

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 8, 1961

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

President John F. Kennedy, following consultation with Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, today announced his intention to appoint M. Wilfred Goding, 49, veteran career specialist on territorial affairs, as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

A native of Skagway, Alaska, Mr. Goding received his elementary and high school education there. He received his A.B. degree from Yankton, (S. D.), College in 1933. Mr. Goding taught high school classes in Millboro, S.D., in 1935, and subsequently was high school principal in Batesland, S.D., and taught in the territorial school at Napamute, Alaska.

He was a staff assistant, 1940-42, to Anthony J. Dimond, Alaska's Delegate to Congress. During World War II he served as a civilian analyst in the Office of Economic Warfare Analysis, and with the Board of Economic Warfare and the Foreign Economic Administration. From 1944 to 1947 he was assistant chief and acting chief of the Division of Territories under the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. During this period much of his work centered on plans for promoting Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. He served as assistant chief of the Department's Alaska Branch 1949-51. From 1951-53 he was a technical specialist with the Department's Division of Land Utilization. In 1953 he joined the Department's Technical Review Staff, and served with it until transferring to the Congressional staff post last year.

Mr. Goding has been a member of the staff of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce since last September, conducting a staff study of shipping services to Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the nation's territorial areas.

He is married to the former Harriet E. Kirk, of Denver, Colo.; they have a son, Charles, 13. The Godings live at 328 Martha's Road, Alexandria, Va. The post pays \$18,500.

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