

## INTERVIEW OF JOHN A. MANGEFEL

by Howard P. Willens and Deanne C. Siemer

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- Willens: John Mangefel is the Special Assistant to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia. Mr. Mangefel has a distinguished history in the Congress of Micronesia and as a part of the status negotiating team for many years that the Congress designated. He has kindly agreed to be interviewed for our project. Thank you, sir, for being available. Could we begin by asking you when and where you were born.
- Mangefel: I was born in Yap on May 10, 1932.
- Willens: What were your parents' names?
- Mangefel: My father's name was Tamarad, and my mother's name was Mitinyeg.
- Willens: How long had they lived in Yap?
- Mangefel: I don't know exactly how long they lived there. But they are passed away now, of course.
- Willens: Were you educated under the Japanese Administration?
- Mangefel: Yes, sir. I attended school up to the third grade, and then World War II broke out, and we stopped awhile, and continued under the trees.
- Willens: Under the what?
- Mangefel: The trees. Our school was blown down, so we moved the school to the village, and we were conducting school for a little while in the village, under coconut trees.
- Willens: Did World War II reach Yap?
- Mangefel: Well, yes, it did. The airplanes came and bombed, but they never took the island. The U.S. military never came ashore on Yap, but the planes kept coming almost daily. They captured an atoll called Ulithi, and it's about 100 miles from Yap. So they made an airport there and flew to Yap once in a while and bombed here and there and then went back to Ulithi.
- Siemer: Were there many Japanese stationed at Yap?
- Mangefel: Yes, I would say probably about 10,000.
- Willens: Where did they live?
- Mangefel: They lived among the people in Yap. They lived in their own houses.
- Willens: At the end of the war, did they leave voluntarily, or were they taken prisoner?
- Mangefel: At the end of the war, they were evacuated back to Japan, as I understand, on American ships.
- Willens: What schools did you go to after the war?
- Mangefel: After the war, of course, the United Nations decided that the United States would administer the islands, and they came and we started school in 1946. That's when I came back to school again. By this time, the American school was teaching English words instead of the Japanese words that I used in the beginning of my education. This time it was English.

- Siemer: How far did that school go?
- Mangefel: At that time, they just started school of course, and then added two years over the elementary school, another two years of intermediate school. And then I was sent to Truk, where they established a high school called PICS Pacific Islands Central School or all the people in this area. I had to come from Yap to Truk, where the school was located.
- Willens: Do you remember approximately what years you went to PICS?
- Mangefel: Yes. I think I went in 1951.
- Willens: And you stayed until 1953?
- Mangefel: 1953, yes. Two years.
- Willens: Do you recall meeting any people from the Northern Marianas at the time?
- Mangefel: Yes. There were some people from Saipan, but there were no people from Guam. But there were from Saipan and from the Marshalls and Palau and almost all the states now in the Federated States of Micronesia. There were some students from all these islands.
- Willens: What happened next then? Did you go on to further education?
- Mangefel: Yes. I went back to Yap and worked for a while. Then there was a two-year scholarship, and I went on that to Hawaii.
- Willens: Where in Hawaii?
- Mangefel: I went to University High School, because my background was such that I couldn't really go to college, so I had to go to one year of high school. This school was at the University of Hawaii. It's located with the University, but it is a sort of an experimental school for teachers, in elementary as well as high school. So I went to that laboratory school.
- Willens: Were you on a scholarship?
- Mangefel: Yes. Trust Territory scholarship for two years.
- Willens: Did you stay at the school for two years?
- Mangefel: I stayed in the high school for one year and then entered the University as an unclassified student for one year
- Siemer: Did they require you to come back [to Yap] after two years?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Siemer: Could you go back [to the U.S.] again?
- Mangefel: Yes. At that time I felt very incomplete with one year in high school and one year at the University of Hawaii. So I applied for a John Hay Whitney scholarship, and I was fortunate. I got that for one year. So I had a second year at the University of Hawaii. Then I went back to Yap.
- Willens: By that time did you feel comfortable with the English language?
- Mangefel: Well, not really, but I had to work because as I said you are required to go back. So you get two years of scholarship and that's it for the TT scholarship. But I felt so inadequate so I applied for the John Hay Whitney, and they gave me a year to remain at the University of Hawaii, and I did. Then I had to go back.
- Willens: What kind of job did you come back to?
- Mangefel: As a teacher in Yap at the Yap Elementary School. The school was continued after we

