

DECEMBER
1973



Congressman



A. B. WON PAT

Reports from Washington

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Holiday

Greetings

On behalf of Mrs. Won Pat, our children, my staff and myself, I extend to all of you our sincerest best wishes for a happy holiday and a successful New Year. As we assess our lives and our blessings during this Holiday Season, let us give a special thanks that our country is at long last at peace with our neighbors. Let us also continue to dedicate ourselves to helping those less fortunate than we so as to keep the true spirit of this season alive. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

1973: A YEAR OF CRISIS

Hafa Adai, my friends!

This past year was a busy one for the 93rd Congress. Despite the crisis brought on by Watergate, the Middle East War and the Administration's constant efforts to cut spending on such valuable programs as hospital care and aid to the handicapped, the First Session of the 93rd Congress produced a record of significant and far-reaching legislation and has laid the groundwork for much additional progress during the Second Session next year. As Guam's first Delegate to the House of Representatives, I have now served one year as a Member of Congress, and I am proud of our accomplishments and of the role I have played in this august body. I trust you will share my pleasure as we quickly review the events of the past 12 months.

PEOPLE:

Although I served as Guam's Washington Representative for seven years, one of the things that surprised me was the sheer volume of work facing a Congressman and the magnitude of his responsibilities.

Since I am Guam's only official representative in the Nation's Capital, I am constantly meeting with persons, both official and private, with respect to legislation and Federal programs as well as private or personal matters. During the past year, for example, over 600 visitors came to my office from Guam, the Trust Territory and the various States, including Federal officials. Needless to say, it is always a pleasure to meet with old friends

and have the opportunity to greet new ones. If you or your family visit Washington, my door is always open to make your stay as interesting as possible.

CASE WORK:

One of a Congressman's most important duties is helping the people he serves. This past year, I and my staff were privileged to aid 153 persons who were having problems with the Federal Government. Two-thirds of these people were in the military and, as a result, our office has developed an excellent degree of contact with Pentagon officials who can quickly answer our questions on your behalf. Examples of how we have helped Guamanians are: locating overdue pension checks for civil service and military retirees; educational benefit payments for veterans; securing extensions of officials leave for servicemen with valid problems; looking into the status of Federal grants; locating sons and daughters in the military who have forgotten to write home; and even obtaining a reversal of a Federal policy which would have banned the importation into the States of the harmless betel nut.

GENERAL OFFICE WORK:

My small Washington staff of 5 is kept quite busy answering our large volume of mail. On a typical day, for example, over 125 pieces of mail will be delivered to my office. Of this amount, 22%

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CRISIS

(Continued from Page 1)

will directly concern persons living on Guam; 4% will be of a personal nature for me; 3% will be from my District Office in Agana; 4% from Federal Departments and Agencies (usually in response to an inquiry from my office); 12% will deal with various legislation pending before the Congress, most of these being from Congressmen; and 55% will be of a general nature, that is, newsletters, press releases, magazines, etc. In response to this material, our office will send out about 40 letters daily! From January to this writing, our total workload has been almost staggering: we received 18,650 pieces of mail and 6,550 letters were sent out. Our monthly total of mail, for example, is now approximately 3 times the volume formerly handled in the Office of Guam's Washington Representative. In addition to case-work and answering mail, my office also assists in the drafting of legislation and the writing of reports on bills that I sponsor. As a result, a 10 to 12-hour work-day is a regular schedule for our office.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:

The Committee system is the workhorse of Congress. 90% of the work done on a bill is completed in Committee before the measure is sent to the Floor for a vote. The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, of which I am a voting member, has had a hectic year, especially in drafting legislation to meet the energy crisis.

Public Lands, one of the 3 House Subcommittees on which I serve, spent 7 months putting the finishing touches to the Alaska Pipeline bill. As a cosponsor of this important legislation, I was pleased to see the passage of this measure which will bring badly needed oil from Alaska's North Slope to the States (and even to Guam, if the need arises) by 1975. Twice during our 48 meetings in the past year I have served as the Subcommittee's



MR. CHAIRMAN. Congressman Won Pat hears testimony while serving as the Acting Chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee.

