

Committee on Resources

Witness Testimony

Kurt Tucker
Guam political status- a taxpayer's view
October 19, 1997

Whom it may concern

I have heard that many of our politicians and possible radio celebrities are planning to attend the Guam Commonwealth hearings and since I was not invited, nor can I afford to attend I wish to pass on my opinions.

I am not a lawyer, scholar, political activist or government representative, just a common, yet proud, American, a United States Citizen. As the quest for Guam's change in political status by it's elected officials and very vocal political activists, I feel I should be heard also. It may be said who cares what I think as I am not of Chamorro heritage and so my opinion is unimportant, either way here it is.

1. I feel as a free American, that each person whom is a U.S. citizen should be able to vote for the president of "our" nation. I also feel that the people of Guam deserve a voting Representative in Congress - The House of the People.
2. I feel that the people who's land was "taken" without "just compensation" should be returned or they should be justly compensated. As for any lands which were obtained by just compensation, at the time at which it was obtained, remembering that this was a long time ago when the island was sparsely populated, with little infrastucture or houses and was mainly jungle and the "value" of the land was not what it is today, this is U.S. government property "bought and paid" for by the American taxpayer. This land, buildings, houses, roadways should, if the government decides to relenquish control over it, be "sold" at fair market value and not given away. This in itself, the giving away of taxpayer's property does seem to be the "American way", it creates other problems. First, each and every house given back to whomever, affects the real estate market, the construction industry and unfairly makes a few people rich while putting the local worker out of jobs.
3. If the people of Guam do not want to maintain the current level of U.S. involvement with the island and its inhabitants (mainly militarily and financially, then I feel that the Government of my country should do what is best for the American public. This can be done several ways.
 - Rebuild the Air base at Wake Island and move Anderson's mission there, Diego Garcia and Korea.
 - Put out RFP's to the other islands in the area for long term leases for a deep water port and take the "best" offer.
 - Sell all U.S. government assets on Guam to the highest bidder or remove them.
 - Return all land which was "taken" without just compensation to the government of Guam, to dispose of as they see fit, but only after all contamination has been cleaned up to meet the minimum USEPA standards.
 - Stop financing GovGuam and let them manage their own affairs into the 21st century. Allow the

island to flourish. Allowing only those persons whom want to go to the "mainland" US and those whom were born there or are children of US citizens to maintain there citizenship, not those who were given citizenship by the Organic Act.

These are just my opinions, a common and proud American who is tired of hearing and reading how the United States has stolen and deprived the good people of Guam their destiny. Let them go ***** , I am sure that with what I have seen of GovGuam in the past several years, they are more than capable of governing a country and should be given a chance, but not on the American taxpayer's back.

I have lived on this beautiful Island for several years now and have grown to love it and it's people, but I grow tired of hearing this vocal minority always talking and sometimes doing derogatory things to and abut my country.

So as you prepare to go into talks about Commonwealth and other of Guam's political status wants and needs, I feel you should consider my opinions also. Not just those who will gain politically and financially.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kurt Tucker

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