

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

FIFTH DAY

February 18, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its Fifth Day, First Regular Session on Friday, February 18, 2000, at 10:35 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a), seventeen members were present and Representative Martin B. Ada is excused.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is duly constituted for the Fifth Day of our First Regular Session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the Third and Fourth Days, First Regular Session journals.

The motion was seconded.

Third and Fourth Days, First Regular Session (02/16-17/00)

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Mr. Speaker, several times we went into the Committee of the Whole to discuss an issue and I am not sure what the rule calls for but I guess maybe the necessary time to make a motion to include the discussions in the Committee of the Whole in the journal so that it show the questions and responses by the legal counsel as well. I just noticed that that part is not included in the journal, I am not sure what is the procedure is, but I would like to ask that may be at times when we do have questions for the counsel we show that in the journal and I guess may be a motion would be necessary to place that.

Speaker Fitial: Right now, our Rules does not require deliberations during the Committee of the Whole be part of the journal. However, we can always have things – the proceedings are being recorded, they can easily transcribed or to be part of the journal as an addendum.

Rep. Benavente: And, I guess a motion than will be needed to effectuate that, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: I would imagine so.

Rep. Benavente: Thank you. Ready.

The motion to adopt the Third and Fourth Days, First Regular Session journals was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-78: A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC, §4144 to waive the appraisal requirement in the case of a small land exchanges and provide for the exchange of the equivalent one house lot in cases where the government acquired private lands of a total area less than of a single house lot; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. David M. Apatang
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 12-79: A Bill for an Act to add a new sub-section (i) to 1 CMC, §8347, to authorize retirement for person with cancer; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-80: A Bill for an Act to impose 25% tax on all Public Land Sub-Lease; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-81: A Bill for an Act to amend certain sections of 1 CMC, Division 8, by repealing all provisions relating to Class I Membership in the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Dino M. Jones
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-82: A Bill for an Act to establish mechanism regulating CNMI-Based Trust Companies; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Speaker Fitial: I would like for the record to reflect that Representative Ichihara has requested that she will be coming in late since she is making a presentation at Mount Carmel School beginning at 9:30 this morning.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-14: A House Resolution to express and support of keeping local control over labor and immigration and to request the United States Congress not to pass Senate Bill 10-52.

Offered by: Rep. Norman S. Palacios and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, may I call for a short recess?

Speaker Fitial: Short recess.

The House recessed at 10:40 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:51 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: The session shall reconvene. Floor Leader recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the members, I move to override Governor's Communication 12-50 relative to Senate Bill No. 11-148.

The motion was seconded.

Gov. Comm. 12-15 – February 4, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved Senate Bill No. 11-148 (To exempt the CNMI Government from certain provisions of 3 CMC §4437(c); and for other purposes).

Speaker Fitial: Discussion on the motion? Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the indulgence of the members, before we proceed on to that to go back to Item number 3, I have one bill to introduce, if there is no objection on the floor.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, can we dispose of the motion first, than we can probably go back to Item number 3 after we dispose of this communication.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Okay.

Rep. Peter: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Peter?

Rep. Peter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like ask if we can go into the Committee of the Whole and ask the legal counsel about my concern on the bill that we are about to override.

Floor Leader Babauta: So move, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House resolved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:53 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The House dissolved back to plenary session at 11:04 a.m.

Speaker Fitial: We are now back to the plenary session. We are still discussing the main motion to override the veto of Senate Bill No. 11-148, ready?

Rep. Benavente: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Thank you. Under discussion, I would like to speak in support of the override mainly because the concerns and the need to require employers who bring in nonresident workers into the Commonwealth to cover health bills was because prior to do that when we didn't have that requirement, every year there will be several millions and millions of dollars of unpaid bills at the hospital incurred from nonresident workers who have to leave back to Philippines or anywhere of the country for whatever reason and those bills were not paid by those individuals who incurred those cost. And, eventually what happened was the taxpayers where the one paying for that at the end of the year or through the budget. That is why I was part of the Legislature that enacted that require that an employer whether the government or private be required to pay or cover the health care costs so that the taxpayers are not than burden with the costs that is being incurred at the hospital. In this case though, I think that because it is the government that would either pay for the health care at this time or pay for the unpaid bills at the hospital, it will still be the same taxpayers that we are referring to is going to end up paying. So, it really doesn't matter when the government as the employer paying for those unpaid bills for example if there should be any at the hospital because we either pay it now or we pay it when somebody incurred the cost and is not able to pay a the hospital. So, I think that this bill is necessary and I think we should go ahead with the override.

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: I move to the previous question.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override Governor’s vetoed message of Senate Bill No. 11-148, as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	yes
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: The override of the veto on Senate Bill No. 11-148 passes. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I now move to override Governor’s Communication 12-18, relative to House Bill No. 11-493, House Draft 1.

