



Congressman

A. B. WON PAT



Reports from Washington

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VOL. 1 No. 6

(NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE)

MARCH - APRIL, 1974

TWO LAND BILLS PASS HOUSE, GUAM HEARING SET ON ANOTHER

Hafa A dai, My Friends:

I am pleased to report considerable progress in recent days for three of my measures, all of which deal with one of the most important issues facing Guam today -- land use.

One of the measures is a bill which would authorize the Guam District Court to hear claims which have arisen from the massive land takings by the military after World War II.

Recently, I introduced a new version of this legislation that now includes several new features dealing with provisions for prompt settlement.

So that those who are affected by this measure may express their views, without the imposition of great expense by traveling to Washington to testify, I have been authorized by the House Territorial Subcommittee to hold an official field hearing in Guam on this vital legislation. The hearing is scheduled for April 15, 1974, at the Legislature Building. My District Office will announce the time shortly. I look forward to hearing from many of you. The Guam hearing, by the way, will mark the first time that a Guam Congressman has ever chaired an official inquiry in

the Territory.

As this newsletter went to press, the House of Representatives unanimously passed two other measures related to the land question. The first, H.R. 11559, transfers from the Federal Government to the territorial governments of Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands title and control over certain submerged land areas.

The other bill is H.R. 11573, a two-part measure which first authorizes the President of the United States to designate lands needed by the Federal Government in the Territory, and within one year after enactment of this legislation to turn over to the Government of Guam all excess land. The President, however, may repossess this land for the during a national emergency. H.R. 11573 additionally strikes from the Guam Organic Act a unique and distasteful provision which gives the President the right to refuse to allow Guam courts to try persons charged with crimes committed on military reservations in the Territory. No other American territory is posed with such a constant threat of federal power.

CONGRESS RESPONDS TO CRIME

Only a scant five or ten years ago, our Island was a peaceful, law-abiding community. But times have changed, in many respects for the worse. The current spate of murders, rapes, robberies, muggings and other vicious crimes on Guam are a horrendous reminder of this fact.

I believe that the Guam policemen are doing their best and should be complimented for the job they are accomplishing against tremendous odds. They need help, however, and I am pleased to report that this Congress, like the past ones, is doing its part to provide new forms of aid.

I have joined with many of my colleagues to introduce additional legislation aimed at halting the spread of crime. Some of my more important bills are: H.R. 6384 making the use of firearms in committing a felony punishable by a sentence of at least five years of imprisonment; H.R. 8147, making bribery of law enforcement officers and elected officials a Federal crime punishable by a five year sentence and a \$10,000 fine; H.R. 2694, making it a Federal crime to kill or assault a policeman or fireman who is engaged in his or her lawful duties; H.R. 4267, banning

sale of handguns (except to certain individuals); and H.R. 6632, providing law enforcement officers with a bill of rights and a system of redress for their grievances. Action is expected on many of these measures in the near future.

During the past year the 93rd Congress authorized expenditures of more than \$2 billion to give local law enforcement officers the training and equipment they need to protect citizens against criminals. The same act, P.L. 93-83, also extends the successful Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAA) for another three years, and increases minimum State grants from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

And, in October, 1973, against severe White House opposition, the House extended the Drug Abuse Education Act for three years and authorized new expenditures of \$48 million for school-based programs aimed at teaching our young people the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Since these two drugs are often directly connected with juvenile crime, a strong education program can do much to eliminate the growing drug problems of young people, and to cut down on crime at the same time.

WON PAT ACTS ON THE ISSUES

Emerging Nations

Everywhere we turn it seems that a new nation is being born. Next door to Guam, for example, it seems almost certain that the Trust Territory will break up into at least one or two new political entities in the next few years. If the U.S. Congress agrees, for example, the Northern Marianas may soon join America as a Commonwealth, complete with U.S. citizenship, Federal funding, and a considerable amount of internal control over local affairs — much more, in fact, than Guam presently enjoys.

What happens to these developing nations such as Nauru is of extreme importance to Guam, especially since many of them are so close to us. For this reason, on February 4, 1974, I rose on the House Floor to congratulate the Northern Marianas for their success in the status talks. I added, however, that Guam, too, is looking to improve its status and would view most unkindly any attempt by Washington to offer another area a much better deal than we have been getting. As Guamanians and as American citizens we can not and must not expect less than fair treatment. A copy of my statement can be had free of charge simply by writing to me and asking. Incidentally, I have received many letters from both the Senate and my colleagues in the House expressing support and interest on this issue.

