FOLDER NO.

193
February 16, 1956

The Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Eisenhower:

I have been instructed by the delegates to the recently concluded Alaska Constitutional Convention to forward to you the enclosed resolution relating to "Friendly Relations With Canada".

It is our hope that this resolution will further cement and make everlasting the friendship which we Alaskans have always had with our Canadian neighbors.

Very truly yours,

Wm. A. Egan  
President

WAE:bjm  
Encl.
RESOLUTION
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CANADA

WHEREAS Alaskans and the people across the border in Canada have long been neighbors in the fullest sense of the word; and

WHEREAS the development of Alaska will increase the matters of common interest to the people of Alaska and their neighbors in Canada; and

WHEREAS Delegates to the Alaska Constitutional Convention keenly appreciate and desire to perpetuate the mutual feeling of affection and respect which has characterized the relationship of the people of Canada and the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Constitutional Convention:

1. That the Convention express its sincere assurance that the people and government of Alaska under statehood will maintain the same friendly and mutually helpful relationship with their neighbors in Canada in the future as they have had in the past;

2. That the President of the Convention arrange for the wide dissemination of this resolution in Alaska and that he forward copies to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of State, with the request that copies be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada for the information of the people of Canada, particularly those in British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon Territory.

DONE at College, Alaska, this fourth day of February, 1956, by direction of the Convention.

William A. Egan
President

ATTEST:
Secretary
February 16, 1956

Mr. John Foster Dulles  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As President of the recently concluded Alaska Constitutional Convention, I have been instructed to forward the enclosed Resolution relating to "Friendly Relations With Canada".

We trust that your office might feel justified to comply with the request that copies be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada for the information of the people of the Dominion of Canada.

Very truly yours,

Wm. A. Egan  
President

WAE:bjm  
Encl.
RESOLUTION

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CANADA

WHEREAS Alaskans and the people across the border in Canada have long been neighbors in the fullest sense of the word; and

WHEREAS the development of Alaska will increase the matters of common interest to the people of Alaska and their neighbors in Canada; and

WHEREAS Delegates to the Alaska Constitutional Convention keenly appreciate and desire to perpetuate the mutual feeling of affection and respect which has characterized the relationship of the people of Canada and the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Constitutional Convention:

1. That the Convention expresses its sincere assurance that the people and government of Alaska under statehood will maintain the same friendly and mutually helpful relationship with their neighbors in Canada in the future as they have had in the past;

2. That the President of the Convention arrange for the wide dissemination of this resolution in Alaska and that he forward copies to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of State, with the request that copies be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada for the information of the people of Canada, particularly those in British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon Territory.

DONE at College, Alaska, this fourth day of February, 1956, by direction of the Convention.

William A. Egan
President

ATTEST: ______________________
Secretary
Valdez, Alaska  
February 15, 1956

Mr. Paul Butler, Chairman  
Democratic National Committee  
1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butler:

The delegates to Alaska's Constitutional Convention were pleased with the statements contained in your communication to us extending your best wishes and pledging your support for the early admission of Alaska to the Union of States.

The Convention has now adjourned. Out of our deliberations has come a document that we think is the finest of its kind ever written. We know that you will continue to give active support to our cause. We trust that the constitution which will be before the voters of Alaska for ratification on April 24, 1956 will give added impetus to you people who feel as we do that we are fully able and capable of taking our rightful place in the sisterhood of states.

It was a real pleasure to me personally to have been able to present your good wishes to the Convention. My kindest regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

WM. A. EGAN  
President

WAE/cwt
Valdez, Alaska  
February 15, 1956

The Honorable Estes Kefauver  
U. S. Senator from Tennessee  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Kefauver:

The delegates to Alaska's Constitutional Convention were highly honored upon receiving your very good wishes for success in our endeavors. They were also very pleased with your expressions reiterating your continued active support for the Alaska statehood cause.

The Convention has now adjourned. We have come up with a document of which it is our feeling we and the government of the United States can be truly proud. It will be placed before the voters of Alaska for ratification on April 24, 1956. There is no doubt in our minds that the document will be ratified by an overwhelming majority.

We want you to know that we have sincerely appreciated your past efforts in our behalf and that we are honored to know that you plan to work just as whole-heartedly for us in the future.