- left. They were bringing more students in from all over Yap. So I went to teach in that school.
- Willens: Did you enjoy teaching?
- Mangefel: Yes, I did. I do enjoy teaching.
- Willens: How many years did you teach?
- Mangefel: Well, I taught for about three years.
- Willens: Were you teaching English to the young students?
- Mangefel: No, we taught mathematics, social studies, things of that type. I was not teaching English.
- Willens: What were the rules at that time about teaching English in the schools to the elementary children?
- Mangefel: Well, the rule at that time was they hired the wives of the American personnel in Yap to teach English. So there were some teachers from America in Yap at that time who were teaching, and some wives of the people who worked in Yap, Americans, they hired them for teaching positions in Yap.
- Siemer: Was the rest of the instruction also in English?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What happened after you stopped teaching school?
- Mangefel: Then they opened up what they called a degree scholarship, so I took that one. I was awarded a scholarship, and I went back again to the University of Hawaii in 1960.
- Willens: How long did you stay at the University on this occasion?
- Mangefel: I stayed three years.
- Siemer: What did you get your degree in?
- Mangefel: I majored in English Literature with a minor in Education.
- Willens: That's when you acquired your interest in Shakespeare, I gather.
- Mangefel: Yes. I've always been one to enjoy legends and things of that kind, so I found English Literature a very interesting subject. So I stayed in it, and I decided to major in it.
- Willens: I have read that in 1960 at the University of Hawaii there was a lot of interest in the Presidential campaign when John Kennedy ran against Richard Nixon. Were you involved in any political activities at the University at that time?
- Mangefel: No, not really, but we were aware of what was going on. I really didn't know too much about politics then, so I had little interest in politics.
- Willens: Do you remember any of the Micronesians who were with you at the University of Hawaii at that time?
- Mangefel: Yes. There were very few, because this scholarship in those days was very selective. So there were a handful of us at that time at the University of Hawaii.
- Willens: Do you remember any names?
- Mangefel: Well, there was Bethwel Henry, Tosiwo Nakayama, Bailey Olter and that's about it from the present FSM. Then there were some from the Marshall Islands, some from Palau, and some even from the Northern Marianas at that time.

- Willens: Did you come back to Yap then after you completed your degree?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What was your position then?
- Mangefel: I went back to school again, to the Education Department, and worked there.
- Willens: Were you teaching in the classroom?
- Mangefel: Yes, I was teaching for a while in the classroom. Then I moved up to the office to an administrative position and worked there.
- Willens: By 1963 and 1964, there had been some changes in United States policy in the Trust Territory, particularly in the education field.
- Mangefel: Right.
- Willens: What was your reaction to those changes?
- Mangefel: Well, in those days I really didn't have a very strong feeling one way or the other. But we went through the changes.
- Willens: Did you have more American teachers?
- Mangefel: Yes, more American teachers. And we thought that was a very good idea, because the teaching of English should be done by an English-speaking person, we felt.
- Willens: There was a Dr. Gibson who was in charge of education at the time.
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: He seemed to have some different view about the teaching of English. He seemed to think that the local people ought to be trained to teach their own people rather than bring in Americans.
- Mangefel: Well, that program was for training teachers to come back and teach English as a second language.
- Willens: When did you first get involved in politics?
- Mangefel: Oh, I guess in 1968.
- Willens: Is that when you ran for the first time for the Congress of Micronesia?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Had you had any previous experience in the District Legislature?
- Mangefel: Oh, yes. I was a member of the Yap State Legislature, too.
- Willens: When had you run for the Yap State Legislature?
- Mangefel: Oh, I don't recall. But I remember I was in the Education Department and then at the Legislature at the same time. You can't do that now. You have to do one thing or the other, but not two. But at one time, I was in Education, I was at the Legislature, and I was an associate judge.
- Willens: Did you have three separate salaries?
- Mangefel: No. I got paid the same.
- Siemer: At the time you ran for the Yap State Legislature, was it a contested election?
- Mangefel: Yes, you had to run.

