Local and Regional.

No change since last report.

There were three field trips during February and nine atolls visited. Council meetings were conducted and problems were discussed with members. An election will be held on Mejit Atoll to satisfy two factions, both of whom have requested a change in the present officials.

There was an election conducted in the Kwajalein Labor Camp, including a primary, for the selection of a Camp Council. Ballots were mimeographed and all laborers in the Camp were instructed through the medium of posters and lectures of the franchise privileges and responsibilities. The Marshallese conducted the entire operation and MG officers acted only as observers. The council serves as a local governing body for the Labor Camp, not only in the operation of the Camp but also as a Court for trying cases and adjudging disciplinary action. It is also intended as a pattern to guide the laborers when they return to their atolls. The results have been gratifying and the elected representatives take their duties seriously and earnestly, even to the extent of requesting disqualification because of modest assessment of their capabilities.

Delinquent 1946 taxes were collected from two atolls, amounting $159.00.
(c) Development and Expansion Program:

Special effort is being put forth on all field trips to teach the principles of the democratic form of government without a too radical clash with native customs. Emphasis is being placed upon the responsibility of officials and the fact that they must earn the right to their positions. Nothing in their previous experience has even approached this relationship so the process must be slow and developed intelligently. With few exceptions it is accepted enthusiastically and with honest effort to justify the privileges offered them.