

Washington Wearing Out TT's Welcome Mat

By Malcolm Barr
Daily News Bureau

WASHINGTON - The transfer of Ambassador Arthur Hummel Jr., from the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations to the State Department will keep the Nixon Administration's "territorial travel service" operating, while achieving nothing.

One after the other, those charged with overseeing the territories in one capacity or another are rotated to other jobs, and another 25,000-mile "orientation" tour of the Pacific territories and the Virgin Islands starts over.

Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, forced into retirement, was the first of the last group to make the long trek, nodding sagely

and attempting to assimilate in a whirlwind tour all she could so as to be "oriented" on her return to the Office of Territories in Washington.

But she was "relieved of her duties" and banished to a minor post not long after, and it was Royston Hughes' turn to make "le grande tour."

Hughes, we were told, was only an interim replacement for Mrs. Farrington, but he made the 30,000-mile plus junket anyway, then he, too, moved out of the territorial job in the Interior Department to make way for the third boss in less than a year of the Office of Territorial Affairs, a new name for the same outfit.

Stanley S. Carpenter is currently on the Pacific Trust

Territory leg of his "orientation" but after returning to Honolulu to pick up his assistant, Fred Radewagen, he'll be off on another flight of several thousands miles to spend a few days in American Samoa.

After that comes the Virgin Islands leg of the "orientation" tour-not quite so far, but a picaresque journey.

Hummel, of course, had an "orientation" too. But now he's leaving after only seven months on the job and returns to the State Department, which is where Interior Secretary Rogers C. Morton found Carpenter.

It's likely Carpenter won't be around long, either. He is a career foreign service officer, and only "on loan" to the Interior Department by the State Department.

Which presumably means the territories will be putting out the welcome mat for another official needing "orientation" in the near future.

It must be getting tedious for the normally hospitable Pacific and Virgin islanders.

Editorials

Wearing Out Welcome.....

Malcolm Barr, the Daily News correspondent made a good point, one which we've belabored earlier, in a news story about the transfer of Ambassador Arthur Hummel Jr. from the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations to the State Department. He says that the move has the effect of "keeping the Nixon administration's territorial travel service operating while achieving nothing." But Barr could add that these changes haven't just taken place during the Nixon administration, but through the Democratic years as well.

Barr says: "One after the other, those charged with overseeing the territories in one capacity or another are rotated to other jobs, and another 25,000 mile orientation tour of the Pacific territories and the Virgin Islands starts over.

He noted that Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, the first of the appointees under Nixon, was forced into retirement, not long after her "orientation." Shortly thereafter Royston Hughes was appointed to an interim post, and he too made "le grande tour" of the territories to find out what was going on. He traveled the 30,000 miles, learned a lot, and then moved out of the territorial job to make way for the third boss in the Interior Department in less than a year. Now Stanley S. Carpenter is currently on a trek of the Pacific, first to the Trust Territory islands, then back to Honolulu to pick up

(continued)

his assistant, Fred Radewagen, and then off again to orient themselves in Samoa, and then comes the Virgin Island leg of the tour.

Hummel, of course, had his "orientation" and now after seven months on the job he's gone, returning to the State Department. Of course, at State, Hummel may still have some influence on our talks with Micronesia, and it is possible that his efforts were not wasted.

Barr feels that it is likely Carpenter won't be around long, either. He is a career foreign service officer, and only "on loan" to the Interior Department by the State Department. Which, Barr says, means that the territories may be putting out the welcome mat for another official needing the orientation treatment in the future. He closes by saying "it must be getting tedious for the normally hospitable Pacific and Virgin Islanders."

Indeed it is. But it is just that point that makes our relationship with the Micronesians so difficult.

We understand that when an administration changes, then key officials must change as well, to enable various departments to properly reflect the thinking of the administration. But in the 27 years that we've had the say so in the Western Pacific there probably have been 27 different people, under Navy, and Interior and State that have had the final authority. Our policies in this area have reflected that insecurity, that lack of continuity, that cohesiveness to make any program successful. It is doubtful whether we've had any kind of program at all, in fact. As each new leader comes in, and becomes acquainted with the problems, he starts to work towards solutions, only to get the heave-ho, and the attempt at the solutions has to start all over again.

