



SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
LAFAYETTE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 13, 1958

Mr. Thomas Stephens
Appointment Secretary to The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stephens:

General Goodpaster has requested that I inform you relative to plans being made by our corporation for the week of July 1, when certain ceremonies are contemplated on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Power Authority of the State of New York and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, will commence flooding the Power pool in the Massena area the morning of July 1. By the evening of July 3 it is anticipated that sufficient water depth will develop to permit the transit of cargo ships through the United States lock facilities. This, of course, will be an historic event, and from all indications there will be considerable press coverage concerning all activities planned for the period between July 1 and 4th.

The Village of Massena and the St. Lawrence Valley Association of Chambers of Commerce plan to present a plaque or scroll to the skipper of the first ship that will transit the United States locks, and are planning a parade and other events during the four-day period.

In order not to take the bloom off the ceremonies scheduled in June 1959, in which we assume President Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth will participate, we have endeavored to develop a program of ceremonies this July which will be somewhat modest in character.

For our own contribution we are considering dedicating the Eisenhower Lock and the Snell Lock on July 2. We are proposing that Secretary Brucker, Attorney General Rogers and Congressman Kilburn be the speakers on this occasion. They could fly up in the morning and return in the afternoon.

Since Congressman Kilburn succeeded Congressman Bertrand Snell, it might be fitting to have the Congressman deliver a short address at the time Mrs. Snell unveils a plaque on the Snell Lock. Both Secretary Brucker and Attorney Rogers could speak on the occasion of the dedication of the Eisenhower Lock. As you may know, Rogers comes from Northern New York State. He is wellknown in that vicinity and is naturally keenly interested in the work that is being performed on the St. Lawrence River.

I am informed that Governor Harriman will not participate in the Power Authority ceremonies, and although we have extended him an invitation to be present on the occasion of our lock dedication ceremonies, it appears that he will not accept.

It is rumored that Premier Frost of Ontario, and Prime Minister Diefenbaker will be present on the Canadian side of the power dam for the blasting of a coffer dam on the early morning of July 1. We are unable to obtain confirmation of this report, but as I dictate this, we have placed a call to Canada to see if there is any foundation to the rumors of their anticipated presence.

As a matter of security, I question the advisability of recommending to President Eisenhower that he be a participant in any of the programs scheduled for July 1 and 2. However, since he plans to be in Ottawa between July 8 and 10th, it would be simple for his plane to stop at the Massena airport enroute to Ottawa, or upon his return, and permit us to show him the Eisenhower Lock and the Barnhart Island power house. It is reported that Mr. Moses, Chairman of the Power Authority of the State of New York, will invite the President when the two Power entities hold a celebration on the power dam next September.

We do not want to offend the Canadians by taking the ball away from them at this early date with ceremonies and personages that will dampen the plans for celebrating next year the final completion of the programs of construction being undertaken by the two Seaway entities and the Power entities. Consequently, it is my own conviction that it would be far better to have the President inspect the Eisenhower Lock and the power dam informally during the period when he will be a guest of the Canadian government around the 8th and 10th of July.

Edward Place, our Public Information Officer, will be established permanently at Massena, New York, in our headquarters there beginning next week. Consequently, please lean upon him, or me, for any information you may desire as plans may develop. However, we will try to keep you well informed as our program of events become formally established.

Sincerely yours



Lewis G. Castle
Administrator

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