

PPN

# Editorial..... We Go With Our Arms Outstretched

# Congresswoman Is Colonialistic

Over the past few months, with the Guam Status Commission, and with the University of Guam Seminar, and with a rash of letters-to-the-editor, the subject of U.S. Colonialism has come up often. Generally speaking, we don't believe that the U.S. is basically a colonialistic oriented society. Our nation is rooted too strongly in freedom for that. But there are individuals in the U.S. who sometime don't really give much thought to the subject, and thus appear as the worst kind of colonialist, on a par with Britain, France, Spain, Germany, and Portugal in the 16th, 17th, and 18th century.

A case in point would be members of the House Appropriations Committee, and their chairman Julia Butler Hansen, D-Washington, who sounds like she has had her head stuck in the sand for many years. While she told Guam officials at a recent budget hearing that she is pleased with the promptness of Guam in keeping up with its road and public works construction schedules she, and Rep. Sidney Yates, of Illinois, expressed concern about the degree to which Japanese, Chinese and other foreign interests are moving into Guam's hotel, tourism and commercial development fields:

"We've got a major Navy base in Guam and yet we're letting every country in Asia move there. If Moscow wanted to move in we'd probably let them. Mrs. Hansen said, calling the situation "damned foolishness" and "puzzling to me." She said Alaska is having the same experience with Japanese developers. "My question to you is who the hell won that war?" Mrs. Hansen asked. "We certainly did not."

Our question to the Honorable Mrs. Hansen is "what the hell difference does it really make where the capital to develop Guam comes from?" Ye Gods, we haven't heard that ridiculous remark about "who won the war" for 10 years, leading us to suspect that Mrs. Hansen is living in some kind of vacuum. The war has been over for nearly 30 years now, and we think it is an affront to our Japanese allies, customers, and friends to keep bringing the subject up.

When Willie Brandt visited Washington we don't hear Mrs. Hansen ask naive questions like: "Who won the war?" If she would take the time to look around she would see the Japanese have built soy-sauce factories in Wisconsin, private airplane factories in Texas, TV manufacturing plants in Los Angeles, and own golf courses overlooking Pearl Harbor. What makes her think that Guam is any different than the rest of the United States?

Mrs. Hansen, probably because of lack of knowledge, (some could call it ignorance) doesn't realize, perhaps, that nearly 300,000 tourists are coming into Guam this year, 85 percent of them Japanese. We rarely ask them who won the war as they spend their approximately \$60,000,000 on Guam, contributing a good deal to the U.S. balance of payments. She is obviously unaware of the fact that the U.S. has had control of Guam for 65 years, and not one American businessman thought about building any hotels on Guam. It wasn't until the Japanese started to come in that there was any development at all on Tumon Bay. Her salty "damned foolishness" talk, when describing the fact that we've got a major Navy base on Guam, "and yet we're letting every country in Asia move in there," suggests to us that she would prefer building a wall around Guam, and putting back the Navy security clearance restrictions. We can tell you, Mrs. Hansen, that the people of Guam won't stand for that bit of colonialistic nonsense.

We'd like to know exactly what Mrs. Hansen is suggesting to the people of Guam. Does she want to restrict foreign investment here, but not in other places in the U.S.? Would she like to see Guam be nothing but a military base forever, cut off from the rest of the world? She says that the situation is "puzzling" to her. Obviously. She has absolutely no concept of what is happening in Guam—or in the rest of the world today. Mrs. Hansen has announced that she is not going to run for re-election this year. Considering her performance in totally ignoring the sensibilities of the people of Guam we consider that a blessing.

Mrs. Hansen has been in Congress a long time. If the U.S. would have paid just a bit more attention to those American citizens on Guam, and the U.S. obligations in the Trust Territory, instead of pouring billions down the Southeast Asia rat-hole there would be a far better economic situation in these islands today, and a much better attitude towards the Americans. But to be honest with you, her attitude strikes us as being colonialistic; unfeeling towards the people of the islands, and totally lacking in the realities of the present world. It even sounds a bit racist and condescending to the "bittler brown brothers" of the Pacific.

Perhaps we're being overly harsh because of Mrs. Hansen's lack of understanding for the simple facts

are partly to blame because we are always running back to Uncle Sammy with our hands outstretched, seeking more financial assistance. When you ask for money you are bound to get with it a lot of advice, not all of it good.

Guam Economic Development Director as seeking \$1 million in economic development money from the U.S. government, and ran into some embarrassment instead. He said that the money from Congress would be added to development funds already available to provide \$600,000 for a cold storage plant, \$300,000 for fishing equipment, \$200,000 for livestock production, \$125,000 for a slaughterhouse, \$75,000 for a commercial fish farm, and \$50,000 for a vegetable processing plant to pickle "kim-chee." While all of these things are probably needed, we suspect that private sources could well provide this capital, if the projects are economically sound. To be honest, we doubt if the million dollars is worth the embarrassment to the people of Guam.

Along the same line, Gov. Carlos Camacho is back in Washington, also with hands outstretched, to ask for a hefty \$55 million to build more schools, and to provide for some needed water and sewer projects. While not billed as an extension to the Guam Rehabilitation fund, it is precisely that.

Certainly the money is needed, and certainly the U.S. could afford it, and certainly the U.S. must feel some responsibility to the Guamanian people who are allowing their island to be used as one of the most powerful U.S. bases in the world.

We just wonder if the approach is wrong, though. We wonder if we shouldn't go back to Washington to point out to them that instead of just doling out the money to the poor people of Guam, their poor colony to the West, that instead, now on Guam will be charging, say \$10,000,000 a year for use of the island for the bases. This money would be used to upgrade the educational facilities, upgrade the utilities, and enhance the infrastructure of the island. Obviously such a move wouldn't be well received in Washington but we don't feel that it is entirely

necessary that our governor has to appear before Congress and the Administration with his hat in his hand either. We believe that the U.S. needs Guam just as much as Guam needs the U.S. We're proud people. We resent having to beg. If the U.S. Congress feels that Guam isn't making an important contribution to the U.S. then let them tell us that.

At the House Appropriations Committee hearing Congressman Yates showed some appreciation of the problem when he said that he thought more Guamanians should be involved in bigger development projects such as hotels, although we doubt that he is aware that few local people have the kind of capital, the millions of dollars, that such projects would take. True, there are a few Jones, Calvos, and a couple of others who could do so--and who have done so. The great majority of businessmen here are not in that category. Yates said something interesting: that he thought the Asian Development Bank should try helping Guam compete against foreign money. A fine idea. An idea that has already been pursued at the State Department level with no success.

Another Congressman, Rep. Frank Evans, of Colorado asked Perez about reports that gambling interests were pressuring GovGuam for access to the growing tourist trade. That, it seems to us, should be of little concern to the U.S. Congress, but such a decision should rest with the people of Guam.

This all boils down, as we said in the beginning, to a very definite show of colonialism, pure and simple no matter how you cut it. If Guam is going to be forced to go back to the U.S. each year with our arms outstretched in supplication, then Guam is going to have to expect certain U.S. Congressmen to tell us how to spend the money, who to allow on the island, what airlines can land here, what our immigration quota will be, and when to go to the bathroom. When the day comes, and it may, that Guam becomes self-sufficient, then that day we can tell some of these insensitive, unknowledgeable congressmen where to head in. Sadly, we're not at that stage yet. JCM