STATEMENT
OF
JOHN A. CARVER, JR., ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
(PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT) AT HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1961, AND TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1961

For Release on Delivery

Mr. Chairman, I wish to open by saying that Secretary Udall
deply regrets his inability to be present with his former colleagues
today to testify on the various proposals now before you which provide
representation in the Congress for the Virgin Islands and Guam. Un-
fortunately the press of other business prevents him from doing so;
and it is, therefore, my privilege to present his views.

HR 545 would provide representative for the Virgin Islands only,
by a person whose title would be "Delegate".

HR 1784 is quite similar except that it applies to Guam only, and
the representative would be called a Resident Commissioner.

HR 4471, 4752, and 4768 provide representation for both territories
under the title of Territorial Deputy.

The question as to the official title of such representatives was
given much study and consideration in the 86th Congress, and was re-
solved by this Committee's selection of the title Territorial Deputy.
We assume that this Committee is still of the same mind and we agree with
its selection.

For all practical purposes, HR 4471, 4752, and 4768 are almost
identical in language with HR 11274 which was reported out favorably
by this Committee on May 24, 1960. We favor these proposals as they
would give both our remaining organized territories, the Virgin Islands
and Guam, representation in the halls of Congress on a basis similar to
that which was traditionally granted to our other nonself-governing organized areas in the past. We believe the time is ripe for granting such representation to both of these areas, and we recommend enactment of legislation to that end.

We are mindful of the fact that this is a subject which is peculiarly and exclusively the province of the Congress, and particularly the House of Representatives, since it involves membership in that body. On the other hand, the Congress has authorized the placing of the supervisory responsibility over these areas in the Secretary of the Interior, and you have requested this statement of our views on the subject.

In reference to HR 545 and 1784, we perceive no just reason why one of the territories concerned should be granted this privilege, and the other denied it.

Both the Virgin Islands and Guam have the status of organized, but unincorporated, territories of the United States. For each of them a formal structure of government has been created through enactment by Congress of an organic act, but neither of them has been "incorporated," that is, brought within the full purview of every provision of the Constitution. Each of the two areas is governed by a locally elected Legislature and an appointed Governor. The Judiciary of each is headed by a Federal District Judge. The people of both territories are full citizens of the United States.
The Virgin Islands were acquired by purchase from Denmark in 1917. In recent years, particularly since enactment of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands in 1954, the territory has made remarkable progress. The territorial government has greatly expanded the scope of its services, and territorial revenues from local sources only have increased from $2,355,000 in fiscal year 1954 to $7,252,000 in fiscal year 1960. The private economy has likewise prospered, largely because of the development and increase of tourism and of small manufacturing enterprises.

Guam was acquired from Spain in 1898. The people of Guam have likewise made real gains in experience at self-government, and in their understanding of democratic processes, even though the Guam Organic Act was only enacted in 1950. Guam is a prosperous area of full employment, her economy being based to a very large degree on servicing the defense establishments located there. During World War II Guam was occupied by the Japanese and heavily devastated. During that period the Guamanian people gave convincing proof of their loyalty to this Nation, and since the end of the war much of their energy has necessarily been devoted to the work of reconstruction.

Mr. Chairman, we consider the enactment of legislation creating these two offices will be a major step forward in the field of territorial legislation, and we sincerely appreciate the present manifestation of plans for speedy consideration in the hope that final action by both Houses
of the Congress can be had in time for selection of the territorial
deputies at the next election. As once pointed out by your Subcommittee
Chairman, the adoption of such legislation will mean that all of the
citizens of the United States would then have a voice in our highest
legislative body, the National legislative forum; and it is important
that that voice come to the Members of Congress and be heard by the
Members of Congress directly, unfiltered, unstrained, whatever the
case may be, through the Executive Branch.