- Siemer: Somebody ran against you?
- Mangefel: Well, no, not really. They decided in the community, and then we said that we already had a candidate and he will be it, but our administrator said we couldn't do that. It had to go through election. So we went through the election.
- Siemer: Same result.
- Mangefel: Same result. It had already been predetermined who it was going to be.
- Willens: How would you describe the relationship between people like yourself who had been extensively educated and the traditional leaders? Was there an agreement among the traditional leaders that educated younger people like yourself should be designated for office?
- Mangefel: Yes. As a matter of fact, that's how I got to become the Governor of Yap. I was in the Senate in the Congress of Micronesia, and I didn't really have an intention to run for the Governor. There were other people. But the traditional council asked me to run for Governor, and when the traditional council asks you, you don't refuse. So I gave up what I was doing and did what they asked.
- Willens: When was that?
- Mangefel: In the 1980s.
- Willens: Did you have any input to the establishment of the Congress of Micronesia?
- Mangefel: No, not really. All this started before my time through some other leaders that included Micronesian and American people in the government. There was a Council of Micronesia, and then later on the idea of the Congress of Micronesia came about. That came to replace the Council of Micronesia.
- Siemer: Who was the principal person from Yap at that time before you became active?
- Mangefel: Oh, there were several. There was a chief by the name of Andrew Roboman. And then there was Luk Tun.
- Willens: Petrus Tun?
- Mangefel: No, Luk Tun; Petrus Tun was younger. He's a little bit younger than I am. And Joseph Tamag was really active, and Edmund Gilmar was very active, in those days.
- Willens: When you went to the Congress of Micronesia for the first time, in 1968 or 1969, what issues were important to you?
- Mangefel: Well I think the economic development issue has always been a very important issue to me, and of course political development was also important.
- Willens: Did people in Yap want to have more economic development?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What kind of development did they think would be desirable?
- Mangefel: That is the real problem, because people really want to have development, but exactly what kind of development? People are not too sure of what is best. Now we are beginning to understand a little bit, but in those days not many people understood.
- Willens: For example, in the 1960s, did any tourists come to visit Yap?
- Mangefel: No, not very many.

