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PORTLAND, OREGON 97201



COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN:
LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
PER DIEM

MEMBER:
WAYS AND MEANS
JUDICIARY
STATE AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS
PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AND
ORDER OF BUSINESS
CRIMINAL LAW REVISION
COMMISSION
INTERIM COMMITTEE ON LABOR-
MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE
ADMINISTRATION

MAJORITY LEADER
OREGON STATE SENATE
SALEM, OREGON

97310
December 23, 1970

Senator Victor G. Atiyeh
7690 SW Fairmoor Street
Portland, Oregon 97225

Dear Vic:

As an experienced member of the Legislature you are aware that a house of the Legislature does not just happen to run smoothly and efficiently commencing with the first day of a new session. There is a considerable amount of work preliminary thereto, not only in connection with preparation for organization but, also, in preparation for the work of the body to proceed smoothly and efficiently after organization.

In addition to those matters, in recent years there has been an early meeting of at least a portion of the members of the Ways and Means Committee and work commenced by them prior to the opening of the session. It is deemed by many, including the Speaker of the House, that this approach has resulted in a faster start and an earlier finish of the work of the Legislature.

For the past several sessions we have known well in advance who would be elected President of the Senate upon convening of the Legislature, and that person has been able to assume the preliminary workload, arrange for the hiring of desk and other key personnel and attend to solution of the myriad of problems which will and do arise in connection with these matters. This time there is a difference. I have the firm support of fifteen of the members. It is no secret to any of you that in certain

circumstances this may be enough for election and in other circumstances is certainly enough for election. Because of the measure of uncertainty present, however, I cannot proceed to the commitments to personnel and directions to permanent staff necessary to do the task for which you and I have been elected.

Although both you and I would agree that it would be better for the clear demarcation of political party responsibility that my election come wholly from my own party, one member (for whatever his reasons) will not agree in advance to support me. Certainty of my election as your President requires one more firm pledge, which apparently will have to come from your party. For this reason I ask you to give me that pledge.

I should not assume that such a pledge necessarily means any support of either me or my party other than for that efficient discharge of our duties which we owe to the people of this State. Given your pledge, we can proceed with early Ways and Means work, the selection of committees and our other important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bud".

Berkeley Lent

BL/jr
enc