

Marshburn 2.8

FEB 6 1978

Mr. James M. Frey
 Assistant Director for
 Legislative Reference
 Office of Management and Budget
 Room 7201 New Executive Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Frey:

This is in response to Ronald K. Peterson's request for our views on a draft bill prepared by the Department of the Interior "{t}o authorize the appropriation of funds for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Bikini Atoll, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for other purposes."

There is a present uncertainty about the final rehabilitation of Bikini Atoll itself due to the restrictions on the use of coconut products produced on the island for food and export. It would thus appear that allowing the island to be used as a permanent place of settlement and for agricultural purposes would be unrealistic at this time. Because of this uncertainty and for the purpose of clarity, we recommend that the words "for rehabilitation and resettlement of the Bikini Atoll" be replaced with the words "for rehabilitation and resettlement of the people of Bikini Atoll." With such a change, we fully endorse the draft bill.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Eric J. Fygi

Eric J. Fygi
 Acting General Counsel

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