

RL WTE

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

February 17th, 1939

No. 206

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that a bill (H.R. 2982) was recently introduced in the House of Representatives "to extend the jurisdiction of the United States District Court, Territory of Hawaii over the Midway Island, Wake Island, Johnston Island, Sand Island, Kingman Reef, Kure Island, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Canton Island and Enderbury Island, and for other purposes" of the same nature.

2. With the exception of Canton and Enderbury Islands, the islands named are all United States possessions, including presumably Sand Island which is little more than a rock, six to eight feet high, five hundred yards long and a few yards wide, adjacent to Johnston Island.

3. As regards Canton and Enderbury Islands, however, I thought it well to bring this bill informally to the attention of the chief of the European Division in the State Department. Mr. Moffat said that he had not seen and still less inspired the bill but promised that he would look into the matter. For my part I merely said that I thought the question of jurisdiction was one which should be considered/

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

VALM:FRHM:ACEM:DH

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considered by our two governments, and discussed, and that I was inviting Your Lordship's attention to the bill.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

(SGD) V. A. L. HALLET

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires.

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
I called Mr. Huggins...
I thought the...
considered by our...
I was calling...
V.A.L.