

MOEN -- "DRY SEASON 1978":
REPORT ON PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL

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INTRODUCTION

ON JANUARY 15, 1978, A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE TO BAN THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON MOEN ISLAND WENT INTO EFFECT. EVEN BEFORE IT ACTUALLY TOOK EFFECT, THE ORDINANCE HAS BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION ON THE ISLAND. THE DISCUSSION AROUSED OUR CURIOSITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEWLY PASSED LAW, ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IN THIS PROJECT WAS TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE LAW UPON THE DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY: BUSINESSES FORMERLY SELLING LIQUOR, THE TOURIST INDUSTRY, THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT BODIES THAT DEPEND ON LIQUOR TAXES FOR REVENUE, AND THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE RESIDING ON MOEN.

IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR OBJECTIVE, WE CONDUCTED DIRECT INTERVIEWS WITH THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS AND PEOPLE: ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, POLICE DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION, TOURISM OFFICE, TAX REVENUE OFFICE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES, MANAGERS AND OWNERS OF VARIOUS BARS, RESTAURANTS AND STORES. QUESTIONNAIRES WERE ALSO GIVEN OUT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINDING OUT PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE LAW.

MOEN ISLAND, THE DISTRICT CENTER OF TRUK, IS WHERE THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, AND MAJOR STORES, BARS AND RESTAURANTS ARE LOCATED. THUS, DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN THE TRUK LAGOON AND THE OUTER ISLANDS HAVE CONTINUALLY MIGRATED TO MOEN IN SEARCH OF JOBS AND RECREATION. SINCE MOEN IS THE CENTER OF BUSINESSES, POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR OTHER ISLANDS, IT ALSO BECOMES A "MELTING POT" FOR THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE. OFTEN

UNABLE TO FIND AVAILABLE JOBS, HOWEVER, THESE PEOPLE -- ESPECIALLY YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 30 -- ROAM AROUND AIMLESSLY. AT TIMES THESE GROUPS OF PEOPLE COME INTO SMALL CLASHES, WHICH SOMETIMES EVENTUALLY RESULT IN ISLAND-TO-ISLAND CONFLICTS. THE TROUBLES THAT OCCUR ARE, OF COURSE, ALL ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN OCCURRING FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST YEARS.

BACKGROUND

LIQUOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FAVORITE BEVERAGE FOR MANY PEOPLE IN TRUK. IT HAS BEEN USED AS A MEANS OF RELIEVING TENSIONS AND FAMILY PROBLEMS. A PERSON WHO IS UNABLE TO SPEAK OUT SOBERLY, USUALLY DROWNS HIS SHAME IN A CAN OF SCHLITZ OR A BOTTLE OF GIN, THEN HE IS ABLE TO SPEAK OUT FREELY WHAT HE THINKS OR FEELS. LIQUOR, HOWEVER, HAS ALSO BEEN A CAUSE OF MANY SEVERE SOCIAL PROBLEMS RANGING FROM SIMPLE FIGHTS TO RECORDED HOMICIDE CASES. IN 1975, FOR INSTANCE, THERE WERE THREE CAR ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY DRUNKEN DRIVERS. BETWEEN THE YEARS 1970 AND 1977 THERE HAVE BEEN SIX RECORDED HOMICIDE CASES, FIVE OF WHICH WERE COMMITTED BY PERSONS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR RECORDED ASSAULTS IN OF WHICH CASES THE ASSAILANT AND/OR THE VICTIM WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SPIRITS.

OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO OFFER SOLUTIONS TO MINIMIZE, IF NOT ABOLISH COMPLETELY, THESE PROBLEMS. AMONG THE SOLUTIONS FOUND WERE: TEMPORARY CLOSING DOWN OF BARS, LICENSING, AND RECRUITING OF NEW POLICE CHIEFS.

TEMPORARY CLOSING DOWN OF BARS. IN FEBRUARY OF 1977, THE TWO ISLAND GROUPS OF FAICHUK AND NAMONEAS IN THE TRUK LAGOON GOT INTO A CONFLICT AND DECIDED TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN AT TRUK AIRPORT ON MOEN. ON HEARING THIS, THE DISTAD CLOSED DOWN THE BARS ON MOEN FOR PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FEARING THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR MIGHT LEAD TO AN EVEN WORSE SITUATION. THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN USED A FEW TIMES IN THE PAST. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS SOLUTION, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT DOESN'T WORK IN THE LONG RUN BECAUSE AFTER THE BARS ARE REOPENED, TROUBLE RESUMES AT ITS NORMAL PACE.