Gov. Comm. 12-18 - February 7, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved House Bill No. 11-493, HD1 (Excise Tax Abatement Act of 1999).

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker, I would like for the record to reflect that I am in support of overriding House Bill No. 11-493, House Draft 1. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Chairman on Ways and Means if he can give us at least the total lost of revenue should this bill becomes law today, if he have that information?

Rep. A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, I don’t have at this time.

Speaker Fitial: If I may, I have that information I was told by, Mike Sablan, from the Governor's Office, that the lost would be around \$25,000.00 only. Continue.

Rep. Attao: That's all I need Mr. Speaker, to make a sound decision to override.

Speaker Fitial: Further discussion? Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In discussing this bill when we passed it in the House, the \$25,000.00 that you are referred to I believe would be the tax that we would be collected in the six months period that we are granting the exemption. But as we know, that particular operation is not in place at this time so there is no such \$25,000.00 and what we need to look at when we supported this bill is the fact that six months from now we will be collecting tax. So, I think that would be the better question to ask ourselves is where is the benefit if we do enact this legislation? Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Let me just clarify the concern of the Representative Attao is, what is the potential lost not actual lost, actual lost is zero the potential lost is \$25,000.00. Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: I believe that the question is appropriately to the author or the current Chairman on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, a similar infrastructure in place in the island of Tinian for instance, because in the Governor's vetoed his reservation is singling out opportunities for Rota it self, so the question would be, is this infrastructure in place in Tinian and if it is not than obviously we should continue.

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead Chairman Rosiky Camacho.

Rep. R. Camacho: Am I still in line, Mr. Speaker, with the bill in terms of its gain to its self rather than the lost, to discuss into this?

Rep. Hofschneider: No. I posted a question.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Hofschneider posted a question and I recognized you to respond.

Rep. R. Camacho: Is the tower is in Tinian is that the question all about?

Speaker Fitial: You may restate your question, Representative Hofschneider.

Rep. Hofschneider: I don't know if it is pertaining to the tower but the infrastructure in general that we are abating to tax for Rota, is it in place in Tinian?

Rep. R. Camacho: I have no knowledge of that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Apatang recognized.

Rep. Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I am the author of this bill, I know in fact that the current infrastructure of this is currently being used in Tinian and they are benefiting from it. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Proceed.

Rep. Hofschneider: Would this restrict other competitors for instance by singling out a proposer ready to build similar infrastructure would it in any way pre-empt other provider, other long distance carriers or cellular providers?

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead and respond, Representative Apatang.

Rep. Apatang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill does not intended to single any company, it is open to any telecommunication business who wants to do business on the island of Rota. Thank you.

Rep. A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Tony Camacho?

Rep. A. Camacho: This bill that we are overriding comes from the Eleventh Legislature and since they are the one that really study this bill it seems that they have to do the answering instead of questioning. Can any body from – like Representative Attao to tell the committee really the real impact on this legislation. We are only supporting what they did and it is very cautionable for us and we know that it is good for the island. But please tell the committee, the plenary session here, which is which.

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Representative Camacho. I think Speaker Fitial has answered very clear. The question was answered at least \$25,000.00 potential lost.

Rep. A. Camacho: So, let us just cooperate and we will do what we have to do instead of putting jargons and asking questions to the new members here while you guys have the answer when you passed this legislation.

Rep. Hofschneider: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: State your point.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, my line of questioning is relative to the Governor's forms about rejecting the bill in general. Specifically, he mentioned some reservation as to the fair practice of this Act. We may not have seen that but then the obvious still has to be raise is the infrastructure similarly in place? I do not know at that time.

Speaker Fitial: Just for information, the question regarding whether this bill is intended to accommodate only one company. The Constitution does not allow for the Legislature to pass a special legislation that is very clear. Ready? You still want to – Go ahead Representative Rosiky Camacho.

Rep. R. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to our colleague in Precinct I, Mr. Speaker, there is probably one justifiable reasoning that this particular legislation to be override, there is a great need of wildlife telecommunication in Rota, especially in the case of emergency.

The other thing is there will be an additional cellular phone or wireless that will probably add on to the BGR if this happen in Rota. So, the overall investment of this particular activity that is to be establish in Rota is beyond what is \$25,000.00 lost of what we are looking at. So, for the good Representative from Precinct I, I think I am one of those from the Eleventh Legislature.

Speaker Fitial: No further discussion?

Floor Leader Babauta: Move to end debate.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor’s vetoed message on House Bill No. 11-493, House Draft 1, as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	yes
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	yes
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	yes
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: The motion to override the Governor’s vetoed on House Bill No. 11-493, House Draft 1, passes the House.

