

may not be remitted to Guam as they are now. In addition to the enormous amount of income tax revenue this would cost us, we would also have to start paying Federal excise taxes, Federal luxury taxes, and Guam would no longer be a duty free port but would have to pay the U.S. tariffs on imported foreign goods. In addition, we would still be denied the rights to vote in presidential elections and to have voting representation in Congress. To sum up, becoming an incorporated territory may be a mistake for the people of Guam in that no additional political rights or autonomy would be obtained (we might even lose the right to elect our own governor) and the financial burden of both losing substantial tax revenues of our own and being saddled with substantial additional Federal taxes would be overwhelming.

2. Statehood.

Statehood would give the people of Guam all of the political rights enjoyed by American citizens living in the 50 states of the union. We could vote in national elections, we would have two senators and a minimum of one member of the House of Representatives, we would no longer have the Federal Comptroller or similar participation of Federal agencies in local matters, and we could then under no circumstances be considered second class citizens. The only disadvantage, but this is a very real one, is the financial burden imposed by the imposition of Federal taxes, as outlined in the discussion on incorporated territorial status. There would also be certain other expenses, such as paying for our own court system, since we would automatically lose the District Court of Guam as a territorial court. In its place a U.S. District Court would be established, but it would hear only Federal cases. There would be certain other expenses attendant upon statehood; therefore while it would appear that statehood would conclude the long struggle of the people of Guam to obtain their full measure of political freedom, it is probably economically unfeasible at this time in the absence of a larger tax base and higher per capita income.

One practical problem regarding statehood that should always be borne in mind is that under the Federal system, each state, no matter what its population or resources, is entitled to two senators. Thus if Guam were a state, it would have as much power in the U.S. Senate, the world's most powerful legislative assembly, as New York or California. This is hard for such states to swallow and it is the principal reason that it took so long for Alaska to obtain statehood - the population was just too small. Proponents of statehood usually cite the example of Nevada, which had a population of less than 70,000 at the time of its admission into the union. However, what is forgotten is that Nevada was admitted during the Civil War when the Republican Senate wished to be certain