VISIT TO SAMOA
THE AMERICAN SAMOA COMMISSION

September - October 1930

Revel S. Moore to Joseph R. Farquhar
By

American Samoa Community College
P.O. Box 2840
Apo, Box 50000

Washington: 1941
Government Printing Office
United States
While the Commission held hearings in Washington, the Guadalcanal issue became a hot topic in the United States and internationally. The Commission's deliberations were conducted in a climate of heightened public interest, with citizens across the country following the hearings closely.

The Commission's report, titled "In the Interest of the Nation," was published in 1945. It was a comprehensive analysis of the events leading up to the珍珠 harbor attacks and the actions taken in response. The report highlighted the need for improved intelligence gathering and decision-making processes, and it called for reforms to enhance the nation's preparedness for future conflicts.

The Guadalcanal Campaign, in particular, was a critical part of the report. The Commission praised the American troops who fought on the island and highlighted the importance of their sacrifice and the pivotal role it played in the Pacific War.

In conclusion, the Commission's work was instrumental in shaping American policy andPost-World War II. The Guadalcanal Campaign served as a crucial turning point in the war, and the Commission's report provided a blueprint for future military engagements and intelligence operations.
A translation was made in Spanish for the benefit of persons with

English.
Extending Office, 1937.


S.a. 410, pp. 3167, 3420.

Samoa Commission—in 1933 L. Beery of Maine, Hiram Brigham and three of the four congressmen who had served on the committee of the American Samoa Commission on the report of the American Samoa Commission.

The House the previous year, 72d, these bills were passed the House the previous year. 72d. That the bill had been introduced into S.417 and to H.R. 15390, a bill that had been introduced into Committee held hearings on H.R. 15390, which was dropped to the Insurance Committee held hearings on H.R. 15390, with the Insurance Committee. In May, the Insurance Committee passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee.

S.417 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee. On 5.417 which was struck was exactly the same as S.562.

Next year, during this 72d Congress, Brigham introduced Insurer Activates. 73d...

[Handwritten notes in margin about extending office, Samoa Commission, and rights of Hawaiian citizens.]

In 1938, the Senate passed a bill over the governor's veto with a two-thirds vote subject to final approval by a legislature that could pass a bill over the governor's veto. 8.562 granted the Samoans American citizenship.
Samoan Rights

Samoans residing in Hawaii are neither citizens, aliens nor wards of the government. As they point out, an alien at least, has his country's consular service.

Supervisor George R. Sims has introduced a resolution which would request that Congress grant citizenship to Samoans living here. It appears to be a reasonable request. While Samoans feel they are able to "paddle their own canoe" without such attention, they would at the same time welcome American citizenship. As they say, it will do harm to no one if the request is presented to the national lawmakers.

Mrs. Erva Williams discusses the proposal in detail elsewhere in these columns today. She speaks from the viewpoint of a Samoan, an interesting viewpoint, informative, and worth reading.
Letters From the People

(The views and opinions expressed in letters in this column are not to be accepted as reflecting the policy or opinion of The Advertiser. The editor reserves the right to reject letters or to make deletions in his judgment advisable. To guard against errors, letters should be typewritten. Name and address of writer should accompany each letter, not"

STATUS OF SAMOANS IN HAWAII AND RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP

Editor The Advertiser:

Having been born in American Samoa, I am especially and vitally interested in the resolution introduced by Supervisor George R. Sim at Tuesday's meeting of the board of supervisors which purports to request the National Congress to grant citizenship to Samoans domiciled in the Territory of Hawaii.

The political status of Samoans who have settled here has long been a matter of uncertainty. It is quite certain, however, that we are not aliens and owe not a scintilla of fealty to any foreign prince or realm; our loyalty and undivided allegiance is given to the United States and to the United States alone. Any tribal relations that affected our daily lives in Samoa have no efficacy here.

Furthermore, while it is true that in American Samoa we were subject to the regulations promulgated by the Department of the Navy and were in somewhat of a wardship category, the fact must not be lost sight of that the civil jurisdiction of the Navy does not extend to the Territory of Hawaii and, far from being made wards of the government, we take pride in our ability to stand on our own feet and have amply demonstrated that we are quite capable of forgoing to the front both economically and socially without asking special consideration or gratuities from either the Federal or Territorial government.

