for action is now. The need is simply to save the coral reefs and fish. The method is simple: Kill the Crown of Thorns Starfish. Take them out of the water to kill them; keep on killing them, don't stop killing them until they are ALL DEAD..."

"Remember," Wilson warned, "this program MUST BE SUCCESSFUL, for to fail means the end of Palau's reefs. To be successful, this program must have the support and assistance of all of the people of Palau. The few employees working for the Marine Resources Development Program cannot beat this problem by themselves, they must have the help of the people of Palau. Therefore, the future of the reefs of Palau rests in the hands of the people themselves. Action must be taken NOW before it is too late."

Since the April study in Palau and the urgent warning to the District's residents, much has been done by the community. School students, in particular, have joined in an eradication program and the starfish menace has been momentarily checked.

## Congress Completes First Three Weeks of Deliberation

The Congress of Micronesia has completed the first three weeks of its 45-day session in an atmosphere of calm deliberation. The air of judiciousness is due in part to the new length of the summer session which has been extended from the previous 30 days to 45 days. This permits lawmakers to devote more time to consideration of legislation.

In addition, the pre-filing of measures as early as the session last January has eliminated the customary confusion which occurs when everyone waits for the opening day to introduce bills and resolutions. Also credited by some Congressmen is an apparent increase in the efficiency of the congressional staff and effort of the new administration to establish a smooth relationship with Congress.

Two extremely significant documents were introduced in the second week: the reports of the Future Political Status Commission and the Committee on Government Organization. Both were accepted by Congress and referred to committees for study and discussion. Some confusion may result from the introduction of two Senate Joint Resolutions, No. 30 and 31, which deal with future political status. SJR 30 is the resolution covering the Congress of Micronesia's action on the report of the Status Commission while SJR 31 calls on the President and the US Congress to consider the future political status of Micronesia. Both were introduced by Sen. Lazarus Salii of Palau.

The final report of the Future Political Status Commission was presented on July 22 by Commission Chairman Sen. Lazarus Salii. He noted "The issue of status has barely begun," as he presented the 50-page report. "All that we have done so far is just beginning, but an important beginning," he said.

The report contains the statement of intent issued on April 17, recommending "that the Trust Territory .. be constituted as a self governing state and that this Micronesian state -- internally self-governing and with Micronesians in control of all its branches, including the executive -- negotiate entry into free association with the United States." Sen. Salii called upon Congress to act promptly on the report so as not to lose the initiative gained with the release of the statement of intent.

Two years of work and thousands of miles of travel to other Pacific island areas went into the report. "All that we can hope for in this report is to show you what roads we have traveled in pursuit of our delegated investigation of Micronesia's political future, what we have studied and where our studies have led us," Salii noted. He went on to suggest that the final hearing might be held in a joint session of the Congress where members could ask questions.

"We have weighed our economic needs against our

political hopes; we have measured today's realities against tomorrow's ideals; and, in the difficult, delicate balance of these things, we have made our recommendation..." Salii stated. Following Salii's speech, the Senate unanimously accepted the report but delayed action on endorsing the principle of free association.

Congress then adopted SJR 31, requesting that the President of the US and the US Congress "consider seriously" the future political status of Micronesia. The resolution noted that proposals have been advanced by the President and considered by the US Congress calling for the creation of a US commission to consider the future political status of Micronesia, but such proposals have not been acted upon. Four Representatives, Polycarp Basilius, Sasaou Haruo, Roman Tmetuchl and Masauo Nakayama, voted against the resolution. Basilius said the decision on political future is the responsibility of Micronesians to make for themselves. The resolution, as adopted, said the Micronesian people today believe sincerely that such a decision must be reached by the joint efforts of their representatives and those of the United States.

Later in the week, a special committee reported to the Senate on its deliberations over SJR 30. It recommended the Senate adopt the Status Commission report, but again did not endorse the recommendation of the Political Status Commission.

Examples of two views of the issue come from statements by the Senators from the Marianas. Sen. Olympio Borja, who chaired the special committee, said: 1) he thinks SJR 31, asking the US for serious consideration of the future status of Micronesia is sufficient; 2) the people of the Marianas have expressed a different view regarding their future status; 3) he wants more discussion with the people on the Commission's recommendation; and 4) he thinks the report is asking for semi-independence status. Sen. Francisco Palacios, from the same District, expressed a different observation, saying that though the majority of the people of the Marianas want reintegration with Guam, many of them do not really understand the intricacies and complications involved in the statuses that the Commission had studied and dismissed. He went on to say the leaders of the people should endorse what they believe is best for the people. The people will have their say later on when a plebiscite is held.