We are aware that people change, are promoted, or retire, or get older, or switch positions for a variety of reasons. Yet, the islands seem to get far more than their fair share of these changes. There seems to be little justification for three changes in a single year, especially with some question being cast on the length of stay of the third.

Almost more important than just learning the problems is the basic idea of just learning to know the people. Each time an administrator learns the names of the island leaders he's banished, and a new face appears—as a stranger. The Micronesians are a proud, and relatively permanent people. They don't switch from island to island, or job to job, and they can't understand why the American leaders do.

Why doesn't Interior find some island people to handle Territories? People that live in these islands, and are intelligent enough to deal with the problems? There are many such people, on Guam for instance, or Samoa, or even in Micronesia itself? These people live here, and aren't about to leave for another Washington post. We can think of several right off. How about Peter Coleman for one? Or Dick Taitano, who worked for years in the Office of Territories? Even Hawaii born people, islanders themselves would be better than the flatlander who knows nothing, and probably cares less about the islanders.

We are going to lose the islands of the Pacific, we believe, in the next few years, and it is just because of our inability to find qualified people that want to stay and live in the islands, or want to help the islanders instead of merely advancing a notch in the Washington bureaucracy.

NIXON'S CHINA VISIT: MICRONESIA'S FUTURE

BY DR. HENRY H. ALBERS

from Yale University in 1951. Recent professional activities include consultant to the U.S. Air Force in Europe. Dr. Albers has made several recent trips to Micronesia as Consultant on Manpower Development to the Trust Territory Government.

Dr. Henry H. Albers, Chairman of the Department of Management, The University of Nebraska, is an internationally recognized authority on organization and management. He received his Ph.D. degree in economics

President Nixon's spectacular announcement that he would visit the Peoples Republic of China has already upset the international political balance of power. The Nixon visit is destined to have an ever more profound impact in the future and will undoubtedly be marked as a major turning point in world history. This event has moved Micronesia closer to the center of the stage of international power plays. Micronesia has suddenly become more strategic as the United States re-evaluates its future upon the Asia-Pacific mainland and in the western Pacific.

The withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Viet Nam is removing a thorn in the side of Red China. The earlier massive Chinese intervention in North Korea indicates the seriousness with which such military forces are viewed by Peking in what is considered to be its own backyard. President Nixon's visit to China may well give rise to a new status for the Asiatic mainland in which Southeast Asia and possibly Korea will remain relatively "independent"

spheres of political power. Some of these smaller political entities, such as South Korea, South Viet Nam, and Thailand, might even survive over the long run as nominally "anti-communist." Red China could have come to the conclusion that complete political control of Southeast Asia is not essential for its security so long as U.S. military forces are removed.

Another important consideration is that improved relations with the United States serves to protect Red China from the power of the Soviet Union, which has undoubtedly given some thought in recent years to a preemptive war. The willingness of Peking to meet with President Nixon has been at least partly motivated by a fear that Japan will become a major military as well as economic power in the Pacific. A non-cooperative Red China makes the US more inclined to support Japan in such endeavors.

The United States would be happy to accept such a realignment of power in Asia and the Pacific and to

find an acceptable rationale for ending its vast Siberian flank is made more vulnerable.

The bargaining power of the United States in Asia has been reduced by the Anti-Viet Nam war agitation at home, but it has by no means been completely blunted. Red China recognizes that U.S. bombers and missiles need not be based on the mainland to be militarily effective. Thermonuclear weaponry provide an important deterrent to any aggressive intents that Red China might have in the immediate future.

There are some who argue that intercontinental missile have eliminated the necessity for present and potential U.S. military bases in the Pacific. The difficulty is that this kind of argument precludes a more limited approach to international warfare. Conventional military strategies and weaponry are still important in international affairs as is evidenced by the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and skirmishes on the Soviet-Chinese border.

The United States must continue to maintain strong military bases in the western Pacific. But there is a major problem. As a British

Taiwan, and will not stay long. We have a really secure military base in that part of the Pacific, and so few places left to go. The United States has lost bases in Okinawa and will lose them any time now. We have independent last October. The United States noted when it became independent last October. We have a really secure military base in that part of the Pacific, and so few places left to go. The United States has lost bases in Okinawa and will lose them any time now.