My very good wishes to you for continuing success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

WM. A. Egan  
President

WAE/cwt
Valdez, Alaska
February 16, 1956

The Honorable Warren G. Magnuson
U. S. Senator from Washington
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Magnuson:

The delegates to Alaska's Constitutional Convention were highly honored upon receiving the communications from you in which you expressed your wishes for our success. We have been aware of your great interest and standing support for the Alaska statehood cause for many years past. It was very fine of you to express your interest in our work, not once but on two different occasions, during the progress of our Convention.

The Convention has now adjourned. We have come up with a document that each of us feels is the best of its kind ever written. The proposed constitution will be before the voters of Alaska for ratification on April 24, 1956. We trust that this document will give to our great and good friends, such as yourself, added impetus for continuing active support of our cause in the Congress of the United States. If we had quite a few more friends such as yourself who were so sincerely imbued with the justness of our cause on the floor of the House and Senate of the Congress, we know that statehood would not be long in forthcoming.

Let me express the sincere appreciation of each of the delegates to Alaska's Constitutional Convention and indeed, of all Alaskans, to you for your never-ending labors in our behalf. My very best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

WM. A. Egan
President

WAE/cwt
Valdez, Alaska
February 15, 1956

The Honorable Clair Engle
Chairman, Committee on Insular and Interior Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Engle:

We want you to know that we were very happy to receive your communication commending the recently concluded Alaska Constitutional Convention on the work that was being accomplished here. We have come up with a document that we feel is one of the finest of its kind ever written. We trust that when you and those in the government read it you will feel that your support for our cause has been completely justified.

Our proposed Constitution for the State of Alaska will be before the voters on April 24, 1956. Following the ratification election we here in Alaska plan to push harder than ever for statehood. We want you to know that the vigorous effort you have lent toward attainment of our final objective is deeply appreciated by all Alaskans. We are happy in the knowledge that you plan to just as vigorously support statehood for Alaska in the future.

If you are ever in Alaska I would consider it an honor and a great personal pleasure to make your acquaintance.

Sincerely yours,

WM. A. EGAN
President
Dear Mr. Rivers:

I sincerely hope the Constitutional Convention at the University of Alaska will be a successful one. I have always been in favor of Statehood for Alaska and I am still in favor of it. If you have a Constitution ready to present to the Congress when that takes place, and it certainly will at some time, you will be way ahead of things.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Victor C. Rivers
Member, Alaska Statehood Committee
P. O. Box 153
Juneau, Alaska
SO MANY THANKS FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL TELEGRAM. UNHAPPILY MY SCHEDULE IN JANUARY IS SO HOPELESSLY CROWDED THAT I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR INVITATION TO SPEAK TO YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND AND FORGIVE ME. WARMEST REGARDS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

ADLAI E STEVENSON

(11)
Constitutional Convention
University of Alaska
College, Alaska

Dear Friends:

Knowing just what a tremendous task you face in drawing up the Constitution for the State of Alaska, whose formation I have urged for many years, I hope it will not be amiss to urge you to put every effort into wording it so it will be accepted as you write it.

I hope the coming session of Congress will act on your bill to grant statehood to Alaska and if you have ready a constitution that is acceptable to Congress, it will shorten the time between passage of the bill and statehood.

I have fought for Statehood for Alaska for years and experienced the same disappointment as you did when the bills we have presented before did not pass. I hope it will be different next year.

I know the fifty five of you will make every effort to draw up a fair, sensible and acceptable document, one that will be just to Alaska and retains to you that part of your vast territory to which you believe the State should be entitled.

I believe in Alaska and want to see it become our 49th state. Let us not permit any lessening in our fight for it.

Sincerely,

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, U.S.S.
Constitutional Convention
University of Alaska
College, Alaska

My dear Friends:

Last August, I had the pleasure of visiting your great Territory for the first time and meeting with many of your people. My trip through Alaska and my talks with so many of my fellow Americans there convinced me more than ever that both your Territory and our common Country cannot help but gain when Alaska statehood becomes a reality.

As Chairman of the Democratic Party, I want you to know that you have my full and active support in your fight for statehood, and I pledge that I will do all within my power to assure enactment of the Alaska statehood bill at the earliest possible date.

In your important Convention to draft a Constitution for the future state, you have the responsibility and the honor of establishing for future generations firm guidance in the democratic processes of government. It is an opportunity to dramatize for all people our faith in the greatest system of government on earth, the American democracy.

