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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 1958

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

To assist him in determining the most desirable modification of the United States Flag in connection with the forthcoming admission of the new State of Alaska, the President has asked the Secretaries of State, Defense and the Treasury and the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts to join informally in recommending to him a proposed new design for the Flag.

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In accordance with his request, a preliminary meeting was held this morning in the White House at which the past history of the changes in the Flag was discussed, as were various alternative suggestions for the current modification, submitted by the public as well as appropriate executive agencies. Over 1900 suggestions have been received from interested citizens.

It is anticipated that this informal group will submit a recommendation to the President within the next few weeks, following which he will issue an Executive Order designating the new design of the Flag. This procedure is in accordance with existing law and past precedents. Public Law 279 - 80th Congress provides that the new design shall take effect on the fourth day of July following the admission of a new state to the Union.

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