LICENSING. DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1974, DRINKING PERMITS WERE INTRODUCED. ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF 21, EXCEPT THOSE WHOSE FILES IN THE POLICE STATION SHOWED THAT THEY COULDN'T BEHAVE WELL WHEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE, WAS ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN A DRINKING PERMIT FROM THE POLICE STATION FOR A FEE OF \$6. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS A WAY OF SEGREGATING THE PEOPLE WHO

COULD AND COULDN'T DRINK. DRINKING PERMITS WERE CONFISCATED FROM CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IF THEY DRANK AND CAUSED TROUBLE. THUS, ANYONE WITHOUT A DRINKING PERMIT WAS NOT TO BE SOLD OR CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT ANYTIME. THIS LAW WORKED -- FOR A WHILE! EVENTUALLY, BUSINESSES NO LONGER LOOKED FOR THE PERMITS; THE MONEY WAS MORE IMPORTANT. AS A RESULT, TEENAGERS AND THOSE WHO WERE REFUSED DRINKING PERMITS GOT AWAY WITH PURCHASING LIQUOR. AT THE SAME TIME, THOSE STORES THAT FIRMLY ABIDED BY THE LAW SOLD ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO PEOPLE WHO HAD DRINKING PERMITS AND WERE PURCHASING LIQUOR FOR FRIENDS WHO DIDN'T HAVE THEM. LAW ENFORCEMENT ALSO GRADUALLY WANED, AND THE POLICE HARDLY CHECKED BARS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAD NO DRINKING PERMITS.

NEW POLICE CHIEFS. THEN IN THE LATTER PART OF 1977, TWO NEW POLICEMEN FROM HAWAII ARRIVED IN TRUK TO BEGIN CONDUCTING TRAINING FOR THE TRUK POLICE FORCE AND ALSO HELP IN DEALING WITH THE CRIMES IN TRUK. POLICE CHIEF BOISSE CORREA AND CAPTAIN MARC GREENWELL WERE A BIG HELP TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE FEW REMAINING TOUGH CRIMINALS IN TRUK, WHO WERE NOT IN THE PRISON BEFORE BOISSE CAME, WERE ARRESTED. CERTAINLY THE COMING OF THESE TWO MEN HAS EASED THE SITUATION A LITTLE. POLICE BECAME MORE DILIGENT. STREET FIGHTS ERUPTED LESS FREQUENTLY THAN BEFORE. EVENTHOUGH THERE WERE MORE CONTROLS ON DRINKING, HOWEVER, IT DIDN'T STOP COMPLETELY. DRINKERS FLED TO RURAL AREAS WHEN THEY WANTED TO "SUCK 'EM UP". THEN THERE WERE THOSE WHO REMAINED IN TOWN, BUT HID OUT IN THE BUSHES WHEN THEY FELT LIKE DOWNING A BOTTLE OR TWO.

MOEN RESIDENTS HAD BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THAT TROUBLE COULDN'T BE CONTROLLED IF DRINKING WAS NOT STOPPED. THEY SAW THAT IN TOWN, TROUBLE HAD DECREASED, BUT IN THE VILLAGES AWAY FROM TOWN, PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DRUNKARDS WERE BEGINING TO MULTIPLY. THEREFORE, GROUPS FROM THE DIFFERENT VILLAGES ON MOEN SUBMITTED PETITIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL STATING THAT THEY WANTED NO MORE LIQUOR ON THEIR ISLAND AT ALL. THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE PETITIONS AND DECIDED TO HOLD AN ISLAND-WIDE REFERENDUM. BEFORE THE REFERENDUM WAS HELD, MEETINGS WERE CONVENED IN VILLAGES AND PEOPLE WERE NOTIFIED OF THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE LIQUOR BAN. AFTER THE PEOPLE HAD GONE TO THE POLLS AND VOTED ON WHETHER OR NOT TO BAN LIQUOR, IT WAS CLEAR THAT DESPITE THE DISADVANTAGES OF OUTLAWING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MENTIONED IN THEIR MEETINGS, THEY WERE STILL FIRM IN THEIR DECISION TO PROHIBIT LIQUOR. OUT OF 2,191 REGISTERED VOTERS, 2,045 WERE FOR THE BAN, WHILE A MERE 146 VOTED AGAINST IT. OLDER PEOPLE, WOMEN AND PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS WERE ESPECIALLY STRONG IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE BAN.

SEEING THIS, THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RECOGNIZED THAT MANY OF THE PEOPLE OF MOEN WERE VERY OUTSPOKEN IN THEIR DESIRES TO PROHIBIT LIQUOR ON THEIR ISLAND. THEY CONSTITUTED A MOEN MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE, WHICH STATES THAT "IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO SELL OR CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON MOEN MUNICIPALITY." VIOLATORS WERE LIABLE TO BE FINED NOT MORE THAN \$100 OR IMPRISONED FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS OR BOTH.

THE ORDINANCE WAS THEN SUBMITTED TO THE DISTAD FOR APPROVAL. AS WAS EXPECTED, THE ACTING DISTAD AT THAT TIME APPROVED AND SIGNED INTO LAW THE MOEN MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE ON THE 25TH OF OCTOBER, 1977. AS THE ACTING DISTAD AT THAT TIME STATED, "I HAD NO CHOICE. IT WAS THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE AND, FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURES OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THE MAJORITY RULES AS THE VOTE SHOWED CLEARLY." RESPONSES COMING INTO THE TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE WERE NUMEROUS. PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS WROTE AND EXTENDED CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS WISE DECISION. EVEN SOME BUSINESSMEN WERE ALSO HAPPY WITH THE DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THESE WERE THE OWNERS OF THE FEW BUSINESSES THAT WERE VICTIMS OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED FIGHTS WHICH CAUSED DAMAGE TO FURNITURE AND RUINED THE REPUTATION OF THAT BUSINESS AS A WHOLE. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, MOST BUSINESSMEN EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE MONEY THEY WOULD LOSE AS A RESULT OF THE BAN. A CERTAIN BUSINESS EVEN WENT TO THE POINT OF INQUIRING AT MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS LEGAL TO BUILD A FLOATING BAR IN THE TRUK LA- GOON. IT WAS DECIDED THAT SUCH A BAR WOULD BE ILLEGAL. THE TRUK TOURISM OFFICE ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN ABOUT THE BAN RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF TOURISTS WHO WERE EXPECTED TO COME TO TRUK. THUS, IT WOULD DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY COMING INTO TRUK.

