

AMERICAN SAMOAN DEVELOPMENT

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

"Until Congress shall [otherwise] provide" to exercise the powers of the President with respect to the administration of civil government in American Samoa (act, Feb. 20, 1929, 45 Stat. 1253; 48 U.S.C. 1431a), which were delegated to the Secretary of the Interior by Executive Order 10264, June 29, 1951, 16 F.R. 6419.

2. Operation

The operating expenses of the Governor's office, the legislature, and the chief justice and the high court are met by direct Federal appropriations. Requests for Federal grant funds, to finance program expenditures (less estimated local revenues) and the construction program are initiated by the government of American Samoa. After necessary review and approval within the executive branch, the request is transmitted to Congress as part of the executive budget. Once appropriated the funds now are transmitted to the government of American Samoa as required. (Prior to fiscal 1965, appropriated funds were transmitted quarterly; the accumulation of unobligated grant funds appropriated in prior years permitted financing of 1965 actual expenditures for program activities and construction without additional withdrawals from Treasury.) There is no statutory maximum for appropriations that may be authorized for American Samoa.

3. History

On June 28, 1960, Senate Resolution 330 authorized the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs "to conduct a full and complete study and investigation of conditions in American Samoa for the purpose of determining what should be done to improve economic and other conditions and to give the people of American Samoa a greater amount of self-government." The constitution of American Samoa was promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior, effective October 17, 1960, or well in advance of the subcommittee report to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (U.S. 87th Cong., 1st sess. S. Doc. 38, July 17, 1961).

In the years 1956-59, Federal funds appropriated for the government of American Samoa included direct appropriations of \$114,350 to \$142,625 and grant funds of less than \$1.2 million per year to finance all program activities. In 1960 and 1961, grants increased to \$1.7 and \$2 million per year, mainly for construction of a jet airport. In 1961, the subcommittee observed (S. Doc. 38, op. cit., p. 26) that—
governmental functions and services * * * have been greatly stunted in relation to realistic necessary requirements—

as a result of the limited grant funds available, and again (p. 25):

Necessary improvements that will lift the economy above its bare subsistence level, essential aids that will provide further vitally needed medical services and overcome adverse health and sanitary conditions, adjustments and additions that will shore up the public school system and provide Samoans with the kind of education and training they now so urgently need—all these cost money. Nevertheless, they are basic in American Samoa for improving the general standard of living and in establishing a firm foundation for political and social advancement.

Beginning with fiscal year 1962, Federal grants have financed a major economic and social development program in American Samoa,