

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUL 17 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Problems arising from Alaska Statehood

The impending change in the status of Alaska from that of a territory to a state will alter fundamentally existing relationships with the Federal Government. Because of (1) the geographical location of the territory, and (2) the magnitude and character of Federal programs in Alaska, the transition to statehood will present a number of unique and complex problems which were not encountered when other territories were admitted as states and which will involve many agencies beyond the Department of the Interior.

So that the transition may be accomplished on a sound and orderly basis, steps should be taken immediately to (1) identify the problems which will be created by Alaska statehood; (2) resolve any policy issues; and (3) develop necessary action papers, including amendments to Executive orders and legislation. Since these problems inevitably will raise issues concerning the budget, Government organization, and legislation, and will affect a number of Federal agencies, we believe it highly desirable that arrangements be established which will assure that the necessary staff work is performed and that recommendations are fully coordinated among the interested agencies.

If you approve, the Bureau of the Budget, as a part of its general coordinating responsibilities, will undertake, in cooperation with the other Federal departments and agencies concerned, to see that the implications of Alaska statehood are fully explored and to assure a coordinated approach to the solution of any problems which may be identified.

This suggestion has been discussed with Secretary Seaton, who agrees to the proposal. It is understood that this activity will not reduce the regular responsibilities of the Department of the Interior in connection with the administration of the territory or its conversion to statehood.

There is attached for your signature a draft of a letter assigning to the Bureau of the Budget responsibility to serve as a focal point in the executive branch on problems related to Alaska statehood.

Maurice H. Stans
Director

Attachment

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