- Willens: Did you personally think that tourism was a desirable form of development?
- Mangefel: At that time, I didn't really think it was really important to have tourism. I thought maybe we should develop in some other areas. Fisheries was one of the area that has always been desired, but Micronesians are not doing commercial fishing. Micronesians are not good people to do that.
- Willens: Why is that?
- Mangefel: Well, I attribute it to the fact that Micronesians are very slow-going people. They live from day to day and whatever comes along that's their lifestyle. But in the commercial fishing business, you cannot do that and that is our problem. No Micronesian is going to work from 6:00 o'clock in the morning and stay several weeks on the ocean to catch the fish and come back. They can't do it. It's just the opposite of the Taiwanese and the Chinese and the Japanese. When they go there, they're very serious; they're proud. Micronesians are not that way yet. I guess that's what our culture means to our failure in all this, because we don't go at it like Asian people go at it. They say yes, and do it. We just say oh, okay, if you're tired you take off, it's all right. That kind of attitude. So it's really very difficult.
- Willens: In 1969, Secretary Hickel came out to visit Micronesia. He appeared in Saipan in early May. Were you there?
- Mangefel: Yes, I was there. He gave an oath to the first High Commissioner in Micronesia. Hickel came and administered the oath to the High Commissioner. That was the first time it was done in Micronesia rather than in Washington.
- Willens: What was your impression of Secretary Hickel's speech?
- Mangefel: Oh, as I remember it, I thought he was genuinely interested in Micronesia.
- Willens: He invited the Micronesians to send a delegation to Washington to discuss a future relationship with the United States. Did you have any view at the time as to whether a relationship with the United States was a good idea for Micronesia?
- Mangefel: Well, we all thought so. Yes. In fact, that was the reason why we wanted a Compact of Free Association with the United States rather than through the United Nations. We wanted to see a relationship between us and the U.S. and not through the United Nations.
- Willens: In 1969 the Congress of Micronesia received a report from its Future Status Commission, and that Commission recommended free association or in the alternative independence. The Congress of Micronesia was asked to endorse those recommendations. What's your recollection of how you felt about it?
- Mangefel: Well, we endorsed the free association with the United States.
- Willens: Were you part of the first delegation that went to Washington in October 1969?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: We've seen the 11 points that were drawn up by the delegation. Mr. Henry told us about them, and then the Chief Justice described it to us. Did you participate in the discussions that led to the listing of these 11 points?
- Mangefel: As I remember, generally, yes, and there were other leaders as well beside the delegation involved in discussion of these points.
- Willens: What is your recollection of that first set of discussions in Washington with Mr. Loesch and others?

- Mangefel: Well, it was to form an association with the United States. It was not very clear how, but certain points were brought up.
- Willens: The United States had drafted something called an organic act that I believe it showed to you, and it would have made the entire Trust Territory a possession like Guam.
- Mangefel: Or a commonwealth.
- Willens: What was your reaction to that kind of proposal?
- Mangefel: Oh, we resented that.
- Willens: Why?
- Mangefel: Although we were in favor of a very close relationship with the United States, there were some things in that that we felt were not good. For example, in the commonwealth proposal, the President of the United States has the authority to take land in Micronesia for its purpose if there is a disaster or some such thing occurred. The people attach a very, very important value to the land here in Micronesia. It is a very fundamental attachment. We didn't think it would be a good idea to give that up. And so for that very reason, it was not accepted.
- Willens: That was one of your 11 points, then, as I understand it. The land was one of the principal issues discussed. Did you get the idea that anyone on the U.S. side understood the importance of land to you?
- Mangefel: Probably not. I don't know exactly how Americans look at this kind of a situation, but I know that they are very accustomed to owning property, and they may sell it. But it's different here, so I don't think anybody from the United States really understands how deeply we feel our attachment to our section of the earth which we live on. To us it's a piece of earth that we'll pass on to the next generation and to the next and so on and so on. So it's something that is very, very hard to give up.
- Siemer: In Yap, under the traditional system, if you wanted to have the government build a school or roads, how would the government get the land to do that?
- Mangefel: We would negotiate, and we would go to a village and say we would like to build this school, and the people would volunteer. They will volunteer their property to build the school on.
- Siemer: So, the problem with eminent domain was the taking, not that land wouldn't be set aside for government purposes like roads and schools and hospitals.
- Mangefel: Yes. The idea of taking the land forever and forever is something that we think, or I think, that the Yapese would not swallow at that time.
- Siemer: In Yap, if land is taken for a school, for example, does the family that owns the land continue to own it and it is just borrowed for purpose of the school?
- Mangefel: Yes. Then as long as that public school is on that land, these people will not use it. I don't know how to describe it, but the fact that they still own that land is important.
- Siemer: They still own it. So if the school moves, then it's theirs again.
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Siemer: It was that sort of fundamental point that perhaps was not understood.
- Mangefel: Yes, I think so. If I look at the property as just property, it's sellable. To Yapese, it's not that easy.

