

JAMES C. HAGERTY'S
NEWS CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 30, 1958
3:58 P.M., E.S.T.
TUESDAY
GETTYSBURG, PA.

MR. HAGERTY: The President will sign the Alaska Statehood Proclamation, and will issue the Executive Order on the designation of the new Flag at ceremonies in the White House, Saturday at Noon.

He would expect, weather permitting, to 'copter down and then come back for the rest of the week-end. Now whether that would mean return early Monday morning or whether he will go back Sunday night, I just don't know.

Q: Down and back the same day, though?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes.



The President has extended invitations to the following to attend the ceremonies: The Vice President, and the Speaker of the House. As you might know, those are the two constitutional officers of the Congress. The Secretary of the Interior; The Acting Governor of Alaska, Mr. Waino E. Hendrickson; the Chairman of the Alaska Statehood Committee, Mr. Robert B. Atwood; the last Presidentially appointed Governor of Alaska, Michael A. Stepovich; the two Senators-elect from the new State, Ernest Gruening and E. L. Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett, as you probably remember, was the Alaskan Delegate at the last Congress; also the Congressman-elect, Mr. Ralph J. Rivers and the Governor-elect Mr. William A. Egan. Those telegrams extending the invitation to these individuals from the President went out today. I am quite sure they have received them by now.

Q: Do you have any preliminary indication of whether they will be down or whether they may be having some ceremonies up there too?

MR. HAGERTY: I would think they would be down.

Q: They may have something going on at Juneau, I don't know. Burn the state house down.

MR. HAGERTY: We haven't received any word from them yet because the telegrams just went out today.

That's all I have this afternoon, unless you have some questions.

Q: Jim, what will this ceremony consist of, these people just go in the President's office or the Cabinet room ---

MR. HAGERTY: We haven't decided quite where we will have it. I would think either the President's office or more probably the Cabinet Room so that we can get more of you people in, and the photographic services, in the Cabinet Room than you can in the President's office.

Q: Will the President have a statement?

MR. HAGERTY: Well, if he did it would be a very short ceremony. I don't expect that it would be any elaborate ceremony at all.

Q: Alaska becomes a State the minute the Proclamation becomes legal ---

MR. HAGERTY: I think I am right on this, Larry, I think that the signing of the Proclamation makes Alaska a State legally. Under the Executive Order, the Flag, however, does not become a new Flag with 49 stars -- does not become effective until July fourth.

Q: Mr. Secretary, how will the release of the Flag design be handled? Do you have any idea yet on the mechanics of it?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, we will have black and white photos and color photos, and I wouldn't be surprised if there would be a new Flag in the office or wherever the ceremony will be held.

Q: This color photo of the Flag, do you know what form that will be in, whether a print or transparency or what?

MR. HAGERTY: I will find out that, Bill. Which way do you want it?

Q: We would like it in separation prints -- black and white separation prints for transmission on the wire, but that involves a technical problem.

MR. HAGERTY: Well now, you certainly do not want the government to make the prints for you? (Laughter)

Q: We would be happy to do it if we could get enough time.

MR. HAGERTY: Again, gentlemen, as you know, we have a problem on that. It will not be made public until Noon, on Saturday.

Q: Can you say what time the President will leave here Saturday?

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know yet. But weather permitting, he expects to 'copter down.

Q: Will there be any hold for release on this Flag picture?

MR. HAGERTY: No. When we give it out.

Q: Not until the minute that the Proclamation ---

MR. HAGERTY: That's right, we will give it out at Noon, flat.

Q: Any sound by the President?

MR. HAGERTY: I will have to let you know on that a little later. We haven't got that part quite worked out yet, but I will let you know.

Q: Mr. Secretary, has the President received his usual New Year's greeting from Nikita Khrushchev by Western Union? (Laughter)

MR. HAGERTY: Not to my knowledge, and I am sure that I would know it if it came in, Frank. No, I haven't seen any.

Q: Jim, precisely is it a Statehood declaration -- what are the words -- Statehood Declaration ---

MR. HAGERTY: Statehood Proclamation, and an Executive Order designating a new Flag.

Q: And the Statehood Proclamation follows upon receipt ---



MR. HAGERTY: The Statehood Proclamation is issued upon receipt or certification of the elections, which we now have.

Q: And who certifies ---

MR. HAGERTY: I assume it would be the Acting Governor on that.

Q: How does the White House feel about a group of liberal Republicans selecting John Sherman Cooper to oppose Dirksen for the Senate Leadership ---

MR. HAGERTY: I haven't any comment.

Q: In connection with this scientific report out today, the President last week, again for Sunday release, approved a new Federal Council for Technology. Our education department wants to know whether there is any recommendation for another White House ?? or a White House coordinating committee in this report today (??). Now will this council the President ordered established take up where this committee ended? (????)

Q: It could, Yes.

Q: It could?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes.

Q: Do you expect it will?

MR. HAGERTY: Once the Council is established.

Q: You said awhile ago you wouldn't be surprised if there was a new Flag at the ceremony Saturday. Could you make that flatter?

MR. HAGERTY: All right, if you want me to make it a flatter statement, yes, there will be a new Flag at the ceremony on Saturday.

Q: Made by the Army Quartermaster?

MR. HAGERTY: There will be one made up.

Q: Betsy Ross.

Q: Woudln't that be where they would make it?

Q: Call up Betsy.

MR. HAGERTY: We have to guard the story closely. There's a very obvious reason why we do.

Q: Yes.

Q: Jim, any more idea than before on whether the President might visit Alaska next year?

MR. HAGERTY: No, I haven't.

Q: Is there any idea of dramatizing the new Flag, like having it unveiled at a certain time or ---

MR. HAGERTY: Why don't you let us wait for some of that, for some of the ceremony we might want to put on?

Q: That's a good story.

MR. HAGERTY: It will be a better story when it happens.



Q: I won't be there.

MR. HAGERTY: Who?

Q: I won't. (Laughter)

MR. HAGERTY: That's just too bad.

Now tomorrow the photographers are going to get a working shot on the front porch of the President with Mr. Persons and Mr. Moos. You designate a man to represent you, and I will take one man out. That is up to you people, if you want to.

Q: What time is this going to be?

MR. HAGERTY: Be at the front gate at 8:30. I will see you at 10:30 tomorrow morning, but it will depend upon how long this work tomorrow morning goes on.

Q: What has the President been doing since we saw you last?

MR. HAGERTY: It has been a very nice day. He has been out around the farm and in the fields, with David.

Q: Any hunting?

MR. HAGERTY: No.

Q: Riding?

MR. HAGERTY: Riding around and walking around.

Q: Rather muddy out there.

Q: Any rabbit hunting?

MR. HAGERTY: No. Okay?

And let's do one other thing. See you tomorrow at 10:30 if possible, but at the latest at Noon, and then put a lid on.

Q: Fine.

Q: Thank you.

END

