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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 5, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR

GOVERNOR ADAMS

There is need for finally determining the procedure under which the Flag will be modified to contain forty-nine stars. This has been discussed on a preliminary basis with the President earlier this summer, at which time the President was interested in having some sort of a group established to review the matter briefly and advise him appropriately.

There has been no fixed tradition for accomplishing the changes in the past. Admiral Furlong's letter of June 8, 1953, to the President provides an accurate summary of the procedures followed heretofore (Tab A).

An advisory group, when first discussed with the President, might have taken the form of (1) interdepartmental; (2) prominent public citizens; (3) joint -- including Congressional membership. Since then, Congress declined to move in on this and both Speaker Rayburn and Joe Martin have expressed their concurrence in having the President handle this strictly from the Executive Branch.

Defense Department very early made a recommendation to the President based on the traditional military interest and activity in modifications of the Flag. Consequently, a great deal of the basic work has already been accomplished and it would be relatively easy for a more broadly based group to review this work and render advice to the President. This suggests the desirability of forming the group exclusively of Administration officials. Appropriate membership would consist of the top men or at least an Assistant Secretary from the following:

- ✓ Defense - Murray Snyder representing Secretary McElroy who is already on record.
- Treasury* ✓ State - Secretary Herter
- Interior - Secretary Seaton
- ✓ Fine Arts - Mr. Finley
- Veterans - Mr. Whittier
- GSA - Mr. Floete

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY

Copies filed Permanent Files - Flag of the United States.

A limited sampling of the staff (including General Persons, Governor Pyle, and General Goodpaster) believes the interdepartmental group would be preferable to a public advisory group for several reasons:

(1) The nature of the task does not seem sufficiently heavy to warrant calling very prominent people to Washington for the necessary briefing and conferring;

(2) Much difficulty would attach to setting up any fully representative body because of the great number of patriotic groups and organizations;

(3) Much time would probably be expended, whereas it is desirable to accomplish this in the next two or three months.

However, should it be determined for any reason that this must be a public group rather than a governmental group, I am attaching a list of possible members selected generally for their prominence in public affairs rather than for particular representation of any of the various patriotic groups (Tab B).

Also attached are the designs submitted by Defense. Secretary McElroy recommended the staggered rows of stars rather than the square 7 x 7 (Tab D).

If a governmental group is decided upon, it might be created by Presidential letter (draft attached at Tab C) to the potential members.


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Enclosures:

- Tab A - Admiral Furlong's letter
- Tab B - Possible members from public
- Tab C - Draft Presidential letter
- Tab D - Designs submitted by Defense

Possible Membership for Public Advisory Group

General Gruenther

Arthur Schuck - Boy Scouts of America

Harvey Higley

David Finley

Governor Leroy Collins - Chairman of the Governors' Conference
this year

Ambassador Luce

Admiral Nimitz

Harold Dodds

_____ - President of the League of Women Voters or
the Federation of Women's Clubs

_____ - Head of Freedom Foundation or the Editor
of the publication "American Heritage"