- Willens: Do you have any recollection of meeting with Mr. Harrison Loesch and discussing these issues with him personally?
- Mangefel: Oh, we discussed them through receptions and parties, but that's about all.
- Willens: At the conclusion of that set of discussions in 1969 in Washington, did you feel that there was any possibility of reaching agreement with the United States, or did you leave thinking that the positions were too far apart?
- Mangefel: We always felt that it could be reached.
- Willens: The next year, in 1970, you and your colleagues developed what were known as the Four Principles: sovereignty, drafting your own Constitution, self-determination, and unilateral termination. Where did the idea of those Four Principles come from?
- Mangefel: Again, these had generally come from the local leaders, but it was really engineered by fellows like Lazarus Salii and Andon Amaraich.
- Willens: Was there a consultant named Dr. Davidson involved?
- Mangefel: Right.
- Willens: Did you think the Four Principles represented important non-negotiable issues for you?
- Mangefel: Well, these are the principal ideas involved, but as I said the one important principle is the land matter. I wasn't really worried about sovereignty, personally. I couldn't care less really whether we were self-governed or a part of the United States. My real concern was the land.
- Willens: How about the unilateral termination versus mutual consent? How did you feel about that issue?
- Mangefel: That's okay. I don't really feel one way or the other very strongly.
- Willens: So long as you had control over land?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: How about the importance of having your own constitution? That seems to have been quite important, too.
- Mangefel: Yes, it is important, because if you decided on a set of rules to govern you, that's fine. I felt strongly about that.
- Willens: In 1971, Ambassador Williams was appointed to his position. What was your reaction to that appointment?
- Mangefel: I really didn't know Ambassador Williams, but he seemed to be a good man.
- Willens: When you began meeting with him in negotiations, what was your impression of him?
- Mangefel: Oh, I thought he was a very good man. Of course he was representing the whole United States government, and he had a certain obligation to the United States government. I saw that he might be sympathetic to our cause, but I think he had some principles that he needed to protect for the interests of the United States.
- Willens: By this time, in late 1971 and early 1972, the Northern Marianas representatives had expressed their views about wanting to go their separate ways. What was your reaction to that?
- Mangefel: I was sad, but at the same time, we felt that we could not really say no to the Marianas if that was what they wanted to do.

- Willens: What do you think brought about the difference in future aspirations between the Marianas people on the one hand and say your people on the other hand?
- Mangefel: Well, I know the Marianas always wanted to be with the Americans very badly; to be U.S. citizens.
- Siemer: And that was back even when you first came to the Congress of Micronesia? Does it go back that far?
- Mangefel: Yes. We had the impression that they wanted to be U.S. citizens from the beginning.
- Willens: Why do you think they wanted to be U.S. citizens?
- Mangefel: Well, I guess the U.S. of course is very popular and so everybody wanted to be like the U.S. And I guess we felt that the Northern Marianas people would like to do that.
- Willens: In April 1972, Ambassador Williams agreed to separate negotiations. Were you surprised by his agreement?
- Mangefel: Yes, I was surprised. I was hoping that the United States would say, "No, we're not going to do this separately." But they agreed, and there wasn't much anybody could do.
- Willens: Did you know about his decision before he announced it?
- Mangefel: Yes, we learned it bit by bit, because he came out and was talking to us about the Marianas. And we tried to sort of dissuade or persuade him not to allow it, but I guess he never listened.
- Willens: You did try to persuade him?
- Mangefel: Well, kind of. We didn't really come out and tell him no, don't negotiate with the Marianas. We had to think of our own local politics in this situation, so if the Northern Marianas learned that we have said to Ambassador Williams to say no to them, we would have more problems.
- Willens: In 1971 and 1972, there developed something known as the Independence Coalition within the Congress of Micronesia. Do you remember an independence movement?
- Mangefel: Well, there was always that talk, but I think they just talked. We knew from the beginning that we would not be independent.
- Willens: Why had you reached that conclusion?
- Mangefel: Because in the meantime we had learned a lot of things that we just don't have the ability to produce yet. Like electricity and television and several things. In order to be able to do that, we had to have natural resources, and at that time we didn't have it. But we were thinking that through the Compact of Free Association and association with the United States, we would be able to develop.
- Willens: At one point, the Congress of Micronesia in 1972 told the Joint Committee that it should negotiate the independence alternative as well as free association. Were you present at the meeting where the Joint Committee announced this to Ambassador Williams in 1972?
- Mangefel: Well, I was present at almost all the meetings.
- Willens: What was your reaction? Did you think it was a good idea to have instructions to negotiate for independence as well as free association?
- Mangefel: No, I don't think it was a good position to take at the time.
- Willens: Did you oppose it in the Congress?

