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CROOK, DESCHUTES, JEFFERSON,  
LAKE COUNTIES



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OREGON STATE SENATE  
SALEM, OREGON  
97310

December 29, 1970

Senator Berkeley Lent  
410 Labor Center  
201 Southwest Arthur Street  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Bud,

In reply to your letter asking for my pledge to elect you President of the Senate, let me say first that I have a high regard for your ability and certainly a high personal regard for you. I do not feel I can give you my pledge, as I do not feel this would be fair to my Republican colleagues.

At the present time, as you well know, we are trying to elect a Republican President of the Senate, even though we are a minority. Certainly at this time I think we should remain loyal to all of the party members.

I am rather amused at the editorials you enclosed and others on the same subject.

As a matter of practical politics, the minority of Republicans have joined in the coalition because this gives us a stronger voice in the operation of the Senate. Being in a minority position, I feel this puts us in a stronger position and I honestly feel that the State has not suffered because of this.

Many of the editorials, while decrying the coalition, would now have us desert our position and join another type of coalition, which I believe would not benefit us as Republicans, nor be of a benefit to the State.

Thank you for writing me Bud, and if you are elected President by your Democratic members, I will do everything I can to work with you.

Sincerely yours,

*Gordon*

Gordon W. McKay  
State Senator

GWM:lk