

Bureau of the Budget
ROUTE SLIP

TO Mr. Larry Jensen

- Take necessary action
- Approval or signature
- Comment
- Prepare reply
- Discuss with me
- For your information
- See remarks below

FROM Welf Rummel DATE 8/3/67

REMARKS

Larry - Attached is a copy of a package which Secretary Udall proposes that the President transmit to Congress relating to a commission to study the political future of the Trust Territories.

Defense & State are now on board and we are cleaning up a few details.

Chuck Johnson of NSC staff is preparing a memo to the President for Walt Rostow recommending Presidential approval. He has indicated he will check the package with you & you.

Is this procedure ok with you?

Welf

**SPECIAL
SERVICE**

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President)

Enclosed is a letter to me from the Secretary of the Interior proposing legislation in the form of a joint resolution "Regarding the Status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." I strongly concur in the views expressed by the Secretary and I am pleased to present to the Congress this proposed bill.

As Secretary Udall states, the people of Micronesia, through their elected representatives, have asked for the appointment of a commission to study the alternatives relative to the political future of Micronesia, and to make recommendations concerning the methods best suited to a speedy determination of that political future. I share the expressed view of the Congress of Micronesia that "this generation of Micronesians should have an early opportunity to determine the future constitutional and political status of Micronesia." It is gratifying to me that the people of Micronesia, through this petition, demonstrate a marked sense of political maturity and sensitivity. Even though motivated by an understandable sense of urgency and concern, they have selected an approach to the problem which will permit the concerns of all of the interested parties to be considered and evaluated, and which indirectly, through discussion and debate, will serve to sort out and clarify for the

people of Micronesia the alternatives, in their fullness, that are available to them. This process cannot fail to substitute facts for suppositions, hard appraisals for guesses, and understanding where there is now only confusion in the absence of knowledge.

Because I believe a commission is the correct approach in this matter, it is my desire that one be established. I do not wish, however, to proceed independently of the Congress. Because the Federal interests and responsibility with respect to the Trust Territory, and any resolution of the question of political future of the Trust Territory are so entwined within the executive and legislative branches, it seems to me that the very substance of the problem speaks eloquently for the necessity of a cooperative effort, and I invite the Congress to join with the Executive in such an effort by the enactment of the enclosed legislation.

Sincerely,

President

Hon. John W. McCormack
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Enclosure