

POLITICAL STATUS COMMITTEE

This newsletter has been distributed so that you may begin thinking about the consequences of each of the political alternatives facing Guam.

Please think about these alternatives and come to the hearing when the Political Status Committee comes to your village.

Chairman of the committee is Adrian Sanchez and the members are Joe T. San Agustin, Jose C. Quintanilla, Betty Guerrero, Jose R. Rivera, Charles F. Toves, Jesus S. Camacho, David Terlaje, and Joaquin G. Blaz.

Naturally, some of the more radical changes in status, such as independence or affiliation with another nation, would have most profound effects on all aspects of Guam life. These observations are confined to the political and legal effects only.

1. Incorporated Territory.

Obtaining incorporated territorial status, such as was enjoyed by Hawaii and Alaska prior to statehood, could represent a step backwards in political autonomy for the territory since the exclusive pattern of government for such territories is that of a governor appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Since Guam is to soon have its own elected governor, accepting incorporated status with an appointed governor, seems regressive. However, there is nothing in the U. S. Constitution that prohibits an incorporated territory from having an elected governor, and thus if Congress decided to incorporate Guam into the American union it could if it wished, leave the gubernatorial selection in the hands of the people of Guam. The basic advantage to being an incorporated territory is the implicit promise of eventual statehood. Thus, if Guam was incorporated, the people of Guam would in effect have thereby been promised by the Congress that statehood was somewhere in the offing. However, Hawaii was an incorporated territory for more than 50 years and Alaska even longer. Also, being first an incorporated territory is not absolutely necessary for statehood. Neither California nor Texas were territories, incorporated or otherwise, before becoming states, and if Puerto Rico becomes a state, it will achieve such directly from a commonwealth without going through any incorporated territorial stage. The chief disadvantage of being an incorporated territory is that the income and other Federal tax laws would apply throughout the territory and the proceeds thereunder would all be paid directly to the U.S. Treasury and