

June 7, 1966

Mr. Secretary:

For your information, Senator Bartlett just called, being initially "very troubled" by Wil Goding's status, but ending up being "highly gratified" by our proposed arrangements.

Wil had called him from Honolulu, apparently expressing consternation that a plot was afoot to cause him to cease to be High Commissioner, thereby hurting his retirement status.

I told Senator Bartlett that our current plan is

- (a) to have Wil vacation, as High Commissioner, until August 1;
- (b) to have him then report to the Department in a lesser job, but one for which he'd be paid precisely what he's now getting as High Commissioner;
- (c) to abolish such new job on October 1, so that he'd be involuntarily separated, and thus entitled to the same maximum retirement benefits that he'd get if he retired as High Commissioner; and
- (d) maybe, but only maybe, to work out an assignment for Wil in Alaska for a portion of the August 1-October 1 period.

I further told him that none of the above had yet been communicated to Wil, because we wanted first to talk with Mr. Norwood to learn his reaction to a month's postponement in his becoming High Commissioner. The Senator said he thought that was essential and he quite understood. (I plan to talk with Mr. Norwood about June 9, when he is to pass through Guam on his way back to Saipan. I'm quite sure he'll be agreeable to the postponement, but we must be sure, and he should be told the rationale, which I plan to do.)

Senator Bartlett said he was perfectly clear, from his conversations with you, that Wil wasn't going to be kept on as High Commissioner until October 1, but he was troubled by the retirement bit. He expressed the vastest pleasure at the several points mentioned above, said he thought this Department was being "marvelously cooperative", or some such phrase, and thanked everybody galore. He's very happy. He does understand that these details remain tentative, and particularly that they're contingent upon Mr. Norwood's reaction, and said he'd do nothing until he hears that everything is firmed up. I agreed to call him when that happens.

Mrs. Ruth G. Van Cleve

cc: Assistant Secretary Anderson

cc: Mrs. Vidi