

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Conversation with Governor Pedro Tenorio (NMI-I) (2 pages)	ca. November, 1998	P5 613
002. memo	Conversation with Governor Pedro Tenorio (NMI-I) (2 pages)	ca. November, 1998	P5 614 Dupot 613
003. briefing paper	Meeting with Governor Pedro Tenorio (I-NMI) (4 pages)	11/20/98	P5 615

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Counsel's Office
Bridget McGovern and Brad Winter
OA/Box Number: 18562

FOLDER TITLE:

4 [FAR/CNMI Executive Privilege, Red Folders]

Richard Stalcup
2006-0167-F
rx67

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

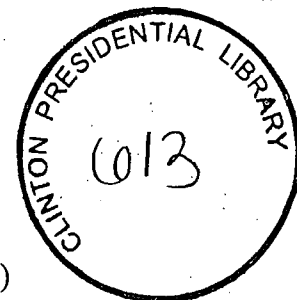
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR PEDRO TENORIO (NMI-I)

I. PURPOSE

To reiterate your position that Federal immigration and minimum wages laws should be applied to the Commonwealth, discourage Governor Tenorio from continuing to resist bills for the purpose, and encourage him to meet with your representative on the issue to discuss measures that would lessen the economic dislocation that would be caused by ending the islands' foreign labor system.

II. BACKGROUND

The mid-'70s Northern Marianas Covenant did not extend Federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands because: (1) the 15,000 islanders wanted to avert being overwhelmed by Asians and (2) the minimum wage was too high for the islands' undeveloped economy. The agreement authorized the Federal Government to apply the laws later, however.

Since then, the population has quadrupled through a system that imports workers on a temporary basis for low-paid, permanent jobs, often on an indentured basis. The workers from China, the Philippines, and elsewhere are often subjected to wage and personal abuse. Countries including Bangladesh have complained about their treatment. There has also been substantial national media attention to it. A Congressional advisory panel found the system contrary to U.S. immigration principles.

Many of the workers comprise almost all of the labor in a garment industry that exports \$1 billion a year in goods labeled "Made in the USA" free of duties into the U.S. market.

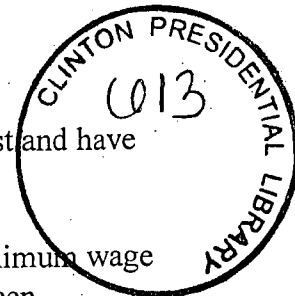
You joined House Resources Committee Ranking Democrat George Miller (CA) and Senate Daniel Akaka (D-HI) in proposing the application of Federal immigration and minimum wage laws. The bill proposed --

(1) multi-year phase-ins,

(2) limits to family-based immigration and an allocation of job-based immigrant visas based on local requests, and

(3) banning the use of the "Made in USA" on goods made without minimal percentages of permanent resident workers.

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You also offered to consider other provisions to help the islands' adjust and have such measures developed through talks with a special representative.

The Marianas has opposed the enactment of any Federal immigration and minimum wage laws and found a champion in House Majority Whip DeLay. Officials have been unwilling to have serious talks on the matter with Special Representative Ed Cohen, Interior's Deputy Solicitor.

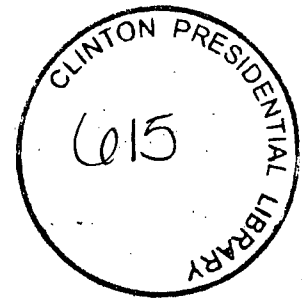
The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill to (1) establish a local board under the Labor Department to set wage rates for the islands and (2) authorize Justice to extend immigration laws after a period the islands would be given to reform its local laws. The Administration has not supported this alternative, but it is preferable to the current situation.

Governor Tenorio, a soft-spoken man can be expected to say that the Asian economic downturn makes this a bad time to reduce reliance on low-cost foreign workers. The Northern Marianas' economy, however, is subject to economic conditions similar to those faced by Guam, which is covered by U.S. immigration and wage laws. Further, the Interior Department is willing to explore economic alternatives with Governor Tenorio.

