

**Reuel S. Moore and Joseph F. Farrington, The American Samoan Commission's Visit to Samoa, Sept.-Oct. 1930, (U.S. G.P.O. 1931)**

- “After the American Flag was raised in 1900, the people [of American Samoa] thought they were American Citizens.” [53]
- “The people of [American] Samoa were happy . . . until Lieut. Commander C.H. Boucher, United States Navy, came [in the 1920s] and told them . . . that they were not American citizens.” [53]
- “[T]he Mau was formed to obtain annexation, citizenship, and a representative government.” [53]
- Senator Bingham . . . stat[ed] that he, personally, would do all in his power to persuade Congress to grant American Samoans citizenship.” [54]

**American Samoa, Hearings Before the Commission Appointed by the President of the United States, September 26. 27. 29. 30, October 1, 2, 3, 4, 1930 in American Samoa. (U.S. G.P.O. 1931)**

- “I will vindicate the rights of my own people if I can do anything . . . I appeal to the commission to give those people what they want. Give them American citizenship. Give them the privilege of other people of the United States.” -- [Napolean Tuiteleleapaga](#), author of music for “Amerika Samoa” [80]
- “[E]very person in American Samoa . . . earnestly requests to the honorable commission to make necessary recommendations to Congress to have the people of Samoa to be a true American Citizen.” -- [Tui Manu'a Chris T. Young](#). [219]
- “I desire . . . that the people of American Samoa should be true American citizens; receive American citizenship, to be equal with the true American.” -- Chief Nua [221]
- “I request the commission to make a recommendation to Congress to take certain acts to have the people of Samoa as true American citizens.” -- Taula [222]
- “My full desire that I wish to present before the commission [is] that the people of Samoa should obtain true American citizenship.” -- Chief Matoi [223]
- “[M]any years we have been under the American flag. . . . But we have not received the word ‘true American.’ We are not taken yet as citizens of America; but this morning I pray the commissioners that they will do what they can that we may be made citizens of the United States to serve the United States. We are only a few people that is true, but we wish to become loyal and peaceful citizens of the United States.” -- Chief Fanene [229].
- “[T]he soil of Tutuila and Manua has been made a part of America but the people of Tutuila and Manua are not American Citizens, that as Tutuila and Manua has been accepted as part of America, I therefore pray that the people of Tutuila and Manua may also become citizens of America.” -- Samuel Tulele Galeai [234.]
- “Senator Robinson. The principal request of the mau is that citizenship be given to American Samoa, wasn't it?  
Mr. Galeai. Yes.” [242]

- Unanimous conclusion of Commission: “We shall make a report to the Congress of the United States which will contain, among other things, the following recommendations . . . 2. That full American citizenship be granted to the inhabitants of Tutuila-Manua.” [268]

**The American Samoan Commission Report (U.S. G.P.O. 1931)**

- “[S]incere, and expressed with deep emotion, were the pleas that the inhabitants of American Samoa be given full recognition as citizens of the United States.” [6]
- “The information furnished . . . by personal contact and observation made in American Samoa has brought the commission[] . . . that the Samoans are capable of accepting and should receive full American citizenship . . . yet maintaining those native customs which they may wish to preserve.” [6]
- “The people of American Samoa freely and without reserve offered the sovereignty of their islands to the United States. This offer Congress has accepted. These people owed no allegiance to any foreign government. . . . Their loyalty to the United States and their intense longings to have made certain their national status demand recognition.” [8]

**Provide a Government for American Samoa, Hearing Before the Committee on Insular Affairs House of Representatives, Seventy-Second Congress, First Session on H.R. 9698, A Bill to Provide a Government for American Samoa, May 20 and 22, 1932**

- Statement of Rep. Beedy: “I did not have the slightest hesitant, nor did any other member of the commission, in recommending for these people American citizenship. All they wanted was the protection symbolized in our flag. They said: . . . ‘We are a peace-loving people, and we want that flag to stand for our own citizenship.’” [22]
- Statement of Mr. Williams: “Before this bill is passed we are going to introduce an amendment to prevent exploitation, so that nobody can own a foot of that land unless he is a native Samoan.” [23]

**76 Cong. Rec. 4926 (1933) Debate on S. 417, to provide a government for American Samoa.**

- Statement of Rep. Williams (TX): “The commission unanimously made a report, and on that report and the findings of the commission is based this bill. It provides for citizenship, a bill of rights, an executive department and the judiciary, the ownership of land, and so on. . . . The people [in American Samoa] are desirous of being made citizens. They are entitled to citizenship. . . . This act protects the Samoans in the ownership of their land, . . . thereby preventing exploitation of the land as has been done in Hawaii.” [4927]
- Statement of Rep. Beedy : “In the first place, we decided that it was absolutely essential to guard against the possibility of foreigners coming into Samoa and acquiring land from the Samoan people. . . . We want the Samoans to keep their