THE PUBLIC RESPONSE, WHICH WILL BE ELABORATED ON LATER IN THIS PAPER, WAS MOSTLY POSITIVE REGARDING THE BAN. PEOPLE SEEMED TO LIKE IT BECAUSE THEY FELT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH CRIME ON MOEN. THEY BELIEVED THAT THESE CRIMES WERE ALL CAUSED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE DRUNK AND COULD NOT CONTROL THEMSELVES. MANY FELT THE BAN WOULD PUT AN END TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS, AND SO THEY SUPPORTED IT. AND AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE PETITIONS AND THE VOTES, IT WAS CLEARLY THE WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF MOEN THAT SUCH A LAW BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

THERE IS SOME SPECULATION, HOWEVER, THAT MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HAD MIXED MOTIVES FOR PASSING THE ORDINANCE. ONE PERSON INTERVIEWED SUSPECTED THAT THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE A BIGGER PORTION OF THE LIQUOR TAX COLLECTED BY THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FOR THEIR OWN OPERATION. THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE COLLECTS ALL SALES

TAX ON LIQUOR AND EVENTUALLY RECEIVES FIFTY PERCENT OF THE IMPORT TAX ON ALCOHOL COMING INTO TRUK. THIS MONEY IS THEREAFTER DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG THE DIFFERENT ISLANDS IN TRUK ACCORDING TO THEIR POPULATIONS AND IS USED FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS OF ROADS, DOCKS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SAID SEVERAL SOURCES, WAS PUSHING FOR A BIGGER CUT OF THIS MONEY THROUGH INFORMAL CONVERSATION AND SPEECHES WITH MEMBERS OF THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. THE LEGISLATURE IGNORED THEIR REQUEST, HOWEVER, SO IT IS BELIEVED THAT MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RETALIATED BY BANNING LIQUOR ENTIRELY. SAID ONE SOURCE INTERVIEWED, "MOEN LEADERS ARE SELFISH AND LACK A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY." HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT, "MANY PEOPLE WILL NOT COME TO MOEN BECAUSE IT IS DRY." HE CITED AN EXAMPLE FOR HIS STATEMENT, "NOW IN TRUK THERE ARE MANY NEW PROJECTS THAT ARE ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY SUCH AS THE NEW AIRPORT, DOCKS, AND OTHERS. THEY ARE PRESENTLY UP FOR BID TO VARIOUS COMPANIES, AND SEEING THAT TRUK IS DRY THESE COMPANIES MIGHT NOT WANT TO COME BECAUSE OF LACK OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR WORKERS."

BUT THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S DESIRE TO ACQUIRE A BIGGER CUT IN THE TRUK LEGISLATURE'S TAXES IS NOT ENTIRELY UNREASONABLE. AS ONE SOURCE MENTIONED, "MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WOULD LIKE A BIGGER PORTION OF THE LIQUOR TAX TO IMPROVE THE MOEN MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE." THIS, THE SOURCE MENTIONED, "IS FOR A GOOD CAUSE BECAUSE THE FACT REMAINS THAT PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER ISLANDS OF TRUK LAGOON COME TO MOEN, DRINK ALL THEY WANT, AND LEAVE FOR HOME. HOWEVER, BEFORE THEY DEPART FOR THEIR ISLANDS, THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR DRUNKEN MISCONDUCT DUE TO ALCOHOL ABUSE ARE LEFT FOR THE MOEN MUNICIPAL POLICE TO TAKE CARE OF."

EFFECTS

THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL ON MOEN HAS HAD AN OBVIOUS EFFECT ON THE OTHER ISLANDS IN THE TRUK LAGOON. NOW THAT THE SALE IS PROHIBITED HERE ON MOEN, PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER ISLANDS HAVE NOWHERE TO OBTAIN THEIR DRINKS. DUBLON, ANOTHER ISLAND IN THE TRUK LAGOON, HAD AN ORDINANCE SIMILAR TO MOEN'S THAT ALSO PROHIBITED DRINKING ON THEIR ISLAND BUT IT WAS NOT REALLY EFFECTIVE UNTIL MOEN PASSED ITS ORDINANCE. EVEN IF PEOPLE FROM DUBLON OR OTHER ISLANDS WISH TO DRINK, THEY HAVE NO MEANS OF OBTAINING LIQUOR ANYMORE.

