

Oct. 28, 1966

Dear Ruth:

Now that our Washington trip schedule appears to be set I thought it would be a good idea to advise you of several matters which I hope to discuss with you in addition to preparations for the budget hearings. I should mention in connection with the latter that I have been leaning heavily on Joe Screen to carry the main load of the preparations for this ordeal. I am hoping to spend considerable time next week, before our departure on November 4, to be briefed in depth by him. I should also mention in this connection that Joe has himself assumed much of the responsibility of the director of budget and finance because he has his own firm ideas as to what should be done; how data should be assembled, justifications prepared, etc. This has left Les Arentzen in a somewhat subordinated role since Joe arrived on the scene. I have not attempted to second guess his approach or the procedures which he has established. Arentzen, therefore, will not be coming to Washington with us but will be accompanying us probably as far as the West Coast to line up some equipment to streamline some of our accounting procedures. However, we shall have a third man on the team, probably Jerry Phillips who has been deeply involved in budget matters since before Jack Patton left us. I should add in connection with the foregoing that Les has not complained to me, so if his nose is slightly out of joint I am not aware of it. Now let me list other subjects which I'll be bringing along with me just to alert you.

1. Selection of a Deputy. I have an uneasy feeling that we may be off the track. Several weeks ago I wrote a personal letter to the Secretary asking for information, but have received no reply. I am in dire need of a deputy and I also believe we can begin to look bad in the eyes of some of our Congressional friends, critics in the UN and state department, if this selection is not settled soon.

2. Congress of Micronesia Matters. I am assembling some of the resolutions which need discussion with you and others. I refer to such matters as the proposed appointment of a Presidential Commission, full time pay for members of the Congress, changing the name of the TT to "Micronesia", etc. In this category also is the suggestion, mine, that we consider inviting one or more members of the Congress to accompany us to the committee hearings in February or whenever they are held.

3. Peace Corps. By the time this letter reaches you you will have received the little welcome booklet we have just gotten out. We shall begin feeling the full brunt of the PC infusion tomorrow when the first big group will arrive on Guam. I shall be greeting some 20 of them who will be coming here. There is some question of whether I should go to Key West. I am planning to visit Molokai and the W. I don't particularly want to go to Key West, but would be willing to do so, if you thought it would be constructive.

I still regard my relations with the PC staff here as good. It is unfortunate that the PC stalled so long on our agreement, thus handicapping my ability to get firm clear instructions to the districts as soon as I had hoped to do. And I am now, belatedly, beginning to share your apprehension regarding Mr. R. Pritchard's persistent efforts to stick his nose into areas where he has no PD business.

4. Director of Health. In some ways I regard our lack of a director of health as more critical than the lack of a deputy, except that the availability of the latter might help me find the former. We presently have only two firm prospects, a Dr. Clark Richardson of the UCLA School of Public Health and one-time PT doctor, and Dr. Scheyer of the PC, and a Dr. Stewart (not an MD) who is a public health specialist also on the staff of UCLA. I shall bring data on them with me. But I do not believe we have done a very thorough job of searching out the best possible candidate. Possibly I should talk to some one in the Public Health service when I'm in DC. I think we'll look very bad if we do not have someone lined up before the UN visiting mission gets here. I don't like to pass the buck, and actually I'm at fault in not showing more concern before this. Jim Hawkins was quite confident that Dr. Wizks would accept our invitation and his turndown left us groping again.

5. State Department. I get the impression from the McCarthy statement and some of Ross Pritchard's maneuvers behind the scene that State is actively agitating for more involvement out here. Ambassador Anderson has written to me to suggest that she and I meet when I'm in Washington. I have told her I'll be delighted to do so.

6. The UN visit. I'll need some suggestions from you regarding procedures to be followed; whether I should accompany the group or assign John DeYoung, etc.

7. Congressional Visits. It's my impression the Senate committee may be coming over early in the year. I'd like more information on that.

8. John DeYoung. He is not pressing, but he does keep asking me from time to time what news I have re the deputy because of your indication there might be a spot for him in Interior if Marty comes here. If we've hit a snag on Marty I'd still like to help John find something else, although it would be very difficult to replace him here for the same reasons I think you would find him very helpful there. But I also believe our entire program of political education, public information, communications, internal and external, needs some new thinking and new thrust.

Those are the main items. I'm sure I'll think of others before I come pounding on your door.

Bill
Bill

P. S. I have just thought of something else.

Relationships with the DOD. There are two matters of concern.

11. We have been bombarded with radio dispatches recently from the Navy or other military agencies requesting right of entry to certain islands in the Kwajalein area. We are not getting sufficient advance notice. It is impractical and unfair to handle these requests entirely by dispatch. We should have the benefit of some advance notice, long-range needs, opportunity to evaluate impact on people, search title, etc.

In connection with the foregoing, I have been advised by the AEC that Bikini is not sufficiently decontaminated to be resettled. But the island is under the jurisdiction of the Airforce. I am advised that my contact should be Brig. Gen. Joseph S. Bleymaier, US Airforce, Vandenberg Airforce Base, Lompoc, Cal. I am interested because the original Bikini residents, now on Kili, claim they are overcrowded on that island. They want to know when, if ever, they can go back to Bikini, or some of them. I think that if we could undertake a "Back to Bikini" project, it would be a big thing for us, and tend to take the curse off for the way we have been pushing people around in the Marshals, good impact on UN, etc. I'm very keen on pursuing this possibility as aggressively as I can. If Bikini is not available, then we've got to find more space somewhere for the Kili people.

WRN