

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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APRIL 4, 1961

Honorable Wayne H. Aspinall, Chairman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This Subcommittee has reviewed H. R. 3198, a bill "to promote the economic and social development of the Trust Territory in the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes", which is now pending before your Committee. The reason for our interest in this legislation is the fact that a considerable part of H. R. 3198 (Section 3) provides for a substantive amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to the terms of admission of aliens into the United States.

It appears to us from our examination of the bill and the accompanying Executive Communication signed by the Secretary of the Interior in which he recommended its enactment, that the primary purpose of this legislation is to enhance the economic, social, and cultural development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. If our understanding of Secretary Hall's purpose is correct, then we must point out to you that the immigration provisions of the bill are not in accord with the purpose of the bill.

By authorizing the entry of inhabitants of the Trust Territory to the United States without any limitations and by granting to such persons and immigrants alike a statutory, blanket waiver of all existing provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (such as, for example, good moral character, likelihood to become a permanent resident, etc.), and by facilitating the acquisition of United States citizenship by immigrants entering the United States from the Trust Territory, the proposed legislation would necessarily have the effect of depriving the Territory of the most valuable human resource which the Secretary desires to retain there. Obviously, the economic and social opportunities existing in the United States would act as a magnet for "the intellectuals and social leaders and other persons who will play a major role in making the final decision as to the status of the Trust Territory", to use Secretary Hall's own words. It is important to note in that regard that the Secretary stressed the necessity of assuring the return of these people back to the Trust Territory after they would

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...of the United States...
...the Department of State does not maintain...
...the fact of immigrant and...
...Administrators of the...
...Statistical data available...
...in the fiscal year ending June 30...
...visitors for business and...
...in the United States in...
...the fact that the popula-...
...approximately 20,000 persons, it...
...entered the United States in...
...one fiscal year. In the...
...general immigration...
...large percentage...
...the number of...
...to 600...
...and 100...
...and 100...
...and 100...

...proposed in H. R. 3195...
...of political, economic and...
...appear to...
...militate against the...
...successfully.

It is not our intention at this time to raise jurisdictional objec-
tions by pointing out that immigration features of H. R. 3195 con-
stitute in fact the very "heart" of this legislation. We prefer to
recommend to your Committee a close study of the immigration and
naturalization facets of H. R. 3195 in the belief that such study
will readily bring out the self-defeating and counter-productive
aspects of section 3 thereof and that for that reason your Committee
will recommend that that part of H. R. 3195 be deleted.

Should the Department of the Interior believe that there are com-
pelling reasons to make the visa provisions of the Immigration and
Nationality Act generally inapplicable in a geographical area which
is not a part of the United States and which must be considered
foreign territory until its political and administrative status is
changed, the proper forum for submission of such proposal would be
the Committee which has jurisdiction over immigration and national-
ity matters.

We trust that you will readily understand and recognize the validity
of the position we are taking.

Sincerely yours,

FRANCIS A. WILSON

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