

March 30, 1976

NR/Interior

Interior reprogramming re Northern Marianas Commonwealth

Mr. Donald E. Crabill

Proposal

- Interior proposes temporarily to reprogram \$600 K from the FY 1976 appropriation for water system improvements in the Mariana Islands District to fund transition planning and the constitutional convention pursuant to the Marianas Commonwealth.
- The 1977 Budget includes a \$1,500 K FY 1976 supplemental for the Marianas transition planning and convention; the Department with support from Ambassador Williams is requesting the reprogramming now so the work on transition can commence as soon as possible.
- After the \$1,500 K for transition costs is appropriated, the Department indicates they would reprogram \$600 K of it for the water system improvements.

Appropriations Committee Staff Situation

- Bill Bettenberg reports that the clerks, especially in the Senate, are upset by the number and complexity of reprogrammings, supplementals, and amendments which have been made in the 1976 Budget and appropriations for territories. However, despite this situation, he says the Department believes this present proposal is necessary and requests clearance for it.

Review

- The proposed allocation among uses of this \$600 K is consistent with the allocation among uses of the \$1,500 K as described in the justification for the supplemental. The amounts proposed under the \$600 K generally are to fund 25% to 33% of the total justified for various uses under the \$1,500 K except that all \$200 K for the Constitutional convention is included within the \$600 K.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Recommendation

That the reprogramming be given no objection clearance if changed as marked on the attachment.

Larry D. Cardwell

Attachment