

LETTERS

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Statehooders... Don't Sink the Boat

The electorate in Puerto Rico will again be asked to indicate their preference as regards their future. There is only one real choice. KEEP THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE!! WHY????

Ø BECAUSE STATEHOOD IS MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Three major obstacles stand in the way towards Statehood for Puerto Rico:

Ø IT FAILS TO FILL MIGRATION REQUIREMENTS: All 37 states that followed the original 13 were formed by migration from the 13. From 1926 to 1940, Alaska and Hawaii, the last two states, were denied statehood, as was Puerto Rico, as they failed to fulfill the 'migration' standard. Thanks to WW-II, the migration standard was met and in 1955 both became states. Migration as regards Puerto Rico has taken a reverse course since the 19th century. The small number of USA nationals that have migrated to Puerto Rico will not help swing the vote.

Ø CONFUSING POLITICS: It takes a positive vote by 67% of Congress for a territory to become a state. Alaska and Hawaii were able to work out a deal, as one was Republican and the other Democrat. The day statehood for Puerto Rico hits the floor of Congress, members of Congress, to provide support, need to know on what side of the aisle Puerto Rico's two senators will vote? Without a clear signal it would be impossible to negotiate a deal with the political powers in order to leap over the 67% bump in the road.

Ø NO POWER BALL IN DC: Both Hawaii and Alaska placed a top class lobbyist in Washington for over twenty years before they were granted statehood. Had Governor Luis A. Ferré moved to the District of Colombia in 1972, his political skills would surely have led Puerto Rico into statehood.

Puerto Ricans during the past 60 years have had the best of both worlds: the worldwide benefits of being US citizens, yet able to face the world as an independent country such as in the World Olympics and in many other sporting events, in the Miss America, Miss World and many other worldwide beauty pageants where it competes with the USA and at the same time joins the other 50 states in the Miss USA contest.

PUERTO RICO HAS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

DON'T SINK THE BOAT!!

William Butler Salazar, Santurce