

APPROVED
MAY 10 1967
Statement

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

MAY 5 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 303 - Increased appropriations
authorization for the Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands
Sponsor - Sen. Jackson (D) Washington

Last Day for Action

May 10, 1967 - Wednesday

Purpose

To authorize increased appropriations for the Government of
the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for civil works
and administrative costs.

Agency Recommendations

Bureau of the Budget	Approval
Department of the Interior	Approval
Department of State	Approval
National Security Council staff	Approval (informally)
Department of Defense	No objection
Peace Corps	No objection

Discussion

In accordance with the Administration's request, this bill in-
creases the Trust Territory authorization from the present
\$17.5 million annually to \$25 million for fiscal year 1967 and
to \$35 million for each of fiscal years 1968 and 1969. These
additional funds are needed to develop public health and edu-
cation programs and facilities, roads, harbors, and public
utilities, and to provide buildings for the territorial govern-
ment. This is in line with the Administration's commitment more
fully to discharge this Government's responsibilities to
Micronesia under the United Nations trusteeship agreement of
1947.

On April 28, 1967, in contemplation of this increased authorization, you sent to the Senate a 1967 supplemental appropriations request for \$5 million and an amendment to the 1968 Budget of \$12.5 million.

The Department of the Interior had also sought a \$35 million authorization for fiscal year 1970. The reports of both the Senate and House Interior Committees indicate that the Committees did not wish to go beyond fiscal year 1969 until Committee members could visit Micronesia and until they could have the benefit of the experience and resulting recommendations of the recently appointed High Commissioner.

The bill also provides that no funds appropriated by any act shall be used for administration of the Trust Territory except as may be specifically authorized by law. An exception, however, is made for the Peace Corps which has recently extended its activities to Micronesia.

Finally, the bill provides that hereafter any appointment to the office of the High Commissioner shall be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Under present law, the High Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior under delegation from the President and without Senate confirmation. It might be noted that Presidential appointment with Senate confirmation is required under existing law in the case of the Governors of Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Walter H. Rummel

Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures