

JAN. 1957

Please Return to Me

Dear Mr. Engle:

I refer to your letter of January 16, 1957, requesting this Department to furnish reports on the following bills, each of which deals with the question of Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii:

H.R. 49	H.R. 848
H.R. 50	H.R. 849
H.R. 339	H.R. 1242
H.R. 340	H.R. 1243
H.R. 628	H.R. 1246
H.R. 629	

The Department of State's interest in this question is, of course, confined to the effect which the admission of Alaska and Hawaii to the Union might have on our foreign relations. In a general sense the Department believes that the granting of Statehood to these two territories would be favorably regarded by most foreign powers.

As you know, Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter calls upon those members which administer non-self-governing territories to develop self-government in them and to take account of the political aspirations of their peoples. Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii, particularly in view of the concrete expressions of public opinion in its favor in these territories, would seem to constitute a clear example of the development of self-government referred to in the Charter, and as such, should be viewed in a favorable light by the great majority of U.N. members.

The Honorable,
Clair Engle, Chairman,
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.

The Bureau of the Budget, in informing the Department that it has no objection to the submission of this report, has requested that the President's remarks on this subject in his budget message of January 16, 1957, be brought to your attention. In that message the President said:

"I also recommend the enactment of legislation admitting Hawaii into the Union as a State, and that, subject to area limitations and other safeguards for the conduct of defense activities so vitally necessary to our national security, statehood also be conferred upon Alaska."

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Robert C. Hill
Assistant Secretary

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Clearances: A draft letter addressed to Senator Jackson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Territories, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, dealing with Bills S. 49 and S. 50 on this subject, which was similar in substance, was cleared by the Bureau of the Budget and by the following Departmental officers:

<u>Mr. Rhoads</u>	<u>In House</u>
ADA - Mr. Messers	PS - Miss Bacon
BUR - Mr. Hurley	L/UNA - Mrs. Fleming
NEA - Mr. Ludlow	IO - Mr. Wainwright
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By GJNARA Date 6-6-88
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