

Elected 4 times  
3 terms  
unopposed

Prime Minister  
President  
Parliament

Toast by Vice President Humphrey  
at luncheon for President Asgeir Asgeirsson  
President of Iceland

The Museum of History and Technology

Smithsonian Institution

Washington, D.C.

July 19, 1967

Minnesota  
Johnson

Ambassador  
Thorsteinson

Relvaag

President Asgeir Asgeirsson

Mr. President, Mr. Foreign Minister, Distinguished  
Guests, Friends:

Ambassador Thorsteinson

It is a singular pleasure for me to welcome to  
Washington the distinguished President of the Republic  
of Iceland, His Excellency Asgeir Asgeirsson. As  
a citizen from the Midwest, I have been acquainted  
since childhood with the people and culture of Iceland,  
through the many people of Icelandic origin who settled  
in Minnesota, and in North and South Dakota.

During the past year I have had an extraordinary  
opportunity to learn about your country, because the  
United States is fortunate to have as its Ambassador

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to Iceland a distinguished former Governor of Minnesota  
and a personal friend, Ambassador Karl Rolvaag.'

We welcome you as the first citizen of a free and  
democratic society, the President of a country which  
was a founding member of NATO, a country which  
both culture and geography have linked closely to the  
North American continent. We understand that the  
first Europeans to sight the North American continent  
came from your country. We know that Iceland, which  
today has the highest literacy rate in the world, has  
for centuries preserved and transmitted Nordic culture,  
partly through the medium of the Icelandic saga.

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Our special guest today has a record of public  
service rarely equalled in any free country. He  
served for thirty years in the legislature (the Althing).  
He served as Education Minister, Finance Minister  
and Prime Minister before being elected President.  
It is a great honor, Mr. President, to have you with  
us today.

4 Terms as President  
unopposed

I should like to propose a toast to the President  
of Iceland.

Surtsey (Surt. See) Dr. Bauer  
Dr. Geller



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