During the third week, a third view of future status was presented by Rep. Roman Tmetuchl of Palau who introduced a resolution saying the recommendation of the Future Political Status Commission be rejected and that Micronesia should declare independence from the US by 1976. Seven years, he

said would be sufficient time for preparations. "If you want to get ready for everything, it would take a hundred years," he said. Congressmen Masao Nakayama, Sasauo Haruo, Chutomu Nimwes and House Vice-Speaker Henry Samuel also signed this resolution which has been numbered HJR. 39.

The second committee report, Government Organization, was submitted on July 23 by Committee Chairman Sen. Andon Amaraich of Truk. Amaraich reported that the Administration would like to discuss the report but that since the terms of his committee members would expire that evening, another committee must be established. But he said there was no rush to appoint new members. Action first must be taken by the Congress before discussions begin with the Administration.

In other actions, Congress adopted a resolution requesting the Peace Corps assign two lawyers to work full-time with the Congress. The House Committee reporting on the resolution said that as the Micronesian Congress is legislating difficult and sophisticated measures, the advice and counsel of lawyers is an invaluable aid. The resolution contends that a proposed discontinuation of lawyers to Micronesia has evoked strong response from members of the Congress, District Legislatures, Municipal officials and some private citizens. In testimony before Congress' Peace Corps Operation Committee, Dr. Russel Davis, Director of the East Asia-Pacific Region said the PC lawyer program had been approved to continue and that new volunteer lawyers are expected to begin training this Fall. Earlier, High Commissioner Johnston emphasized that the PC lawyer program has not been cancelled. "For one thing," he said, "we have eight Peace Corps lawyers still in the program for next year. They have not been eliminated. In addition we hope others will be added next year, since there is no possibility to bring them in at this time."

More than half of the Congress membership attended a meeting with the High Commissioner's Development Coordination Committee when it sat with the Congress' Joint Committee on the Budget to discuss an \$8 million supplemental budget request for fiscal year 1970. A great deal of discussion centered on a \$230,000 item for the Military Civic Action Teams now at work in the Territory. The money would go to pay for logistic support of the teams. Some lawmakers felt the money should go only for materials. It was also pointed out that some of the jobs expected of the 12-man construction teams were much bigger than the village-type jobs that the teams came equipped to perform.

Members of the TT's Economic Development staff met with the Senate Committee on Resources

and Development to discuss tourism, hotel construction, conservation, agricultural education and other agricultural programs and problems. Many Committee members agreed that tourism can be a major economic boost to Micronesia, but some felt that the tourist flow should be controlled in some aspects, such as informing visitors of "do's and don'ts" while travelling through the islands. Some discussion centered around greater Micronesian ownership of hotels. On the subject of conservation, Agriculture Director Manuel Sproat said that while the program will be headquartered on Saipan, the District's needs will be taken care of locally. He named Palau's conservation program to protect local crops from snails and other harmful pests and Ponape's research on breadfruit disease, as important programs now in progress. Sproat said that more students must be motivated to pursue careers in agriculture.

According to the House Appropriations Committee Chairman, Raymond Setik, the Congress will have \$1,141,000 available to appropriate this session. This does not include an additional \$224,000 in delinquent taxes still to be collected from the Districts. Currently, there are 35 bills before the Appropriations Committee totaling over a million and a half dollars. On July 30, the House Appropriations Committee recommended that all the separate bills for congressional operating and contingent expenses be combined in one bill. The total, subject to revision, is \$464,000 for fiscal year 1970. The sum includes the office of the legislative counsel, any special sessions called by the High Commissioner, and the expenses of members and staff for official business.

The two houses of Congress will meet in a joint session on August 1 to consider whether it should maintain its bicameral (two houses) status or be converted into a unicameral (one house) body.

Secretarial Order 2918 requires the Congress to choose between these two structures this session.