IN GENERAL, LIFE HERE ON MOEN HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE ALCOHOL BAN. PEOPLE FEEL SAFER BECAUSE TROUBLE HAS CEASED. ANOTHER THING IS THAT PEOPLE WHO WERE ONCE DRINKERS AND WERE EMPLOYED, NO LONGER SPEND MOST OF THEIR MONEY ON LIQ-

UOR. INSTEAD, MORE MONEY GOES TO FAMILIES FOR THEIR USE. WIVES ARE ALSO NOW HAPPY THAT THEIR HUSBANDS DON'T RUN AROUND MUCH ANYMORE. NOWADAYS MORE PEOPLE ARE TURNING TO THE CHURCH. THEY ARE BEGINNING TO PARTICIPATE MORE IN RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHURCH-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROHIBITION HAS BEEN A VERY SEVERE BLOW TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE IN TRUK. AS WILL BE SHOWN MORE CLEARLY LATER ON, MONEY ACQUIRED FROM THE SALES AND IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR CONSTITUTES APPROXIMATELY 27% OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE'S INCOME. FURTHERMORE, THE LIQUOR BAN HAS ALSO BADLY HURT SEVERAL BUSINESSES ON TRUK THAT USED TO SELL LIQUOR.

BARS.

IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1977, THERE WERE SIX OPENED BARS ON MOEN. IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING THE PROHIBITION, ONE OF THE BARS CLOSED DOWN COMPLETELY BECAUSE IT HAD NO OTHER MEANS OF INCOME SINCE IT WAS ONLY SELLING LIQUOR. THE OTHER FIVE BARS DIDN'T CLOSE DOWN COMPLETELY, BECAUSE THEY WERE SELLING OTHER THINGS BESIDES LIQUOR. THESE FIVE BUSINESSES THAT WERE FORMERLY SELLING LIQUOR ALTOGETHER GROSSED TWO-THIRDS OF A MILLION DOLLARS IN 1977. WHEN THE PURCHASE COST OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IS SUBTRACTED FROM THIS GROSS, THESE FIVE BARS SHOW TOTAL EARNINGS OF ALMOST \$300,000. IT IS THIS AMOUNT THAT CIRCULATES IN TRUK DISTRICT AND HAS A MULTIPLIER EFFECT IN THE ECONOMY. THE FIGURES ON GROSS AND NET INCOME THAT ARE SHOWN IN TABLE I COME FROM ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALONE.

TABLE I

NAMES OF BUSINESSES	1977 ESTIMATED LIQUOR INCOME			EMPLOYEES LAY-OFFS SINCE BAN
	GROSS	PURCHASES	NET	
STOP N' SHOP	\$240,000	\$142,659	\$97,341	14
HAPPY LANDING	\$216,000	\$121,500	\$94,500	6
CONTINENTAL	\$123,000	\$61,500	\$61,500	18
MARAMAR HOTEL	\$69,200	\$35,190	\$34,010	2
BAYVIEW *	\$16,080	\$7,000	\$9,080	0
TOTAL	\$664,281	\$367,849	\$296,432	40

*BAYVIEW RESTAURANT & BAR JUST OPENED RECENTLY FOR A LITTLE OVER TWO MONTHS (Nov. 4TH - JAN. 14TH)

THE D'OASIS BAR HAS CLOSED DOWN COMPLETELY AND NOW THE MANAGERS ARE TRYING TO FIND MEANS OF COMPENSATION FOR THE MONEY LOST. IN THEIR CASE, THEY ARE PLANNING TO OPEN UP A BAKERY AND AN OUTDOOR REPAIR SHOP FOR AUTOMOBILES AS WELL AS FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT LIKE TYPEWRITERS, XEROX MACHINES, AND CABINETS. DESPITE ALL THIS, THE MANAGERS STILL FEEL THESE MEANS OF COMPENSATION WILL NOT BRING IN THE AMOUNT THAT THEY ONCE MADE WHEN LIQUOR WAS SOLD. THE HAPPY LANDING BAR AND RESTAURANT'S MANAGER IS PLANNING TO ORDER MORE PONG TABLES, AND HE MIGHT, IF THE BAN DOES NOT LIFT, BUILD A STORE. THE BAYVIEW RESTAURANT HAS ALREADY OPENED A POKER CLUB. THE OWNER IS ALSO PLANNING TO OFFER SOME SORT OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ON CERTAIN NIGHTS AT WHICH FAMILIES CAN GET TOGETHER, HAVE FUN, EAT, AND WATCH MOVIES AFTERWARDS. HOTEL MARAMAR HAS PLANS TO IMPROVE THEIR KITCHEN SERVICE TO LURE MORE HUNGRY CUSTOMERS. THEY ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF EXPORTING HANDICRAFT TO OTHER PLACES. THE MONEY THEY EXPECT FROM THIS WILL NOT COMPENSATE COMPLETELY FOR THE MONEY THEY LOST AS A RESULT OF THE BAN; HOWEVER, IT WILL BRING THEIR INCOME UP CONSIDERABLY.

THE BANNING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES HAS ALSO HAD AN EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT HERE ON MOEN, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY BUSINESSES SELLING LIQUOR. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE TABLE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 40 EMPLOYEES LAID-OFF FROM THEIR JOBS. BUSINESSES NO LONGER NEED THEM AND CAN'T PAY THEIR SALARIES BECAUSE OF LACK OF MONEY. OUT OF ALL THESE EMPLOYEES LAID-OFF, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND TWO WHO HAVE GOTTEN OTHER JOBS AGAIN. ONE IS WORKING FOR THE CETA PROGRAM HERE IN TRUK AND THE OTHER IS NOW WORKING AT ANOTHER RESTAURANT. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND INFORMATION ON THE REMAINING LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES.

