

THE SUPREME COURT

Edwin J. Peterson
Chief Justice



Salem, Oregon 97310
Telephone 378-6026

February 7, 1990

Honorable Victor Atiyeh
7690 SW Fairmoor
Portland, OR 97225

Re: Various things

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

On February 6, 1990, the court began to hear its February calendar. Midway through the morning's cases, this thought struck me: I am now the senior member of this court.

I am sure that my recollections of April and May, 1979--insofar as my appointment to the Supreme Court is concerned--are much more vivid than yours. I was elected Chief Justice in 1983 by my colleagues, and re-elected to another 6-year term as Chief in 1989.

You had never even met me until the day that my appointment was announced. That is to your credit, for it is incontrovertible evidence of your consistent pattern of judicial appointments without partisanship.

As Governor, you saw state government from a different perspective than do I as Chief Justice and as a member of this court. There can be no denying that the many appointments that you made to the bench of Oregon during your eight years as Governor left a rich legacy. Indeed, your eight years as Governor were, in my opinion, eight years of competent and able leadership. You entered office in a term of high inflation, reduced productivity, and a failing economy. The Oregon economy hit bottom during the middle of your administration.

Honorable Victor Atiyeh
February 7, 1990
Page 2

During the last year or two of your administration, we began to see some blue sky, and after you left office, we have reaped many harvests from the seeds that you sowed during your years as Governor.

Needless to say, I am not writing this letter to curry favor. But as I sat on the bench, it occurred to me that my thanks to you for the assistance and cooperation that you have given me, are overdo.

I hope that this letter finds you and Mrs. Atiyeh well and happy and healthy.

Sincerely,



Edwin J. Peterson
Chief Justice

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