

# Reps Hear Many Guam Gripes

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Guam's future political status, its Organic Act, and the subject of reunification with the Northern Marianas were the main points discussed yesterday by the Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Guam Legislature.

After statements by Sens. Frank Lujan, Paul Bordallo, and Paul Calvo, Rep. Phillip Burton and other members of his subcommittee attempted to answer the points covered. In addition to Burton, the

junketing group includes Reps. William Ketchum of California, Ron de Lugo of the Virgin Islands, and Guam's Antonio Won Pat. Towards the end of the three-hour meeting, other senators posed questions to Burton's group.

Lujan, who is chairman of the Legislature's Political Status Commission, described how Guam's unincorporated status is a "political dilemma." He said, "We cannot define our status; we only say what it isn't."

Burton told the Guam legislators that his group wanted to hear Guam's political

aspirations and desires, so that it could possibly be effected through executive policy.

Citing the historical background of Guam as a U.S. territory, Lujan told the subcommittee that Congress is to blame for Guam's apparent slow political development, which, he said, has stalled the economic and social progress of the island. "Our infrastructure and utilities are having difficulty coping with the economic boon which began in 1962 with the lifting of Naval security area classification.

Lujan told the subcommittee that his commission was reviewing the alternative political statuses of incorporated U.S. territory, statehood, independence, affiliation with another nation, commonwealth and status quo. Possibly, the commission's findings will be completed by June.

Burton said Congress in the past may not have been responsive to Guam's needs, but in the last four years, it has been.

Calvo, who is minority leader, criticized the Organic Act for it being created by Congress, and not by the Guamanian people themselves.

Burton told him that he and Won Pat were preparing legislation that would amend or repeal the act, so that the people of Guam can draw up their own Constitution or charter.

Burton, however, said that his group's efforts were delayed, because "a Guam Status Commission" recommended that the status issue be resolved before the act can be amended

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Although he didn't indicate names, Burton was referring to the status commission formed by the Interior Department, which in conjunction with Gov/Guam would act as a liaison between Lujan's commission and the administration's own political status commission and Washington.

Calvo asked Burton that the subcommittee aid Guam's leaders so reunification of the Marianas could be achieved. Saying it was illogical that two areas within 100 miles be administered as two separate units, Calvo elaborated on the need for Marianas reunification.

To this, Burton said that the leadership of Guam should lead the way and let the Northern Marianas leaders know of the benefits of reunification. He said "the 1968 plebiscite was a slap in the face to the Northern Marianas. Although you say the plebiscite was ill-timed, you must start now letting your constituents know that Guam is interested in reunification," said Burton.

During the meeting, de Lugo and Ketchum praised Rep. Won Pat as "a most able representative for Guam."

As a member of the Guam

Political Status Commission, Bordallo spoke on the economic disadvantages Guam has experienced since it became an American territory. He said that Congress for a long time viewed Guam primarily as a military base. He emphasized on the need for one government for Guam, with the military not exerting so much power and control. He said: "Hither we become equal with the rest of the U.S., or we'll opt for independence or become a free associated state with the U.S. in which we'll govern our own internal affairs."

Sen. Edward Terlaje urged that a bill to review allegedly illegal land takings be acted on immediately in Congress. Terlaje is chairman of the Legislature's subcommittee on this subject.

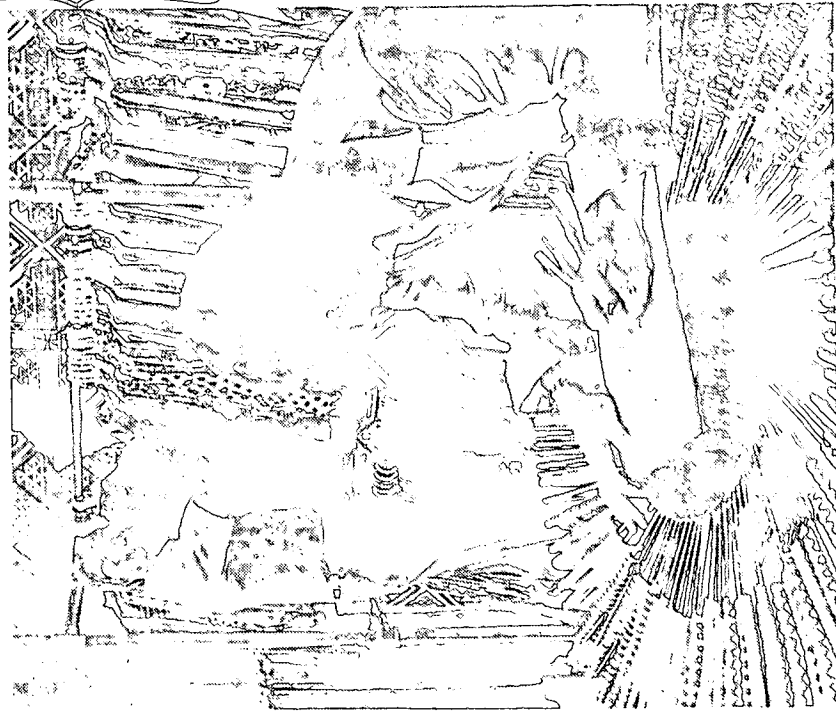
Won Pat said that the public hearing for this bill would have included "Project Gateway," a report which the Navy was supposed to provide for Burton's subcommittee and GovGuam, but which the Navy decided afterwards not to complete, because they said it was no longer relevant.

Sen. Jerry Rivera told the subcommittee of Guam's need for its own airport at Northwest Field.

# Sunday Shop Closings Set

A "Sunday closing" campaign has been instituted by the Chamber of Commerce. About 10 of the island's leading

Enterprises, Ada-Seiyu Markets, Merchant Wholesalers, Rexall Drugs, Duty Free Shoppers, Diana's Shops, Shoeland and



STORE owner Lou Gentry, left, calls out inventory