You have my best wishes and my fervent hope and support for outstanding success in the drafting of a Constitution for the New State of Alaska and for early admission to the Union of States.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Butler
MY THOUGHTS ARE VERY MUCH WITH ALASKA AS YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEETS. PERHAPS YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN MY CONVICTION THAT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF-RULE, OF STATEHOOD IF YOU PLEASE, CAN GIVE IMPETUS TO THE GREATER GROWTH OF WHICH ALASKA IS SO MANIFESTLY CAPABLE. YOUR DELIBERATIONS ARE BEING FOLLOWED CLOSELY BECAUSE AS I SAID WHEN I WAS WITH YOU NOT LONG AGO, THE FUTURE BELONGS TO ALL OF US OR NONE OF US AND THAT US INCLUDES THE WARM, STOUT HEARTS AND THE BREATHLESS MAJESTY OF ALASKA

ADALAI E STEVENSON

(47)
The Honorable William A. Egan
President
Alaska Constitution Convention
Constitution Hall
College, Alaska

Dear Mr. Egan:

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you and your 54 fellow delegates as the Alaska Constitutional Convention moves toward a conclusion. At the same time I would like to congratulate all the people of Alaska for having the vision to bring the Convention into being, through the legislative assembly, in a progressive step toward Statehood.

It is my misfortune that my recent return from abroad which took me through Alaska could not be scheduled so that I might have been in Fairbanks during, rather than before, the Constitutional Convention. I know it would have been a most stimulating and enjoyable experience to be with you, for, from the reports I am receiving, I am greatly impressed by the intelligence and exceptional devotion of the 49 men and 6 women gathered in Constitution Hall at the University of Alaska to take part in this historic undertaking.

With all the other friends of Alaska statehood, I am deeply saddened by the repeated failures of this Administration to unequivocally support the entry of this very worthy group into the Union. However, it is my deep and sincere belief that the Convention will write a constitution in conformity with our American ideals and institutions and one which will meet the requirements and match the aspirations of the Alaskans of the future State and that this noble undertaking will convince all who now oppose Statehood to reconsider their actions.

I cannot advise you when statehood will come for Alaska, but I can tell you, definitely, that it will inevitably come, and that regardless of what office I may hold, this cause which I have long embraced will not only have my support, but my active support.

In conclusion I believe the approval of a Constitution by the delegates
to the Constitutional Convention and later acceptance by the people of Alaska will be the signal that further progress has been made toward the grant of Statehood. However difficult that goal may be in attainment there must be no diminishment in enthusiasm. The final victory will be sufficient reward for Alaska's long years of toil and for the setbacks which have come from time to time. No American can do less than to seek every privilege of American citizenship. Alaskans will not enjoy all those privileges until they are citizens of the State of Alaska. Again, I pledge you my everlasting support until we win.

With best wishes to all of you, I am

Sincerely,

Estes Kefauver
U. S. Senator
Mr. William A. Egan, President
Alaska Constitutional Convention
University of Alaska
College, Alaska

Dear Mr. Egan:

I am informed that you and fifty-four other Alaskans, elected by the people of the Territory, are now meeting in Constitutional Convention at the University of Alaska and are actively engaged in drafting the Constitution for the State of Alaska.

I wish to commend your Convention on the necessary and important work that it is doing. The drafting of the Constitution and the approval of that Constitution by the people of the Territory of Alaska will be a further step forward toward Statehood. This work is important because the provisions of the Constitution will reflect the political maturity and the capabilities of self-government of the people of Alaska.

The action of the people of Alaska in adopting the Constitution will again give emphatic evidence of their desire for Statehood and a termination of the intermediate stage of Territorial development which has continued for more than half a century.

You have all my good wishes in your labors and my most sincere and vigorous support toward your final objective, Statehood for Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

CLAIR ENGLE
Chairman
WILLIAM A. Egan, President

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FEB

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RADIOGRAM CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE
ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE PROPOSED ALASKA CONSTITUTION
IS RATIFIED BY THE VOTERS IN APRIL, I AM CERTAIN THAT
CONGRESS WILL TAKE DUE CONSIDERATION OF IT IN CONNECTION WITH
ITS CONSIDERATION OF ANY STATEHOOD LEGISLATION FOR THE
TERRITORY. IN THE MEANTIME I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE
RATIFIED CONSTITUTION WILL RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Your letter of January 10th enclosing a copy of the message which President Egan sent President Eisenhower, is received. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing me with a copy of this message.

I am,

With all good wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely,

Frank A. Barrett, U.S.S.

FAB: mb
Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
Delegate from Alaska  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

I appreciate having a copy of the message forwarded to President Eisenhower by William Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention regarding Alaska Statehood.