The treaty, under which American Samoa was ceded to the United States, did not grant American citizenship to Samoans any more than the original Act of Annexation granted American citizenship to Hawaiians prior to the enactment of the Organic Act. Furthermore, the provisions of the naturalization law which limits the benefits thereof to "free white persons or persons of African nativity or descent," effectively bars Samoans from securing citizenship through the process of naturalization and, if should be remembered, Hawaiians would be shut out by that identical provision if Congress had not granted them citizenship en masse by the terms of the Organic Act.

Until a year or two ago it was erroneously supposed that we were citizens and that we were permitted to register and vote in Territorial and City and County elections. When our true status was discovered, Samoan names were stricken from the voting lists and we now occupy the singular position of being neither.


effectively barred by US law
King Urges Citizen Status
For Residents Of US Samoa

It will probably require another congressional party’s visit to American Samoa next year before Samoans are granted the American citizenship to which they are entitled, Delegate Sam King told members of the Lions’ club yesterday at their regular luncheon meeting at the Hilo Yacht Club.

The delegate was the principal speaker, declaring that he is wholeheartedly in favor of the granting of citizenship to the residents of U.S. Samoa in spite of the objection of U. S. Navy officials.

"Although I am a former naval officer and have considerable sea background, I am not afraid of any respectable issue with the Navy on this subject," he told the members.

The delegate explained that the Navy took a不利 attitude toward American Samoa in the past when the natives were opposed to being called "natives," by the United States...

Delegation Denied
"I believe that Samoans are a people who can be trained to take care of their own government. I believe that the population is growing. It was not as large as the United States. It was somewhat smaller than the United States, but it is still growing. I believe that there is no need for an American Samoa"...

Delegate King said that the policy of the"
SAMOAANS WANT CITIZENSHIP

For The Advertiser.

Since 1911 the Samoans have lived in large numbers on the islands of Tutuila and American Samoa. Along with their loyal devotion, Tutuila is strategically situated near the current theater of war in the South Pacific, and Pele Harbor is a natural inlet with suitable accommodations for a fleet of that size. The Samoans are proud of their association with our Government. They are also grateful for the protection and security this proximity affords them, especially in these perilous times.

Samoans lack the great industrial capacity due to the smallness and to its human element. Consequently the people do not have great wealth, an elaborate Governmental structure or powerful industrial institutions to represent them and lend support to their interests. Although our Navy exercises control as a guarantee of safety, a Samoan is not, in fact, an American Citizen. Inasmuch the means of subsistence, problems of living and social training are necessarily different from ours, By virtue of their significance in an American stronghold and their wholehearted acceptance of our Flag, these stalwart Polynesians are requesting to become full-fledged American Citizens like their blood brothers here in Hawaii.

American is the configuration of many nationalities and cultures. Governmentally, as their allegiance to our Country and their alliance in our efforts to protect and preserve our Democracy merit considerations. Are they not entitled to the respect and dignity of the World that Free Americans enjoy—and the privilege of calling our National Anthem as their own?

CHARLES LYONS AND HARRY STEVENS
Samoans Said
Anxious For
Citizenship

Samoans in American Samoa
seemed to desire the rights
and responsibilities of American
citizens, Dr. David Shearer, the
Secretary of the Interior
now visiting Pago Pago, the Interior
Secretary J. H. King, said Thurs-
day.

Dr. Shearer observed that the
Samoans desire more authority
in the administration of local
affairs.

The request for more civil
affairs and administration was
made by Secretary King, while
the request for more authority
in the administration of local
affairs was made by Chief
Davidson, who is in Honolulu.

According to Dr. Shearer,
American Samoa is now under
sound administration.

While he praised the program
for democratic training in Samoa,
Dr. Shearer pointed out that
many of the policies had no
advantages, but did not feel
thoroughly carried out ade-
quately.

He said, in his opinion, that
the people of Guam were better
prepared for self-government be-
cause of the advances made in
the political background there.

Mr. Davidson was released from
telegraph and public service
problems and other forms of
administration in Guam, which
were being properly handled under
sound administration.

Mr. Shearer was present at the
Hawaiian Games in Honolulu
as a Pacific metropolis and
the newly organized American
Samoan department, meeting in its
first convention.

Mr. Davidson was released from
duties in the American Service,
appointed assistant secretary
of the interior in May, 1944. Be-
fore his present post, he was gen-
eral manager for the Benning
Administration.
MAN TO MAN

By Harold L. Ickes

Navy Withholds Samoan and Guam Petitions From Congress

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16—The Guam congressional committee on January 4, unanimously passed a resolution that asked both for United States citizenship and an organic law. This was forwarded by the Department of State to the Department of the Interior for consideration.

