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## Acknowledgement

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type economy designed to meet mainland personnel requirements? Will U.S. mainland servicemen be permitted to be discharged on Guam to establish businesses? Will U.S. mainland individuals or corporations be permitted to establish themselves on Guam? This basic question of policy must be settled. A long delay may result in adverse criticism of Naval Military Government of Guam. U.S. mainland firms believe they have a right to seek expansion of their post-war markets within U.S. territory. U.S. servicemen believe they, as U.S. citizens, have a right to enter business on Guam. Any policy to guard the Guamanian against foreign exploitation must consider the need to guard Guamanians against exploitation by Guamanians."

The concept of a dual and triple wage system was resurrected at about this time.

According to Laura Thompson, while there was plenty of work available for the Guamanians,

"the types of employment, conditions of work, wage rates, number of hours, distribution of wholesale and retail businesses, wholesale and retail prices, etc., are completely controlled by the government."

"Once a native takes a job, he cannot quit on his own free will and absenteeism is punished by fine or imprisonment,"

said Thompson.

"There are three wage schedules for civilians for the same kind of work on the island: One for Guamanians, one for 'continental Americans' hired on Guam, and one for 'continental Americans' hired in the States. Wage schedules showing all three categories are not made available to the public. Some idea of the discrepancy can be inferred from the fact that a Guamanian auto mechanic gets \$0.43 an hour, a 'continental American' hired on Guam gets \$1.42 an hour, and a 'continental American' from the States gets a \$1.72 an hour. Also, while the 'continental American' with the federal government gets time and a half for overtime, sick and annual leave with pay, and other social security benefits, besides transportation to and from the island, the Guamanian works overtime for the regular wage and gets no sick leave or annual leave with pay."

The Naval Government's excuse for the triple wage system was

"to avoid inflationary reactions which have been prevalent elsewhere. It is evident that the Guamanian cost of living reflects state-side conditions and is far above the normal or desired level for the island."

In his assessment of the naval administration of the island in 1949, Michael Zenor, a candidate for a doctoral degree, said:

"The Navy Department during its administration of Guam has never thought in terms of an American standard of living. Post-war wages for Guamanians have purposely been kept low in order that the natives would not become accustomed to a standard of living which would not be maintained over a period of time."



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## CHAPTER XI

### At Last!

On October 20, 1945, President Harry S. Truman directed the Secretaries of State, War, Navy and Interior to submit recommendations concerning the administration of Guam and the other Pacific islands under the aegis of the United States.

In a subsequent message to Congress, President Truman said it had

“been my view that the inhabitants of Guam (and Samoa) should enjoy those fundamental human rights and that democratic form of government which are the rich heritage of the people of the United States. We have already extended those rights and that form of government to other possessions of the United States, such as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and with respect to the inhabitants of the trust territory have given solemn assurance to the United Nations of our intention to grant these inhabitants a full measure of individual rights and liberties.”

A bill granting U.S. citizenship and a civil government to the people of Guam was not considered by the Congress until the spring of 1950. Congressional action was spurred by an incident in Guam early the previous year. Members of the advisory House of Assembly staged a walkout in protest of a Navy admiral's refusal to recognize



the investigative authority of the local congress. The walkout was given a big play by mainland and Hawaii newspapers and was at least partly instrumental in the passage of citizenship legislation.

It was then the policy of the Naval Government to protect Guamanian businesses by prohibiting admission to Guam of outside business interests until such time that the local economy had been rehabilitated.

Several of the 34-member assembly felt that the policy was not being enforced, contending that local business was being exploited not only by Hawaiian and mainland interests but also by former naval officers and Navy civil service employees, using Guamanians as "front men".

In November, 1948, the House of Assembly directed the Commerce and Trade Committee to investigate the allegation.

And on February 3, 1949, Abe Goldstein, a civil service employee alleged to have had a financial interest in the "Guam Style Center", a clothing store, was subpoenaed by the committee. Goldstein repeatedly declined to answer questions, maintaining that neither the committee nor the Guam Congress had authority to inquire into the matter.

