

DAILY BULLETIN

OFFICE OF SAMOAN INFORMATION

PAGO PAGO

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GOVERNMENT BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF TARO MARKET

A drop in taro prices from 18 cents a pound to 6 cents a pound within the last three months has brought the Government of American Samoa to launch an investigation of the local taro market, including imports and prices.

The price drop has been caused by a recent lifting of a Western Samoa regulation banning the export of taro. Since the ban was lifted, thousands of pounds of surplus Western Samoa taro have been flooding the American Samoa taro market. Acting Governor Owen S. Aspinall said today that the Government of American Samoa wants to make as much taro available here at as low a price as possible while, at the same time, maintaining a fair return to American Samoan taro growers. The Government of American Samoa is also interested in encouraging American Samoan taro growers to develop and expand their plantations so the territory can become more self-supporting in food production, Mr. Aspinall said.

Charles T. Shiraishi, director of agriculture, noted in a recent letter to Mr. Aspinall that the first shipment of taro from Western Samoa arrived here during the week of December 4. During the following five weeks, shipments averaged 11,000 pounds per week (73 bags). This figure increased to 67,000 pounds per week (445 bags) during the week of January 8, and during the last three weeks the number of bags imported from Western Samoa has averaged about 650 bags.

The increase in taro imports here within the last three months has caused the price of taro to drop from 18 cents a pound to 6 cents a pound, with occasional dips to 4 cents a pound, Shiraishi said.

Acting Governor Aspinall has established two committees to aid in the investigation of the taro market. High Chief S.P. Salanoa Aumoeualogo is chairman of a committee to represent the local consumers of taro bought at the Fagatogo Market, and Talking Chief Lauvao-Lolo is the chairman of a committee concerned with the interests of local American Samoan taro producers.

Mr. Aspinall will meet with these committee chairmen and agriculture officials next Thursday at 10 a.m. to discuss what action the Government of American Samoa should take in the taro issue.

High Chief Salanoa Calls Meeting Of Taro Consumers

Anyone who buys taro at the Fagatogo Market is asked to meet with High Chief Salanoa at the market tomorrow at 10 a.m. Interested consumers will be asked to consider the advantages and disadvantages of controlling the importation of taro from outside American Samoa.

TELEVISION FOR TONIGHT

7:00 What's New
7:29 Your Dollar's Worth
8:00 Lucy Show: "Lucy & the Safe Cracker"
8:25 Tala 'Ese 'Ese
8:55 Bonanza: "The Smiler"
9:46 N.E.T. International Magazine

TELEVISION FOR SATURDAY

7:00 Bugs Bunny
7:24 Alakazam: "Wicked Witch"
7:46 International Showtime: "Great Japanese Circus"
8:39 Disney Movie: "Prince & Pauper"
10:13 America: "Chicago"

GOVERNOR LEE DISCUSSES AMERICAN SAMOA'S ECONOMY

WASHINGTON -- Governor Lee appeared before a congressional committee yesterday and discussed several aspects of the territory's economy, including its burgeoning tuna canning industry.

He said that at one point he had "given up hope" that a commercial tuna fishing industry could be established in American Samoa because Samoans do not like fishing.

"The Van Camp cannery supplied us with a fine fishing vessel and a captain to take Samoans out for tuna fishing, but the Samoans just didn't like that kind of work," the governor said. He added that Asian fishermen have since filled the gap, and the canneries are providing many employment opportunities for Samoans in the packing operations.

Governor Lee said tourism appears to be American Samoa's greatest hope for making the islands economically self-sufficient in the near future.

The governor also told congressmen that, politically, Samoans consider their land "as much a part of the United States as any one of our states." He said he had not heard one Samoan express a desire for political independence from the United States or any other basic change. "The time is not ripe," he said, "to throw open American Samoa's doors to outsiders.

"Some U.S. citizens who come to Samoa deplore the fact that our system of government there is not completely up to date with all the latest stateside governmental refinements and Supreme Court rulings, and they deplore the fact that they cannot purchase land and take a competitive position in Samoa's society," he said.

"As soon as we have a generation of Samoan people that has had an equal education with the stateside people and some business experience, I think this can come about. I do think, however, that if the doors to Samoa were to be thrown open before that time, it would be both unfortunate for the Samoan people and for the image of the United States in the Pacific."

Congressmen Discuss Elected Governorship Bills For Guam,

Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, (UPI) - The possibility of delays in passage of elected governorship bills for Guam and the Virgin Islands emerged yesterday at a House Interior Committee Hearing.

Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall (Democrat-Colorado) said charges of irregularities in the November 8 Virgin Islands legislative election "embarrassed the committee." He raised the prospect that the situation might interfere with the governorship bills.

Affidavits have been submitted to Congress by Virgin Islands citizens alleging widespread abuses in the Virgin Islands election, including the use of the late President Kennedy's picture on ballots above the list of Democratic candidates.

Aspinall appeared disturbed at the charges and asked Virgin Islands Governor Ralph Paiewonsky whether they might be used against the elected governorship bills.

Aspinall also asked Guam Governor Manuel Guerrero whether he thought "one party government" resulting from Guam's November legislative election might hurt the chances of its governorship bill.

Guerrero said he did "not know the answer" to Aspinall's question, but he noted there are "two or three factions" within the democratic party in Guam.

SCOUT LEADERS WILL MAP PLANS FOR BOY SCOUT WEEK IN AMERICAN SAMOA

All members of the Boy Scout District Committee -- and anyone else interested in the Boy Scout movement in American Samoa -- are asked to attend a meeting in Judge Virgil Roel's office at 5 p.m. next Tuesday. The purpose of the meeting is to plan activities for Boy Scout Week, February 7-13.