

O.F.
147-2

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1958
P

July 7, 1958

Dear Governor Stepovich:

I am happy to certify to you, as required by section 7 of H. R. 7999, that this measure was today signed into law.

As you start the procedure that will, I hope, result in the admission of Alaska into the Union as a State, you and the people of Alaska have my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Honorable Michael A. Stepovich
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

air mailed - Registered
Copy to Gov. Stepovich
at Sobey Rd, Saratoga, Calif

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY

54
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 1958

Anne W. Wheaton, Acting Press Secretary to the President

O.F.
147-8
THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

I have today approved H. R. 7999, to provide for the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union.

While I am pleased with the action of Congress admitting Alaska, I am extremely disturbed over reports that no action is contemplated by the current Congress on pending legislation to admit Hawaii as a State. My messages to Congress urging enactment of statehood legislation have particularly referred to the qualifications of Hawaii, as well as Alaska, and I personally believe that Hawaii is qualified for statehood equally with Alaska. The thousands of loyal, patriotic Americans in Hawaii who suffered the ravages of World War II with us and who experienced that first disastrous attack upon Pearl Harbor must not be forgotten.

XOF992
XOF147E
XOF147-E-1

Pursuant to section 10 of the Alaska Statehood Act, I am authorized to make special national defense withdrawals to assure that the defense requirements of our Nation are adequately protected. I have requested the Secretary of Defense to review our defense needs in Alaska, and to make recommendations to me with respect to the extent to which the authority vested in me by section 10 of the Act should be exercised.

XOF133
XOF3

###

CRUSE CARD FOR STATE SECRETARY

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.

Harmon H. Stein
Director

Attachment 

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

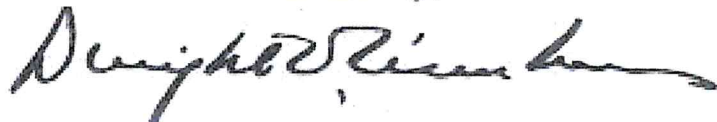
July 18, 1958

Dear Mr. Stans:

In view of the imminent admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, it is essential that the Federal Government promptly make such adjustments in present Federal laws and programs as are necessary to facilitate an orderly transition from territorial status to statehood. This will require a careful study of the effects of statehood and the development of a systematic and coordinated program for effecting the transition.

I believe that the Bureau of the Budget should assume leadership for Executive Branch action in this area, beyond the regular responsibilities of the Department of the Interior. Therefore, I am asking you, with the cooperation of the interested departments and agencies, to undertake the task of reviewing the implications of Alaska statehood, developing a comprehensive plan for accomplishing the transition, and presenting to me recommendations for dealing with any matters requiring my attention.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Maurice H. Stans
Director
Bureau of the Budget