- land. That . . . is the policy written into the pending bill. . . . Section 4 is the citizenship section, which is the one thing the Samoans must have if they are to be satisfied. . . . They feel this very keenly.” [4929-30]
- Beedy: “This bill provides a measure of justice which we owe the Samoan people. After a prolonged delay of 30 years this Nation ought to be big enough to rise to the occasion and meet its obligation. [Applause.]” [4936]
  - Statement of Mr. Hooper: “[The people of American Samoa] want American citizenship, and that is about all they do want from us; and it is a very small boon, it seems to me, for us to give them when we have conferred citizenship upon the people of the Virgin Islands, when we have given citizenship to the mixed people of Puerto Rico, and when we find in every great city of our country people of the yellow race and brown race and the red race and the black race who are citizens of the United States. . . . If it means anything to them to have conferred upon them the privilege of American citizenship, I think we can well waive our racial prejudices and scruples and give it to them. . . . [I]t does not seem to me that the Members of the American House of Representatives or the American people generally ought to be very squeamish about conferring American citizenship upon a people of such fine physique and such fine equipment. . . . It seems to me that if these people out there, humble and quiet people, desire the boon of citizenship, if they wish to take their place among Americans as American citizens, it is very little for them to ask.” [4932]

**King Urges Citizen Status for Resident of US Samoa, Honolulu Advertiser, Sept. 7, 1938**

- “Hawaii’s delegate to Congress . . . declared that he is whole-heartedly for the granting of citizenship to the Samoans—this in spite of the objection of U.S. Navy officials. . . . The delegate explained that the navy, which has government jurisdiction over American Samoa, is opposed to citizenship on the grounds that the natives are not ready for it.”

**Harold L. Ickes, Navy Withholds Samoan and Guam Petitions from Congress, Honolulu Advertiser, April 16, 1947**

- Quoting Rep. Norris Poulson (CA) “[A] petition for citizenship and an organic act . . . is in the possession of [Mr. Forrestal’s] naval subordinates. . . . He also acknowledges the adopting by the General Fono of American Samoa . . . of a resolution requesting American Citizenship.”
- Quoting Rep. Norris Poulson (CA) “Knowledge of that request has also been deliberately withheld from the Congress of the United States by the navy department.”
- “The conclusion can not be escaped that the navy knew of these petitions and was desperately anxious to keep them from reaching congress.”

**Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Possessions of the Committee on Public Lands, Monday, June 2, 1947, Hearing on H.J. Res 70.**

- “[In the early 1920’s their petitioning for their denied rights became an uproar, although without physical violence. . . . The Commission unanimously concluded that the Samoans ought to be given American citizenship, a bill of rights and an organic act. It announced its findings to the assembled Samoans, came home, and pressed for the promised legislation. The Senate passed an appropriate bill and the Navy, backed, I regret to say by the State Department, succeeded in having it killed in the House. Through all of the succeeding years we have been in default of our promises to the peoples of . . . American Samoa.” [241-42] Statement of Harold L. Ickes, Formerly Secretary of the Interior.

**Hiram Bingham, American Samoans, Further Delay is Protested in Granting Them Citizenship, N.Y. Times, Nov. 7, 1946**

- “[O]ur Senators and Representatives who were members of a commission sent to Samoa . . . in 1930 found the people fully deserving of being granted American Citizenship. . . . On their recommendation, a bill carrying these privileges was laid before Congress. Twice it passed the Senate unanimously. Each time it failed to pass the House of Representatives. So the Samoans are still “subjects,” but not “citizens,” of the United States. It is a blot on our record for fair dealing and democracy.”
- “Various reasons, personal and official, have been given as to why the Samoans have been left out in the cold so far as citizenship and rights are concerned. None of these reasons is really adequate to cause further delay in doing justice.”

**Samoans Said Anxious for Citizenship, Honolulu Advertiser, February 28, 1947**

- “Samoans in American Samoa would like to assume the rights and responsibilities of American citizens. – C. Girard Davidson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
- “The plea was made by High Talking Chief Tuiasosopo of Pago Pago, according to Mr. Davidson.”

**Riley H. Allen, Glimpses of American Samoa, A Paradise That Presents a Problem, Honolulu Advertiser, September 16, 1948**

- “[O]ur visiting party was told formally that the American Samoans want no present change in their administration.”
- Quoting a “talking chief”: “We favor American citizenship at a time when the navy considers we are capable of such a status.”
- “[T]his reported new attitude is quite contrary to that which existed for many years.”