

Vide Releases LBJ Letters to Bartlett as Last Communique

WASHINGTON—On the day Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett died in a Cleveland hospital, President Johnson marked the tenth anniversary of Alaska Statehood by writing two letters, one to the People of Alaska and the other to Senator Bartlett.

Mrs. Bartlett has asked that the two letters be released as a last communique from Senator Bartlett's office.

The text of the two letters from the President follow.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 11, 1968

Dear Bob:

As we approach the tenth anniversary of Alaska's Statehood, I want you to know the

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Last Communique . . .

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growing satisfaction I derive from my small part in the determined effort to bring your fine State into the Union.

Among my most pleasant memories of this last decade are those of our cooperation to build a better life for your constituents and for all Americans. As I look back on these years, I remember the high hopes we shared, and the faith we placed in Alaska's progress. This milestone in its history certainly proves that our hopes were not in vain, and that our faith was well rewarded.

So that the people of Alaska may know the fullness of my admiration for them and the depth of my pride in their achievements, I want to join in own special tribute with a personal note.

Please know that you are very much in our thoughts each day, and that our prayers are for your restored good health.

Your friend,
LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Honorable E.L. Bartlett
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1968

TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA:

January 3rd marks the tenth anniversary of Alaska's Statehood. It is a date that brings great pride to all who took part in the unrelenting effort to bring your State into the Union. My personal satisfaction from this productive decade in your history is unsurpassed.

It is a satisfaction that derives from the fine example you have set in Federal-State cooperation, and from the great good that has come of it. Neither earthquake nor flood has slowed Alaska's growth. The enviable partnership at all levels of government was strongest in the midst of adversity, and paid rich dividends through constructive planning and wholehearted participation in the task of rebuilding.

This milestone finds Alaska prospering, and her people filled with confidence and courage. It finds us full of admiration for her people, and ready to share your determination to make your State an envied showcase of the American promise—furthered and fulfilled.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON