

Washington D C. March 5 '59

Dear Bush

Understanding that the steamer of the 5th did not go out till Monday the 7th I have delayed writing in answer to your letters of the 3d and 13th of January which recd by last steamer until today.

I received a letter from Harding at the same time I got yours, relative to the policy of one delegation on the subject of appointments. I wish he would let you on my answer as it explains my course.

While I have been here I have maintained my identity and acted on my own responsibility. My first effort was to get the floor in the committee of the whole, when I had a right to speak on a subject not immediately pending, and to explain the present condition of the war debt of Dryer & Washington and to lay down the principles on which we intended to stand in the final adjustment of the claim. I could do little more than this in that direction this session. Stevens and I defeated on a point of order a movement of Faulkner to get an amendment to an appropriation bill, to allow the 3d auditor \$5000 for extra clerical in rehashing over war claims. The Auditor is now left without much ability to harm us. Faulkner is our enemy on these claims.- we have to fight him to the end, unless we submit to his way of adjustment.

The to organize the courts of U.S. in Oregon passed but with a deduction of salary to \$2500. I had to to this or lose the bill for this Congress. The Republicans won against the amount of salary because a democratic judge was to be appointed for life, and they commanded the field, for it required a two thirds vote to take the from the table if anyone objected, so I had to give consent to have an amendment offered reducing the salary, which prevailed by 2 majority several of the "reformists" on the democratic side voting for the amendment. This is an awful Congress on salaries and expenditures.

We got through \$100,000 for a road from Walla Walla to Fort Burton on the Upper Minni. Did not much expect this, but it happened to catch the House in good temper and passed. This will in future constitute the principal line of migration to Oregon and Washington.

Lt. Mullan has been here and very zealous for our interests, and has exercised some influence in our favor (I wish you would let up on him)

There have been a dozen measures that I wanted to introduce but in the storm of a closing congress it has been absolutely impossible.

In relation to the public letters which have been written to Dryer, I have never seen any of them nor been consulted before

they were written as to their contents. My position here has been and is now what it always has been in Oregon. I am, I believe, what I was taken to be when elected, not devoted to the interests of any particular man, but making an effort at all times to devote myself truly to the interest of the state and people. If this will not do I am ready to retire. At the same time I am ready to give credit when credit is due and to state all I know relative to the course of public servant with me if required.

You ask about Gen Lane's course here,- after a careful examination of his conduct here I cannot find but that he has done all he could to push forward our State Bill and war bill as fast as possible.

Since being here I have been more intimate with Stephens of Ga than with any other man (and which is a little strange, as he does not often take a fancy to anybody) and the opinion that I have formed of him is that he could not have been approached with a proposition to delay our State Bill last Congress to force Gen Lane or any other man.- He is a marked man in this particular. Members are afraid of him.-They submit to him their measures and if he does not approve them, it is no use to argue, he will oppose.- If he approves and consents to take charge of a Bill you have to let him take his own course.- he will not take any suggestions. If I had any facts which would be of use to you in the line mentioned in your letter as you request I should feel to communicate them.

A piece of important business committed to my charge will render it impossible for me to come in this steamer. I will do my work here if I never come again. But my delay here will render it impracticable for me to come in Oregon before the convention of the 20th April. I would feel degraded to be now by an other nominee of the democratic party. I have not received a word on this subject since being here except from you and Harding, and do not quite understand the silence. My business letter have been numerous from all quarters and I have endeavored to look after the matter referred to.

I have not shown your letter to Smith nor has he shown me any that you have written him by the last mail.- I understand that Hibben has puffed me greatly in some of his letters.- I have requested him to let me alone. I have desired to stand alone, and if I cannot I will fall.- My personal relation with Gensave(?) are the same as they always have been. I am not his confident nor he mine. I will treat him justly at all times, if I know what is justice.- You generously say that you will not compell me to go into the ring in the present crises. I would rather give up the idea of becoming again a candidate for any office than to do so, for my heart is not in the work.

I will not say anything relative to the senatorial election. To my view the waters are troubled in that quarter, and I could at this time and distance say nothing which would do any good to any body.

If I am renominated it will be before I get home to Oregon- and the same if I am defeated. So I can do nothing but cultivate a stoical indifference to the decree of fate, as being beyond my reach or control.