Talking Points

- * Teno, the U.S. was pleased to have the people of the CNMI want to unite with us. But the foreign worker system the CNMI has developed since then is contrary to American values.
- * The Covenant authorized the Federal Government to enact immigration and wage laws for the islands. We now must do this. I am committed to it. These are Federal functions.
- * I know it will require economic changes and willing consider measures to help with the transition. I hope you will talk seriously to my representative, Ed Cohen, about this soon..

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November 20, 1998

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR PEDRO TENORIO (I - NMI)

DATE: November 23, 1998
LOCATION: Guam - Government House
TIME: 2:35p.m.
FROM: Fred DuVal
Jeffrey Farrow

I. PURPOSE

To reiterate your position that Federal immigration and minimum wages laws should be applied to the Commonwealth, discourage Governor Tenorio from continuing to resist legislation for this purpose, and encourage him to meet with your representative to discuss measures that would lessen the economic dislocation that would be caused by ending the islands' foreign labor system.

II. BACKGROUND

The Northern Marianas Covenant did not originally extend Federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands because: (1) the 15,000 islanders wanted to avoid being overwhelmed by Asians and (2) the minimum wage was too high for the islands' undeveloped economy. The agreement authorized the Federal Government to apply the laws in future years.

Since then, the population has quadrupled through a system that imports workers on a temporary basis for low-paid, permanent jobs, often on an indentured basis. The workers from China, the Philippines, and elsewhere are often subjected to wage and personal abuse. Countries including Bangladesh have complained about their treatment. There has also been substantial national media attention to it. A Congressional advisory panel found the system contrary to U.S. immigration principles.

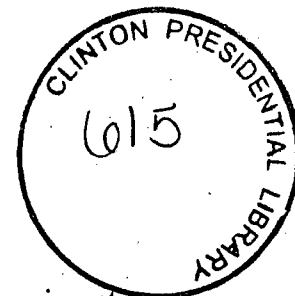
These workers comprise almost all of the labor in a garment industry that exports \$1 billion a year in goods labeled "Made in the USA" free of U.S. duties.

You joined House Resources Committee Ranking Democrat George Miller (CA) and Senate Daniel Akaka (D-HI) in supporting the application of Federal immigration and minimum wage laws. The bill proposed --

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MEETING WITH GOVERNOR PEDRO TENORIO
PAGE TWO



(2) limits to family-based immigration and an allocation of job-based immigrant visas based on local requests, and

(3) banning the use of the "Made in USA" on goods made without minimal percentages of permanent resident workers.

You also offered to consider other provisions to help the islands' adjust to the economic transition.

The Marianas has opposed the enactment of any Federal immigration and minimum wage laws and found a champion in House Majority Whip DeLay. Officials have been unwilling to have serious talks on the matter with Special Representative Ed Cohen, Interior's Deputy Solicitor.

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III. PARTICIPANTS

YOU
Governor Pedro Tenorio

IV. PRESS PLAN

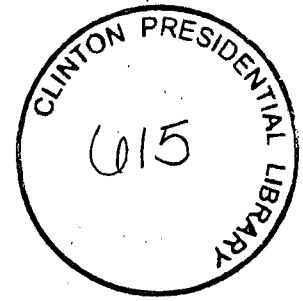
Closed press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You greet Governor Tenorio
- You and Governor Tenorio engage in discussion

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MEETING WITH GOVERNOR PEDRO TENORIO
PAGE THREE



You depart

VI. REMARKS

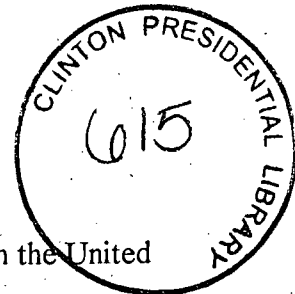
None required

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Talking points

Talking Points

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001. memo	Fred Duval and Jeffrey Farrow to President Clinton through Mickey Ibarra re: Northern Marianas Labor System Reform Talks (1 page)	01/08/98	P5 6216
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Richard Stalcup
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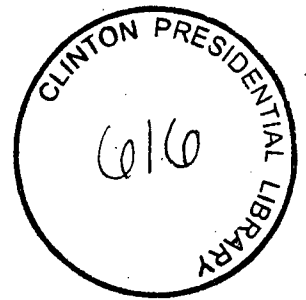
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January 8, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Mickey Ibarra

