

L-11d For Mr. ASPINALL

REMARKS FOR MR. O'BRIEN ON S. 2775, A BILL "TO REMOVE THE CEILING ON THE AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS"

Mr. Speaker. We have before the House of Representatives today S. 2775 and its counterpart, H. R. 9958, which will increase the present authorized appropriation for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from \$7½ million to \$17½ million per year. The \$7½ million ceiling was set by the Act of June 30, 1954. During the past 8 years, tremendous progress has been noted in the development of the Trust Territory. As outlined in our Committee Report No. 1936, the United States is responsible to the United Nations for the administration of the affairs of the 78,000 inhabitants of the 96 island groups comprising the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands, excluding Guam. The United States has obligations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the islanders who look to us for guidance and respond admirably to our tutelage.

While the United States can be proud of the progress the islanders have made since we assumed control over them at the conclusion of World War II, the time has come when we must rebuild our wornout utilities, docks, air strips, hospitals and schools, many of which were constructed 15 to 18 years ago. From the chart included in our report, it can be seen how the increased funds will be used. In fiscal 1963, the lion's share will go for construction. Next year it is planned to get an accelerated elementary school program under way. Hitherto, this program has, for the most part, been the responsibility of the

various municipalities. As a result, the building program as well as the upgrading of the teachers has suffered in many instances. We believe the time has come to augment local funds for a few years and to develop a school system that meets our responsibilities under the Trusteeship Agreement. I recognize that over \$2 million are being earmarked for transportation and this is a sizeable figure when fewer than 80,000 persons are involved. We must realize, however, that the Trust Territory covers an area the size of the United States and there are only a few small locally-owned ships plying the waters. There are no privately-owned airlines, of course. Therefore, air and water transportation lines are operated under charters issued by the Trust Territory government and are largely subsidized.

A number of our Committee members, as well as other members of Congress, have visited the Trust Territory and will agree with me that if we are to assume our responsibilities to the inhabitants of the islands, we must take all necessary steps to assist them economically, politically, educationally, and socially. It is not our intention to acculturate them so rapidly that they will be dissatisfied with their island environment, but we do want them to be equipped so that they will be able to prepare themselves for the World beyond their immediate horizon when the proper time comes.

I want to call your attention to the amount of anticipated local revenues, about \$1½ million per year. Most of this sum comes from the sale of copra (processed coconuts). We are proud of the success the islanders have achieved in helping to pay their way in the light of

the very limited natural resources at their command. The islanders are anxious to be good citizens and are most grateful to the United States for our efforts on their behalf.

Although this bill lifts the ceiling for appropriations from \$7½ million to \$17½ million, we amended it to provide that not more than \$15 million be appropriated for fiscal year 1963.

Mr. Speaker. I urge favorable consideration of S. 2775 as amended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.