OUR INTERVIEWS WITH MANAGERS OF THESE BUSINESSES REVEALED THAT THEY ARE MOSTLY AGAINST THE PROHIBITION. MOST OF THEM ARE HOPING THE BAN WILL LIFT SOON. SAID ONE, "IT IS A BREACH TO OUR PRIVACY RIGHTS." ANOTHER REPLIED, "IT IS REALLY BAD FOR MY INCOME BECAUSE 75% CAME FROM LIQUOR. I AM NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT I HOPE SOMEONE WILL DO SOMETHING SOON." MOST OF THE BUSINESSMEN INTERVIEWED ARE GAMBLING ON THE LEGISLATURE TO ACT AND MAKE SOME KIND OF AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THEIR BUSINESSES TO REOPEN THE SALES OF LIQUOR. WE WILL SEE LATER IN THIS PAPER WHAT POWER THE LEGISLATURE HAS TO DO THIS.

TAX REVENUE.

STORES, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND BARS SELLING LIQUOR ALL PAY LIQUOR TAXES TO THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. THEY ALSO PAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSING FEES EACH YEAR TO THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. THUS, BOTH OF THESE LEGISLATIVE BODIES

WILL LOSE A CERTAIN PORTION OF THEIR REVENUES AS A RESULT OF THIS LIQUOR BAN. THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, ESPECIALLY, WILL BE HURT BADLY BECAUSE IT WILL LOSE THE LARGE SUM OF \$242,592 THAT TAXES ON ALCOHOL BROUGHT IN LAST YEAR --THAT IS 27% OF THEIR TOTAL INCOME OF \$900,000 FOR THE YEAR 1977. THE AMOUNT THEY WILL LOSE IS BASED ON THEIR 1977 COLLECTION ON BOTH SALES AND IMPORT TAXES ON LIQUOR. ALL LIQUOR SALES TAX IS COLLECTED AND KEPT WITHIN THE TRUK DISTRICT BY THE LEGISLATURE. ON IMPORT TAX, HOWEVER, HALF OF THE AMOUNT COLLECTED ON LIQUOR IS FOR THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND THE OTHER HALF FOR CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THE TOTAL IMPORT TAX ON LIQUOR COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 1977 WAS \$189,155.

THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IS NOT AFFECTED SO MUCH BY THE LIQUOR PROHIBITION. IT WILL LOSE THE VERY SMALL SUM OF \$500, WHICH IS ONLY 0.8% OF THEIR TOTAL INCOME OF \$64,501.00. THE \$500 IT WILL LOSE WAS COLLECTED FROM ANNUAL LICENSE FEES FOR BUSINESSES SELLING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

TABLE II

TAX REVENUES FROM LICENSING AND SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	
	1977
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA	\$91,577.81
TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE	\$242,592.64
MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	\$500.00
TOTALS	\$337,670.45

IN THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE MEMBERS HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS ON THE PROHIBITION. ONE REMARKED, "THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON MOEN IS GOOD. LIQUOR HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS FIGHTS. MY SON WAS A VICTIM OF A DRUNKARD." ANOTHER SAID IN OPPOSITION, "I AM A LIBERAL. I BELIEVE IN MONEY-ECONOMY. LIQUOR SHOULD NOT BE BANNED IN ORDER TO CALM DOWN PROBLEMS. INSTEAD, LAW ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO."

AS TO THEIR PLANS OF COMPENSATION FOR THE MONEY LOST, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE SAID, "I SUSPECT NOTHING COULD BE DONE NOW BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ELECTION." IT WOULD BE "HAZARDOUS" FOR THE PRESENT LEGISLATORS TO DO ANYTHING SUCH AS RAISING TAXES BECAUSE IT MIGHT NARROW THEIR CHANCES OF RETAINING THEIR SEATS IN THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE IN THE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR.

TOURISM.

THE NEWLY PASSED MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE HAS HAD A WIDE EFFECT ON TOURISM HERE IN TRUK. ACCORDING TO OUR INTERVIEW WITH THE LOCAL TOURISM OFFICER, A TOTAL OF 350 TOURISTS CAME TO TRUK DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1978, WHEREAS 437 TOURISTS CAME TO TRUK DURING THE SAME MONTH OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. A DROP OF 437 TO 350 REPRESENTS A 20% LOSS OF TOURISTS FOR TRUK. THE LOCAL TOURISM OFFICER FELT THAT THE LIQUOR BAN IS A GOOD PART OF THE REASON WHY THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS HAS DECREASED. HE HAS PLANS TO TRY AND AMEND THE NEW LAW.