FROM: Fred DuVal
Jeffrey Farrow

SUBJECT: Northern Marianas Labor System Reform Talks

CC: Sylvia Mathews
Janet Murguia
Lucia Wyman

Attached is a suggested letter to the Governor-Elect of the Northern Mariana Islands. It would initiate formal talks under the agreement by which the islands came under U.S. sovereignty on the implementation of Federal immigration and minimum wage laws in the Commonwealth.

Governor-Elect Pedro Tenorio (I), who previously served as governor from 1982-90, was re-elected calling for talks after incumbent Froilan Tenorio (I) simply opposed extending the laws (in spite of the fact that the Federal-insular relationship agreement authorizes their extension).

Earlier last year, you joined several dozen House Democrats, led by Resources Committee Senior Democrat George Miller (D-CA), and Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) in supporting the laws' extension because serious problems have developed in the absence of the laws and because Federal efforts to have the problems overcome through local action proved to be inadequate. In informing Governor Tenorio of this, you pledged that the Administration would consult with the islands' leaders as we developed our proposal. This proposal -- which would apply the laws on a modified and phased-in basis -- has been introduced in Congress by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-AK). He plans a hearing early this year.

Talks are compulsory if requested by either administration. The Interior Department, which has lead responsibility for relations with the Northern Marianas, requested that you initiate talks prior to Governor-Elect Tenorio's inauguration January 11th EST to define their purpose and set a deadline for their conclusion. Representative Miller and Senator Akaka have agreed to this initiative. OMB has reviewed the letter with relevant agencies.

Ed Cohen, who would be your representative for the talks, has represented you before in talks with the Marianas and is Interior's Deputy Solicitor.

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001. memo

Mickey Ibarra to President Clinton, Office of Intergovernmental
Affairs Weekly Report--March 30 - April 3, 1998 (3 pages)

04/03/98

P5

617

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Counsel's Office
Bridget McGovern and Brad Winter
OA/Box Number: 18562

FOLDER TITLE:

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Richard Stalcup
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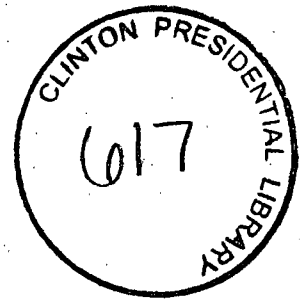
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April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Mickey Ibarra

SUBJECT: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Weekly Report -- March 30 - April 3, 1998

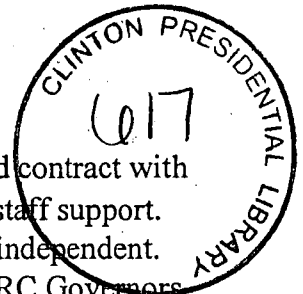
Race Initiative

- * State Senator Mario Gallegos (D-TX) is very upset with the White House process for selecting a nominee for the Federal bench in South Texas. He held a press conference last week in Houston and is organizing a protest demonstration to coincide with your PIR/ESPN event on April 14. Intergovernmental Affairs, OPL, Legislative Affairs, PIR, and the Counsel's Office are working to defuse the situation.
- * We participated in follow-up to the Denver PIR Advisory Board meeting, including meeting with the leadership of the National Congress of American Indians, who had several suggestions on how to further enhance our working relationship with Indian country. We believe that our best work in Indian country will result from our policies and economic development initiatives that generally receive Indian country support. We are working on several ideas, including follow-up to the government-wide report that you recently reviewed.

Governors

- * Governor Lawton Chiles (D-FL) called to express his interest in a budget supplemental to facilitate hurricane clean-up and assistance in Florida. He is pursuing a Congressional strategy and is also seeking the support of the Administration. The Governor's staff has also contacted OMB on this effort.
- * OMB has proposed the creation of a Delta Commission, modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), that would assist in the economic development of the Delta Region. The proposal was originally opposed by the 13 ARC Governors because they feared the proposal might impact long-term ARC funding. The governors also envisioned the Delta Commission being housed and staffed by the current ARC and were concerned this would dilute the ARC's mission and work. We have proposed a compromise under which the Delta Commission would be budgeted from the U.S.

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Department of Agriculture so as to eliminate funding competition. It would contract with ARC for a brief and limited "incubation" period to provide staff support. After the first year, the Delta operation would become completely independent. This proposal has gained support among some, but not all, of the ARC Governors.

- * Governor Paul Patton (D-KY) is very pleased that you will come to Kentucky to address assistance to tobacco farmers in the event of tobacco legislation progressing in Congress.
- * Many governors' offices have called to express their support for the House ISTEA bill and to urge you not to veto the bill. We should expect additional pressure from them and other elected officials in the coming weeks.

Attorneys General

- * The attorneys general were briefed about "Kick-Butts" day. Several participated in amplification events and released press statements.

Municipal Officials

- * We facilitated a program on March 26 for "Leadership Savannah," a group of 80 civic, elected and business leaders from Savannah, Georgia. COS Erskine Bowles, Mickey Ibarra, Lynn Cutler, Katie McGinty, Jose Cerda, and Bob Hickmott addressed the group. Mayor Floyd Adams (D-Savannah, GA) was very pleased with our outreach efforts to his community.
- * On April 2, we hosted a briefing for officials from Austin, Texas, who were visiting Washington with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Included in the group was Mayor Kirk Watson (D-Austin, TX) and several mayors, municipal and county officials, as well as state legislators from the greater Austin region.

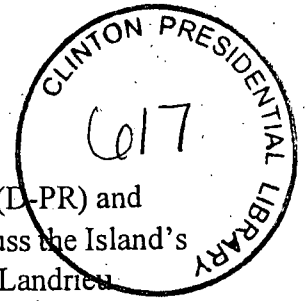
Indian Country

- * An Enzi-Reid amendment passed on Monday, March 30, by a voice vote as part of the Senate disaster bill. The amendment prevents the Secretary of Interior from promulgating any gaming rules. The Native American community is strongly opposed to this and we will argue against the amendment during conference.

Insular Affairs

- * Fred DuVal and Jeff Farrow, Co-Chairs of the White House Interagency Group on Puerto Rico, visited the Island and met with Governor Pedro Rossello's (D-PR) Chief of Staff and Cabinet members, the Mayor of San Juan, legislative leadership on both sides of the Capitol, and leaders of all three political parties. The issues that were discussed included Medicaid funding, Section 30 (a) and status legislation that has passed the House and will now be taken up by the Senate.

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- * The Senate Energy Committee held a forum for Governor Pedro Rossello (D-PR) and representatives of Puerto Rico's three status-based political parties to discuss the Island's status issue. Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Bob Graham (D-FL), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) called for action on a status choice bill. Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-AK) promised consideration but cautioned about time constraints and suggested Puerto Ricans vote on status without Federal authorization. Majority Leader Lott (R-MS) also cautioned about time constraints.
- * Moody's, one of the premier credit rating services, reported that statehood might help and would not hurt Puerto Rico's economy and would partially make up for the loss of tax benefits from U.S. corporate activity in the Islands. Similar views were expressed in other private sector economic reports.
- * The Senate Energy Committee also held a hearing on the Northern Mariana Islands foreign labor system. Interior Secretary Babbitt made a strong case for your proposal to phase-in Federal immigration law and the national minimum wage. Chairman Murkowski suggested (1) letting the Attorney General apply immigration law if the Islands do not overcome problems with the local system in a couple of years and (2) instituting a separate, Federally established minimum wage.

