

LETTERS

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Dear Editor:

I have been shocked by the blatant, anti-American propagandizing of the Political Status Commission, and I would like to respond to Senator Frank Lujan's most recent flight into fantasy and historical revisionism (PDN 2/27). Lujan in so many words asserts that Guam need not be. Politically tied to the U.S. because "many other countries (are) ready, willing, and able to develop our economy." He implies that the military on the island has detracted rather than contributed to our economy, and that Guam by severing its political ties with the U.S. can live in blissful, non-military neutrality secured by the UN.

Lujan must have the faith of angels because he's really something out of this world. In the real world when one nation invests capital to develop the economy of another, it doesn't do so out of motives of altruism and brotherly love. If Guam were to cut itself from the U.S., there would be a power vacuum which would readily be filled by Japan or any other nation attempting to protect its investments. One type of economic domination would be exchanged for another, probably less benevolent. In strictly the political arena, Guam can hardly become another Switzerland because geo-politically it is too strategic a piece of real estate. Finally the matter of U.N. protection - this truly requires a willing suspension of disbelief. It is too

ludicrous even to suggest that the pusillanimous U.N. has either the will or capability to protect our neutrality.

Senator Lujan points out that Guam has become a military target. Big news. So no doubt has New York city as a population center. So has Bismark, N.D., with its missile silos. So have thousands of other U.S. communities. And so, no doubt, has Vladivostok. It's the insane state of the world. Even if Guam were to sever its ties with America, there is no guarantee that missiles would not be pointed our way.

Lujan also implies that for the past 25 years the U.S. government has not met its responsibilities in developing the economy of Guam. When one considers that all Federal tax monies stay on Guam, that annually millions of dollars on Guam are generated by the military, and that the largesse from the federal treasury during the past decade alone has reached hundreds of millions, such an implication is pure rubbish. What other U.S. community with a population of 100,000 is supported so lavishly by the Federal government?

Incidentally, these federal monies have led to some curious "double-think" on the local scene. Some local politicians love to engage in cheap rhetoric calling themselves "Westermost Indians" and "second-class citizens." But when they want funds from the federal government, sure enough,

they're there - with palms up!

Senator Lujan would lead us to believe we can go it alone, with industry, agriculture, and tourism. We can't compete with the cheap labor of Asia and we can't rely totally on tourism. Look what happened overnight to the tourist industry in Grenada, an island roughly the population of Guam.

Lujan also writes that base commissaries and exchanges have "discouraged competition, leading to a higher cost of living..." In short, what Lujan depicts is a monopolistic situation. As any first-year economics student knows, this situation could have been corrected through legislation of businesses in the private sector. So I put it to you. As a long-time senator, where were you, Frank, when we needed you?

In concluding, Senator Lujan and his Political Status Commission rather than presenting facts and exploding myths have exploded facts and presented myths. And these are some of the myths they're promulgating: that the U.S. is a tight-fisted tyrannical nation that has oppressed the poor, poor "colonized" people of Guam. I truly hope that another political status commission would replace the present one, and that a future commission would (1) refrain from re-writing history to conform to its prejudices and (2) represent all segments of the community, not just a radical minority.