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: I’m sorry. Vice Speaker?

Vice Speaker Mendiola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the indulgence of the members, if we can go back to the Introduction of Bills.

There was no objection raised.

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-83: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 11-119 to reflect new CIP priorities in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 12-11, relative to House Resolution No. 12-11.

The motion was seconded.

S. C. R. NO. 12-11: Reporting on House Resolution No. 12-11, entitled, “A House Resolution establishing government per diem rates for Representatives from Tinian and Rota. Your Committee on Ways and Means recommends its adoption.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 12-11 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The motion carries. We now move to Resolution Calendar.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 12-11.

The motion was seconded.

H. R. NO. 12-11: A House Resolution establishing government per diem rates for Representatives from Tinian and Rota.

Speaker Fitial: Discussion? Representative Hofschneider?

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker and members, we know the circumstances surrounding Representatives from Rota and Tinian in the expenses attributed to their travel and requirement of their presence for any session of the House conducted in the Senatorial District of Saipan and I can understand the expenses paraphrasing line 8 of page 1 of the resolution. But I want to find out because I don't recall clearly, if the subsistent aside from the \$1,500.00 a month allowance for housing, the \$4,000.00 debate for each senatorial district representative for subsistent allowances, is this any different from the Eleventh Legislature's amount? And, can the Chairman of Ways and Means Committee, justify if any increase at all or no increase at all for the \$4,000.00 for each subsistent allowance aside from the \$1,500.00 housing allowance?

Speaker Fitial: Recognized Chairman Camacho.

Rep. A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, the House has a different Rules of procedure now, we have continues session and the demand for their presence should be always very meaningful here that this why we move the amount to increase it at a higher rate because of the cost of living here in Saipan.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, I still have the floor?

Speaker Fitial: Yes, you still have the floor.

Rep. Hofschneider: So, what is the allowable subsistent cost for \$4,000.00?

Rep. A. Camacho: Their per diem rates, for food, because the housing allowance – you can tell if you stay in the hotel it is too expensive that \$1,500.00 is too minimal, like if they stay here for a month or two months.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, I just want to find out, \$4,000.00 – we are getting a salary and for food, I can understand that we all pay our own food from our own salary that is why we are getting the salary. But for subsistent, can you attribute the \$4,000.00 to the subsistent break down?

Rep. A. Camacho: If you have three meals a day – you are staying in a hotel – for instance...

Rep. Hofschneider: Why would that defer if they were staying in Rota and Tinian? Three meals is specifically the number of meals we take.

Rep. A. Camacho: You know, that the cost of the food when you are eating in the hotel are totally higher than when you cook at your own house.

Rep. Hofschneider: He is missing the point, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Can we ask those people who are involved to answer your concern, Representative Hofschneider? I will recognize the Vice Speaker to explain his situation.

Vice Speaker Fitial: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we can take a look at the Senate subsistent, it comes up to \$5,000.00, from \$3,000.00 it goes up to \$5,000.00. Us here in the House, we are only asking for \$4,000.00 subsistent. And as you all understand and everybody knows here, Monday through Friday I am here in Saipan, even Saturdays and Sundays and I hope my colleague will understand that. If I take off my shoes and put his feet in my shoes, I think probably he it would be realistic for him to realize the expenses that we are inquiring here in Saipan. Very unfortunate that in the past I only request for \$3,000.00, and as you all know that the expenses of this leadership that we are having right now, we have the whole week session and I have to be here in Saipan for the whole week and even Saturdays and Sundays, I have to stay back. So this, I believe will really justify the additional thousands dollars that we increase for this Twelfth Legislature on our per diem. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Further more, I intend to call a session tomorrow and also Monday. Saturday and Monday.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Recognized. Go ahead you still have the floor.

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, but logically see, you are now adhering to the good nature of the Legislature conducting its session everyday, and to me, my hat goes out to you for doing so. The fact remains the same that if logically, if we are going to be requiring the presence of these senatorial districts their presence in the Legislature's session then look at the House, why can't we request government housing and reduce that particular cost aside? On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we are getting paid a \$1,000.00 by weekly each, we all have kids, we all have

obligations, but on top of that, you are going to us tax payers money, \$2,000.00 is reasonable, Mr. Speaker and members to subsidize what ever income because I do have incurred similarly all the Senators all the elected officials have the same encumbrances and expenses attributed to being in this office but to add on another \$2,000.00 come on, this is tax payers money, however, it is coming out of their single individual allotment, that is fine. You know, let us do some decency here.

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead Representative Jones.

