

Portland 24th Octo. 1853

Friend Bush:---

Will you speak to the members of the Legislature as they arrive, in regard to the necessity of amending the law relative to the Penitentiary. Not that I believe that is will not be properly represented to that body by the Commissioners, but there is a provision in the law passed last winter to appoint a keeper of the convicts, but there is no provision made for his salary nor for defraying the expenses of the convicts. Now I have been appointed keeper and have had three convicts, -- two of which I have yet -- Burston, and "Indian Charley" I have been to a great deal of expense procuring -----, clothing, boarding, and rent for room, for they refuse to let me have the jail to keep them in. The Indian has escaped twice, & both times it has cost me near one hundred dollars to have him brought back. And I find it impossible to keep them secure without watching them day & night as there is no prison nor secure place to keep them in. This should all be properly represented before the members -- an I would request you if you please to speak to those members that you are acquainted with.

I will be at your city -- about the first of December. I have collected some twenty-five Dollars for you and I this keep a ----- when I meet those for whom I have bills from you, but its slow work -- some say they have paid -- and some say they will hand it to me in a few days &c &c Would there be any chance for me to get a birth - as clerk in either house when the Legislature sits?

As over

Your friend

Boyd

Portland 24th Oct. 1853

Dear Sir
Friend Phelps

Will you speak to the members of the Legislature as they arrive, in regard to the necessity of amending the law relative to the Penitentiary. Not that I believe that it will not be properly represented to that body by the Commissioners, but there is a provision in the law passed last winter to appoint a Keeper of the Convicts, but there is no provision made for his salary nor for defraying the expenses of the Convicts. Now I have been appointed Keeper and have had three Convicts, two of which I have yet - Burston, and "Indian Charley" I have been to a great deal of expense procuring iron, clothing, boarding, and rent for rooms, for they refuse to let me have the jail to keep them in. The Indian has escaped twice, & both times has cost me near one hundred dollars to have him brought back. And I find it impossible to keep them secure without watching them day & night, as there is no prison now secure place to keep them in. This should all be properly represented before the members - and I would request you

if you please to speak to those members that you are acquainted with.

I will be at your City - about the first of December. I have collected some twenty-five dollars for you and I still keep a diary when I meet those for whom I have bills from you, but its slow work - some say they have paid, and some say they will hand it to me in a few days. You would there be any chance for me to get a bill as clerk in either house when the Legislature sits?

Adieu

Yr friend

Boyd