Please be sure of my interest and with warmest regards, I am

Cordially,

George

GEORGE H. BENDER,  
United States Senator
Hon. E. L. Bartlett  
House Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter with the attached copy of the telegram relative to Alaska statehood, which I received yesterday.

I appreciate having this information made available to me and will include it in my file. As you know, I favor statehood for Alaska, and I sincerely trust the progress referred to in the President's message comes about this session.

Cordially,

[Signature]

ALAN BIBLE
Hon. E. L. Bartlett,
House Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th enclosing a copy of the wire to the President sent by Mr. William A. Egan, President, Alaska Constitutional Convention.

I am aware of the interest in this Convention and am following developments with great interest.

With warm personal regards, I remain

Cordially,

J. Edgar Chenoweth, M.C.
January 13, 1956

Hon. E. L. Bartlett
Delegate From Alaska
House of Representatives
Room 1029 House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of January 10th and the enclosed copy of the message sent to the President by Mr. Egan, which will be brought to Mr. Engle's attention when he returns from California.

Sincerely yours,

JACK MATTESON
Secretary
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 12, 1956

The Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
1029 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the radiogram from President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention.

I shall be very much interested in seeing the constitution prepared by your Convention for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joseph R. Farrington
Delegate from Hawaii
January 13, 1956

Hon. E. L. Bartlett  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Upon my return from Puerto Rico, I found your letter of January 10, 1956 with which you included a radiogram from President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, quoting a message wired to the President regarding Alaska Statehood.

You know how interested I am in your fight for statehood and in all facets of the struggle. Having myself served as President of the Puerto Rico Constitutional Convention, I have some feeling of what your people are now going through and I know that this will evolve something fine and good for Alaska.

Sincerely,

A. Fernós-Isern  
Resident Commissioner
January 11, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, with which you enclosed a copy of the communication sent to President Eisenhower from William A. Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention.

I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness in making this information available to me, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Barry Goldwater
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 12, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
Delegate from Alaska
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the radiogram from the Alaska Constitutional Convention in session to President Eisenhower on Alaska statehood. I am glad to have this.

Most sincerely,

JAMES A. HALEY, M.C.
Honorable E. L. Bartlett
Delegate from Alaska
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Delegate Bartlett:

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me, in your letter of January 10, a copy of a message wired to President Eisenhower regarding Alaskan Statehood.

I am glad to have this information for my file.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

SPEWBER L. HOLLAND
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for sending along the quotation
from Mr. Egan's wire to the President.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Craig Hosmer, M. C.
Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, transmitting copy of Mr. Egan's telegram to President Eisenhower, advising him of the meeting of the Alaska Constitutional Convention for the purpose of ratifying the Constitution. I appreciate this information.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
The Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
Delegate for Alaska  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the radiogram you received from Mr. William A. Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, quoting his message to President Eisenhower.

I join you in the hope that statehood for Alaska will soon become a reality.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Kuchel
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  

January 13, 1956  

Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Mr. Bartlett:  

Thank you for sending me a copy of the telegram which President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention sent to President Eisenhower. The message is a strong one. It is my hope the work of the convention will be highly successful and that when your constitution is submitted to the Congress, your application will be acted upon favorably.  

With kindest regards,  

Yours very sincerely,  

[Signature]

HERBERT H. LEHMAN  
NEW YORK  

THOMAS V. BRUNKARD  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
United States Senate
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
January 11, 1956

Hon. E. L. Bartlett
Delegate from Alaska
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 10 enclosing a copy of Mr. Egan's telegram to President Eisenhower.

Although I am not very hopeful, I certainly join in hoping that we can make progress on this matter in this session of Congress.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Russell B. Long
United States Senator
Louisiana
January 12, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 10th, with a copy of the telegram which President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention sent to President Eisenhower. I have read the same with special interest.

I am aware of the history of several states in the past who employed the same method of dramatizing their admission into the Union, and they did it very effectively as history records. I know it is unnecessary for me to tell you of the fact that I am and always have been a strong supporter of Alaska's admission into the Union as a State.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,
Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
Delegate from Alaska  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 10 and the copy of the telegram which the President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention sent to the President on January 9th.

I do appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of Mr. Egan's message and hope you will have an opportunity to convey my thanks to him.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

George W. Malone
Honorable E.L. (Bob) Bartlett
Delegate from Alaska
Suite 1029 New House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Delegate Bartlett:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter together with the text of the message wired President Eisenhower from the Alaska Constitutional Convention in connection with statehood for Alaska.