PART OF THE REASON THE RATE OF TOURISTS HAS DROPPED SO RAPIDLY IS BECAUSE BY NOVEMBER 1977, A HOTEL MANAGER S AID, "WORD HAD REACHED HAWAII THAT TRUK HAD GONE DRY." SOME HOTELS IN TRUK SUCH AS THE TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL AND HOTEL MARAMAR HAVE RECEIVED MANY CANCELLATIONS OF RESERVATIONS FROM TOURISTS WHO WERE PLANNING TO STAY HERE IN TRUK. THIS, THEREFORE, HAS AFFECTED THE ROOM OCCUPANCY RATES OF THESE TWO HOTELS. THE TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1977 HAD AN AVERAGE OF 13 OF THEIR 56 ROOMS OCCUPIED, WHILE IN DECEMBER 1976 THEY HAD 28 ROOMS OCCUPIED. THE MONTH OF DECEMBER IS CONTINENTAL HOTEL'S BIGGEST MONTH OF THE YEAR AND THE ONLY MONTH AT THAT TIME THAT THEY COULD GIVE US FIGURES ON. THE FIGURES IN TABLE III ON THE TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL MIGHT APPEAR TO SHOW THAT IT HAS GAINED MONEY. BUT ACTUALLY, THEY HAVE RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1978 LESS THAN WHAT THEY EXPECTED. THE HOTEL ANTICIPATED RECEIVING AN INCOME OF ABOUT \$40,000 IN JANUARY 1978, BUT AS A RESULT OF THE BAN SIX DIVING GROUPS CANCELLED THEIR RESERVATIONS, COSTING THE TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL A LOSS OF \$20,000 IN THEIR ESTIMATED \$40,000 INCOME FOR THE SINGLE MONTH OF JANUARY. CONTINENTAL HOTEL HAD JUST BEGUN ADVERTISING LAST YEAR, AND RESERVATIONS HAD JUST STARTED BUILDING UP WHEN THIS NEW LAW CAME INTO EFFECT.

HOTEL MARAMAR IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1978 HAD FIVE OF ITS 20 ROOMS OCCUPIED. DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1977, HOWEVER, ALL 20 ROOMS WERE OCCUPIED PERIODICALLY.

THE CHRISTOPHER INN IS A DIFFERENT STORY, HOWEVER. THE HOTEL HAD 45 TOURISTS OCCUPYING 10 TO 12 ROOMS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1978. IN JANUARY 1977, 40 TOURISTS OCCUPIED THESE SAME ROOMS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CHRISTOPHER INN WAS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE LIQUOR BAN. MOST OF THEIR TOURISTS WERE JAPANESE AND PERHAPS NOT HEAVY DRINKERS.

THE OVERALL DECREASE IN ROOM OCCUPANCY RATES, OF COURSE, HAD AN EFFECT ON THE MONEY ACQUIRED BY THE HOTELS ON ROOM RENTALS. ALTHOUGH THE THREE HOTELS MAY WELL SHOW A SLIGHT INCREASE IN INCOME BY THE END OF 1978, THEY STILL STAND TO LOSE ALMOST \$90,000 OF WHAT THEY ESTIMATED THEY COULD HAVE EARNED.

TABLE III

HOTELS	INCOME FROM ROOM RENTALS			
	JANUARY '77	TOTAL '77	JANUARY '78	PROJ. ALL '78
CONTINENTAL	\$12,513	\$150,156	\$20,633	\$247,596
MARAMAR HOTEL	\$1,427	\$16,852	\$798	\$9,580
CHRISTOPHER INN	\$1,630	\$37,129	\$2,818	\$33,827

PUBLIC SAFETY.

PROBLEMS HAVE DECREASED CONSIDERABLY AS A RESULT OF THE PROHIBITION. THE HOSPITAL, FOR INSTANCE, AVERAGED BEFORE THE BAN ABOUT THREE SERIOUS INJURIES PER MONTH FROM CAR ACCIDENTS, STONINGS AND STABBINGS. FOR THE FIRST MONTH OF THE LAW, THIS RATE DROPPED TO ZERO. DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1977, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DETENTIONERS AND PRISONERS WAS 109. IN OCTOBER 1977, THE NUMBER OF DETENTIONERS AND PRISONERS INCREASED TO 119. FOR THE FIRST MONTH OF THE LAW (JANUARY 15 TO FEBRUARY 15, 1978), THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 65 PRISONERS AND DETENTIONERS. THAT WAS A DROP OF 60%. THE REASON WHY OUR GROUP CHOSE THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WAS BECAUSE RECORDS OF EARLIER MONTHS COULD NOT BE OBTAINED FROM THE TRUK POLICE DEPARTMENT. SEPTEMBER'S FIGURES WERE THE EARLIEST MONTH WE COULD PROCURE. A MAJORITY OF THE DETENTIONERS LAST SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WERE THROWN IN THE PRISON FOR NOT HAVING DRINKING PERMITS WHILE CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND FOR FIGHTING OR DISTURBING THE PEACE.

DISRESPECT FOR LAW.

HAVING REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF TROUBLE IN TOWN A BIT, THE LIQUOR BAN HAS PERHAPS ALSO CREATED A FEELING OF DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW. IT COULD BE THAT THESE PEOPLE MERELY THINK THIS LAW IS RIDICULOUS OR THAT THEY JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM "IMBALANCING FACTORS". AFTER THE LAW CAME INTO EFFECT, FOR INSTANCE, THERE HAVE BEEN SIX CONVICTED CASES OF CONSUMPTION OF MANUFACTURED YEAST. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN ONE CASE OF SELLING LIQUOR UNDER-COUNTER. THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED TO OTHER DRUGS SUCH AS MARIJUANA. IN ONE CASE, TWO MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP WERE ONCE OFFERED A "JOINT" BY A PASSERBY. IN ANOTHER, OUR GROUP OBSERVED A GROUP OF THREE PEOPLE FONDLING A "JOINT" IN A RESTAURANT. SO THIS LAW, IN A WAY, MAY BE CREATING SEVERAL MINOR PROBLEMS.

