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STATEHOOD FOR ALASKA AND HAWAII
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CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS

(No statements on Statehood)

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS - February 2, 1953

"Another of its major concerns is our country's island possessions. Here, one matter deserves attention. The platforms of both political parties promised immediate statehood to Hawaii. The people of that Territory have earned that status. Statehood should be granted promptly with the first election scheduled for 1954."

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND DAY'S SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE - Friday, December 18, 1953

On the second day of conferences with Congressional leaders and Chairmen of Senate and House Committees, eight main subjects were discussed, one of which was Hawaiian Statehood:

"The question of statehood for Hawaii was discussed and it was pointed out that the Republican Platform urges "immediate statehood" for that Territory."

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - February 25, 1953 ✓

Q. Barnet Nover, Denver Post. Will you try to recommend early Congressional action on Statehood for Alaska?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe the Republican Platform says that Alaska's situation will be studied, to make a determination as to whether or not Statehood should be recommended and granted. I think in the case of Hawaii, the case has been proved. It's a large population, it has a broad local industry to support it -- broad tax base -- they provided fighting men in the war, and made a fine record -- and their case has been proven.

To my mind, not yet has the Alaskan case been completely proven. It is more a dependency than it is a separate and self-supporting region. And I think the cases are not the same, so I am not yet prepared to make such a recommendation.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - May 14, 1953 ✓

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Alice Johnson, Seattle Times. Mr. President, are you still opposed to the inclusion of Alaska in the Hawaiian Statehood Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I am personally of the belief that the Hawaiian bill should be handled by itself on its merits. I have said time and again, and this is entirely aside from what the Republican Platform said on it -- my own conviction is this: In Hawaii you have an economy that is self-supporting, there is a large population, and on top of that, they delivered a record in World War Two that to my mind clearly entitles them to the privileges of Statehood. And I would like to see that case handled clearly and specifically on its merits, without complicating it with any other question -- any other matter.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS - January 7, 1954

"The people of Hawaii are ready for statehood. I renew my request for this legislation in order that Hawaii may elect its State officials and its representatives in Washington along with the rest of the country this fall."

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - January 13, 1954

Q. Alice Starr (??) Seattle Times. A year ago in your State of the Union Message you recommended statehood eventually for Alaska, under certain circumstances. This year you didn't even mention Alaska. Does that mean that you are less favorably disposed to their statehood --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It merely means that the circumstances that I would lay down as the complete justification for Alaskan statehood have not yet arrived.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - February 10, 1954

Q. Knowles, New York Times. You were asked for statehood for Hawaii. It looks like you are going to get it -- there is a bill out in the Senate. But there are also bills reported both in the Senate and House for statehood for Alaska. Do you think the time is ripe for Alaskan statehood as well?

THE PRESIDENT: These things are now separated on the Hill, where they are still under discussion, and I think, rather than start a debate in this body on the same question, I will wait till they decide. Then if you want to ask me that question again, I will talk to you about it.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - March 10, 1954

Q. Mr. President, Hensley, United Press. Senator Anderson yesterday formally called up his amendment to tack Alaska onto the Hawaiian Statehood bill. Do you have any comment on that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, our leadership has promised to do its best to keep them separate, and I personally favor that plan.

Now you people know where I have stood on this business of Statehood for the two Territories. You know that I take a Platform seriously. I am trying very much to carry out the basic promises of the Republican Party Platform. I note that some of them are paralleled in the Democratic Platform. So I don't see any reason why each of these States can't be handled on its own merits.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - April 7, 1954

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, Alice Johnson, Seattle Times. Last week, the Senate passed a measure giving -- enabling both Hawaii and Alaska to achieve Statehood. If the House should pass that measure, would you veto the bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I believe I have made the rule here never to predict what I will do. I am sometimes like the man, you know, who -- in a speech -- was introduced a little bit over-generously, he says, well, I am going to be interested in what I have to say, because there has certainly been great predictions made about it. (laughter)

Now, I have stood for a long time for Hawaiian Statehood. I thought there were certain considerations of national security, and so on, that made the other case a separate one. If these bills are put together, I will have to take a look at them at the time, and study them and decide what I believe to be right at that moment. I just can't predict.

Q. (Alice Johnson) May I ask just one more allied question? Governor Heintzleman recently suggested that Statehood should be given only to the populated area of Alaska. Would you favor such a move as that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know whether I would favor it. It certainly is

(Continued)

THE PRESIDENT (Continued):

a different problem, and I would look at it with an entirely different viewpoint than I would if we had all those outer reaches -- barren outer reaches -- that are lying on the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean, included also. It would be a different problem, in my mind.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - July 7, 1954

Q. Harry Frantz, United Press. Reverting to your comment on the legislative program, have you abandoned hope of getting legislation for Hawaiian statehood this session, and if so, will you carry over the campaign into future conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, No, I haven't entirely abandoned hope. I would be foolish to say that there aren't some very tricky problems involved in it, because the Senate put both these together. But I haven't abandoned hope at all, by any means.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - July 14, 1954

Q. (interposing) Smith, of the Portland Oregonian. I have been trying to ascertain the Administration's position more specifically on Statehood for Alaska, and in the Interior Department I hear there are certain defense considerations there, but at the Pentagon there is no apparent apprehension on that count. And in both Departments they suggest that in the White House there is a certain feeling on that point. I wonder if you could clarify this whole matter?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you are asking my personal opinion. You said "White House." I suppose you mean me, because I think I know a little more about the military than anybody else in the White House. (laughter)

Indeed, I am concerned. Anyone that looks at the map can see what the importance of Alaska -- the Alaska territorial expanse -- is to the United States from a security standpoint. So I am very deeply concerned as to the fate of all of those outlying areas that lie, let us say, west of the 150th meridian and, let us say, north of the Yukon or the Brooks Range. Those regions are of tremendous importance. And I don't think I should say more than that.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) In that same connection -- Vandercook of the American Broadcasting Company -- I don't quite understand the theory that a territory is necessarily easier to defend than a State. Would you explain that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would say this: I don't say it's easier to defend, I say it's easier to use, because in one case it is under the absolute control of central government, and in the other case it is not.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT - HOLLYWOOD BOWL, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - September 23, 1954

" - - - - Many other important problems will command the attention of the next Congress.

Among them will be measures for - - - - Statehood for Hawaii --"

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT - CITY AUDITORIUM, DENVER, COLORADO - October 8, 1954

"We must drive through partisan obstructions to achieve statehood for Hawaii, - -."

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE - October 27, 1954

Q. Mr. President, Alice Johnson of the Seattle Times and Alaskan papers. The Republicans recently experienced an almost one hundred percent disaster in the Alaskan election, and both the Republicans and the Democrats, those who won and those who were defeated, attributed the Democratic victory to the feeling of Alaskans' disappointment that they did not -- weren't included in the Statehood move. Will this lead you to explain further to the people of Alaska your position?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can't say what I will comment on this. As a matter of fact, I haven't seen all of these records. I haven't seen these statements. But if I have anything to say, I will say it, I am sure.