On February 5, the Assembly voted to have Goldstein arrested for contempt of Congress.

And when Admiral Charles Pownall, Naval Governor of Guam, refused to honor the arrest warrant, the Assembly unanimously voted to adjourn, emphasizing that

"Until such time as they are permitted to play their proper role in the Government of Guam, they prefer not to attempt to discharge their duties as members of the House of Assembly, Guam Congress."

The walkout was staged on March 5, 1949.

Four days later, Assembly Speaker Antonio B. Won Pat, dispatched a letter to Pownall, saying that the situation had reached the point where the Assembly

"does not feel that it can determine when it is performing its mission and when it is not, when it is being repudiated and when it is not, and when it is being circumvented and when it is not. . ."

The walkout was engineered by Carlos P. Taitano, a young assemblyman who recently returned home from the war. The brief political revolt (it lasted two weeks) grew out of three major grie-

vances, according to Taitano. They were: (1) Arbitrary rule by the Naval Government; (2) Lack of a constitution guaranteeing civil rights and (3) Lack of a court of appeals beyond the Secretary of the Navy.

Taitano left Guam as a 19-year-old and was attending the University of Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He joined the U.S. Army as an enlisted man and was later sent to Officers Candidate School in Brisbane, Australia. He held the rank of captain when he left the Army in 1948.

Taitano was a staunch believer in the value of publicity — especially on the national scale — if the voice of Guam was to be heard.

It just so happened that prior to the Assembly walkout, two news correspondents — one representing the Associated Press and the other the United Press — visited Guam and Taitano entertained them at his home.

Taitano and the two newsmen agreed that if Guam's desire for self-government was to be heard, an incident of substantial magnitude must occur, great enough to warrant a major play in the newspapers. Taitano also agreed that should such an incident develop, he would personally feed the two reporters with news items via radio-grams.

Among the first persons to learn about the Assembly walkout were, of course, the two newsmen.

Pownali was relieved as naval governor in August, 1949, and was replaced by Carlton Skinner, a former newspaperman. Skinner, a civilian, discovered soon enough that as Governor of Guam, he had total executive responsibility, concurrent legislative power, and judicial authority. He could write laws, sign them, and interpret them.

"I had the unlimited right of deportation of persons I deemed undesirable."

Skinner recalled later.

"I was also president of the Bank of Guam (the only bank on the island) and publisher of the Guam Daily News (the only newspaper). This aggregation of power was indescribably bad in principle, however well and honestly it might be administered in practice."

Skinner went on to say that when citizenship and civil govern-



ment legislation was initially discussed, the Navy reluctantly agreed to the proposal but

“took the opportunity of the then starting Korean War to oppose it. And, in fact, it had ordered me as Governor not to allow the representatives of the Guam Congress to proceed to Washington to testify.”

When the bill was finally heard by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the Navy reversed its stand and came out strongly endorsing the proposed legislation.

In a prepared statement, Under Secretary of the Navy, Dan A. Kimball, said:

“The Department of the Navy desires to endorse most strongly the proposal now before the Congress to grant United States citizenship to the peoples of Guam and American Samoa and to provide an organic act for each of these insular possessions. . .

“The Department of the Navy, in reviewing the 50 years of its administration of Guam and American Samoa, feels a pride which is believed justifiable in the progress made on these islands. At the turn of the century when the administration of Guam and American Samoa was assigned to the Navy, the sanitary and health conditions of these islands were deplorable. The indigenous population had been decimated by disease. At once a vigorous public health program was instituted on each of these islands. Medical treatment and hospitalization were provided for all. Programs for training medical practitioners and nurses have been promoted.

“Since 1900 the population of each island has almost trebled. Health conditions are now considered excellent. There has been a steady increase in the participation of the people of Guam and American Samoa in their local governments. The development of this participation has proceeded in accordance with the culture and institution of the people.

“Today the people of Guam are represented by the Guam Congress upon which certain legislative powers were conferred in 1947. The Samoans are represented by the Fono of American Samoa, a general assembly constituted according to Samoan tradition, upon the recommendations of which the Governor relies heavily. Guamanians and Samoans occupy responsible positions in the executive branch of their local governments and sit on the island courts. Similar substantial progress might be noted in the fields of education, commerce and agriculture. . .”