Other

- * Fred DuVal traveled to Arizona as a guest of the Arizona Power Users to address climate change. The group consists of Arizona municipal officials, utility representatives, and Indian tribal leaders. After speaking to the group, Fred met privately with Governor Jane Dee Hull (R-AZ), Phoenix Mayor "Skip" Rimza (R), and a group of Arizona tribal leaders to discuss Indian gaming.
- * On Wednesday, April 1, the Vice President traveled to Iowa for several events, one of which was the dedication of a renovated soda bottling plant that had been converted into affordable apartments in Cedar Rapids. This was a Federal, state, and local effort, utilizing local private capital. Mayor Lee Clancey (NP-Cedar Rapids, IA) hosted the event, which included a number of state and local officials. In Des Moines, an additional twenty officials were involved with events. The Vice President also held a successful fundraiser for the Iowa Democratic Legislative Caucus. Lynn Cutler traveled with the Vice President and led outreach to the state and local officials.

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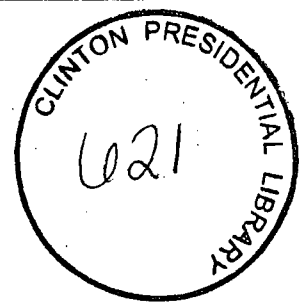
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Jeffrey Farrow

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CC: Sylvia Mathews
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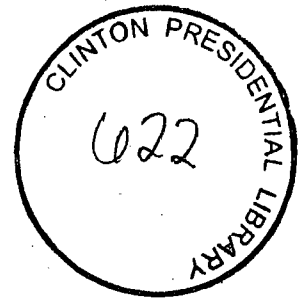
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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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April 3, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Mickey Ibarra

SUBJECT: Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Weekly Report -- March 30 - April 3, 1998

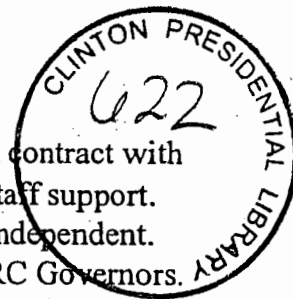
Race Initiative

- * State Senator Mario Gallegos (D-TX) is very upset with the White House process for selecting a nominee for the Federal bench in South Texas. He held a press conference last week in Houston and is organizing a protest demonstration to coincide with your PIR/ESPN event on April 14. Intergovernmental Affairs, OPL, Legislative Affairs, PIR, and the Counsel's Office are working to defuse the situation.
- * We participated in follow-up to the Denver PIR Advisory Board meeting, including meeting with the leadership of the National Congress of American Indians, who had several suggestions on how to further enhance our working relationship with Indian country. We believe that our best work in Indian country will result from our policies and economic development initiatives that generally receive Indian country support. We are working on several ideas, including follow-up to the government-wide report that you recently reviewed.

Governors

- * Governor Lawton Chiles (D-FL) called to express his interest in a budget supplemental to facilitate hurricane clean-up and assistance in Florida. He is pursuing a Congressional strategy and is also seeking the support of the Administration. The Governor's staff has also contacted OMB on this effort.
- * OMB has proposed the creation of a Delta Commission, modeled on the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), that would assist in the economic development of the Delta Region. The proposal was originally opposed by the 13 ARC Governors because they feared the proposal might impact long-term ARC funding. The governors also envisioned the Delta Commission being housed and staffed by the current ARC and were concerned this would dilute the ARC's mission and work. We have proposed a compromise under which the Delta Commission would be budgeted from the U.S.

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Department of Agriculture so as to eliminate funding competition. It would contract with ARC for a brief and limited "incubation" period to provide staff support. After the first year, the Delta operation would become completely independent. This proposal has gained support among some, but not all, of the ARC Governors.