Rep. Jones: You know, Mr. Speaker, it is good for us who stay on Saipan because we have our families, our relatives, our friends, but jus imagine these two Representatives from Rota and Tinian, they are bring their families here to stay so that they want to make sure that their family also is well protected. Unlike the previous Legislatures where they have to be commuting back and forth but this time they have their families with them. And, they have to pay additional expenses such as putting them to school, if the public schools cannot accommodate than they have to go to private schools, the transportation, so it is not only the individual member expense but also the family members. We should appreciate because they have to bring in their family to ensure that the family sticks together while they are doing their public office duties and responsibilities. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: No further discussion? I would like to place the matter on the floor for a vote. Roll call.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt House Resolution No. 12-11 as follows:

Rep. Martin B. Ada	excused
Rep. David M. Apatang	yes
Rep. Jesus T. Attao	yes
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta	yes
Rep. Diego T. Benavente	yes
Rep. Antonio M. Camacho	yes
Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho	yes
Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero	yes
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider	no
Rep. Brigida DLG. Ichihara	yes
Rep. Dino M. Jones	yes
Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.	yes
Rep. Norman S. Palacios	yes
Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan	no
Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter	yes
Rep. Stanley T. Torres	no
Rep. William S. Torres	yes
Speaker Benigno R. Fitial	yes

Speaker Fitial: House Resolution No. 12-11, passes the House.

BILL CALENDAR

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Rep. Jones.

Rep. Jones: Actually, I was going to recognize the presence of a former member of the House, Chairman on Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, I think he is outside, I just want the House to recognize his presence.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Tony Camacho?

Rep. A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was reading the Marianas Variety newspaper front page on “House voice to cut Rota and Tinian Budgets by \$4.4 Million”. I don’t know where the Marianas Variety newspaper took their information, which still the House, Ways and Means Committee analyzing the budget. Yes, we received letter from the Rota Delegation, requesting that their budget should not be cut but I don’t know where they are getting their information. I hope that the Marianas Variety newspaper will really put out good newspaper, good news media coverage instead of going around and creating problem and not giving us the real information. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Do you want to resolve into the Committee of the Whole? Further miscellaneous? Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: Mr. Speaker, can I ask a question, are you really calling for a session tomorrow?

Speaker Fitial: Yes.

Rep. Benavente: Can we find out at this time what is so important to tackle tomorrow that we have to come in on Saturday, on a weekend? You know, as elected officials, I don’t mind, I can find the time to come out here but why are going to required from our staff? We need our people to go and stay and do some things with their families as well. When we think about what we can do as elected officials, let us not forget the staffs that work for us and need to be with their families. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Thank you for your concern. Are there any miscellaneous? None?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Chairman Babauta: Just a reminder to all the members of Commerce and Tourism Committee, we are having a committee meeting at one o’clock this afternoon.

Speaker Fitial: Any further announcements? Chairman Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman R. Camacho: (microphone was off)

Speaker Fitial: Further announcements? Chairman Tony Camacho?

Chairman A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House Ways and Means Committee will meet with Rota Municipal Council at two o'clock and the Northern Island Mayor at four o'clock this afternoon.

Speaker Fitial: Any further committee announcements? Chairman Jones?

Chairman Jones: The Natural Resources and Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committees starting next week, we will be meeting on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Speaker Fitial: Any further announcements? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am kind of concern on the CUC and I would like to find out from the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications (PUTC) Chairman, as to whether or not the PUTC will be conducting any oversight hearing on the CUC matters regarding the 80 megawatts.

Chairman R. Camacho: Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, I have a different opinion in terms of oversight. I think there is a legislation to be enacted sometimes next week and that will supersede and if that one goes through from the House to the Senate and then the Governor will sign it then the oversight will take effect and let us do our part and then we will go ahead and call the oversight after the effect of the legislation.

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Go ahead.

Rep. Attao: So, may I ask the Chairman on PUTC to conduct a public hearing on that particular bill before it is presented to the full House?

Chairman R. Camacho: I will take that recommendation to the committee.

Rep. Attao: Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: I yield. Ready.

Speaker Fitial: I just would like to announce also that pursuant to Representative Hofschneider's request, I would like to call all the members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to meet on Thursday, next week, at 8:00 a.m. Floor Leader?

Rep. Hofschneider: Mr. Speaker, clarification, should I call or should you call?

Speaker Fitial: You can call. Floor Leader?

Floor Leader Babauta: Just to further inform, Mr. Speaker, that let us not forget our three members from the Senate to let them know.

Speaker Fitial: Yes, we will also call them.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: Okay, if there is no further deliberation on today's session, Floor Leader you are recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Move to recess until tomorrow morning at ten, Mr. Speaker.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recess at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives

THIRD APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

H. L. B. No. 12-005: To establish local license fees for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. (REP. NORMAN S. PALACIOS +2)