

L-11d

March 22, 1962

Mr. Joseph T. Flakne  
Trust Territory Headquarters  
P. O. Box 542  
Agana, Guam

Dear Mr. Flakne:

Your letter of March 16 arrived on time, and I have taken a few days to study its contents and that of the material that you enclosed with it. However, as yet I haven't had time to study the contents and implications of the letter as much as I would like.

It was not necessary for you to forward to me evidence of your membership in organizations with which I am familiar and which are known for their precepts of understanding and loyalty to our country, but they do give me an idea of your sincerity of interest in the matters about which you write.

At this time I shall simply state that I am glad to have your letter and that we are working on the problems which you have so eloquently brought to my attention.

Legislative bodies move slowly, and sometimes their slowness infuriates the citizenry. I can tell you that the department downtown did not make a very good case before our committee the first time they tried to justify their request for the authorization for the expenditure of additional moneys. Perhaps this was because Commissioner Goding was somewhat new to his responsibilities when he appeared before congress. He made a much better presentation later on with the Senate committee.

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I asked that the President's Office send me a request for further study of this matter, and that request was received yesterday. Next week we shall again proceed with consideration of the legislation, and I believe now that we will be able to get it in order and give it favorable consideration -- at least toward a start.

It is my understanding that during the last two or three months the State Department, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Interior Department have gotten together and that they will be prepared before the next session of congress to present the kind of program that you have in mind. I can assure you that if they will do this, and are able to justify their positions, they will find many friends here in congress. On the other hand, many of us are trying to work for the good of the Micronesians, and it will be necessary for the Executive Department to justify the programs they have in mind from the angle of the needs of the people.

As you are aware, I have been in the Pacific, and I am one of the few members of congress of whom it can be said that I have visited all of the major islands in the Trust Territory. I am dedicated to the welfare of the people of these islands, and you may count on my constructive help.

Fraternally yours,