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# PACIFIC HAWAII NEWS

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## 2 Visiting Senators Favor Marianas Covenant Bill

By Stephen R. Kelly  
Daily News Staff Writer

Two U.S. senators voiced support at Andersen Air Force base yesterday for the Marianas Commonwealth Covenant currently being considered by two Senate committees.

"On the balance, I feel it is something the Congress ought to approve," Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., said of the covenant bill.

"We're just not going to pull up and abandon them," said Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C. "How do you abandon your trust?"

Hollings and Griffin arrived in Guam at about 9:45 a.m. yesterday from Saipan with Sens. Howard H. Baker R-Tenn., and John C. Culver, D-Iowa, and their wives. There they had met with Saipan officials and Congress of Micronesia representatives.

"I was inclined to support (the covenant) before I came," Griffin said about the trip, "and I can say that this has been reinforced."

Although the covenant was overwhelmingly approved in a

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Griffin answers newsmen's questions on arrival yesterday at Andersen airfield. (Daily News photo by Manuel)

# Two Senators Favor Marianas Covenant

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plebiscite of Northern Marianas residents in June, and was easily passed by the House of Representatives July 21, it has been delayed in the Senate. Opponents such as Sens. Gary W. Hart D-Colo., and Harry F. Byrd D-Va. have objected to the distance of the islands from the U.S. Mainland, their lack of natural resources and the problems involved with breaking the Marianas from the rest of the Trust Territories.

Griffin said the covenant will reach the floor of the Senate for

final action Jan. 27 when the Senate armed services and foreign relations committees are to file their reports. Once there, Hollings predicted "it will have a full debate."

"The report this group makes will be important to some of our colleagues," Griffin added.

Contrary to previous local newspaper reports, only two of the four senators (Baker and Griffin) are members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Culver is on the Armed Services Committee.

"One thing this Northern Marianas resolution has done," Griffin said, "is to awaken the other committees."

After meeting with reporters at the airstrip, Baker and Culver inspected munitions at Andersen,

and then toured Polaris Point and Naval Magazine.

Griffin went to the Officer's Club at Andersen where he questioned GovGuam officials about the Guam Constitutional Convention proposal.

"You have to admit that not all them members of the Senate are that familiar with it," he said.

Speaker Joe Ada and other island senators told Griffin that of the 20 changes proposed in the convention, three were particularly important—local air rights, sea rights and immigration control.

Guam is "domestic as far as shipping is concerned but international as far as airlines are concerned," Sen. Jerry

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## Four Senators Visit Briefly

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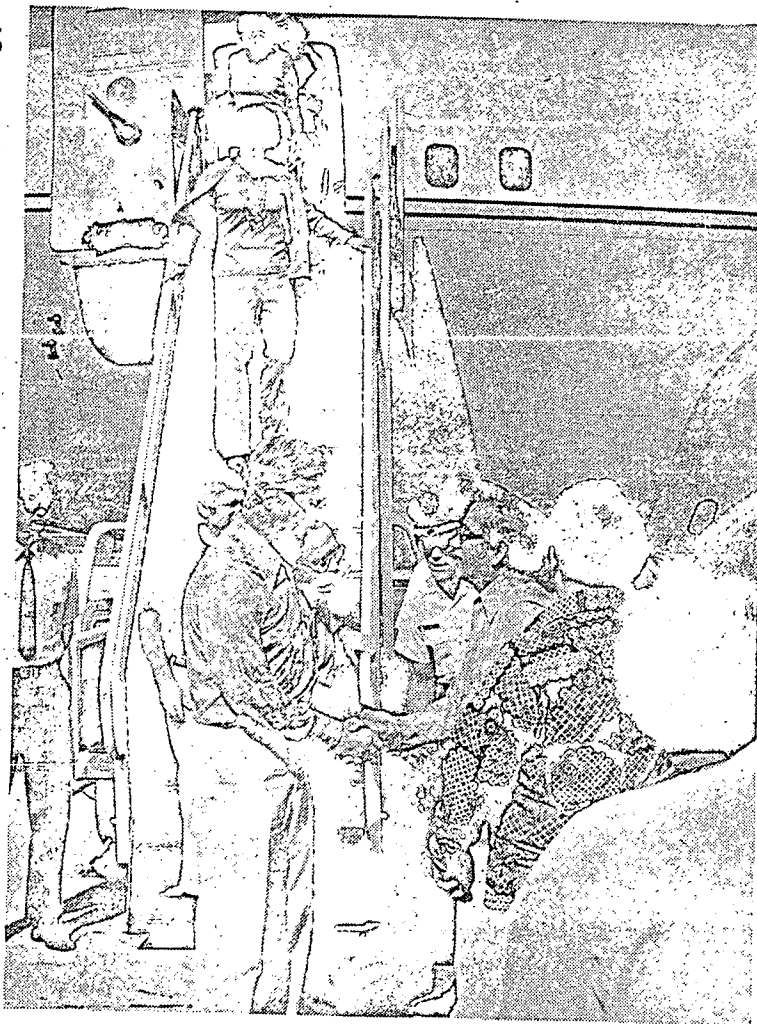
Rivera said, referring to the inconsistent classifications of the airport and port in Guam. The local senators asked that the policy be made more uniform.

Sen. Concepcion Barrett also pleaded for local immigrant control. She said that although total quotas were set by Washington for the entire United States, certain groups came almost exclusively to Guam to remain near their native countries. Five thousand immigrants, she said, had a far greater impact on a small island like Guam than an even larger number would be on the mainland.

Griffin advised the officials to contact the Foreign Relations Committee as well as the Interior Committee on their next visit to Washington to seek action on proposals.

The Senators and their wives continued on yesterday to Canberra to meet with the new conservative Australian government of Malcolm Fraser.

The group will also travel to New Zealand and Tahiti before returning to Washington.



Bordallo greets Hollings at planeside. (Daily News photo by Manuel)