I am also proud to report that a prestigious group called Members of Congress for Peace Through Law, of which I am a member, has appointed me to its Subcommittee on Emerging Nations. MCPL, which is composed of 35 Senators and 117 House Members, will be taking a close look at these young nations in an effort to find ways to assist them. Guam could well be a beneficiary of such efforts in future years.

A Younger Voice

In 1956, as Speaker of the Guam Legislature, I successfully introduced legislation to lower the voting age from 21 years of age to 18 years. I have never regretted this action as our young people have proven time and again they are worthy of this trust.

Although they may vote, young people are still denied access to many government positions. The 12th Guam Legislature recently passed a resolution urging Congress to amend the Organic Act so as to permit eighteen year olds to serve in the Guam Legislature. As your Congressman, and as one who is committed to ensuring that all voters, regardless of age, are permitted full participation in their government, I have introduced such a bill and will urge that it be enacted.

Eighteen year olds are expected to fight for their government. The least we, who are older, can do by way of returning the favor is to give these young people the right to run for office if they wish. It will then be up to them to prove to you, the voter, that they can do the job.

U.S. Agricultural Services Extended To Guam

A new bill, H.R. 13267 which I have introduced extends certain programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Guam. Included in this category are reforestation and watershed and fire protection programs. Although tropical islands such as Guam are usually thought of as having large expanses of dense jungle-like growth, our hills are covered by dry overgrowth which can and has burst into flame after a long drought. The programs included in my bill will enable the Government of Guam to seek professional assistance from U.S.D.A. to remove the constant threat of fire and soil erosion through an intensive program of tree planting.

Community Development Fund

World War II and Typhoon Karen had one characteristic in common: both caused wide-spread destruction to the Island. To provide funds for repairing the damage and to build badly needed new facilities, Guam, under the Rehabilitation Act, borrowed over \$40 million from Uncle Sam and received another \$20 million in outright grants.

But the Rehab Act has now run out of funds. And in legislation introduced last year (H.R. 7203) I asked Congress to approve another \$40 million for the development of community facilities such as schools, and water and sewer projects on Guam. I have asked officials in Guam to provide an in-depth substantiation to explain why new funds are needed to complete the job of developing the territory. I have additionally urged the GovGuam officials to provide justification that our efforts to develop the territory will not prove to be an overwhelming burden to present and future taxpayers. Once this is satisfactorily done, I can proceed to win the support of my colleagues for this legislation.

Making The G.I. Bill Better

Veterans on Guam will be pleased to know that I have cosponsored a major new bill to increase the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill. Under the provisions of this new legislation, veterans will be able to continue their education under the G.I. Bill at *any* time. Present law cuts off educational benefits eight years after a vet is discharged. The present G.I. Bill also restricts the amount of funding a veteran can receive, thus providing far less than the whole cost of education in most institutions of higher education. My new bill would remove this obstacle by providing for veterans to continue receiving their present benefits and adding a system of low-interest loans which will help the veterans pay for their full tuition costs.

An interesting feature of this loan system is the rate of interest: only 2%. This is the same interest rate being charged foreign countries who borrow from the U.S. In today's money market, where interest rates often exceed eight percent, the plan I support would indeed be a tremendous benefit to veterans with low incomes. As I pointed out when the bill was recently introduced, "Our veterans should be entitled to the same benefits we give foreign countries."

Federal Expenditures in FY 1973

A recently released report by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity shows that the Federal Government spent a total of \$261.65 million on Guam during fiscal year 1973, an increase of \$40 million over the year before.

The largest contributor to the Federal outlay in the territory was the Department of Defense, which accounted for a whopping \$228.7 million. Broken down by category, military spending looked like this:

CIVILIAN PAY	52.001
ACTIVE DUTY PAY	111.321
PRIME CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS	16.344
PRIME SERVICE CONTRACTS	4.359
PRIME SUPPLY CONTRACTS	36.139
RETIRED PAY	1.805
CONTRACTS OF LESS THAN \$10,000	6.754
TOTAL	\$228.723

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL *Action Line*



GOES TO GUAM

Dear Mr. Congressman:

I am a Guamanian, stationed on the Island, who has only a few more years to go before retirement from the military. According to my commanding officer, I am scheduled to be transferred in the near future. Can you assist me in staying in Guam until my service duty is finished?

