

Museum is perhaps Dunn's most famous landmark and was certainly a major factor in Dunn being named an All-America City.

As one who started his newspaper career while still in high school writing Boy Scout news for E.C. Daniel, Jr.—who later married Margaret Truman—it is fitting that on November 2, 1995, Mr. Adams will be given a high honor by the Boy Scouts of America. So I am happy to pay tribute to an outstanding American and a great son of Dunn and Harnett County and North Carolina: Mr. Hoover Adams who always credits “the Lord and my friends” for his success.

A LAST U.S. COLONY

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, the islands of Palau rest at the far western edge of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean. Few Americans know that these islands exist, let alone realize that they are only now emerging from U.S. control after nearly 50 years of U.N.-sanctioned trusteeship. But are the Palauans really achieving independence? Are their cherished goals of self-determination really being met?

Sadly, the people of Palau have not achieved all that they set out for, and our Government and its policies have been a major hindrance to the full development of political and economic self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to review a definitive history of this relationship, “The last U.S. Colony,” written by Prof. Marc Landy of Boston College. It would be inappropriate to reprint the entire manuscript in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but I commend you to his introduction and conclusion.

THE LAST U.S. COLONY

(By Marc Landy)

On October 1, 1994 the United States officially ceased to be a colonial power. Its last dependency, Palau, a tiny archipelago at the western end of what used to be called Micronesia, formally became free. Palau had been administered as a strategic trust under authority granted to the United States by the United Nations. It was the last remaining UN trust territory. Unfortunately the jubilation that should have accompanied the end of the colonial era must be muted by Palau's woefully inadequate preparation for self-government. Neither its economy nor its political system are sufficiently mature to enable it to face the rigors of independence, this despite almost fifty years of American oversight.

Palau now threatens to become yet another of the long list of small new nations to sink into the abyss, of poverty, tyranny and chaos. This article examines what went wrong in Palau and what can be done to prevent its economic and political ruin. Compared to the problems facing many other small states in the third world, Palau's difficulties are relatively tractable and simple. It is not riven by ethnic conflict. Nor does it suffer the scourges of ill health and illiteracy. If the world community cannot prevent Palau's ruin it has little chance of doing so where conditions are worse. On the other hand, Palau presents a good vantage point from which to consider general questions of political and economic development. Precisely because it provides a simpler can-

vas, the broader problems and possibilities it illustrates reveal themselves more clearly and starkly.

The result of fifty years of American hegemony over Palau has been to create a regime which is fundamentally at odds with American political and economic principles. The U.S. prides itself on being a democratic republic founded on principles of liberty and personal security but it fostered a regime in Palau that is replete with corruption and political intimidation. In the past decade, one president has been assassinated and another has committed suicide. Dissidents have been abused and murdered. An atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust pervades island politics.

Despite America's commitment to private enterprise, Palau has failed to develop a viable private sector. It has become a remittance economy, dependent upon U.S. aid, and remittances from Palauans living overseas. The tourist trade is growing but still small. Agriculture, vital during the pre-war Japanese occupation, has dwindled. Commercial fishing in Palauan waters is conducted mostly by foreigners.

And yet, the island is not poor. The United States spends in excess of thirty million dollars a year in Palau. This amounts to more than two thousand dollars per Palauan, more per capita than the federal government spends on any single American state, and twice as much as it does for any state except Alaska. These U.S. funds go, for the most part, directly to the government to pay for the bulk of its administrative overhead. They comprise 60% of the government of Palau's revenue. Because two out of three Palauan workers is employed by the government, these remittances are in fact the major source of the island's prosperity.

This dual failure is the result of both sins of omission and sins of commission. On the one hand, the U.S. was inattentive to the whole matter of economic development and failed to perceive the negative impact on entrepreneurship and work habits of providing so much direct aid. On the other hand it abetted corruption and swindle which in turn established a repressive political atmosphere.

Palau's deepest political and economic weaknesses are a direct result of American policy. The United States stifled much of whatever initiative existed for building a sustainable economy by smothering it with largely unearned remittances. It intervened in the domestic political life of the Republic in a manner that encouraged factionalism and corruption and discouraged serious deliberation about the country's future.

