

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 1959

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT ON SIGNING  
THE PROCLAMATION ADMITTING ALASKA  
INTO THE STATE OF THE UNION, AND THE  
EXECUTIVE ORDER DESIGNATING THE NEW  
DESIGN FOR THE U.S. FLAG AT 12:00 NOON  
ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1959.

Gentlemen, I think that all of us recognize this as an historic occasion. Certainly for myself I feel very highly privileged and honored to welcome the forty-ninth State into the Union.

Such a ceremony has not taken place in almost half a century, so at least I have the feeling of self-gratification that I am not just one of a group in this kind of ceremony.

To the State itself, to its people, I extend on behalf of all their sister States, best wishes and hope for prosperity and success. And to each of you gentlemen elected to high office to represent your new State, in both State and Federal offices, my congratulations, my felicitations, and my hope that we will all work together to the benefit of all forty-nine States.

Certainly, I pledge to you my cooperation in that effort.

And now, as far as these pens are concerned, I hope there's one for each of you people who has worked so hard to bring this about.

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