- Mangefel: I was always opposing independence. I should explain that I would be the first person to declare independence if I could. The problem was I don't think anybody at that time could really seriously think of independence.
- Siemer: Is that because independence would create hardship for the people?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Siemer: And economic shortages?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Some people have suggested that the independence emphasis was a bargaining strategy designed to try to get a better deal from the United States.
- Mangefel: Well, I realized at that time we had a strong strategic position. But it wasn't really a good thing to rely on all the time, because like now it's almost non-existent.
- Willens: You mean the military's strategic interest?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Did you feel in the early 1970s that the United States had such an important strategic interest here that they would pay almost any amount for that?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What was the basis for your sense that Micronesia was so important strategically?
- Mangefel: Well, I guess the United States really wanted to protect itself, and that would include this area to use as a kind of fence. That had strategic importance. And of course it has Guam. So, if we are here dealing with possible enemies of the United States and the United States has Guam [where it has defense establishments], it [Micronesian strategic importance] doesn't really make much sense.
- Willens: Did the military ever send generals or other representatives out to Yap to see whether there was any military use to Yap?
- Mangefel: Military? No.
- Willens: Did the military ever express any interest in any of the islands?
- Mangefel: No.
- Siemer: Did you get to know any of those military colonels who came with the Williams delegation?
- Mangefel: Yes, we talked, although I didn't really get to know them well.
- Siemer: How about any of the other members of Ambassador Williams' delegation? Did you get to be friendly with any of the others?
- Mangefel: Yes. We were always friendly.
- Willens: Adrian deGraffenried?
- Mangefel: Yes, I remember him. He was a good friend when he was in the Peace Corps in Yap.
- Willens: Did you think it was a good idea to have people on the U.S. delegation who had served as Peace Corps volunteers?
- Mangefel: I thought so. I thought that through that kind of people we would get the United States to really think, to find out exactly what people wanted.

- Willens: At what point did you begin to sense that the Marshalls and Palau were also thinking of going their separate ways?
- Mangefel: Of course, we had this in the Congress of Micronesia. The Marshalls were complaining that they were contributing too much to the pot or to the budget and getting very little out of it. So we realized that eventually the Marshalls were going to pull out.
- Willens: Did you think that from the very beginning?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Siemer: How did your colleagues in Yap feel about the division of revenues that the Congress of Micronesia made? Did you think you got your fair share?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Senator Kabua [from the Marshalls] was the President of the Senate for some years, wasn't he?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Was it always the sense within the Congress that the Marshall leaders would go their separate way at some point in the future?
- Mangefel: Well, if we gave them more of these revenues in the beginning, I think they would probably have stuck with us.
- Willens: How about the political situation in Palau? What do you think influenced the Palauan leaders to go their separate way?
- Mangefel: Well, actually they demanded that they would like to have this capital located in Palau. That came up in the Constitutional Convention.
- Willens: In the Constitutional Convention in 1975?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Were you a delegate to that Convention?
- Mangefel: No, I was not. I was only an advisor to the Yap delegation.
- Willens: But you were present during the deliberations?
- Mangefel: Yes. And that came up. They said if we were not going to give them the capital, then they would not be part of the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Willens: What was your reaction to that?
- Mangefel: Well, at the time I thought it was unreasonable for Palau to demand that, because we were looking at it as more of a central area. So Ponape and Truk would be the ideal place. And we looked at some other things, and then it was finally decided that Ponape was the best place to locate. So it was located here.
- Willens: How long did you stay in the Congress of Micronesia?
- Mangefel: For about 12 years; until I became the Governor of the state of Yap.
- Willens: You became the Governor then in the late 1970s?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: How long did you serve as Governor?
- Mangefel: Two terms eight years.

