

Notes: Joint Resolution

February 28, 1974

MEMORANDUM

TO: Noel Kramer

FROM: Gil Rothenberg

SUBJECT: Joint resolutions: (1) Regarding admitting states to the Union
(2) Regarding legislative enactments of other U.S. Territories

1. Article IV, section 3, of the U.S. Constitution provides that, "New states may be admitted by the Congress into this Union." [Not much help, I guess]. In any event, Congress has used both the ordinary bill and the joint resolution format in admitting states to the Union. For instance:

- (a) Alaska - ACT
- (b) Hawaii - ACT
- (c) New Mexico - JOINT RESOLUTION
- (d) Arizona - JOINT RESOLUTION

}* *It Res. Aug. 21, 1911*
Act June 20, 1910. *Pub. Res. No. P.L. 219, 1st Cong. 2d Sess. (1910).*

*But this joint resolution was made in accordance with the terms of an ACT, which was "to enable the people of New Mexico [and Arizona] to form a constitution and state government and be admitted into the Union [i.e., by authorizing a constitutional convention]."

- (e) Colorado - ACT
- (f) Wisconsin - ACT
- (g) Texas - JOINT RESOLUTION

(h) Iowa - ACT

(i) California - ACT

(j) Idaho - ACT

2. Regarding the legislative enactments of Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands, most of the laws were in the form of an ACT. However, the following two JOINT RESOLUTIONS might be of some interest:

(a) [43 Stat. 1357] - A joint resolution extending the sovereignty of the U.S. over Swains Island and making the island a part of American Samoa.

(b) [45 Stat. 1253] - A joint resolution for accepting, ratifying, and confirming the cession of certain islands of the Samoan group to the U.S.