

*Approved Direct
Office - 3/22/62*

Trust Territory Headquarters
P.O. Box 542
Agana, Guam
March 16, 1962

Personal

Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall
United States Congress
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Aspinall:

I am a disturbed, worried American! I am writing to you because I know from past dealings that you are a man of action, fighting to better the American way of life whenever you can. The three cards which I have copied on the attached sheet are evidence of my good faith because I know you act on facts as needs dictate.

1. My Masonic Blue Lodge Card is placed before you to show that I am on the "Square" and ask that you handle my letter as confidential. You know that to do otherwise, as a Government employee, I might embarrass others by going to you direct. In this case, which I consider critical, I fear going through regular channels is too slow, because of bureaucratic handling, resulting in the United States again being blamed for "too little, too late". I assure you I have presented my views through channels as well as indirectly, as illustrated by the attached copy of my personal and confidential letter to Mr. Robert K. Coote, dated March 6, 1962. I hope you can spare the time to read this letter because it emphasizes reasons for my fear.
2. My American Legion Card is placed before you to indicate that I appreciate strategic areas and critical situations when I encounter them, and that I feel we must try to combat communism effectively without war. Let us pray that this can be done.
3. My U. S. Civil Service Retirement Card is placed before you in the hopes it will show that I am not a bureaucrat bucking for or desirous of holding a job other than as an American attempting to do what our President has asked, i.e., to attempt to give to, rather than take from, our country. I can readily leave here whenever anyone feels my efforts are ineffective or unnecessary. I do believe that, because of my past experience, I can be helpful in this important mission.

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My mission, Congressman Aspinall, pertains to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, where for the past 16 years the United States has been administering thousands of islands, stretching over 3,000,000 miles of ocean.

I must speak frankly, but in humility, when I have to admit that my country has not been doing a good job out here and, as in many other underdeveloped areas, the outcome is dissatisfaction, resentment and unrest among the islands' populations.

These people had hopes, when the United Nations entrusted the United States with the administration of this area, that economic development could be expected. After some 16 years they find that actually few things have occurred for their benefit. Apparently our programs have been too small and progress too slow, with most of the appropriated funds having gone for administration, first by administrators who preferred living in Hawaii, and more recently in the Territory of Guam, rather than in one of the communities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I do not wish to criticize past administration. All have apparently intended to do good work, but either they failed to understand much of this situation or failed to present the needs and urgency of the problems to proper authority.

I am new here and realize that you know far more about the Trust Territory than I do but I feel that you may not know of the disillusionment and unrest that exist among the Micronesians. Unless this condition is checked, I am fearful it might develop into an explosive situation such as our enemies would pounce upon as another instance of American "imperialism", thus negating much of the good work that has been accomplished by some of our good civil servants.

I personally, as well as several responsible associates, have heard the Micronesians say that they listen to the Communist China radio programs that are beamed to this part of the Pacific. After listening to the clever anti-American propaganda, some of the Micronesians have admitted that they would prefer having these islands administered by Red China rather than by Bureaucratic slow-moving United States.

This attitude frightens me greatly and, unless we instill more confidence by doing rather than promising, I am afraid that once again we will be playing into the hands of our enemies. We should be using this opportunity to make the Trust Territory a demonstration area which would prove to the world that the American way is a vital force in the world for progress and peace.

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To prove that others are detecting these same fears I enclose for your consideration some recent articles written by Mr. A. M. Rosenthal, of the New York Times, and Mr. John McLeod, of the Washington Daily News. While Mr. Rosenthal's article first appeared on February 12, 1962 in the New York Times, it also appeared in the Asahi Evening News on March 6 and 8.

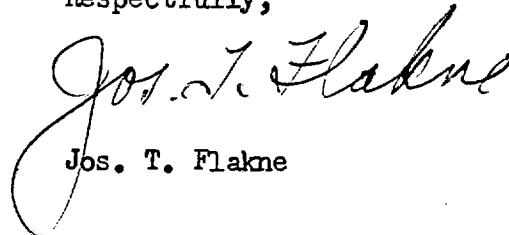
I assure you that we have in Mr. M. W. Goding, the High Commissioner, an outstanding fine administrator. He is conservative, intelligent and anxious to further the administration's cause. He is instilling confidence in his staff to the point that, if given a little more help from our government, I am sure he will push the programs here, as desired by Congress and the President.

I will not repeat here those points I expressed to Mr. Coote other than to say we are not bureaucrats attempting to further our own cause, nor are the Micronesians attempting to obtain from the Treasury of the United States anything more than that which is rightfully theirs, as rental payment for United States use of these strategic islands.

Congressman Aspinall, will you please help us here as you helped us develop Alaska and as you helped us attain Alaskan statehood. I feel I know you as a friend. If you do not recall me as Chief, Alaska Branch, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, please ask any of your colleagues I list here about me: Ralph Rivers, Thor Tollefson, Walter Judd, Robert Chipfield, Bob Bartlett or Ernest Gruening. I believe they will say I am a sincere, honest person.

Finally, when time permits and accompanied by Mrs. Aspinall, please come visit us in these beautiful peaceful islands so we can show you accurately the problems confronting us. I fear they may have been presented to you, and others who have visited this area, as buttered-up and polished accomplishments rather than problems requiring your attention. I do feel an urgent need for full honest understanding and consideration of this situation.

Respectfully,



Jos. T. Flakne

Enclosures

/s/ Jos. T. Flakne Signature of Member	<p>This is to certify that Brother</p> <p>MR. JOSEPH T. FLAKNE HUNSTON MANOR ROUTE 2, BOX 117 LORTON, VIRGINIA</p>	NOV. 8, 1961 Date Issued
	<p>is a member in good standing of</p> <p>JOPEA LODGE NO. 300 A.F. & A.M. Minneapolis, Minnesota</p> <p>Adelbert R. Smith Secretary</p>	
	1962	

/s/ Jos. T. Flakne Not Valid Unless Countersigned by Member	<p>THE AMERICAN LEGION Official Membership Card (Seal)</p>
	<p>1962 Year of Continuous Membership EARLY BIRD</p>
	<p>This is to Certify That <u>Joseph T. Flakne</u> Has paid dues for the year indicated hereon</p>
	<p>Department of Interior <u>Post No. 63</u></p>
	<p>Located at <u>Washington, D. C.</u></p>
	<p><u>F. M. Harrison</u> Post Adjutant</p>
	M17391

/s/ Jos. T. Flakne SIGNATURE	<p>UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION Washington 25, D. C.</p>
	<p>It is hereby certified that</p> <p>JOSEPH T. FLAKNE GSA-690 175</p>
	<p>has been retired from the Civil Service of the United States and has been granted an annuity.</p>
	<p>(Seal) Andrew E. Raddock Andrew E. Raddock, Director Bureau of Retirement and Insurance</p>
	<p><u>AUGUST 4, 1961</u> Date</p>