- Willens: Then what did you do next?
- Mangefel: Then I moved to the national government [of the FSM].
- Willens: In what capacity did you move?
- Mangefel: I was the National Planner for a while, and then I moved to External Affairs, as Deputy Secretary of External Affairs.
- Willens: Did you enjoy working at the national government level more than at the state level?
- Mangefel: No, I think I would have preferred working in Yap.
- Willens: What have been the major changes in Yap that you encouraged during your two terms as Governor?
- Mangefel: Well, of course we always encouraged the idea of development, the idea of self-reliance, and we taught people how to think that way and to start to do something about becoming more self-reliant.
- Willens: Let me just mention a few people from the Northern Marianas who were involved in the Congress during the years you were there and ask you to give us sort of a picture of them. How about Senator Borja? What's your recollection of Senator Borja?
- Mangefel: He was a good man, but he talked and talked and talked and talked. But he was a good man.
- Willens: Did he seem to have any particular interest in economic development or status or whatever?
- Mangefel: I'm not really sure what he stood for. When he talked he seemed interested in development, but then a few minutes later he would talk of something else. You didn't really know where he stood sometimes.
- Willens: How about Dr. Palacios? Did you work with him?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What was your assessment of him?
- Mangefel: Oh, Dr. Palacios was a very serious man.
- Willens: He at some point expressed a desire that all of Micronesia try to stay together.
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: Is that something that you discussed with him from time to time?
- Mangefel: No, but I admired him for his beliefs. There were a lot of people in the Marianas who thought we should stick together. There were a lot of people in the Marshalls who thought we should stick together, too.
- Willens: Do you remember a young lawyer named Eddie Pangelinan?
- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: What was your assessment of Eddie Pangelinan when he came into the Congress?
- Mangefel: Oh, he was very good.
- Siemer: Did you go back to the States while you were Governor?
- Mangefel: Oh, in traveling for official business, yes.
- Siemer: How about the U.N. visits? Did you go on any of those?

- Mangefel: Yes.
- Willens: When the United Nations visiting missions came to the Trust Territory, did you appear before the visiting mission?
- Mangefel: No.
- Willens: What was your general reaction toward the United Nations? Did you think it was a useful place to try to influence U.S. policy out here?
- Mangefel: Well, no. I was a little bit disappointed with the United Nations.
- Willens: Why was that?
- Mangefel: In the things that they were not doing. They were doing good, don't get me wrong there, doing a good thing. But there were some things that they should have been doing, and that was to protect these poor countries. But somehow they failed.
- Willens: You're thinking of the 1960s?
- Mangefel: All along the way.
- Willens: Could they have provided more technical assistance to people? Is that what you had in mind?
- Mangefel: Well, the present world now is in trouble, and I think the United Nations should correct that situation. But they're not. That's my problem.
- Siemer: During the time that you were thinking about status, did you travel to any other places in the South Pacific?
- Mangefel: We did.
- Siemer: Who went on those trips?
- Mangefel: The whole delegation.
- Siemer: Was that valuable?
- Mangefel: Oh, yes, very valuable. In fact, we got this idea about free association from the Cook Islands.
- Willens: You thought the Cook Islands had a successful status?
- Mangefel: Yes. Their relationship with New Zealand was successful. I'm really sorry but I have to go now. We are making a visit to the President in the hospital this afternoon.
- Willens: Well why don't we conclude it there.
- Siemer: Thank you very much.