Most branches of the military will give a serviceman nearing retirement special consideration for duty posts in or near their Home of Record. Congressman Won Pat asked the Pentagon to determine if this man could be found another position. One was located and the serviceman was given permission to finish his service on Guam.

Dear Mr. Won Pat:

When I enlisted in the military while a student in the States, I was not told to list my Home of Record as Guam. Now the military is demanding that I have a host of paperwork completed to straighten out the record. Isn't there an easier way to do this?

This is a fairly common problem. Quite often young men are not completely informed of their rights when entering the service. The Congressman explained the problem to Department of Defense officials who then agreed that the record could be changed without further effort by the serviceman.

If you need help — write or call my District Office at:

Congressman A. B. Won Pat
P.O. Box 3549
29 O'hara Street
Guam 96910
772-6546

Congressmen William Ketchum (D-Cal.) and A. B. Won Pat enjoy a light moment while Territorial Subcommittee chairman Rep. Phillip Burton and Delegate Ron deLugo (V.I.) respond to questions from the audience at a meeting during their recent visit to Guam on official Interior Committee business.



Despite a whirlwind pace and a bit of unpleasantness with local press officials, the fact-finding trip to Guam last January by four of my fellow members of the House Subcommittee on Territorial Affairs and myself was, in the words of Virgin Islands Delegate Ron deLugo "an extremely valuable experience."

I am pleased to report that all of my colleagues who made the journey, Subcommittee chairman Phillip Burton (D-Cal.), Tom Foley (D-Wash.), Wm. Ketchum (R-Cal.) and Ron deLugo (D-V.I.), agreed that they each returned to Washington with a much better understanding of our needs and future political aspirations.

During the Subcommittee's two day visit, we heard statements from several members of the 12th Guam Legislature who all spoke frankly about what action they would like to see Congress take with regard to Guam. The Governor and members of his staff also met with the Subcommittee.

Following the Guam phase of the trip, we went on to consult with officials of the Trust Territory, and some of the Congressmen also went to American Samoa for several days.

Our Island has benefited from past Congressional visits: the Organic Act, our American citizenship, and the Guam Rehab Act are only a few results of past delegations coming to the territory. Most of the 439 members of Congress, not to mention officials of the Federal Government, have not been to Guam. And, as a result, they have an almost impossible time visualizing our unique problems. I firmly believe that these visits do much to enlighten our fellow Americans about Guam, and I intend to urge my colleagues to make additional trips to our Island in the near future to ensure that simply because of our isolation, we will not receive less attention from Washington than do the residents of the states.



Congressman Won Pat gestures towards the U.S. Capitol as he lectures a group of 280 high school students on the role of the House of Representatives during a recent meeting sponsored by the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans.

The students listened attentively as the Congressman outlined the complex details of introducing and enacting legislation, and his function as a Territorial Delegate in the House.

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) Sen. Recardo G. Salas, Guam Leg. (2) Mr. Joe R. Cohn and Capt. J.E. McEnearey, USN. (3) President Tosiwo Nakayama, Cong. Pedro Tenorio, and Mr. Felipe Italg, Micronesian Legislature. (4) Mr. Benny Locsin and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Locsin. (5) Mr. Robert Wetherell and Dr. Ogden Johnson of HEW. (6) Mr. Mike Houng and Mr. Mike Perez. (7) Mrs. Teresita Blas, Mrs. Dolores Aquiningoc, and Ms. Obie Blas. (8) Ms. Linda Perez of Chalan Pago. (9) Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dillman of Long Island. (10) Director and Mrs. Joe Diego, Dept. of Commerce. (11) Mrs. Julie Sablan; Ms. Lou Salban; and Mr. Chris Sablan. (12) Director Pete G. Cruz, GHURA. (13) Sgt. Joseph L. Cruz & Sp. 5 Jose A. Espinosa. (14) Mr. Harold J. Heafer, Ass't Attorney General of Guam.

