

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361
Washington, D.C. 20506

January 8, 1974

The Honorable Edward DLG Pangelinan
Chairman, Marianas Political Status Commission
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Eddie:

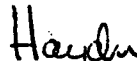
Normally I would simply ignore Felipe Atalig's effort to discredit Jim Wilson and to make a cause celebre out of their oral disagreement last month. As you have said Atalig's motivation in seeking personal publicity is all too obvious.

One aspect of his letter of December 26, to you, however, does give me deep concern, given the wide distribution of that letter, and that is Atalig's latest charge that Jim was drunk at the time of their discussion. This accusation is simply not true. I was with Jim immediately before he started to speak to the Mayor and the Speaker of Tinian, a conversation which Atalig later joined. I was with Jim a short time later, perhaps ten minutes or so, as we said our goodbyes. We then drove back to the Hotel Hafa Adai together. To say that Jim was drunk or even under the influence goes beyond not only the truth but also the bounds of all propriety.

I am not going to put this in writing to Atalig but would appreciate your making clear orally to local information addressees of that letter what the true situation is. At the same time I will be sending a copy of this letter to the American information addressees in order to put the record straight. As you know there were no copies of Jim's letter to Atalig given to anyone until after Atalig decided to go to the press.

I still hope to be in the Marianas the end of this month and will be in touch with you by phone regarding exact schedule and date. Meanwhile, the warmest of personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

03-027609

Rec. 1/17/74



Congress of Micronesia

CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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December 26, 1973

The Honorable Edward DLG. Pangelinan
Chairman, Marianas Future Status
Commission
Saipan, Mariana Islands District
96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to you with regard to our personal conversation recently concerning a December 20, 1973 response by Mr. James Wilson to my letter of December 19, 1973.

While not a member of the Marianas Future Status Commission you can be sure that as a citizen of the Marianas and as a member of the Congress of Micronesia that I am duly concerned about the future of our islands and that I entirely support you, the other members of the Commission and your work.

Consequently I wish to take exception to the remarks made by Mr. Wilson in his letter, a copy of which is attached.

In particular I wish to protest his intimation that I did not wish to become a member of the American political family. Such is not the case and should have been made clear in the closing sentences of my letter to him--if it was not the night of his untoward behavior. I reiterate that he imposed his presence and views upon me--and not the reverse. I further charge--again as it should have been clear in my letter--that my remarks to him concerning the subject area dealt with him as being representative of the approach of the U.S. delegation. Furthermore, since I am not a member of the Commission, Wilson's comment implying that I should get of the talks is revealed as nonsensical.


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I also find myself somewhat more than slightly exasperated by the fact that Wilson did not have the courtesy to indicate to whom he was sending copies of his letter as I did on my letter. This, if nothing else, should indicate that his reply was formulated with the intention of discrediting me and twisting the tale of events to his benefit. While I tried to be kind in my recounting of our conversation of that evening, the plain fact is that Wilson was drunk. His intoxication exacerbated his arrogance to the point of intolerance. Hopefully his superiors will see fit to remove this obnoxious person from his most sensitive post because, as I stated in my letter:

"It would be unfortunate if any misunderstanding from this incident were allowed to mar in any way what I believe to be the pleasant and useful relations between the United States and Micronesia--especially the Marianas District. I look forward to their continuation for the mutual benefit of our respective countries."

I am taking the liberty of sending copies of this letter to those persons who received copies of Wilson's letter--at least to those of which I am at this time aware.

Sincerely yours,


Felipe Q. Atalig
Representative, Marianas District

cc: Ambassador F. Haydn Williams
Speaker Harry Cruz, Tinian Council
Mayor Antonio Borja, Tinian
All members Marianas Delegation
All members, Marianas Future Status Commission
Status LNO
Secretary of the Interior
Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
✓ James Wilson