- * Governor Paul Patton (D-KY) is very pleased that you will come to Kentucky to address assistance to tobacco farmers in the event of tobacco legislation progressing in Congress.
- * Many governors' offices have called to express their support for the House ISTEPA bill and to urge you not to veto the bill. We should expect additional pressure from them and other elected officials in the coming weeks.

Attorneys General

- * The attorneys general were briefed about "Kick-Butts" day. Several participated in amplification events and released press statements.

Municipal Officials

- * We facilitated a program on March 26 for "Leadership Savannah," a group of 80 civic, elected and business leaders from Savannah, Georgia. COS Erskine Bowles, Mickey Ibarra, Lynn Cutler, Katie McGinty, Jose Cerda, and Bob Hickmott addressed the group. Mayor Floyd Adams (D-Savannah, GA) was very pleased with our outreach efforts to his community.
- * On April 2, we hosted a briefing for officials from Austin, Texas, who were visiting Washington with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Included in the group was Mayor Kirk Watson (D-Austin, TX) and several mayors, municipal and county officials, as well as state legislators from the greater Austin region.

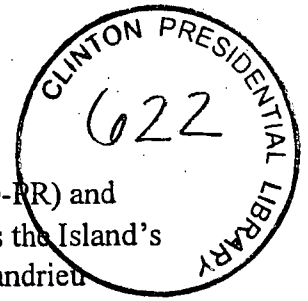
Indian Country

- * An Enzi-Reid amendment passed on Monday, March 30, by a voice vote as part of the Senate disaster bill. The amendment prevents the Secretary of Interior from promulgating any gaming rules. The Native American community is strongly opposed to this and we will argue against the amendment during conference.

Insular Affairs

- * Fred DuVal and Jeff Farrow, Co-Chairs of the White House Interagency Group on Puerto Rico, visited the Island and met with Governor Pedro Rossello's (D-PR) Chief of Staff and Cabinet members, the Mayor of San Juan, legislative leadership on both sides of the Capitol, and leaders of all three political parties. The issues that were discussed included Medicaid funding, Section 30 (a) and status legislation that has passed the House and will now be taken up by the Senate.

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- * The Senate Energy Committee held a forum for Governor Pedro Rossello (D-PR) and representatives of Puerto Rico's three status-based political parties to discuss the Island's status issue. Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Bob Graham (D-FL), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) called for action on a status choice bill. Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-AK) promised consideration but cautioned about time constraints and suggested Puerto Ricans vote on status without Federal authorization. Majority Leader Lott (R-MS) also cautioned about time constraints.
- * Moody's, one of the premier credit rating services, reported that statehood might help and would not hurt Puerto Rico's economy and would partially make up for the loss of tax benefits from U.S. corporate activity in the Islands. Similar views were expressed in other private sector economic reports.
- * The Senate Energy Committee also held a hearing on the Northern Mariana Islands foreign labor system. Interior Secretary Babbitt made a strong case for your proposal to phase-in Federal immigration law and the national minimum wage. Chairman Murkowski suggested (1) letting the Attorney General apply immigration law if the Islands do not overcome problems with the local system in a couple of years and (2) instituting a separate, Federally established minimum wage.

Other

- * Fred DuVal traveled to Arizona as a guest of the Arizona Power Users to address climate change. The group consists of Arizona municipal officials, utility representatives, and Indian tribal leaders. After speaking to the group, Fred met privately with Governor Jane Dee Hull (R-AZ), Phoenix Mayor "Skip" Rimza (R), and a group of Arizona tribal leaders to discuss Indian gaming.
- * On Wednesday, April 1, the Vice President traveled to Iowa for several events, one of which was the dedication of a renovated soda bottling plant that had been converted into affordable apartments in Cedar Rapids. This was a Federal, state, and local effort, utilizing local private capital. Mayor Lee Clancey (NP-Cedar Rapids, IA) hosted the event, which included a number of state and local officials. In Des Moines, an additional twenty officials were involved with events. The Vice President also held a successful fundraiser for the Iowa Democratic Legislative Caucus. Lynn Cutler traveled with the Vice President and led outreach to the state and local officials.

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