

Mr. FALCOMA. I thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico for elaborating on that, because I was just curious, at least for the record. I was not informed that that was the problem and I thank him.

Just for the matter of the record, Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that American Samoa is an unorganized and an unincorporated territory. In every instance, we find that territories who later became States were all incorporated territories, and that is the reason why I raised the issue just then and I want to thank the Governor for his assistance in that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the gentlemen for their testimony.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Thank you. I think we close this hearing with a very solid record that this status formula embodied in H.R. 4751 cannot be implemented as proposed by the PDP. First, there is no political will in Congress to give a territory a status that is based on permanent disenfranchisement of U.S. citizens. I think there is bipartisan agreement on that much.

I also do not think we want the U.S. to govern another nation within our nation or to give a territory special constitutional rights that are unfair to U.S. citizens within the States.

But even if we did wish to do all of that, under the U.S. Constitution, the Congress does not have the power to implement this status formula by statute or by treaty. We can talk about valid status definitions and the overall status resolution process another day, but today, I think we established that the core elements of this formula in its entirety and in the combination proposed by the PDP are unconstitutional.

I especially appreciate the testimony of Mr. Dellinger and Mr. Thornburgh in this regard and I invite them and all of our other witnesses and members of this committee to submit further supplementary testimony for the written record.

We thank you gentlemen on this panel for your testimony and your time in preparing it and presenting it.

Before adjourning, I would like to submit a statement for the record from Congressman Rush Holt.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Holt follows:]

***** INSERT *****

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I would also like to submit a statement from Congressman Adam Smith.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

***** INSERT *****

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Finally, I would like to submit a statement from Congressman Benjamin Gilman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gilman follows:]

***** INSERT *****

Mr. DOOLITTLE. With that, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:01 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]