

Change in all aspects of life

Three articles, of which this is the second, view Hawaii's development following statehood, from the perspective of Island history since Captain Cook's arrival.

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The political, as well as the socio-economic, scene in the Islands was dramatically affected by the currents flowing out of World War II.

Hawaii had traditionally been a Republican stronghold. The Democrats pre-war were a small, ineffectual force, discouraged and deprecatd by the power structure.

But when the men in uniform, especially the nisei, returned to civilian life they set in motion the first real stirrings of a political "revolution".

It culminated in 1954 with Democratic control, for the first time, of both houses of the Legislature — and in 1962 with election of a Democratic governor, John A. Burns, who served three terms prior to his death four years ago. It was Burns who fathered the Hawaii Democratic Party and helped guide it to its present position of power.

INTIMATELY tied in with the political upset were fundamental changes on the management-labor scene.

For decades in Hawaii the title of "Big Five" had been synonymous with power. These were originally the agencies or factors established to sell sugar and buy supplies for the plantations. But in time these grew to control the industry and a wide variety of related enterprises — shipping, banking, wholesaling and retailing, insurance, utilities.

This evolved as a feudal system which was both efficient and profitable. Interlocking directorates meshed decisions and operations. Sociologist Lawrence Fuchs in the book "Hawaii Pono" says that while nearly 10,000 firms and individuals held stock in Hawaii's sugar companies, a dozen men called the tune.

THE BIG FIVE'S massive economic strength inevitably bred political strength, with sugar and pineapple for many long years setting the tone and policies of Hawaii gov-

ernment and the thrust of lobbying in Washington.

There were ample campaign funds for "right-minded" Republicans and, as one study shows, 80 percent of the Hawaii legislators elected between 1900 and 1940 were from the GOP.

It was a paternalistic power structure and one fully dedicated to keeping unions out. But here again World War II and related developments were to dramatically alter conditions in the Islands.

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union moved into sugar, in 1946 won a 79-day strike by 28,000 workers, then tied up the waterfront in a six-month fight for a wage pattern equal to the Mainland's. Organized labor was in Hawaii in a big way — and to stay.

It jumped into politics, pushing hard for candidates of its choice and for a wide spectrum of social legislation.

Labor-management relations in those days were primitive and simplistic. To labor, management was a composite of greed and reaction. To management, the union leaders — especially those of the ILWU — represented an explosive threat to the American system.

THIS ROUGH and tumble struggle was sharply reflected in the continuing campaign for statehood. Congressional opponents of statehood thundered that admission of Hawaii would formally establish a Communist bastion in the Central Pacific and allow Red infiltration of the U.S. Senate and House. More congressional hearings were held here and voices of doom again were raised.

Other opponents in Washington were still pursuing the racial line, but both this and talk of the so-called Communist menace increasingly ran out of steam. A more realistic, a more sophisticated view began to prevail.

In 1949, the Territorial Legislature authorized a constitutional convention, which met the next year, and adopted a Constitution which the voters approved — to take effect

STATEHOOD EXTRA



Hawaii to Become 50th State



House Gives O.K. To Statehood Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Congress brought Hawaii into the union today.

The House voted 221 to 20 to make Hawaii the 50th state. The historic 14-minute vote was completed at 10:11 p.m. EST (10:01 a.m. HST).

The vote came less than 24 hours after the Senate passed a companion measure by a slimmest 51 to 47 vote.

The triumph in 30 years of fighting for Hawaiian statehood came with dramatic suddenness. The measure was sent to President Eisenhower, who is expected to sign it without delay.

Passage Assures There'll Be Hot Time in Old Town

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Hawaii's admission to the Union today will bring a "hot time in Old Town."

The House vote today was the final step in the process of making Hawaii the 50th state. The measure was passed by a 221-20 vote.



Leaders on Hand for Final Vote



Rep. John A. Burns

Celebration Schedule

Front page of Advertiser of March 12, 1959.



A young Jack Hall at the time of the 1949 dock strike. Hall was active in the Hawaii labor movement until his death in 1971.



ILWU President Harry Bridges (right) and Arthur Rutledge, then president of AFL Joint Council of Teamsters in Hawaii, walked the picket line at Pier 9 during 1949 dock strike.