



STATE OF OREGON  
OREGON STATE SENATE  
SALEM

December 31, 1970

The Honorable Berkeley Lent  
Senator, State of Oregon  
315 S. W. 5th  
Portland, Oregon 97204

The Honorable Glenn Huston  
Senator, State of Oregon  
Route 2, Box 176  
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

Dear Senators:

In response to your letter of December 14 requesting the formation of an ad hoc Senate Committee to review the November Senate elections, I asked the assistance of our Legislative Counsel in an effort to determine the best way to go about this. After extensive research, Mr. Robert Lundy has furnished me with an informal opinion on this matter in his letter of December 28, a copy of which is attached for your information.

I call your attention particularly to page 3, paragraph 2, of that letter which states:

"As to the appointment of a special Senate committee for the purpose in question before the convening of the 1971 Regular Session, we have found no authority therefor. In the absence of such authority, such a committee could have no official standing, nor could the results of its work be afforded official status."

In view of this, I have concluded that the recommendations of an ad hoc committee selected and appointed solely by me as President of the Senate for the 55th Legislative Assembly would not, under the law, be binding or have any official status.

As an alternative, I suggest that you, as the Democratic Caucus candidate for Senate President, your majority leader,

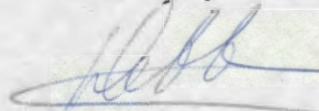
Senator Berkeley Lent  
Senator Glenn Huston

-2-

December 31, 1970

Senator Don Willner and Senator Victor Atiyeh, the elected leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, come to an agreement on three senators to constitute the Senate Committee on Credentials for the 1971 Legislative Session. I will abide by your recommendations and will make an immediate pre-session appointment of the three senators to the Committee on Credentials. This will enable that committee to have their report ready when the 56th Legislative Session convenes on January 11 so as to avoid any unnecessary delay in the seating of Senate Members.

Yours very truly,



E. D. "Debbs" Potts  
President of the Senate

EDP:k

cc: Senator Don Willner, Majority Leader  
Senator Victor Atiyeh, Minority Leader ✓