

STATEMENT
OF

JOHN A. CARVER, JR., ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AT HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 29, AND TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1963, IN CONNECTION WITH H. R. 3198, A BILL "TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

For Release on Delivery

Mr. Chairman:

When I appeared before this Committee to "brief" the members on the Departmental programs for which I have general responsibility, on February 5th last, I emphasized the interest and the challenge of our "exterior" responsibilities.

The array of witnesses before you today appropriately demonstrates what our support of the bill being considered (H. R. 3198) also evidences; that the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by the Interior Department is and must be carried on in concert with other Departments of the executive establishment, principally State and Defense; and that with the approval of Congress, resources from other Federal Departments beneficially could be brought to bear upon the objective of promoting economic and social development of the Trust Territory.

Besides authorizing the bringing^{of} additional resources to bear upon these programs, this Committee is being asked also to recognize the area as "open" rather than closed, both from the point of view of trade and commerce, in terms of making applicable the same economic incentives available in other territorial areas and also in the ingress of the Micronesians into the United States on the same basis as U. S. nationals.

In a general way the bill asks the Congress to recognize a fundamental change in the premise upon which the United States Government administers this area.

When the United States undertook Trust Territories administration under the terms of a Security Council Trusteeship Agreement, among the obligations assumed was the encouragement of economic development, and of its political and social development. Speaking broadly, for the first decade and a half of U. S. administration, the political and social goal was to promote a sense of interdependence among the various island groups and communities within the area. The economic goal emphasized was the development of local resources for the benefit of the local people.

In that period, a great deal of political and social progress has been made. A Trust Territory-wide sense of unity is evidenced by the Council of Micronesia.

But economically Interior's stewardship of the Trust Territory until early last year was insulated from outside pressures. The area was sealed off from any except military-approved entry by even United States citizens. Micronesians were not encouraged to venture beyond the confines of their island world. Congress year after year responded generously to the Department's request for funds, but these requests were premised upon maintenance of the status quo.

As this Committee knows, 1962 brought changes. By Presidential direction, plans were submitted to this Committee for a greatly expanded

educational program, the implementation of which required raising the ceiling on appropriations to more than double its previous level. The Committee and Congress approved; the Appropriations Committees have uniformly supported appropriations requests to provide accelerated and improved educational and medical programs. The monies are not yet available, but that is no fault of this Committee or the Congress.

The Committee is also aware of the removal of security clearance requirements for U. S. citizens.

These changes illustrate that in a real sense, there is anomaly in the Interior Department administering the Trust Islands, yet we think no other department is more appropriate for the task. Visitors to our department say its halls feel like "America". Parks, lands, fisheries, Indians, minerals--an outfit devoted to such interests is not a very typical "colonial office"; but that is not necessarily a disadvantage.

We administer; we administer Indian reservations, land laws, parks, mineral programs; we administer under the policies prescribed by the Congress. We think such administration is required for our domestic territories, Samoa, Guam and the Virgin Islands. And President Kennedy has determined by Executive Order 11021 "that the purposes of the trusteeship agreement can best be effectuated at this time by placing in the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for the civil administration of all of the trust territory." In administering this territory, we regularly consult with the Department of State on questions of policy concerning the trust territory which

relate to our obligations under the Charter of the UN and the Trusteeship Agreement.

But the Trust Territory doesn't become domestic in legal effect either because administered by Interior, or because supervised by this Committee. For our part, we leave the safe harbor of "domestic" territories.

We welcome active attention and guidance from our sister Department. Assistant Secretary of State Cleveland, I am sure, will tell you of his Department's interest in how it is administered.

We are guided by one President, and we feel honored and fortunate that he takes an active and personal interest in this matter.

I will not take the further time which would be required to relate the provisions of the bill to the foregoing in detail but will, as noted, defer to the other Departmental witnesses, principally Mr. Richard F. Taitano, Director, Office of Territories, and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, the Honorable M. W. Goding.

Thank you.