

4/15/69

Dear Don,

There has been virtually no legal education in the Marshalls of the type we discussed in Guam. The reason for this is twofold.

First is simply the matter of time and personnel. As I said in Guam, being the only lawyer in the Marshalls, I just did not feel I could commit myself to the extensive program envisioned by the Chief Justice and Attorney General such a program would have interfered too much with my other activities as a lawyer. I should add that in the past there have been classes of a less formal nature conducted by my predecessor, however, I couldn't see the value in continuing them.

The second reason for no legal training in the Marshalls is a more calculated, deliberate one based on a decision which I made myself. I simply don't want to have anything to do with the type as has been traditional in the Trust Territory. As far as I'm concerned the entire legal system in the Trust Territory is a fraud designed to prevent the Micronesians from ever developing a meaningful knowledge of their rights and how to obtain their rights. The maintenance of a system of trial assistants instead of lawyers is one more aspect of this cruel deception. It leads the Micronesian to believe he has a lawyer working for him when in reality he has nothing. The awful truth doesn't become apparent until the trial assistant is faced with the power and legal expertise of the Attorney General or army lawyer in another land grab. I shudder to think of the day when a trial assistant, even one trained by a Peace Corps lawyer, sets down to negotiate a contract or lease with Hilton Hotels or continental minerals. Would you hire a trial assistant trained by a Peace Corps lawyer? I would no sooner hire one than I would hire a brain surgeon trained by a Peace Corps nurse.

This leads to another question. Are Peace Corps lawyers competent enough to train Micronesian "lawyers" I doubt it. And, we can train Micronesian trial assistants well enough to act as lawyers in community or district court, but can we train them well enough to act as lawyers in High Court against the Attorney General staff?

My point in all this rambling is simply that trial assistants are not the answer out here. Micronesians need lawyers - real lawyers, products of real law schools. For Peace Corps to train trial assistants and claim they're lawyers would be to further deceive the Micronesians into believing they have a viable legal system. The fact is they do not. They have instead a system designed by Americans, controlled by Americans, for the benefit of Micronesians. Peace Corps should have nothing to do with perpetuating this system. The proper role of Peace Corps on legal training is simply to insist that Micronesians be sent to law school. To do less, is to be less than totally honest.

22X-429899

I would like to answer question 9, about legal scholarships more specifically. As far as I know, the Marshalls have no one in law school or pre-law and none on the way as a result of this years scholarships. The EDAD feels and I agreed, in order to get someone through law school from the Marshalls, will practically have to hand pick a candidate while in high school and carry him through.

I hope this letter helps in your study. Glad to be of future assistance.

Yours,

/S/ Micky

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