The U.S. was not capricious. Its actions were guided by two conceptual premises. The first stems from a geo-political obsession. The intensity of the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union meant that places, even small and remote ones, needed to be brought under the U.S. banner to prevent them from falling prey to the Soviets. This type of outlook predates the Cold War. It typified the 19th Century colonial competition between France Britain and Germany. That urge to gobble up territory around the globe was fueled less by a positive desire to rule faraway places than by a fear of ceding them to rivals.

The second premise derives from Wilsonian Progressivism. It posited not only that all peoples were entitled to self-determination but that no great preparation was needed to enable them to exercise it wisely. At first glance, this seems to conflict with the prior premise. But, in practice the two were reconcilable. The trick was to make sure that the indigenous people freely chose to pursue American military geo-political interests. Hence the willingness of the U.S. to subsidize the Palauan economy, bribe many of Palau's

political leaders and, generally encourage dependency.

It has become all too fashionable to criticize “Cold War thinking” as if the Cold War was some sort of mistake that could have been easily averted. This is not my contention. In the aftermath of World War II it was understandable for the military to place great value on the islands it had so recently shed blood to conquer. Thirty years later, however, after revolutions in communications and transportation, the “coaling station” mentality that took every Pacific Island to be a vital refueling depot has become outmoded.

In the Cold War context, it also made sense for the Department of State, seeking to contrast American commitment to freedom with the Soviet urge to dominate, would insist that military objectives be rendered compatible with national self-determination. But as the Soviet threat receded, the need to exaggerate Palau's readiness for independence should have disappeared as well. By the 1970's, so many former French, British, and Belgian colonies in Africa and Asia had crashed and burned as a result of ethnic strife, demagogic political leadership, and economic incompetence that the language of self determination and liberation came to sound increasingly hollow and shrill. The tragedy is that the modes of thinking that dominated the immediate postwar era did not evolve as the objective circumstances changed. The story of Palau is above all one of the mischiefs caused by the inability to reconsider policy premises in the light of new realities.

The consequence is that Palau has been set free to fail. To survive economically and thrive politically it must live up to standards that it has not been prepared to meet. Rather than provide needed assistance and criticism, the United States, will, in all likelihood, abstain, rationalizing its default on the basis of respect for Palau's sovereignty.

What is done cannot be undone. A return to colonial status, in Palau or elsewhere, is unthinkable. But if Palau, and places like it, are to progress, a more active and responsible reinvolvement by former colonial powers is both ethically and practically necessary. Such efforts are likely to prove more politically palatable if they are carried out on a multilateral basis.

Palau's problems were born of great power rivalry, they could well be solved by great power cooperation. Like the U.S., Japan is Palau's former colonizer. It is relatively close to Palau physically and provides the bulk of Palau's current tourist business. It is therefore a very good candidate to serve as a partner with the United States in an effort to help Palau.

Because Palau has among the most beautiful and diverse coral reefs in the world, it has vast tourist potential. Currently it has neither the trained workforce nor the infrastructure to fully capitalize on this great economic opportunity. Also, the fragility of those reefs require that visitation be tightly controlled. Rather than lamenting the devastation to come, a great opportunity exists for treating Palau as a model for the creation of an ecologically sustainable, profitable, tourist industry.

This specific objective could serve as the basis for a pilot project, testing the feasibility of joint Japan-United States involvement in Palau. The two powers would co-sponsor a team of scientists, engineers and representatives from environmental organization and the tourist industry to work with Palau on developing a plan for sustainable tourism. If Palau proved willing to abide by the plan, and particularly by the fiscal “strings” it would inevitably contain, the two nations

would also help assemble the capital resources to carry it out.

Currently U.S.-Japan relations are marked by rancorous discord over trade and currency disputes. Palau provides an excellent example of a matter of common concern over which they could find fruitful grounds for agreement and cooperation. For little money or risk, they could show each other, and the world, how adept they are at cooperating in a good cause. A positive precedent would be set for more ambitious future multilateral activities.