It is not known what the Department of the Interior has done with this joint resolution but it has not reached the congress of the United States.

The neglect to forward this petition through Secretary Forrestal to the congress of the United States is an arbitrary denial of a fundamental political right possessed by the Guamanians.

Rep. Norris Poulson, of California, is a member of the public lands committees of the house. Recently, he accompanied Secretary of the Interior King on the trip that he took, in a government plane, to Guam and Samoa on his way to far-off Tokyo. Upon his return to Washington, Mr. Poulson addressed his fellow-congressmen as follows:

PETITION WITHHELD

"In Guam, which is ruled by a United States naval governor, I was told by certain of the people of the island—not by the naval governor—that they had petitioned the congress of the United States for full citizenship and the enactment of an organic act... I have in my possession a copy of that petition, and knowledge of that petition has been deliberately withheld from the congress by the navy department, James V. Forrestal, presiding.

IN AMERICAN SAMOA

In American Samoa, the United States naval governor told our party that the local inhabitants had not requested a change in their form of government... At this moment, I have in my possession a true copy of an enactment of the 1945 General Fono of all the leading chiefs of American Samoa in which they proposed to the congress of the United States a form of organic act for... Samoa. That petition from the duly elected chiefs of 16,000 loyal Americans has not to my knowledge been presented to this congress... Knowledge of that request has also been deliberately withheld from the congress by the navy department, James V. Forrestal, presiding.

The echo of Mr. Poulson's charges had scarcely died down when Under Secretary of the Navy Sullivan hurried to Capitol Hill. He sought out friends in both the house and the senate to stigmatize Mr. Poulson's remarks as one of personalities. He carried with him a letter from Secretary Forrestal. In commenting upon the

Forrestal letter, Mr. Poulson said:

... Mr. Forrestal states that a petition for citizenship and an organic act... is in the possession of his naval subordinates and gives assurance that it will now reach the congress. He also acknowledges the adopng by the General Fono of American Samoa... of a resolution requesting American citizenship and an organic act and gives assurance that the resolution will also reach the congress...

NAVY HAD KNOWLEDGE

There can be no doubt that the navy had knowledge of the action on January 4 of the Guamanian congress. Moreover, it is difficult to credit Secretary Forrestal's statement that the people of American Samoa had not requested a change in their form of government. They did so in 1945, thus repeating a request that they have been pressing for many years.

The conclusion can not be escaped that the navy knew of these petitions and was desperately anxious to keep them from reaching the proper channels. The latest, hand-picked group, headed by Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, sent out by the navy with white-knuckled fists, could file its report defending the dictatorial naval rule of these two American possessions.

Rep. Poulson has introduced in the house bill granting to the Guamanians and the Samoans their basic liberties and rights that they have never enjoyed in their almost 50 years under autocratic naval rule.

Among these are the right of trial by jury, an end to taxation without representation, universal suffrage and the abolition of the naval governor's power of absolute veto.

Secretaries Forrestal and Patterson, to say nothing of President Truman, eloquently profess their desire to maintain "democratic institutions" in Greece and Turkey, even if it costs the American people $400,000,000 to begin with.

It is difficult to understand why such champions of democracy should continue to overlook naval despotism in Guam and American Samoa.
Samoa and U. S. Citizenship S. & S. - I

By CUREN C. HATA

(Samoa Chief, ex-officio member of the U. S. Commission for the Pacific Islands.)

SAMOA’S NEW CITIZENSHIP

The Samoan alike in the city of the United States. They are now citizens of the United States, and their children are also citizens. The Samoan is now entitled to all the rights and privileges that go with citizenship. This is a great day for the Samoan, and it is a day of joy and celebration.

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American Samoans

Further Delay Is Protested in Granting Them Citizenship

The writer of the following letter, formerly Governor and Senator from Connecticut, is a lecturer and explorer. He served as chairman of the American Samoan Commission.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Now that the islands of the Pacific are so much in our thoughts, it is my hope that we may be willing to take the time and trouble to remedy a great injustice which has been done, albeit rather thoughtlessly, to some ten thousand generous people whose chiefs gave us their country together with one of the safest harbors in the world more than forty years ago. Our Navy has been glad to use that harbor, Pago Pago. Our airplanes have been happy to use Tutuala as a base.

