

Maurice Wilfred Goding

Maurice Wilfred Goding was born in Skagway, Alaska on September 21, 1911. He was the eldest of four children of Maurice R. and Blenda E. (Lindahl) Goding.

Mr. Goding attended public elementary and high school in Skagway, Alaska. He graduated in 1929. Mr. Goding went to Yankton College in South Dakota and graduated with a A.B. in 1933, with a major in economics and political science. He went to George Washington University and graduated with a law degree in 1950.

Mr. Goding taught in public high schools in Millboro and Batesland, South Dakota (1934-36) and Napamute, Alaska, Territorial School (1936-1938).

He became an inspector for the U.S. Customs Service in Skagway, Alaska, seasons of 1934, 1938, and 1939. Served on staff of Hon. A.J. Dimond, Delegate in Congress from Alaska, Washington, D.C. 1940-1942.

Mr. Goding entered U.S. Civil Service in 1942 as an analyst (economic) on staff of the Board of Economic Warfare and assigned as Assistant to the Chief of the Economic Potential Division, a professional staff group responsible for continuing assessment of the economic capacity and potential of enemy areas; agency reorganization resulted in transfer to the Economic Intelligence Division, Foreign Economic Administration, serving as Assistant to the Chief of organization engaged in the procurement and assessment of economic information on enemy areas.

He was transferred to Department of the Interior, August 1944, as Assistant Chief (and Acting Chief) Alaska Branch, Division of Territories and Island Possessions, for the Office of the Secretary. Involved primarily in "post-war" development planning and participated in shaping the initial administration policy in support of statehood for Alaska and Hawaii (1944-46); also much involved in the initiation of the post-war road and highway construction program in Alaska.

Transferred to the Department of Commerce and served as Technical assistant and Assistant Chief, Alaska Branch, Division of Territories and Island Possessions, Office of the Secretary of the Interior, (1948-51).

Transferred (1951) to the Division of Land Utilization, Office of the Secretary, as a Community Service Specialist. In this capacity served as a staff aide to the Assistant Secretary for Public Land Management; the assignment involving community service aspects of the programs of the Office of territories, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Railroad (1951-53) Staff reorganization with advent of a new administration in 1953 resulted in assignment to the Technical Review Staff, Office of the Secretary in a general staff capacity which involved additionally, interstate water compact negotiations, federal-state relations and departmental program planning.

Transferred in 1960 to the staff of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign

Commerce Committee, involving a study of shipping services to the offshore domestic areas (Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Guam).

Prior to the last assignment noted above, and with the exception of an eighteen-month assignment with the Department of Commerce, most of the sixteen years between 1944 and 1960 were in staff positions in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

Appointed by President John F. Kennedy, effective May 1, 1961 as United States High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Served in this capacity until August 1, 1966. A longer tenure than any of my predecessors in the office. The High Commissioner exercised full executive and legislative authority, under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, over the island groups scattered over a three million square mile area of the Pacific north of the equator and west of the International Date Line. The islands of Micronesia, except for the British Gilberts and the U.S. Territory of Guam. The island groups being the Marshalls, the Carolines, the Marianas and the Palau Islands composed of some 2,000 separate islands, islets and atolls, organized into six administrative districts.

The High Commissioner is charged with the responsibility for carrying out the international obligations undertaken by the United States with respect to the Trust territory. In this capacity he served at five annual sessions of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations as Special Representative of the United States.

Priority attention was given to educational advancement during his term of office. Elementary education was given substantial administration support for the first time. Six district high schools were established with nearly 2,000 students where there had been on "central" high school with 150 students in 1961. Some 450 modern classrooms were built in a three-year period.

Major attention was also given to improvement of transportation, economic development and political development. Airports were built and the capacity of air and sea transportation services expanded many fold. Commercial fishing was reestablished for the first time since the Japanese administration. Other advances were made in agricultural production and in the establishment of a livestock industry.

The major accomplishment in political development came with the establishment, in 1965, of a central legislative body, the Congress of Micronesia and the transfer from the High Commissioner to the new legislature of the basic legislative authority.

Accelerated programs of education, public health, social, political and economic development required a major increase in public funding. Grant funds, appropriated by the United States Congress, were increased nearly threefold during the period of his administration, from approximately \$6 million per annum to \$17.5 million. No budget item was reduced by congressional action in this five-year period.

Retired from U.S. Civil Service, December 31, 1966.

On May 20, 1968 Maurice Wilfred Goding received an honorary Degree of Doctors of Laws from the University of Alaska for his service with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

In the early 1970s Mr. Goding retired to Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Mr. Goding died of pneumonia on September 14, 1998. He was 86.