REMEMBERING KEVIN CARPENTER

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, Kevin Reid Carpenter was a young man of unusual promise. A sophomore at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, he was twice an honor representative for his Academy class and had been voted by his fellow students as the most outstanding cadet. Closer to home, Kevin had been student body president at Liberty High in Brentwood, CA, a school at which he is remembered for his personal warmth, caring spirit, and natural leadership ability.

Kevin died September 25 of a heart attack while playing soccer in New London. Evidently caused by an irregular heartbeat stemming from a childhood illness, Kevin's death has been a shock to his family, his community, and to the Coast Guard Academy. One is left to wonder why this exceptional young American was taken from us. Yet we know that although we sometimes cannot fathom God's ways, He is loving and worthy of our trust, even when events, from our human perspective, seem inexplicable.

On a personal note, I am particularly proud of Kevin's choice of the Coast Guard as the branch of service in which to serve. As a former Guardsman myself, I understand the words of one of Kevin's closest friends, Coast Guard Academy cadet Matthew Baer, who said "Kevin liked the idea of the Coast Guard, because we help people on a daily basis."

The motivation does not surprise me, as it characterized Kevin's life. A committed Christian, Kevin was active in many church, school, and community activities both because he loved life and because he wanted to serve others. This is the legacy of a life well-lived. As Kevin's pastor, Larry Adams of Golden Hill Community Church, put it, "He had a life that counts because, in God's economy, it isn't the length, it's what you do with it."

Kevin did much with his life, and for this we honor him today. To his mother and stepfather, Tom and Carolyn Boden, his father, Bill Carpenter, his brothers Jeff and Neil and sister Alina, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. Yet we do so with the confidence of knowing that Jeff has entered a better land than this, our own beloved country which Kevin served so faithfully. It is in the spirit of this assurance that I urge all my colleagues to join with me in remembering Kevin Carpenter today.

A SALUTE TO COLEJON CORPORATION: WINNER OF SBA GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to salute two residents of my congressional district, Lonzo Coleman and James E. Jones. This year their company, ColeJon Corp., received the Small Business Administration's Graduate of the Year Award. This award recognizes small businesses for their success in moving from set-aside projects to a more competitive business arena. The award was presented at the Minority Enterprise Development Week conference, which was held in Washington, DC, earlier this week. I would like to share with my colleagues the details of the exceptional history of ColeJon Corp., and why this SBA award is particularly significant.

It was in 1976 that Lonzo Coleman, a pipefitter, and James Jones, a sheet metal worker, pooled their savings to form ColeJon Corp., a mechanical contracting firm in Cleveland, OH. However, a Small Business Administration

[SBA] official rejected their request for a loan, perhaps thinking that the venture did not have a chance for success. The new company got its start when it was able to obtain work under a SBA program that set-aside work for minority enterprises. Eventually, through hard work and dedication, the firm grew, expanding its services and competing for both Government and commercial contracts across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that ColeJon has achieved a high level of prosperity. Currently, approximately 90 percent of ColeJon's business is outside of Ohio. The firm competes for facilities management contracts at large Government and commercial establishments in 12 States. ColeJon Corp. has also completed several major projects in Cleveland, including the recently opened Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Great Lakes Science Museum. These impressive enterprises indicate the level of skill and excellence which ColeJon has attained.

ColeJon Corp. is a wonderful example of how affirmative action can be good for this country. James Jones and Lonzo Coleman utilized affirmative action to break into the machine trade industry. ColeJon Corp. is now giving back to the State of Ohio by employing approximately 400 people. The success of this small business translates directly into economic growth for Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses such as ColeJon Corp. are essential to the economy of this country. Almost 60 percent of the private work force is employed by small business, and 54 percent of all sales in the country are completed by small businesses. This is why we need small business development. Additionally, minority businesses are essential in our efforts to promote development in economically disadvantaged regions. Minority businesses provide jobs for American workers and provide positive role models for minority youth. These enterprises provide minority representation in the global economic community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Lonzo Coleman and James Jones for their well-deserved success. I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our warmest congratulations to ColeJon Corp. for receiving the Small Business Administration's Graduate of the Year Award.