

January 21, 1967

Dear Ruth:

This letter is long overdue. You probably have been wondering whether I have retreated to the boondocks to escape from the more burdensome realities of life as some South Sea adventurers are prone to do. I have recently returned from a four-day visit in Yap, my first to that district where I received a cordial welcome and was presented with an assortment of stone money and a bundle of problems which the Yapese hope I can solve for them. I now have visited all of the districts, or I should say all of the district centers. On the next round of visitations I hope to get to some of the outlying islands so I will have a better understanding of some of our administrative and logistical problems involving our services and programs for the out-islanders. But enough of the travelogue; let me turn now to the more pressing subjects.

#### Personnel

Marty has now completed his first week of residence. All indications so far are that he will add needed balance and strength to our organizations. I am already finding his knowledge of the Washington scene and his substantial background of Micronesian governmental affairs very helpful. Of almost equal importance is the fact that his wife, Doty, is a completely delightful person, one who seems easily adjusted to the somewhat demanding life of our environment. The only problem so far seems to be that their beloved cat Xerxes has found the adjustment much more difficult, but I trust that in time he, too, will gracefully accept his new surroundings.

Bob Law is proving to be an exceptionally good man. He handled the LNO slot during Gordon's home leave as though he had been on the job all his life, no fuss, no confusion, no trouble. In fact things went so smoothly that he was complimented by the Navy, Peace Corps and many members of our staff.

At present he is on temporary assignment as assistant to Allan MacQuarrie at Truk to help fill the void there resulting from the fact that the two assistant distags, Nakayama and Setik, were drawn away from their jobs to accompany the interim committee of the Congress of Micronesia on tours of the districts. Bob will be returning here in time, however, to take over as UN tour coordinator, a job he was very happy to accept and one for which I think he is exceptionally fitted.

We assume that Neiman Craley will be joining us next week, Jan. 25, and are eagerly awaiting his arrival. It will be interesting to see how he fits into our organization and if his enthusiasm will be supported by administrative talents.

2.

You may also be pleased to know that our new chief auditor, Ronald Teehan, seems to be a very good man as well as a very nice guy with an attractive wife (Guamanian.)

So the foregoing additions have helped give me the feeling that our staff organization# is moving in the right direction, and I appreciate the help I have received from you and Mrs. Vidi# in recruiting these good additions.

I wish that the news was all that good, but it isn't. It has become very obvious that several of our people simply do not have the ability or sense of dedication or imagination that we must have. One situation is my fault and the result of what is perhaps my biggest mistake to date, the appointment of Bill White as Yap distad. My visit to Yap convinced me that I should have yielded to my apprehension at the outset and found someone else. The trouble is I can not fault him for any serious sin other than being one of the veterans who has become so accustomed to the dilapidation surrounding him that it doesn't seem to give him serious concern. He has what seems to me to be some good ideas and good plans, but I don't see much evidence of action or accomplishment and his rapport with the people of his community appears negligible.

So here I am facing the necessity of making a change, not immediately, but I think it is inevitable. I'll need some help and I can talk to you and Mrs. Vidi about the problem next month. In situations of this kind I prefer not to handle it on the basis of another assignment in the TT. I hope you could help me devise some other arrangement, early retirement, reassignment in some other agency, or something else. Mr. Luce indicated that I should not feel too restrained by the inflexible procedures of civil service, and I have heard indirectly from John Macy that he will take cognizance of problems of this kind. If and when we can work this out, I have Bob Law in mind as a possible replacement, and with Marty here now, plus Screen, I'm going to be a bit more careful in the future in making appointments of this kind.

We are also in the process of taking adverse action against George Hagiwara who is presently district agriculturist in Yap. He has a long history of unsatisfactory performance. You may be getting some static on this because George is a letter writer and a friend and former war buddy of Dan Inouye. I have already written to Dan forewarning him.

3.

While I am on this unhappy subject, I regret to report that we also are having some misgivings about John Trace as director of education. Jim Hawkins has submitted <sup>to</sup> memos to me on the subject and I'm presently sitting on them. ^ I have had very little direct contact with John, but enough to have placed him as a kindly, plodding school teacher who, so far as I can see, contributes very little imagination or leadership to our educational program. When we take delivery of our ETV study and come to grips with the question of whether ETV is applicable to our program needs John's role in our organization may be brought into sharper focus. Jim has suggested that the job should be a 15 and that someone be brought in over him, but I do not favor accommodating mediocrity in that manner. He is, however, a very fine gentleman and his wife, Martha, is a vivacious, well-liked member of the wahine community. That makes it even tougher to contemplate the possible necessity of a change.

Finally, my experiment with Viteralli on Ebeye is not a howling success, although I still think it was a good move. I wanted to get someone up there who could shake things up and get some dirt flying (to use Harry Anderson's expression) before the UN and Congressional Committees get out here. Marty and I have been reviewing the sorry history of Ebeye and we hope to have an early reassessment of that Islands many pressing problems, including the duration of Vit's assignment which was understood by all hands to be an experiment.

#### Budget Preparations

This letter is already much longer than I intended and, as was the case with the letter you wrote me regarding Mr. St. Pierre, I'm probably telling you more than you want to know. But let me come to one last matter of some concern to me.

I have noted that recently, since Harry Anderson was out here, we have been getting a series of requests from him for much more detailed budget support data than we previously had been providing your office. All of the requests seemed to me to be justified and asked for information which we could readily have provided at the outset, had we known that data in that detail was required. As a matter of fact, it seems to me we probably should have assumed that the more supporting information we could provide with each object category to justify the request would be helpful and should have been providing this detailed information from the beginning of our correspondence with your office.

However, I have been wondering whether Harry, now that he has had some personal exposure to the TT, has "taken over" budget communications with the TT, perhaps with some help from Chuck Hughes, who I am sure found our data gathering capabilities somewhat below his expectations and standards when he was here.

4.

I am not complaining but I am a little confused. I recall your having mentioned to me that some of the Samoan budget papers prepared by Joe Screen were regarded as somewhat deficient, because Joe's philosophy seems to be to "tell them as little as possible." Of course, my policy is that we shall provide all the information needed to justify our requests and that any data we can develop so that the BOB, your office and the committees can understand our requirements more accurately should be and will be forthcoming. But I do think some guidelines for this purpose should be established. Joe and I can go into this in more detail with you next month.

And with that I guess I'll close. The weather here these past two months has been delightful, as good or better than Hawaii this time of year. I'm told it probably will stay this way until April.

Please give my Aloha to John DeYoung. I hope he has settled in comfortably and we'll be looking forward to seeing him again next month.

*Bill*