House Speaker Bethwel Henry, in an interview with Micronesian News Service, said that a unicameral Congress would have the advantage of less financial expenses to operate. Also passing legislation and other business matters would be easier and faster, he added. Henry noted, however, that a bicameral legislature is probably the best suited form for the present political status of Micronesia. He also speculated that many Representatives and Senators probably will favor retaining the present bicameral legislature. Equal privileges, Henry said, are the reason for this. According to the Speaker, a bicameral body accommodates the less populated Districts for they have the same number of votes in the Senate as the populous Districts.

## Budget of \$66 Million Presented

High Commissioner Johnston on July 29 presented his proposed \$66 million budget for fiscal year 1971 to the Congress of Micronesia. He noted his administration's commitment to full congressional participation in budget development and asked the Congress to recommend how the preliminary budget can be cut down to the \$50 million ceiling authorized by the US Congress for fiscal year 1971. Johnston said that while it may be possible to increase the 1971 ceiling, "We must also frankly confront" the other obligations of the US Government.

The objective of the budget, Johnston told the afternoon joint session of Congress, is "the self-sufficient social, economic and political development of Micronesia. The Trusteeship Agreement requires it. The United States Government endorses it. This Administration will pursue it. The budget should effectuate it," the High Commissioner said.

Three areas were identified as being crucial to self sufficiency: infrastructure (physical facilities), manpower, and economic development.

Twenty percent of the proposed 1971 budget would go to development of infrastructure including \$8,309,000 for water and sewer projects in Yap, Ponape and Truk; \$2,830,000 for electric power work in all six Districts; \$1,127,000 for construction of 28 miles of all-weather roads; and \$3,369,000 for airports. This last item would include a new airport for Yap, and improvement of the Airai field in Palau, and will permit jet service to all Districts.

On the subject of manpower, Johnston's budget includes half a million dollars for 500 students at the Micronesian Occupational Center in Palau and 80 students at the Vocational School to be built this fiscal year in Majuro. Two hundred workers will be trained in conjunction with large construction contracts awarded by the TT Government. The large Referral Hospital will be built in Ponape to provide in-territory medical referral services and to train Micronesian medical technicians.

Johnston said that at least one trained and experienced expert on economic development is proposed for each District to assist in the establishment and operation of businesses.

On land matters, one million dollars is proposed for continuation of the land title registration program to be started this fiscal year.

The final budget is due in Washington on September 2, so the Congress' recommendations should be made by August 15 to allow time for final preparation. The High Commissioner emphasized the budget being presented was a preliminary one in which the Congress must take an active part in "reshaping," and establishing priorities. He recommended "the Congress immediately refer the budget to your appropriate committees for the early examination and discussion with Administration officers, and preparation of your recommendations."

## New Peace Corps Director Arrives

Laurence A. Johnson, a 34 year old Peace Corps staff member, has arrived on Saipan to assume the position of Director of the Peace Corps/Micronesia. Johnson, whose arrival was preceded a few days by his boss, Dr. Russel Davis, Director of Peace Corps' East Asia-Pacific region, comes from the post of Deputy Director of Peace Corps in Saba, Malaysia. Davis introduced Larry Johnson at a news conference at which the new direction of Peace Corps Micronesia was outlined.

"Other countries are farther ahead in technical assistance," Davis remarked, "Classroom teaching was once big. Now the emphasis is on food production, regional economic planning and technical planning." Davis felt there has been a problem in moving that way in Micronesia. It was stated that Volunteers will not be taken from the outer islands because "moral commitments" have been made, but there will be more "systematic" analysis of programs. To that end, a suitable program officer is being recruited for Micronesia.

Davis described the old system of programming as an "advocacy system" in which directors sought after Volunteers requested by their host countries. The Peace Corps is going to look harder at countries' requests. "Program planning is always a partnership, not merely putting in an order and having Peace Corps fill it," Davis remarked. He called Micronesia "one of the most sensitive posts." He noted that the host country nationals and the government are not one and the same. He also observed that problems tend to "repercuss" in to Washington more quickly from here.

The new Director, Larry Johnson, attended Occidental College in California, spent four years in the Coast Guard, emerging as a Lt. Commander, studied architecture for two years and then spent several years in the real estate mortgage business before joining the Peace Corps staff in 1968. His family is expected to join him shortly.

