

LAST DAY FOR ACTION
Wednesday, September 17, 1980

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1980

Jeff Farrow

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: STU EIZENSTAT *Stu*
JEFF FARROW

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill H.R. 4627 - Authorizing Military Enlistments by Northern Mariana Islands Residents

THE BILL

The attached OMB memorandum adequately describes this bill, which would permit enlistment in the U.S. military by citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands in the interim period until the Northern Marianas join the United States in 1981.

VOTES IN CONGRESS

The bill passed both Houses by voice vote.

AGENCY AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Defense and Interior recommend that you sign the bill. OMB, Gene Eidenberg, Lloyd Cutler and DPS concur and recommend that you sign the attached statement which has been approved by the speechwriters.

DECISION

- _____ Sign H.R. 4627 with attached statement (recommended)
- _____ Sign H.R. 4627
- _____ Veto H.R. 4627

SIGNING STATEMENT - H.R. 4627

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 4627 which will permit the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to enlist in our Armed Forces

In approving the Covenant to establish their Commonwealth, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands freely and overwhelmingly chose to become Americans. They will become United States Citizens when the Covenant takes effect upon termination of the Pacific Islands Trusteeship Agreement. Until that time, however, they are effectively blocked from military service.

The inability to serve their Nation during this period has been a source of severe disappointment to many young people in the islands. This bill rectifies that situation by giving them the right to enlist during the remaining period of trusteeship.

I want to congratulate Senator J. Bennett Johnston, Jr. and Delegate Antonio B. Won Pat for guiding H.R. 4627 through the Congress. This new law is a symbol of the permanent political union between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. That it was enacted at the request of the people of the islands, through Governor Carlos S. Camacho and Representative Edward DLG. Pangelinan, is a testament to the loyalty of the newest members of the American political family.