We know that the Samoans are of the same race as the Hawaiians, whom we had accepted as full-blooded American citizens before the Samoan chiefs invited us to Pago Pago, and who naturally thought they would be treated as fairly as their cousins in Hawaii. Yet we have denied the Samoans American citizenship. We rule them as the subjects of a benevolent despotism and not as they deserve to be treated.

They are true Polynesians, splendid members of a race of remarkable navigators who were exploring the widest reaches of the Pacific long before Columbus ventured across the Atlantic. They built ocean-going vessels, great "canoes," capable of carrying plants and animals across the Pacific from continent to continent.

Explorers and Patriarchs

They took the sweet potato and gourd from South America and the taro and breadfruit of Asia to all the principal islands of the Pacific, along with such domestic animals as dogs, pigs, and chickens. For sailing directions, enabling them to discover and colonize Hawaii, 2,000 miles away from the nearest inhabited group, they seem to have pressed desires of the inquisitive giver that nest in the Australs and fly in a "beeline" to the nearest islands, thence to more lands, farther south, Tahiti, Samoa and Tonga. The Polynesians were intelligent agriculturists, tarrying their fields and irrigating them along continuously before our ancestors thought of it. They established patriarchal regimes, marked by courtesy and hospitality.

It is still true of them, as Robert Louis Stevenson wrote many years ago, they are Christians, churchgoers, makers of hymns at family worship, and before our ancestors thought of it. Important matters are debated in a song or native parliament.

with its feasting and parade, its endless speaches and polite genealogical allusions. . . They are easy, merry, and pleasure loving; the gayest of Polynesians. . . Games are popular. . . Conversation which is largely political and the delights of public oratory fill in the long hours.

No wonder our Senators and Representatives who were members of a commission sent to Samoa by the cruiser Omaha, in 1900, found the people fully deserving of being granted American citizenship and a Bill of Rights. On their recommendation, a bill carrying those privileges was laid before the 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.

Benevolent Rule

To be sure, our Navy, acting under Presidential orders, has governed American Samoa with patriarchal benevolence.

Most native customs have been maintained, although some chiefs complained that in the fono, or council, their discussions were limited to matters proposed and approved by the Governor, a Naval officer. Several of the chiefs who testified before the commission, of which I had the honor to be the chairman, urged that the term of service of the Naval Governors be lengthened from eighteen months, which was then the practice, so that the executive who had the sole power to make laws, judge of their observance and punish their infraction, might be more familiar with Samoan customs. They said they were at the mercy of his whims.

One chief, a representative of a large group of chiefs and the "District Governor of the Western District," requested the commission "to make a written order for the protection of myself and other people who are against the rule of the Navy, as I fear that when the commission is gone from Samoa it may be the Governor would do something to hurt us." Naturally, his fears were groundless. At the same time his expression that the fundamental law of the land should be changed were reasonable. With other chiefs he longed for the rights of American citizens which they thought they were going to get when they gave their country.

Although the government of American Samoa has been benevolent for more than forty-five years by our Navy in has in general been admirable and benevolent, it has, nevertheless, been technically a despotism because the people have no Bill of Rights and actually are at the mercy of the Governor, the Commandant of the Naval Station. The Senate came to the conclusion fifteen years ago that the time had come to do away with administration of American Samoa by rules, regulations and Naval orders and to begin administering the islands under an organic act in which the functions of the Governor should be confined to the executive, the courts would be aided by a chief justice independent of the Governor, and the legislative authority vested in an Assembly of the people. But the House did not see it that way.

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 to these loyal subjects. We did not conquer their islands. They gave them to us. They had always governed themselves before 1900. They have never been conquered.

Their chiefs are courteous gentlemen of great personal dignity. They are Christians. Nearly everybody goes to church. Family prayer is the rule. Sunday is a day of rest. They are in no sense savages. They are intelligent, amiable and hospitable to a remarkable degree. The public school system consists of twenty-one schools with about fifty teachers. Education has been supposed to be compulsory through the fourth grade, but the schools are poorly equipped. Except for the expenses of the Naval Station with its magnificent harbor we have spent little on our Samoan friends. And we have not given them the rights to which they are entitled.

It is hard for us to realize that these ten thousand fine descendants of a great race are living under our flag without the right of habeas corpus, subject to rules made by a man or less temporary Governor, without the right to appeal to any court except one that is under his power, without the Bill of Rights which we have cherished as our most precious possession. Fortunately, the Naval officers who have been assigned the duty and privilege of making their laws and enforcing their observance have generally been true of their responsibilities and been benevolent. But that is no reason for denying citizenship and local self-government to our faithful and loyal subjects.