WITH THE SPEAKER. Speaker of the House Carl Albert listens intently as Congressman Won Pat outlines his legislative program for Guam.



temporary Chairman when business called other, more senior Democratic Congressmen away. Chairing a subcommittee is always a memorable event, and certainly a far cry from only one year ago when Guam lacked any representation in Congress.

The Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, another of the House Subcommittees of which I am a member, was equally busy. After 39 meetings, we reported out 19 measures, including one bill, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which will forever preserve America's untamed rivers as part of our natural heritage.

Finally, the Subcommittee on Territories met only 6 times due to the severity of national problems. Despite such issues as Watergate, budget control and the oil shortage which took precedence for action, we managed to report out legislation establishing a civil government for the Trust Territory. And the Subcommittee has just completed work on two bills to give to the Government of Guam complete control over our off-shore land areas and to transfer title to GovGuam of lands not beneficially used by the Federal Government. Barring any major new national problems, the Subcommittee on Territories has agreed to hold hearings early next year on a number of other Guam bills, including World War II land claims and the \$40 million Community Development Funds.

The question of how Americans will use our public lands is of great concern to this Congress. And, by the end of this year, the House Interior Committee, and probably the full House, will have acted on the 1973 National Land Use Planning bill which I have co-authored. This measure, if signed into law, will provide funds to help Guam and other local governments properly develop our valuable open spaces in the years to come.

LEGISLATIVE ARENA:

How Members of Congress succeed with legislation is the true test of their effectiveness. It is almost traditional that a freshmen Congressman will not be very successful in winning action on legislation, usually because they are too inexperienced in the ways of Congress.

My previous years in Washington have served me well, however, and when I took my seat last January I had the benefit of knowing how Congress works and, equally important, who actually gets Congress to act. Consequently, I can report success on a number of measures benefitting Guam. A listing of other major bills I have cosponsored and which have been passed is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

- On November 28, the President signed into law H.R. 7582, which increases the number of Guamanians who may be nominated to enroll in the three service academies. This is the first bill which I principally authored to be enacted into public law.

- Finding sufficient numbers of highly skilled workers to keep Guam's economy moving has always been a problem. Several months ago, I successfully urged the House Subcommittee on Immigration to include in one measure a special provision for Guam to increase the number of professional alien workers who may enter the Territory for limited periods. At my invitation, the Subcommittee went to Guam and, upon its return, agreed to my amendment. The House subsequently passed the legislation and sent the measure to the Senate for further action.

- The oil crisis has affected us all, and I have ensured that Guam will not be forgotten when the time comes to dole out whatever oil is available. The Mandatory Petroleum Allocation Act, which has just become law, does provide for Guam. We will receive the same



REVIEWING LEGISLATION. Congressman Won Pat explains the details of his Guam bills to Representative James Haley, Chairman of the House Interior Committee.

percentage of oil and gasoline as do the States. Together with GovGuam officials, I have also brought this important matter before ranking Federal officials and military authorities to make additionally certain that our Island will receive our fair share.

• Highway safety has long been a major problem in Guam. Congress recently supported my request to include the territory in the Federal Highway Safety Act for the first time. The measure also gives us \$2 million a year for highway construction. The money for

Highway Safety will be used to start a comprehensive program of drivers' education on Guam.

• In addition, I have spoken on the House Floor over 20 times in favor of increased spending for veterans programs, in support of health care and pension protection legislation, on behalf of our secondary and college education budget, and in support of other beneficial legislation.

• Despite the major constitutional crisis thrust upon this Congress by the actions of the Administration, I want to

assure you that the legislative process is not paralyzed. This Congress has already established a good record and will continue in the next session to deal with major legislation on health care, education, tax reform, housing, social service needs, and a host of other problems.

It has been a privilege to serve you this past year and I look forward to working on your behalf in 1974.

Highlights Of The 93rd Congress Legislation

DEFENSE

- Congress passed legislation limiting the President's ability to wage war for periods exceeding 30 days without the express consent of the Congress.
- Congress passed fiscal 1974 military construction authorization bill including \$5 million in new funds for work on Guam.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- Senate has passed legislation protecting consumers against unfair billing transactions and to prohibit discrimination based on sex, in credit transactions.
- Senate has also passed measure establishing minimum standards for warranties on consumer products.

