

T- 6/7

Hon. William R. Norwood
High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

MAY 25 1967

Dear Mr. Norwood:

Lt. Governor Gill called some days ago, and he mentioned three subjects of interest to both you and me. Two are the first two covered in the enclosed document which he left with me, a memorandum to him from Tom Dinell and Byron Baker dated May 10, concerning the Congress of Micronesia. He did not advert to the third subject in the memorandum, of technical assistance to the Congress.

On the first subject, the budget process, I read to him the language of the Secretarial Order pertaining to the Congress' participation in the formulation of requests for Federal funds. Mr. Gill seemed to believe that this was sufficient and appropriate, and that in the face of this language, the Congress of Micronesia has all the power it could decently hope to have at this stage of its development. I told him that it was my impression that the system had not worked as well during the first two sessions of the Congress as we might all hope, but that I presumed at least some of the reason for it was the Congress' unwillingness or inability to turn meaningfully to some of the hard financial facts and decisions. I did not convey to Mr. Gill my doubts that the Executive Branch had exerted itself as much as it might with respect to the budget presentation.

As to the second, the salary for legislators, particularly as it relates to the termination of eligibility of government employees for service in the legislative branch, I expressed little sympathy and little optimism on the question of a marked increase in legislative salaries in the Trust Territory. I pointed out that the Federal Congress had only recently permitted the legislatures in Guam and the Virgin Islands to set their own salaries, and that the salaries (particularly \$9,500 per annum in the Virgin Islands) were likely to result in very little further experimentation in that variety of self-government in the years soon to come. Again, I did not tell Mr. Gill that Mr. Craley has been giving considerable thought to the possibility of putting the legislators on a full-time basis (and they almost are today, with their Interim Committees) and a corresponding full-time salary. I am not certain that we are prepared immediately to make such a change, but we should appreciate having from you a proposal along these lines.

His third subject was the possibility of one Micronesian per District attending the Job Corps camp in Honolulu. This seems to me an interesting idea, which I judge has already been discussed to some extent with the pertinent people in your Government.

I am once more reminded of our need, which has become an urgent one, to have your comments on the proposed modifications in the Congress of Micronesia order. This was discussed at some length in my letter of late November and we have sent you some follow-up letters more recently. This was also on the list of items George Milner asked you about during his Trust Territory trip. It will take some time to process proposed amendments here, and you will surely want them in effect by July 1, so we really must hear from you promptly. I am sending you a separate letter on the Congress of Micronesia request for a change in the Order regarding voting.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleave

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleave
Director

Enclosure

VanCleave:Milner:cmw
5/25/67