

Civilian Government For Guam a Problem

By CLARKE BEACH

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giving little Guam a civilian government isn't proving so easy as the administration apparently had hoped.

President Truman, by executive order, directed recently that control of the Western Pacific island be transferred from the navy to the interior department July 1, 1950. He appointed a civilian governor, Carlotta Skinner, to replace the retiring naval commander, Rear Adm. Charles A. Pownall.

The interior secretary Krug asked congress for \$715,000 to hire civilians to replace navy and marine corps personnel and in other ways to create a civilian establishment which would be ready to operate when the navy withdraws.

But the house appropriations committee turned down the request for funds. And when the senate appropriations committee received the request Chairman McKellar (D-Tenn) and several other members firmly opposed providing the money at this time.

Main Objection

The legislators' main objection was that congress should first act on pending "organic" legislation for the island, defining its citizens' rights and duties and authorizing a civilian government.

If the money isn't provided the new governor will just have to get along with the navy funds now available and a complete civilian government will have to be put off until congress acts. Skinner himself will technically be a navy employee until July 1. He is now director of information (public relations) of the interior department and special assistant to Secretary Krug.

Some senators and congressmen remarked that they thought they'd better take a trip out to Guam before they decide anything. A group of legislators did visit the island in 1947, accompanying Secretary Krug on a tour. It was then that Krug urged that Guam be given a civilian form of government.

Executive Right

No one has questioned the president's right to effect the transfer through executive order. It was by executive order that President McKinley in 1898 set up the government of Guam under navy control.

The navy is perfectly willing to relinquish its authority on Guam providing nothing is done to interfere with the building and operation of its bases there. The navy and interior departments worked jointly on a draft of proposed legislation

which would set up a civilian government by congressional action. The administration's haste in preparing for the shift of control in July can be explained on diplomatic grounds. Little Guam has become a source of embarrassment to U. S. representatives in the United Nations and other international bodies. American delegates talk against other countries' exercising military control of subject peoples, yet the U. S. has persisted in keeping the 26,223 natives of Guam under the command of naval officers.

Old Promise

America promised 51 years ago in the treaty of Paris, which ended the war with Spain, to define the civil rights of Guamanians. This it has never done. Their rights now are whatever the military governor of administration in Washington says they are.

And America contracted in the United Nations charter (chapter XI, article 73): "To develop self government, to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples, and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions, according to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement."

President Truman also is strongly committed to his civil rights program. That means civil rights for Americans everywhere, whether on the continent or in island possessions.

Chamber Eyes Mail, Express Road Money

Distribution of highway money to counties and better mail and express service in view of cancellation of trains and planes occupied the attention of directors of the Klamath County chamber of commerce at their regular meeting at noon Wednesday.

Ed Geary, who is a member of the legislative interim committee on highways, described briefly the distribution-of-funds problem the committee is studying. The present formula, he said, is based wholly upon registration of automotive vehicles. This system, he said, discriminates sharply against the thin-



THESE LUSCIOUS ROCKHILL strawberries were presented to the news room of The Herald and News by Mrs. Patsy Richardson, 617 Adams, who grew the berries on her Lakeshore drive garden plot. Mrs. Richardson is in the real estate business and for a hobby, in addition to growing a fine garden, is an ardent fisherman. She caught a 32-pound salmon and a 14-pound steelhead on the Rogue this past season, but her biggest take was a 450-pound sturgeon pulled from the Snake river near Palmer, Ida.

ly settled, large areas east of the mountains. The problem, he said, is to find a formula that will be fairer to these areas and that can be got through the legislature. He added that this same problem confronts every state in the union and that each state seems to have a different formula for it.

Special Session

Following the meeting of the directors, representatives of the highway committees of the Klamath and Lake county chambers held a session for discussion of the problem as it concerns these two counties. The Lake county body was represented by Don McNeill, secretary, and Jack Briscoe.

Letters from San Francisco, Sacramento and Red Bluff chambers on

the subject of better mail and express facilities, now that there has been curtailment of both rail and plane service, were read. All of the letters expressed keen interest. In general, the hope was expressed that some better arrangement can be worked out through the co-operation of the post office department and the express company.

Directors of the Klamath chamber will hold a special session next Monday noon at the Winema hotel to consider the fall and winter activities of committees, including completion of the chamber's finance problem for the current year. This will be an extra meeting, in addition to the regular directors meeting on Wednesday.

Morse Not Likely To Ride

PORTLAND, Sept. 29 (AP)—Senator Wayne L. Morse still hopes to attend the Pacific International Livestock Exposition — but is not

likely to be riding his favorite horse.

He is still nursing injuries received when thrown from a cart in the state fair horse show, show officials have been advised.

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