If I should come back here I think I could do something for Oregon. Since being here this time, I have avoided all notoriety and sought to labor quietly for the measure in which we were interested. Had we been defeated in the state bill I would not have consented to come back here in any capacity except in after

, the one in which I came here- if I could have come thus. I have, I think, the confidence of many leading members of the House who will come to next congress-if I can be retired I believe I can do a good deal to help the county along.

But I must close. I shall leave the House of 20th March.

Yours Most Truly

L.F. Grover

(In strict confidence)

Washington D.C. March 5 '59

Dear Bro,

Understanding that the steamer of the 5th did not go out till Monday the 7th I have delayed writing in answer to your letters of the 3^d and 13th of January which were by last steamer, until today.

I received a letter from Harding at the same time I got yours, relative to the policy of our delegation on the subject of Appointments. I wish he would let you see my answer as it explains my course.

While I have been here I have maintained my identity and acted on my own responsibility. My first effort was to get the floor in the Committee of the whole, when I had a right to speak on a subject not immediately pending, and to explain the present condition of the War Dept of Sugen & Washington and to lay down the principles on which we intended to stand in the final adjustment of the Claims. I could do little more than this in that direction this session. Stevens and I defeated on a point of order a movement of Faulkner to get an amendment to an Appropriation bill, to allow the 2^d Auditor \$5000.

for extra clerical assistance in rehashing our own claims. The Auditor is now life without much ability to harm us. Faulkner is our enemy on these claims, we have to fight him to the end, unless we submit to his way of adjustment.

The bill to organize the Courts of U.S. in Oregon passed but with a deduction of salary to \$2500. I had to submit to this a course the bill for the Congress. The Republicans generally were against the amount of salary because a Democratic judge was to be appointed for life, and they commanded the floor, for it required a two thirds vote to take the bill from the table, if any objection, so I had to give consent to have an amendment offered reducing the salary, which prevailed by 2 majority. Several of the "reformists" on the Democratic side voting for the amendment. This is an awful Congress on salaries and expenditures.

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and passion. This will in future constitute
the principal line of migration to Oregon and
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for our interests, and has exercised some influence
in our favor, (I wish you would let-up on him)

There have been a dozen measures that I
wanted to introduce, but in the storm of a closing
Congress it has been absolutely impossible.

In relation to the public letters which have
been written to Oregon, I have never seen any of
them nor been consulted before they were written
as to their contents. My position here has been
and is now, what it always has been in Oregon,
I am, I believe, what I was taken to be when
elected, not devoted to the interests of any particular man,
but making an effort at all times to devote myself
truly to the interests of the State and people, if this will
not do I am ready to retire. At the same time
I am ready to give credit when credit is due,
and to state all I know relation to the course of public
affairs being with me if required.

You ask about Paul Lewis course here, - after a

careful examination of his conduct - I
cannot find but that he has done all
he could to push forward our State Bills
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with Stephens of Ga. than with any other man,
(and which is a little strange, as he does not often
take a fancy to any body) And the opinion that I
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been approached with a proposition to delay
our State Bills last Congress, to have given them
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particular, members are afraid of him. - They submit
to him their measures and if he does not approve
them, it is no use to argue, he will oppose. - If he
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take any suggestions. If I have any facts which
would be of use to you in the line mentioned in
your letter, as you request I should feel bound to
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A press of important business committed to
my charge will render it impossible for me to
come in this steamer, I will do my work
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But my duty here will render it impracticable
for me to answer in Oregon before the expiration
of the 20th April. I would feel degraded to
be opposed now by an other nominee of the
Democratic party. I have not rec'd a word
on this subject since leaving here except from
you and Harding, and do not quite understand
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last mail. I understand that Hibben has puffed me
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same as they always have been. I am not his confidant nor
he mine. I will meet him justly at all times, if I know what
is justice. You generously say that you will not compel me
to go into the ring in the present crisis. I would rather
give up the idea of becoming again a candidate for any
office than to do so, for my heart is not in the work.

I will not say anything relative to the Constitutional
election. To my view the waters are troubled in that
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home to Oregon - and the same if I am defeated, so
I can do nothing but cultivate a stoical indifference
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something for Oregon. Since leaving here this time, I have
avoided all excitement and sought to labor quietly for
the measure in which we were interested. Had
we been defeated in the State Bill I would not
have consented to come back here in any capacity
except, in after time, the one in which I came here - if
I could have come thus,

I have, I think, the confidence of many leading members
of the House who will come to meet Oregon - if I can be returned
& before I can do a good deal to help the cause along.

But I must close. I shall
leave for the Home of 20th March.

Yours most truly,
L. P. Jones