



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

22 June 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL CARROLL:

1. At your request, I have looked into the problem of an appropriate group or agency to determine a proper design for the flag of the United States, to be adopted whenever additional States are admitted to the Union.
2. In the past, the Executive Branch of the Government appears to have assumed the prerogative of making the necessary decision as to the arrangement of the stars. As you know, the basic law is the Act of 4 April 1818, which prescribes 13 horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and a union of white stars in a blue field with one star for each State. The law, however, does not prescribe the design of the union.
3. In 1912 when the last two states were admitted, the actual design of the Union was recommended by a joint Army-Navy Board to the President, and approved by him in an executive order. On several occasions prior thereto, joint Army-Navy Boards made the recommendations. On those occasions the exact extent of Presidential approval is not clear.
4. Although backed by custom, I personally do not believe that the military as such should make the only recommendations for the solution. In my opinion, the problem is much broader than the military. I therefore suggest that a joint Commission, appointed by the President and having representatives from the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government, should provide a more suitable and representative group. The size and membership of such a Commission would of course require considerable study to make it truly representative. I have no fixed ideas at present on that membership, but would be glad to furnish you my suggestions, if you should so desire, after I have the opportunity to give that phase much more thought. In this connection, I do not presume to exclude from that membership distinguished individuals who are not directly connected with the Federal Government.

Miles Reber

MILES REBER
Major General, GA
Chief of Legislative
Liaison

1 Inclosure
File