



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF TERRITORIES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Blue Envelope

February 7, 1969

Dear Bill:

This will be a highly miscellaneous hodgepodge of a letter, designed in part to state where I think we left certain issues which we discussed during your last visit, in part to ask questions, and in part to nag. Because I really don't enjoy nagging at all, and not nearly so much as the frequency with which I do so would suggest, I thought I'd put all my nags in one letter. That way, at least, you won't be hearing from me so often. (I do know, of course, that within recent days we've sent you several separate nags. That was before I got the idea of bundling them all up as one.)

Anyway, we enjoyed your visit and profited from it. We missed our standard leave-taking, but hope your Friday afternoon's activities were satisfactory and your flight home equally so.

Now for the mishmash:

1. Political future. I really am most anxious to have a response (from you, or Marty, or Neiman) to the questions raised in my letter dated December 20 addressed to Marty (but for the eyes of any of the 3 of you). We are moving on this issue -- sometimes it appears very rapidly. We were asked for a hurry-up memorandum last Friday for the Secretary to send to the President. (We provided it, but I don't believe it's yet gone. It says nothing you don't know well, so I'll not add that paper to your collection.) I've also been asked by Dick Sneider (whom we knew as the Japanese Country Director at State, who is taking Chuck Johnson's job, and who may thus be the Trust Territory man on the staff of the National Security Council) to meet with him as soon as possible. I hope to have the Inter Agency Committee meet with him soon, probably with Earl Darrah also present. So your response to the questions therein raised, plus anything else you'd be disposed to offer would be welcome. I appreciate having Neiman's memo to you of January 16 on Professor Davidson's visit, which you left with me. Can we have a report of Davidson's activities?

2. Kwajalein SAR. You'll remember my interest in obtaining further details on this subject, about which I first wrote you, following a letter from Ralph Earle, on December 4; you replied on December 10; and I asked more information on December 26. I think Mr. Earle wants to be helpful, and that he may in fact be able to do something useful for us, but we shall have to make a rather good case in order to bring about this result.

3. Ujelang. We were suitably horrified by the Falcam-Tman radiogram from Kusaie, an information copy of which came to us a few days after your departure. May we have any more detailed reports which Falcam and Tman may have written. We will welcome as much information as you can provide to us by way of facts as to what you are doing and how the Ujelangese are reacting, this because I suppose this issue may again erupt publicly, and we'd like to have information for speedy responses. We have your letter of recent days on the follow-up with Defense, and will turn to this promptly.

4. Tidelands and Submerged Lands. For a number of reasons it would be very helpful to have a response to my October 22 letter on the state of Trust Territory law on this subject, which I followed up with a further request of January 3. Land problems are increasingly upon us at the Federal level. (I hope soon to write you on the eminent domain problem, on which we expect the Secretary one day will have to act, and further as to the Constitutional question which is discussed in my political future letter of December 26 to Marty.)

5. General Land Policy Statement. During your last visit, you indicated that you have a document so titled, and I would appreciate having a copy of it.

6. Dual Wages. As I understand it, we left this hard issue with the understanding that you will do your best to prepare to speak to it at either the Territories Briefing before the House Interior Committee, or during our Appropriations hearings, or both. We have some reason to believe that the question will come up. Further, we understand that you might want professional help from Interior in studying the matter. We will be glad to have such a request from you, and are optimistic about our ability to provide a useful person or persons. I cannot be sure that anyone could turn to very rapidly, because of general Departmental transition and organization problems, but don't hesitate to write us. We'll do our best.

7. Typhoon Claims. On January 17 I wrote concerning our latest correspondence with Mrs. Mink as to Mr. Fujii's claim, and therein called your attention to the very early deadline (March 1) for claims from Federal employees resulting from Typhoon Sally. I think it terribly important that the affected employees be given a fair chance to file in timely fashion. Will you send me a radio stating that you have received our January 17 letter on this subject, and indicating that this matter is on track? I am appalled to think that none of us were aware of the statutory remedy that Federal employees in the Trust Territory have as a result of a natural disaster. I never heard of the statute until recently, and didn't read it until January.

8. Security Clearances. Mr. McGrath's problems seem to be resolved, and I believe we've sent you notice of all the necessary approvals. We have found the old request for a clearance for Leo Falcam (Mr. Goding's letter of January 2, 1964, to Director Taitano), but have

not yet located the response (which we believe said that the mechanics prevented our getting a clearance, but maybe the Navy on Guam could help). Anyway, this is to let you know we're pursuing it. I'll write fully, when we have ourselves and our records pulled together.

9. Use of Travel Agencies. We have just gotten something from the Solicitor's Office on this subject, and Juanita will be writing you very soon. Again, the matter is on track and you'll hear more.

10. Weintraub, Brees, and Hawkins. Mr. Weintraub has postponed his Congressional visits, with the understanding that he'll hear from you soon. If asked, we plan to say that as to Brees you're also giving further consideration. Separately by now you will have had from me a note outlining my telephone conversation with Jim Hawkins, who telephoned a few days ago, and enclosed is a copy of his latest letter to me. I propose to do nothing further.

11. U. of Kansas Anthropologists. A few days ago we heard it stated as an unconfirmed fact that the University of Kansas has a large project, allegedly supported by \$3,000,000 in Defense Department money, to do "anthropological research" in the Trust Territory. Some of the anthropologists, who've reportedly already been to Yap in considerable numbers, are said "not to look like anthropologists", whatever that may mean. Maybe they don't walk with a Margaret Meade stick. It was hinted that clearly this is a bad cover for something else. Anyway, before we ask Defense what this is all about, can you tell us what you might know about it?

12. Ebeye. We're glad to have your recent letter on various Ebeye matters and will doubtless be back in touch. (I'm sure you can hardly wait.) Right now we're plunging through the HA&E report on Carlson.

13. Upcoming meetings. We've told you of the House Appropriation date (March 11), but we don't yet have a Senate date. House Interior Committee briefings begin with the Secretary on February 18, and we've asked that we be scheduled near to March 10 and 11, to accommodate our distant travelers. We have no date for that yet either.

On Wednesday of this week, the UPI carried a story that a new Governor for the Virgin Islands had been appointed. Apparently this wasn't so, for we've heard no more. Yesterday we had a report that a new Governor for Samoa had been named. Again we've heard no more. I've no new facts, and really no interesting rumors to transmit. All hands agree that these are difficult days.

As this goes into the mail, 83 more subjects will occur to me. I've no doubt you'll be glad I've stopped here, at least for now.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve
Director