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IN GETTYSBURG, PA.

WITH JAMES C. HAGERTY

JANUARY 3, 1959

P. M. -- 3.50 -- E.S.T.

S A T U R D A Y

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MR. HAGERTY: The President expects to return to Washington later tomorrow afternoon, by car.

On the meeting on Monday, which is at nine o'clock, the following will be in attendance. In addition to the President, the Vice President -- on the Senate side, Bridges, Dirksen, Fulbright, Green, Haydn, Hickenlooper, Jennings, Johnson, Mansfield, Russell, Saltonstall and Wiley.

On the House side: Albert, of Oklahoma; Leo Allen, of Illinois; Les Arends, of Illinois; Frances Bolton, of Ohio; Cannon, of Missouri; Carnahan, of Missouri; Chipfield, of Illinois; Halleck, of Indiana; Martin, of Mass.; McCormack, of Mass.; Morgan, of Penna.; Rayburn, of Texas; Taber, of New York; Vinson, Georgia. That's all I have got.

Q. Is Bolton, what?

Q. ???

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, I know Dulles will be there. I don't know who else.

Q. Is Bolton what, foreign?

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know.

Q. About the flag, ---

MR. HAGERTY: I don't expect to see you tomorrow. As a matter of fact, I am going down first thing in the morning.

Q. --- was there any last-minute change in the choice of the design for it?

MR. HAGERTY: No. Who said there was?

Q. I am just asking ---

MR. HAGERTY: It was a decision made by the President.

Q. Was there any other design that he would have preferred?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, there was one he liked equally as well, and that was one with the five and six staggered, ~~but~~ as he said down there today at the ceremony. But there was a flag manufacturer that had been

advertising that design for the last two weeks -- two months in his letterhead, and so on, and so we just, when we found that out, after an investigation, we had to drop that. And then the President went into the one that he picked. But he thought well of the other one, although it ~~there~~ was not any choice as such. But it was under serious consideration until investigation turned up the advertisement by a flag manufacturer.

Q. Did you put this out down there?

MR. HAGERTY: I told some of them that.

Q. When was this discovered?

MR. HAGERTY: Oh, a little while ago. I don't know exactly what ~~the~~ date -- little while ago. As a matter of fact, if you get the Baltimore Sun for the day before yesterday, there was a model ?? by this flag manufacturer on the front page, with a photo.

Q. You mean, saying this is going to be it?

MR. HAGERTY: No, but ---

Q. There were two of them there ---

Q. Was that the picture where there were two displayed, it might be one of these?

Q. Yes.

Q. Of those two that were displayed, was the one that was chosen either one of them?

MR. HAGERTY: No, but it had something to do with the decision, but the indentations in the Flag is what the President liked in the field, rather than the flush. And it was a question of choosing, and he chose the one we announced.

Q. Jim, do you anticipate/having something to say later tonight any possibility of more than what you said in Washington about the Russian ---

MR. HAGERTY: No, I donot think so, other than the statement the President made and I put out this morning, there would be no other.

Q. Any possibility of church tomorrow?

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know. I haven't heard.

Q. Are there any friends arrived out there?

MR. HAGERTY: No. John and Barbara and the kids, and they will all go back tomorrow.

Q. Will there be any more conferences with anybody with the President before this thing on Monday? I mean, briefings, or latest details of ~~INTERNATIONAL~~ international ~~and~~ -- Berlin, and so on and so forth?

MR. HAGERTY: I don't know what you mean by that, Bill. The President gets reports every day ---

Q. Just be normal then?

MR. HAGERTY: He gets them every day.

Q. He isn't going to do any more -- the set-up on this thing, that is what I am trying to get at.

MR. HAGERTY: That was discussed with the staff and the President this morning.

Q. This morning.

Q. What you told them this morning about the flag, did you say all that in Washington earlier today?

MR. HAGERTY: Yes, but I am not so sure who I said it to. I didn't hold any formal press conference as such. It was after the ceremony broke up and the President himself said that he liked another design equally as well, and he told Mr. Hackwood (??) that, and some of the others, after the ceremony broke up. Then some of the newspaper men came to me, and said do you know any of these other designs, and I said Yes I do. I told them that. That was a sort of catch-as-catch-can in the lobby, but the wire men were there. I don't know who else was there. Okay?

END