REACTIONS ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

OUR GROUP INTERVIEWED 222 PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER MOEN IN ORDER TO GET THEIR REACTIONS REGARDING THE LIQUOR BAN. THE QUESTIONS ASKED WERE TO FIND OUT HOW PEOPLE LIVE AFTER THE BAN, WHAT THEY FEEL REGARDING THE ISLAND'S PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, AND HOW THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY IF THEY WERE ONCE DRINKERS.

IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT FOR THE BAN ON ALCOHOL. LADIES ESPECIALLY STATED THAT IT WAS A WISE DECISION TO BAN LIQUOR ON THE ISLAND. THEY SAID IT WAS THE INTOXICATION OF LIQUOR THAT BROUGHT TROUBLE IN COMMUNITIES, CLANS, AND FAMILIES. THEY FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT TRUKENESE HAVE NO SENSE OF CONTROL WHEN THEY DRINK AND USUALLY ABUSE ALCOHOL. A MOTHER RESIDING AT NANTAKU SAID THAT THE BANNING ON THE ISLAND WAS A GREAT RELIEF ON HER PART DUE TO THE GRIEVOUS AGONY SHE SUFFERED WHEN HER OLDEST SON WAS STABBED BY DRUNKARDS. MOST OF THE WOMEN INTERVIEWED SAID THAT THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IS VERY PEACEFUL. THEY CAN NOW GO OUT AT NIGHT WITHOUT ANY WORRIES OF BEING TOSSSED OFF THE ROAD BY TIPPLERS.

DURING THE COURSE OF OUR INTERVIEWS, WE FOUND THAT SOME DRINKERS EVEN GAVE UP DRINKING ALTOGETHER AFTER THE BAN. SOME OF THEIR REASONS WERE THAT DRINKING WAS BOOTLESS WHEN THERE ARE NO OTHER DRINKERS AROUND. WHATSMORE, SINCE THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PROHIBITED LIQUOR ON THIS ISLAND, IT WAS BETTER TO GIVE UP DRINKING THAN TO PUT THEMSELVES INTO TROUBLE. AS A RESULT, MOST DRINKERS SAID THEY MADE A BETTER LIVING AFTER THE BAN BY SETTLING DOWN WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND SPENDING THE MONEY THAT WAS ONCE SPENT ON LIQUOR FOR FOOD, PERSONAL BELONGINGS, AND FAMILY NEEDS. FURTHERMORE, MANY OF THEM, INSTEAD OF SPENDING THE WHOLE WEEK-END IN BARS AND BUSHES, NOW COME HOME AND PERFORM THEIR FAMILY DUTIES. SOME WERE EVEN ABLE TO DEPOSIT MONEY IN THE BANK. NONE-THELESS, THERE ARE MANY DRINKERS WHO STILL FEEL THAT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE HAS CHANGED VERY LITTLE EXCEPT TO BECOME SLIGHTLY MORE BORING.

THERE WERE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRES MADE UP FOR USE IN GETTING THE FAMILY OPINION ON THE LIQUOR BAN. THERE WERE TEN FAMILIES IN ALL THAT WERE INTERVIEWED. DURING OUR INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY HEADS AND MEMBERS, IT CAME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT MOST OF THE FAMILIES IMPROVED IN THE AREAS OF FOOD AND WORK. WE FOUND FROM SOME OF THE MOTHERS INTERVIEWED THAT FAMILY NUTRITION HAS IMPROVED GREATLY AFTER THE BAN. A MOTHER FROM NEAUO ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE IS MORE PEACE IN THE FAMILY AND THAT HER SONS NO LONGER GO OUT AT NIGHT. THIS IS BECAUSE, SHE SAID, "MY SONS GAVE UP DRINKING COMPLETELY AFTER THE PROHIBITION." IN ONE OF THE FAMILIES, THERE WAS A SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT IN THAT THEY JUST GOT A

BRAND NEW CAR, A REFRIGERATOR AND SOME SUPPLIES FOR THE EXTENSION OF THEIR HOUSE. THIS WAS ALL MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE PAPA NO LONGER SPENT ALL "HIS MONEY GALLIVANTING FROM BAR TO BAR, WE WERE TOLD.

IN OUR INTERVIEWS WE FOUND THAT MOTHERS ESPECIALLY WERE APPRECIATIVE OF THE BAN. IN ONE FAMILY WHERE THE FATHER AND SONS ALL DRANK, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MOTHER REPORTED THAT THEY STOPPED DRINKING COMPLETELY. THERE WAS ONE FAMILY WHERE THE FATHER WAS NOT A DRINKER AND HE TOO LIKED THE BAN VERY MUCH. BEFORE, HE SAID, HE ALWAYS CARRIED A WEAPON IN HIS POCKET WHENEVER HE WENT OUT AT NIGHT. NOW HE COULD WALK AROUND AT NIGHT, HE SAID, WITHOUT THE WEAPON AND WITHOUT ANY FEAR. IN ANOTHER CASE, A MAN EMPLOYED AT THE TRUK HOSPITAL REALIZED HOW STUPID HE WAS TO DRINK BEFORE. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN HE WOULD TAKE OFF FROM WORK JUST TO DRINK A COUPLE OF BEERS AND LATER ON DECIDE TO TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF. NOW, AFTER THE BAN, HE WORKS EIGHT HOURS A DAY AND COMES STRAIGHT HOME AFTERWARDS. HE IS ALSO ABLE TO PROVIDE BETTER FOR FAMILY NEEDS AND ATTEND TO HIS CHILDREN. THIS IS BECAUSE HE HAS MORE MONEY THAN FORMERLY AND CANNOT FIND MUCH TO SPEND IT ON EXCEPT FOR THE FAMILY.

RECREATION PATTERNS, TOO, APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED AFTER THE BAN. NOWADAYS, UNLIKE BEFORE, THE BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS ARE OFTEN FULL, EVEN AT NIGHT. WHEN PEOPLE COME TO PLAY TENNIS THEY OFTEN HAVE TO WAIT FOR A TIME, BECAUSE ON WEEK-ENDS AND ON WEEK DAY EVENINGS THE COURTS ARE FULL. BEFORE, VERY SELDOM COULD YOU SEE THE LIGHTS AT ANDERSON FIELD LIT AT NIGHT; NOW THEY ARE LIT ALMOST EVERY NIGHT. MOVIE THEATRES AND BINGO PARLORS ARE CONSTANTLY JAMMED WITH CUSTOMERS. THE LIQUOR BAN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS. OUR QUESTIONNAIRES REVEAL THAT MANY PEOPLE AFTER THE BAN SPEND THEIR MONEY FOR ENTERTAINING THEIR FAMILIES WITH MOVIES AND OTHER THINGS.

CONCLUSION

WE HAVE SEEN VARIOUS EFFECTS THAT THE RECENTLY PASSED ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ALCOHOL HAS HAD. ON THE SOCIAL SCENE, WE HAVE GATHERED THAT MOST YOUTHFUL AND MIDDLE AGED DRINKERS HAVE STRONGLY DISAGREED WITH THIS ORDINANCE, WHILE WOMEN AND A MAJORITY OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED APPROVAL FOR THE NEW LAW. IT IS COMMONLY FELT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE LAW THERE IS MORE PEACE IN MOEN SOCIETY. ONE REASON FOR THE PEACE MIGHT BE THAT THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO DRINK FEAR THE LAW AND THEREFORE DO THEIR DRINKING SECRETLY. BUT AS FAR AS FIGHTS AND MAJOR CRIMINAL CASES ARE CONCERNED, THERE HAVE BEEN NONE SINCE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAW.

AS WE HAVE SEEN, THE LIQUOR BAN HAS BEEN A WOUND TO TRUK'S ECONOMY. BUSINESSES FORMERLY SELLING LIQUOR WILL LOSE INCOME AND, OF COURSE, TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WILL ALSO LOSE THE REVENUE BROUGHT IN FROM SALES AND IMPORTATION OF LIQUOR. ALMOST ALL THE BUSINESSMEN INTERVIEWED HAVE SHOWN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PROHIBITION. SOME FEEL THAT TRUK NEEDS THE MONEY FROM THEIR TAXES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PROJECTS FOR WHICH TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HAS APPROPRIATED MONEY MIGHT BE ELIMINATED DUE TO THE LACK OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THEM, AND TRUK'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDS A CHANCE OF BEING CRIPPLED.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THIS NEWLY PASSED ALCOHOL LAW? WILL THE LAW CONTINUE? THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MAY AMEND OR ABOLISH ITS OWN ORDINANCE, BUT ONLY THROUGH ANOTHER REFERENDUM. THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ALSO HAS THE POWER TO ABOLISH THE MOEN MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE. THIS CAN BE DONE IF THE LEGISLATURE TAKES AWAY THE POWER VESTED IN THE MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO MAKE THEIR OWN LAWS WITH RESPECT TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE, "IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE ON ITS OWN ACCORD; OTHERWISE, IF TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE DECIDES TO ACT ON IT, IT MIGHT CAUSE THINGS TO LOOK BAD FOR MOEN." WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT IF MOEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DOES NOT CHANGE ITS LAW, THE WHOLE TRUK DISTRICT BY WAY OF THE TRUK DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MIGHT DO IT FOR THEM.

WILL THE ALCOHOL BAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS? WILL THE HABIT OF YEAST DRINKING EVER CEASE? WILL BUSINESSES EVER TRY TO STOP SELLING LIQUOR "UNDER-COUNTER"? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SINCE THERE IS NO MORE LIQUOR, PEOPLE MAY TURN TO HARD NARCOTICS SUCH AS MARIJUANA, HEROIN OR LSD? THESE ARE FEW OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH WE SHOULD CONSIDER SERIOUSLY. IF THE PROHIBITION PROVES TO BE THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT PROBLEMS, ARE THE TRUKESE OF TODAY DOING A FAVOR FOR THOSE OF TOMORROW? THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS ARE YET TO BE UNRAVELLED.