It has arrived in the absence of Congressman Metcalf, who is in the field attending flood control hearings, but will be called to his attention upon his return.

Very truly yours,

Merrill Englund
Executive Secretary
United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

January 11, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
Delegate from Alaska
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Delegate Bartlett:

Thank you for your letter of January 10 and the copy
of the radiogram from the President of the Alaska Constitutional
Convention.

I share your hope that progress can be made in this
session for Alaskan statehood. Of course, the differentiation
made by the President in his State of the Union message between
Alaska and Hawaii indicates the continued opposition of the
Administration to Alaskan statehood. However, every effort must
be made to overcome this roadblock.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Wayne Morse
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  

January 12, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Just a hasty note to thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the radiogram sent President Eisenhower by President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. O'Mahoney

MK
Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
Delegate from Alaska  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of recent date enclosing a copy of the telegram sent you by President William A. Egan, with reference to the Alaska Constitutional Convention.

I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending this to me.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
The Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

I appreciate very much your courtesy in sending me a copy of President Egan's radiogram to President Eisenhower. It is a good sound approach to the question of statehood for Alaska, and I am confident it will go a long way toward bringing this about.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. Kerr Scott  
Senator

WKS:mhc
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

January 12, 1956

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 10, enclosing copy of a radiogram from President William A. Egan of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. I am glad to have the information.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George A. Shuford, M.C.
Hon. E. L. Bartlett
Delegates from Alaska
House Office Building

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of January 10th and the enclosed copy of the radiogram sent to the President by Mr. William A. Egan. I am glad to have this material.

May I offer my congratulations to you and to the people of Alaska upon the convening of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, and to express my feeling that this is a substantial step toward the statehood Alaska so richly deserves.

With my best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

B. F. Sisk

BFS:j/e
Honorable E. L. Bartlett  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Delegate Bartlett:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 10, enclosing copy of text of message forwarded to President Eisenhower by William A. Egan, President of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, now in session in College, Alaska, relative to admission of Alaska to the Union.

I want to thank you for your courtesy in furnishing me with this information.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur V. Watkins
Honoroble E. L. Bartlett  
Delegate from Alaska  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Thank you so much for your letter of January 10th, containing the text of the message of Mr. William A. Egan to President Eisenhower.

I am happy to know that such satisfactory progress is being made and I do hope it will be possible for you to keep me informed on this matter.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

HERMAN WELKER  
U. S. Senator, Idaho
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU THAT FIFTY-FIVE ALASKANS, DULY ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY ARE
NOW IN SESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA WRITING THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA.
THE WRITTEN DOCUMENT WILL BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY SIXTH AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS
OF ALASKA FOR THEIR RATIFICATION IN APRIL. IT IS ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT OUR RATIFIED CONSTITUTION
WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO YOU AND THE CONGRESS BY EARLY MAY SO THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE AS YOU SAID
IN YOUR STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE THAT QUOTE PROGRESS TOWARD STATEHOOD FOR ALASKA CAN BE MADE
IN THIS SESSION UNQUOTE. WHEN OUR CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO YOU AND THE CONGRESS WE
SHALL RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT ALASKA BE ADMITTED TO THE UNION WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES
ENJOYED BY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE FORTY-EIGHT STATES. WE SHALL HOPE FOR YOUR SUPPORT
IN THIS ENDAVOR.

Alaska Constitutional Convention
William A. Egan, President
THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU THAT FIFTY-FIVE ALASKANS, DULY ELECTED BY THE
PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY ARE NOW IN SESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
WRITING THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA.

THE WRITTEN DOCUMENT WILL BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY SIXTH
AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA FOR THEIR RATIFICATION
IN APRIL.

IT IS ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT OUR RATIFIED CONSTITUTION WILL BE
TRANSMITTED TO YOU AND THE CONGRESS BY EARLY MAY SO THAT IT WILL
BE POSSIBLE AS YOU SAID IN YOUR STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE THAT QUOTE
PROGRESS TOWARD STATEHOOD FOR ALASKA CAN BE MADE IN THIS SESSION UNQUOTE

WHEN OUR CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO YOU AND THE CONGRESS
WE SHALL RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT ALASKA BE ADMITTED TO THE UNION
WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS
IN THE 48 STATES.

WE SHALL HOPE FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOR

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
WILLIAM A EGAN, PRESIDENT

COPIES TO EL Bartlett
Senator Magnuson
Senator Knowland
Congressman Eagle
and such others as have a direct interest in the subject

presented on the floor January 1956