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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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July 4, 1958

MEMORANDUM

To: Governor Sherman Adams
Assistant to the President

From: Ted Stevens X

Subject: Alaska Statehood Act

This memorandum is sent to you at the request of Secretary Seaton.

1. Digest of enrolled statehood bill--H. R. 7999:

XOF147-D-1

A. Section 10 authorizes the President of the United States to establish one or more special national defense withdrawals, at any time, within an area north and west of a line previously described to you. The establishment of any such withdrawals will vest sole executive, legislative, and judicial power--or exclusive jurisdiction--in the United States. Section 10 preserves for qualified voters the right to vote in any state or local election. Nothing in section 10 in any way limits any authority otherwise vested in the President or Congress.

B. The State may not select any lands in the area north and west of the line described in section 10 without the approval of the President.

C. Upon proclamation of the President, explained below, Alaska is admitted upon equal footing with the other States. The Constitution of Alaska is ratified and confirmed.

D. As a compact with the United States, the State and its people disclaim all right and title to any lands not granted or confirmed to the State. Indian claims are protected but nothing in the Act is intended to enlarge or impair any claim against the United States or to recognize or deny the validity of any Indian claim.

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E. The State is granted, subject to existing rights, approximately 28% of the public lands of the United States in Alaska; selections under these grants must be made within 25 years.

F. The administration and management of fish and wild-life resources are retained by the Federal Government until the Secretary of the Interior certifies to the Congress that the State legislature has made provision for the administration, management, and conservation of these resources.

G. The Governor, not later than August 1, 1958, must issue a proclamation for elections at which two Senators, one Representative, and State officials must be elected. A primary election and a general election must be held not later than December 1, 1958. The Governor must also submit to the voters, by separate ballot, three propositions: one is "Shall Alaska immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?"; the other two approve Alaska's boundaries and consent to terms and conditions of grants and reservations of powers to the United States.

H. The Governor certifies the election results to the President. If all propositions have been adopted, the President issues a proclamation which admits Alaska into the Union.

2. Area north and west of the section 10 line:

This area contains approximately 275,920 square miles or about 166,774,000 acres--slightly over two-fifths of the land area in Alaska.

3. Withdrawals already in effect north and west of the section 10 line:

Almost one-third of the area north and west of the line is already withdrawn from public entry. Over 99% of this land is owned by the Federal Government. It will not burden the State of Alaska, and there will be no interference with defense activities.

Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 and the area covered by Public Land Order 82--areas already under the exclusive control of the Federal Government--contain about 48,800,000 acres. PLO 82 lands were opened to mineral entry, only, on April 16, 1958. No homesteading or other entry under the public land laws is permitted in either of these areas at the present time.

Dewline (defense early warning line) and White Alice reservations probably include about 5,000 acres.

The Atomic Energy Commission has pending an application to withdraw 1,110,000 acres in the vicinity of Cape Lisbourne on the Arctic Ocean. This area will be used to demonstrate peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has filed an application to set aside 9,000,000 acres for the Arctic Wildlife Range in northeastern Alaska.

In addition to these specific reservations, there are also approximately 10,000 acres under mineral patent; an unknown number of mineral locations; some small areas presently occupied as trade and manufacturing sites; some small townsites; and several Indian reservations. The extent of the native claims in this area is difficult to determine--they are based upon aboriginal rights.

4. Resources, and people in section 10 area:

North of the line is the "storehouse" of Alaska. In it is the only known deposit of natural gas of commercial significance in Alaska--the Gubic structure, which contains reserves estimated at volumes from 222 to 600 billion cubic feet of recoverable gas. Plans are currently underway to transmit this gas to Fairbanks and Anchorage.

The area is presently subject to intensive oil and gas exploration.

Hard-rock minerals exploration has been concentrated between the Yukon River and the Brooks Range. Thirty-one of the thirty-three strategic minerals are known to exist in Alaska and, I am informed, the area north and west of the line contains the bulk of these known discoveries.

About 2% of the land north of the line has commercial forest potential. There are no national forests, parks, or monuments in the area. However, the Arctic Wildlife Range, when completed, should include in excess of 9,000,000 acres.

This area contains approximately 24,000 people, of whom 14,000 are natives and 5,000 military or military connected. There are 50 Indian schools with an enrollment of approximately 2,700 and 12 public or private schools with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 in this area. Nome--the largest community in this area--has a population of about 2,000.

Ed Stevens