

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1967  
Monday - 3:00 p. m.

*File  
Territories*

*Robert B. Park*

*File*

FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Budget Bureau needs your guidance on two issues contained in bills presented by the Interior Department and heard last week. Budget has not yet submitted its views on these bills.

The bills deal with the relationship between the Federal Government and Guam and the Virgin Islands. They would provide for the election of the Governor in each place.

The bills do not authorize the President to remove an elected Governor for cause, as proposed last year by the Administration; and they would repeal the President's existing authority to veto enactments of local legislatures under certain circumstances.

Last year the House passed a bill providing for elected Governors removable only on impeachment for, and conviction of, high crimes and misdemeanors. The Senate passed a bill which provided for the Governors' removal only by recall. Final legislation was not adopted.

The basic question underlying both the authority to remove Governors and the veto authority is the scope of the power which should be retained by the President to protect the Federal interest in the territories, and the countervailing need to grant a larger measure of democracy to the Islands.

The Interior Department is against retaining Presidential authority to remove elected Governors, and to veto local legislation, because it believes that such authority is inconsistent with the development of local self-government. It argues that there is an adequate remedy for wrong-doing in the Congress' authority to withdraw the Islands' right to elect a Governor.

The Budget Bureau believes that the Federal Government must not be put into a position in which it has no authority to carry out its responsibilities -- in which an irresponsible Governor cannot be

removed, or legislation contrary to the national security cannot be overridden. Budget would like to urge --

(1) that the President be authorized to remove an elected Governor for certain causes;

(2) that the present veto authority be repealed but that the President be authorized to disapprove local laws for certain causes (in other words, changing the general veto power to a limited one);

(3) both of these authorities would be limited so that the President could remove a Governor or disapprove a law only if he or it adversely affects the security, foreign relations, property and interests of the United States.

My own inclination is to give up the power to remove a Governor, but to retain the veto power.

*Harry*

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.

- Let Budget go ahead (retain modified removal and veto power)
- Tell Budget to support Interior (give up both removal and veto power)
- Tell Budget to go your route (retain removal power but give up the veto)
- See me