In its report to the full Senate, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, chaired by Senator Joseph O'Mahoney, said:

“This bill is reported in the belief that the time has come for the Congress to pass an organic act permitting the people of Guam to govern themselves. . .

“It establishes democratic local government for the island, and guarantees human freedoms under the authority of the Congress rather than the executive branch. American citizenship would be conferred on the approximately 27,000 native Guamanians who gave such valiant proof of their loyalty to the United States and American traditions in two world wars, including four years of enemy occupation by the Japanese armed forces. . .”

“All American tradition and history dictates that government shall rest upon law, rather than upon executive decree. By international treaty also, the Congress has a direct responsibility for the government of Guam. The second paragraph of article IX of the treaty ceding Guam to the United States provides:

“The civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the Territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress.”

“In addition to the obligation under the Treaty of Paris, the United States has additional treaty obligations with respect to Guam as a non-self-governing Territory. Under Chapter XI of the Charter of The Senate June 26, 1945, we undertook, with respect to the peoples of such Territories, to insure political advancement, to develop self government, and taking ‘due account of the political aspirations of the peoples, . . . to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions. . .”

On the question of national security, President Truman pointed out to the Congress that

“high military as well as civilian officials of this government have stated that establishment of civil government under an organic act would in no way impair our national security. To the contrary, I hold with them the view that in Guam, a bastion of our Pacific defenses, measures taken to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of our Guamanian nationals will in fact enhance our security by binding these people more closely to the rest of the United States, and to its ideals.”

Certain members of Congress were concerned that passage of organic legislation might be construed as paving the way for eventual statehood for Guam.



"No commitment as to statehood, expressed or implied, is held out in the measure,"

Senator O'Mahoney emphasized in the committee report.

"The representatives of the people of Guam (F.B. Leon Guerrero and A.B. Won Pat) who came to Washington to appear at the hearings, concur in the committee's views in this respect."

Governor Skinner also dispatched a letter to the committee stating:

"I am informed that in hearings before your committee on Hawaiian statehood a question was raised as to a possible obligation to grant statehood to Guam. Please inform the committee that the people of Guam do not envision or desire statehood. . They do ardently desire passage of your bill (S. 1892), now being considered by your committee, which will give them citizenship and right of self-government, which they have patiently sought for the 51 years that they have been under the American flag. The bill for organic act on which Senator Anderson's subcommittee has already held an excellent and sympathetic hearing contains absolutely no promise, direct or implied, of statehood for Guam. By its language describing Guam as an unincorporated territory, the pending bill clearly rejects the possibility of statehood. With citizenship and self-government provided in your bill (S. 1892), the people of Guam will be happy and contented as to their political ambitions and will have the foundation they need to fulfill their destinies politically, economically, and socially."

With the enactment of the Organic act on August 1, 1950, three-and-one-half centuries of political, economic and social suppression under Spanish, American and Japanese military rulers came to an end.

As Governor Skinner later pointed out:

"Military colonial rule is evil in principle because the civil population is not free to make its own decisions. It is ordered, not self-governed."

## The Art of Name-Giving

"A nickname is the hardest stone that the devil can throw at a man."

So said one observer, and there are no doubts some Guamanians who would quickly sigh with pitiable resignation: "Pari, you said a mouthful."

The fact is that there are few nicknames in any language that sting as brutally as some of the Guamanian labels. At the same time, these names expose the Guamanian's sense of humor, his quick and witty reaction to incongruous situations, and — one must admit — his "cretiveness" and ingenuity.

Surprising as it may seem, though, the nicknaming was not necessarily motivated by hatred or contempt but largely by a natural fondness for fun-poking.

Do the victims think it's all so funny? Perhaps not; but it is amazing that those who were struck by the devil's hardest stones — so many generations ago that they've forgotten just how it happened — have learned to live with the scars of an unsavory name, and even to acknowledge the diabolical baptism.

A few, of course, are outwardly resentful; but no one has yet