

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OK
file

February 19, 1968
6:15 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Budget Bureau needs your guidance as to their position on legislation to provide an elected governor for Guam. Hearings will be held on this bill by the House Interior Committee tomorrow.

This bill -- and a companion measure for the Virgin Islands -- have both been passed by the Senate. Hearings have been completed on the Virgin Islands bill in the House and it should be reported soon.

The Senate bills do not include two amendments recommended by the Budget Bureau. They are:

1. Right of the President to remove an elected governor for cause; and
2. Repeal of the President's existing authority to veto certain enactments of the local legislatures.

We did not ask Interior to testify in favor of these amendments in the Senate. Instead, Interior testified in favor of the bills and Budget Bureau presented separate views recommending the two amendments. Budget got a rough going-over in both hearings from the Senate Interior Committee.

This is a lost cause unless you want to make a major personal effort. These are good reasons not to do so:

- Congressional sentiment is overwhelming against the amendments. The Senate gave no consideration to them and Aspinall has already indicated that he is vigorously opposed.
- Defense has indicated there is no security problem. We could step in at Guam in an emergency without specific provisions for Presidential veto or removal of the governor.
- The amendments are very unpopular in the territories as an unwarranted restraint on self-government.
- Budget Bureau has not been asked for its views -- it would be volunteering this position. Interior, as before, will be supporting the bill.

The best reason for continuing the fight for the amendments is that it represents, in one sense, a struggle for authority between the Executive and the Congress. In my view, it is not basic enough to warrant friction with the House Interior Committee in a losing cause.

I recommend that Budget Bureau not present independent testimony to the House committee.



DeVier Pierson

Tell Budget Bureau not to testify. _____

Tell Budget Bureau to testify in favor of the two amendments again. _____

Call me. _____