Meanwhile, 187 new Volunteers will be trained during the months of July and August for assignment to the various Districts of the Trust Territory. They will replace some 235 Volunteers whose terms of service ended earlier this Summer. By Districts, the PCV's will be assigned as follows: Ponape 54, Marshalls 51, Truk 29, Palau 19, Yap 18, and Marianas 16. The greatest number of Volunteers about 115, will be trained as TESL teachers, to assist in the program of Teaching English as a Second Language. Another 23 will work in the agriculture-copra program. Others will be assigned to help in home economics, teacher training, fisheries, news media, construction and other programs. At the end of the training period there will be about 400 Peace Corps Volunteers working throughout Micronesia.

## Hawaii Legislators Meet With Members of Congress of Micronesia

Six visiting Hawaii Legislators appeared before a Joint Session of the Congress of Micronesia on July 18, being formally greeted with the reading of a joint resolution of welcome.

House Speaker Bethwel Henry, expressed his appreciation to Hawaii for offering numerous training programs to young people from the Trust Territory.

State Senator Stanley Hara encouraged the Congress of Micronesia to keep sending young people to Hawaii to further their education. He also observed that the Microlympic Games is one of the best ways to have young people from all over Micronesia meet each other, learn about each other, and challenge each other in a friendly way.

Hawaii Representative Jack Suwa delivered a message from the Speaker of the Hawaii State Legislature, saying that "The Speaker appreciates this close friendship with you so that we may be able to exchange ideas, and methods to get better understanding of our governments."

Saipan's lack of meeting space forced the visiting and local legislators to meet one afternoon at the Micro Hut, Saipan's leading nightspot, for conferences on Education and Social Affairs, Finance and Budget, and Economic Development. Among the points discussed were these:

### Education and Social Affairs

Senator Stanely Hara explained that in the years past, teachers' pay was not very good in Hawaii. However, a year ago salaries were raised about 20%. "Right now our former teachers are coming back to teach because the pay is good," Senator Hara said.

Asked about the kinds of programs they run in Hawaii, Hara said a new program has been started called an "Outdoor Science Program" to make students aware of their surroundings.

In regard to this, Sen. David Ramarui (Palau), Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said, "I think geography is one of our biggest factors in

educational development."

Representative Howard Oda brought up a question on teaching standards in Palau. Ramarui answered that Palau could not really set up minimum requirements since teaching a few years ago was not that attractive. "We have intermediate and high school graduates, but very few college graduate teachers," Ramarui said.

### Finance and Budget

The conference was told that before the Hawaii Legislature starts its session, the members of the Finance and Budget Committee go to every district to meet people to be told what is needed.

He noted that education stands as first priority, health second, and transportation third. "You see, the largest amount of money spent from our budget goes to education simply because education is the most important thing in a human being's life," he concluded.

### Economic Development

Asked if Hawaii has provisions to prevent outside competition, Rep. Peter Iha admitted that they have in the form of a requirement that contractors become residents of Hawaii and obtain licenses.

Also asked about price control, Iha said Hawaii doesn't have any because there is no abuse. "However," he added, "we have shipping strikes once in a while, and that's when people raise their prices sky high."

A representative from Ponape asked the Hawaii group if there has been price raising following a disaster. The TT representative asserted that right after a typhoon, when people need construction materials, some Territory businessmen raise their prices on these items so high that people can not afford to buy. Suwa said that such a problem has not arisen in Hawaii.

The visiting group was entertained at a series of receptions during the week and left for Hawaii, via Okinawa, on July 18.

HAWAII LEGISLATORS AND STAFF MEN meet with some members of the Congress of Micronesia in workshop sessions. The visiting group included Sen. Stanley Hara, Representatives Jack Suwa, Howard Oda, Charles Ushijima, Peter Iha, and Stanley Roehrig, and staff members, Senate Clerk George Animoto and Chief House Clerk Shigeto Kanemoto.

## Do You Know

the difference between

a BILL, a LAW and a RESOLUTION ?

In legislative language, a BILL is a proposal which when enacted by Congress and signed by the High Commissioner becomes a LAW.

A RESOLUTION is an official opinion or request expressed by Congress.



## Frank Ada Appointment Approved

Francisco C. Ada has been formally appointed District Administrator of the Mariana Islands District by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston. Ada has been Acting DistAd since May 17, 1969, when Peter T. Coleman was appointed Deputy High Commissioner. Effective July 19, the appointment makes Ada the second Micronesians to hold the highest administrative position within a District and is in keeping with the administration's policy of placing qualified Micronesians in positions of responsibility.

## Ujelangese Receive Million Dollar Trust Fund

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has announced that \$1,020,000 will be given by the United States Government to the former residents of Eniwetok who are now residing on Ujelang. Johnston said the ex-gratia payment is "in recognition of the hardships faced by the former people of Eniwetok, their long-standing removal from their home atoll, and the fact that their return is not possible in the near future."

Members of the Marshalls District congressional delegation were present in the High Commissioner's office on July 28 when the million dollar check was passed around and its use discussed. Also attending were the Deputy High Commissioner, the High Commissioner's two Special Assistants, the Commissioner for Public Affairs and a Peace Corps Volunteer from Ujelang.

The funds, with the agreement of the Ujelangese, will be established as a trust fund with the income being paid to them for whatever use they see fit. There are no restrictions on the investment of the funds, and an effort will be made to develop investments which will produce a high rate of income for the Ujelangese. During the meeting, it was pointed

## District Visits Started by HiCom

High Commissioner Johnston and his family have departed on a visit to the Districts, starting with a one-week trip to Palau and Yap on July 30. In mid-August, the HiCom will make tours of Ponape, Truk and the Marshalls. On August 19, he will make an inspection trip to Bikini along with Vice-Admiral Lloyd M. Mustin, Director of DASA, the Defense Atomic Support Agency. DASA is nearing the end of its Bikini cleanup project which began in February of this year.

out that with wise investment, the \$1,020,000 principal could increase in value, while at the same time, the interest would produce regular income. At 6% interest, this would amount to more than \$60,000 per year for approximately 300 Ujelangese. In 1947, the group, then consisting of 136 persons, was moved from Eniwetok to Ujelang to make way for US atomic tests.

High Commissioner Johnston said "I am extremely pleased that this ex gratia payment has been made available to the people of Ujelang so early in our new administration of the Trust Territory. We will vigorously continue our negotiations to secure employment for male Ujelangese on Eniwetok," Johnston stated, adding, "and we have not abandoned the hope that the people now living on Ujelang may eventually return to Eniwetok. I am looking forward," said the High Commissioner, "to discussing these matters with representatives from Ujelang when I visit the Marshall Islands District in mid-August. Meanwhile, the funds have been deposited and will be earning interest pending the establishment of the trust, along lines to be determined by the people of Ujelang."

This new trust fund is in addition to the \$150,000 trust fund given to the people of Eniwetok in 1956.



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THE MILLION DOLLAR CHECK, held by High Commissioner Johnston, gets the attention of Marshall Islands' residents (left to right) Rick Aselta, PCV, Rep. Ataji Balos, Rep. Henry Samuel, Senate President Amata Kabua, Sen. Isaac Lanwi, Rep. Charles Dornick, and Rep. Ekpap Silk. Everyone took the opportunity to hold the check before it was taken to the bank to begin earning interest.

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## Two Weeks: 30 Crocodiles Slain

Four members of an Australian game hunting association reportedly have killed over 30 crocodiles in Palau in a 14 day period. The team, hunting at night, kills the crocodiles by stunning them with a bright light and moving in by boat to within six to ten feet before opening up with 30 caliber rifles. According to a report in Palau's newspaper, Didil A Chais, when one man was killed two years ago by crocodiles and another man was attacked soon afterwards, the Palau Legislature passed a resolution asking for aid in eliminating the man-eating creatures. The Australian team is not being paid by the TT government or the District Legislature, says Bob Owen of the TT's Entomology Laborator, but selling the hides in Singapore.

### Did You Know

that in Congress a RESOLUTION is a statement which usually expresses an opinion or request of the Congress ?

A resolution may ask someone to do something, or may give praise to an outstanding citizen, or sympathy to the family of a recently deceased leader, or may set up a Congressional committee.

There are two types of resolutions: joint and single.

A resolution introduced only into the Senate is called a SENATE RESOLUTION (SR) while one introduced only into the House of Representatives is called a HOUSE RESOLUTION (HR).