HEALTH AND RETIREMENT

- Congress has agreed to legislation giving 11 percent increase in Social Security benefits. In two stages, the first increase in January will be for 7 percent, with a 4 percent increase coming next summer. This measure, which I cosponsored, passed over the Administration's objections.
- After a long fight with the White House, funding for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program was finally cleared.
- Both sides of Congress are presently conferring over \$805 million measure of Federal aid to develop a health care maintenance program nationwide.
- Congress passed, but the President vetoed, a \$160 million bill to create a system of emergency medical care for all areas.

- House has passed a bill authorizing \$90 million to be spent on drug abuse education for school-age children.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Congress enacted appropriations for Omnibus Crime Control Act, under which Guam received \$162,000 in grants last year.
- Senate has passed measure providing Federal system of payments for victims of violent crimes committed on Federal property.

MANPOWER

- Congress enacted minor new extension of Public Works bill, which I cosponsored. The bill will create new public service jobs in areas of high unemployment.

VETERANS

- Congress has passed extension of laws providing outpatient care privileges to veterans.
- National Cemeteries Act is now law. This bill increases funeral and burial allowances for veterans.
- Bill establishing permanent special housing allowances for military junior enlisted men has also been passed into law.

ENVIRONMENT

- Senate has passed national land use measure providing grants to local areas for land developments.
- Congress has cleared Water Resources Appropriations providing Guam with the first funds to establish research for new sources of pure drinking water.

The many changes taking place in Guam's political and economic scene will be reviewed at first hand by the House Subcommittee on Territories who will arrive on the Island January 3 for a three-day visit. Heading the delegation will be our long-time friend Congressman Phillip Burton. My presence with the group will mark the first time that a Guam Congressman has been part of a team of visitors from Capitol Hill.

Following the Guam stay, the Subcommittee will proceed to the Trust Territory and on to American Samoa. I will report the results of our trip to you in the February newsletter. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during our visit. If you have any special problems at that time, please feel free to come to my District Office at 24 O'Hara Street in Agana.

VISITING GUAM



VISITOR'S PAGE



I am pleased to meet with the many visitors to my office and explain to them the work I am doing for Guam. Below are the names of recent guests:

(1) Ms. Obie Blas, Mrs. Teresita Blas, Mr. Robert Lizama, Mrs. Dolores Aquiningoc, Mrs. Terry Curry, and Ms. Doris Barnett. (2) Mr. and Mrs. Lintiaco. (3) Mr. Phillip Borja, Director, The Chamorro Nation in San Diego. (4) Mr. Felipe Italg, Mr. Ray Steik, Speaker Bethwel Henry, and Mr. Andon Amarich. (5) Mr. Pete Guerrero, Director of the Guam Rehab and Workshop Center. (6) Senator Edward D.L.G. Pangelinan, High Chief Reklai Lomisang of Palau, and Senator Roman Tonetuchl. (7) Mr. Bill Nabors; Hon. Vicente T. Camacho, Speaker, Saipan Leg.; Senator Olympio T. Borja; Hon. Vicente N. Santos, President, Marianas Islands District Leg. (8) Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero and Mr. Frank Chargualef, UOG. (9) Mrs. Guadalupe Reyes; Mrs. Virginia Leon Guerrero; and Mrs. Marie Chargualef. (10) Sp5 Mariano R. Cruz. (11) Mrs. Connie Griffith; Mr. Jim Griffith; Mr. Joe Bamba; Mrs. Madeleine Bordallo; Ms. Ruth Valardi; Mrs. Bride Bamba. (12) Ms. Shirley Brennan, Ms. Guam World. (13) Mrs. Madeleine Bordallo, President, Guam Beauty Assn. Ms, Shirley Brennan, Ms. Guam World; Mrs. Josephine Brennan, and Mrs. Gumataotao. (14) The Most Reverend Felixberto Flores, Bishop of Agana.