Hiram Bingham
Washington, Nov. 15, 1946
Glimpses of American Samoa

A Paradise That Presents a Problem

By RILEY H. ALLEN

(This is one of a brief series of articles by the editor of The Star-Bulletin, who returned a few days ago from an air trip to Samoa and a short stay there.)

XVI. NAVY ASKED TO REMAIN IN SAMOA

Prior to my recent trip to American Samoa, I had heard that the Samoan government is now asking for U. S. citizenship, or for civil administration.

The request had come from Douglas Lovelace, Associated Press correspondent at Honolulu, who visited Samoa a few weeks ago, and from George Weller, noted foreign correspondent of the Chicago Daily News. Mr. Weller was in Samoa even later than Mr. Lovelace.

They had told me that Samoans, so far as they express themselves, wish naval administration continued.

As this reported new attitude is quite contrary to that which existed for many years, it was of special interest to me to visit the islands.

My recent visit to American Samoa brought me, as far as it was possible, to obtain the views of the other two newspapers that had reported. Not that I doubted the competence of their observation or the fidelity of their reporting, but I was curious to see if the same sentiments would be expressed by me.

It was.

Not only did the Samoans say this privately—what was said publicly?

THEM SANG IT!

In fact, they sang it! It was made the theme of one of the picturesque tableaus they staged during an all-afternoon "hula" or dance, and entertainment. This entertainment was something out of the ordinary, and out of the occasional and sophisticated world as we know it.

As a throwback to ancient days, to the primitive Polynesia of a hundred or two hundred, or five hundred years ago. It was gorgeous and spirited and noisy—the fires, the unspoken physical expression of a group of islanders whom Robert Louis Stevenson called the gayest of all the Polynesians.

Three times during this long afternoon of dancing and Polynesian pageantry, the grassed parade ground of the U. S. navy station at Pago Pago, four visiting party was told formally that the American Samoans want no present change in their administration.

They expressed it in slightly different words, but the meaning was the same.

SENTIMENT PUBLICLY VOICED

The request was made by chiefs or village heads who appeared during the dancing and mass tableaus. It was first made in Samoa and then translated by a "talking chief" or interpreter into English.

In each case the speech was directed to Admiral Dewitt C. Ramsey, commander in chief of the U. S. navy in the Pacific.

There was one song of welcome to the visiting party, special greeting to "Atumala Lamae" (Admiral Ramsey) and appreciation of what the navy has done for the Samoans.

It expressed also the hope that the navy will remain in charge of Samoa affairs.

As this song was sung by a group of brightly dressed villagers, it was translated for us by a Samoan who spoke excellent English.

CEREMONY OF GIFT-GIVING

Later, during a "ta'alo" or gift-giving ceremony, the same sentiment was expressed.

This "ta'alo" is very much like the Hawaiian "hookupu" or gift ceremony—as indeed it should be, for the Hawaiians and the Samoans are closely related. Their customs and a great deal of the languages are similar.

At the end of the gift-giving, with tapa mats, native foods and fruits piled in front of the admiral, the Samoan orator Pa'afa of Opusumutu county spoke as "talking chief" for the Multa (pronounced Maua) high chief of that county.

He said:

"The navy has ruled these islands for 47 years.

"We wish to remain under naval administration until we are able to handle our own affairs."

AS TO U. S. CITIZENSHIP

Later still on that afternoon of Polynesian pageantry, the same sentiment was publicly voiced, and this time the following was added by the Samoan—another "talking chief."

"We favor American citizenship at a time when the navy considers we are capable of such a status."

On the following night, an elaborate Samoan dinner was given for our party in the great great "tale" or hall of High Ttalking Chief Tuia's of the Eastern District.

Here, when the bounteous feast of mingled Samoan and "tala" (foreign) edibles and delicacies had been disposed of, there was some speech-making, interspersed with more of the superb and spirited dancing for which the Samoans are famous.

WISH NO CHANGE

Again at this dinner, the Samoans told Admiral Ramsey that they wish no change in their present relations with the U. S. navy—until the navy feels they are capable of conducting a larger degree of self-government.

Short as was my stay, I heard sufficient such statements to believe that the fairly general sentiment. Why it exists, it will change is another matter, to be discussed in a subsequent article.