If a resolution is presented first to the Senate and then to the House it bears the title SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION (SJR) and an (HJR) HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION is one offered first to the House and then considered by the Senate.

Joint resolutions must be considered and passed by both Houses in order to be regarded as adopted.

Resolutions are numbered in the order of introduction and are not subject to veto by the High Commissioner. When a resolution is approved or adopted, it becomes the official opinion or request by the Congress.

## Briefly-

Eighteen young men from the Trust Territory have returned home after nine months of training in Honolulu as part of the OEO's Job Corps training program. All of them have been recommended for advanced training and will return to Hawaii after a brief period of rest and relaxation in their home Districts.

The boys received training in a variety of fields including automotive mechanic, welding, masonry, carpentry, plumbing and administration. They are the first of 43 TT trainees to participate in the Job Corps program at the Koko Head training site.

The Job Corps program is part of the Office of Economic Opportunity's anti-poverty program, and provides training for economically disadvantaged young people in the 16 to 22 year age group.

The Micronesia Olympic Games Committee, in a meeting with representatives from all Districts, has recommended Palau as the site for the MicOlympics in 1971. This date was selected because it will be one year before the 1972 South Pacific Games and the TT hopes to send its 1971 champion athletes to the SP Games. Palau was anxious to host the games. They hope to be able to use dormitory space at Palau High School and the Micronesian Occupational Center. A bill has been introduced in the present session of Congress proposing that \$150,000 be appropriated to construct sports facilities on Palau for the next MicOlympics.

The US Department of Labor has reported that recent amendments to the Federal Manpower Development and Training Act now permit its program funds to be used in the Trust Territory. An initial \$100,000 has been approved for job training programs. Training as construction workers will be given to 145 Ponape Islanders; 10 Saipan unemployed men will learn shipboard jobs, and 25 men in the Truk District will be taught various construction skills.

Two more military Civic Action Teams have gone to work in Districts. They are US Navy Seabee units dispatched to Yap initially for road projects and to the Marshalls for work first on water catchments.

The Red Cross campaign for funds has ended with 1969's total amounting to \$3,203.25. This is 15% less than was contributed in 1968; however, four Districts increased their 1969 giving. They are Truk, up 115%; Marshalls, up 71%; Ponape, up 57% and Palau up 51%. The 1968 fund drive was extended by 3 months following Typhoon Jean so that additional money could be collected to show gratitude for the assistance rendered Saipan and Tinian by the Red Cross.

## Palau's Museum Bai Dedicated in Impressive Ceremonies

Palau's new museum, an impressive Bai built on Babelthuap Island and re-constructed on Koror, was dedicated in a colorful community ceremony in mid-June. Island residents, including elected officials, hereditary royalty and other community leaders, joined with visitors who came from many parts of the world. The Bai, designed in the style of a Palauan community meeting house, was inaugurated in a 24 hour program of dances, speeches, songs and feasting which began in mid-afternoon with groups of women dancers, chanting as they performed with paddles and sticks. At six in the evening, as required by tradition, the Rubaks (older men) took over the performance which continued until morning. Numerous expressions of gratitude were extended to the Palau Museum Committee and its Executive Secretary Mrs. Robert (Hera) Owen, and to the Palau Legislature, the TT Government and the Bai's builders, all of whom contributed either time, money or materials to make the long-sought museum a reality. After the Bai had been built by villagers of Ngaremlengui and the thatched roof sewn by the people of Ngarchelong, it was hauled down the coast of Babelthuap Island to Koror where it now stands in the Koror Botanical Park.

RAMARII, one of the builders of the museum Bai, joins with dancers, led by Mrs. Emalmalai Bismark, at the opening festivities.



Photos by Salcedo and Osborne

JUDGE FRANCISCO MOREL, Chairman of the Palau Museum, along with Mrs. Hera W. Owen, Executive Secretary, administrators of the Palau Museum Bai project, are seen standing with Ngiracheliang Ngirasibong, master builder, under whose direction the outstanding piece of native architecture was built.

SEATED AT THE DOORWAY of the Bai is a very high ranking woman of Palau, Billung Ngerdokow, who honored the opening celebration with her presence. She is accompanied by her daughters Mrs. Maria Mereb (left) and Mrs. Katey Tmetuchl (right). Billung wears a valuable piece of Palauan money.



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