



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

FROM: Gerry Thompson

DATE: March 13, 1985

SUBJECT: Packwood Fiasco

My phone is ringing off the hook from folks like Len Forsgren, Blake Hering and Jim Stever (PNB). All are calling expressing concern about the rumor that you are going to challenge Senator Packwood. In tracking down each of the rumors, Packwood staffer Elaine Franklin in Portland is the one going to all the perceived friends of yours expressing the fear of your challenging Packwood. She is also assuring each and every one that there is a poll in the wind and they are convinced that the poll will show that Atiyeh would not have a chance in beating Packwood. Therefore, the party should not split itself over two long-time Republicans.

Of course this all stems from the recent fracas between you and Packwood. Elaine Franklin is now on a witch hunt. I have refused to share names with her, but she is insisting that we provide Packwood staff names who were involved in scheduling both your visit to Washington as well as the telephone call. You know that I personally do not agree with placing blame nor do I believe in witch hunts. It is unfair to any staff member who has been placed in an embarrassing position by that staff member's boss to try to lay the blame at that person's feet for the purpose of either getting rid of the staff member or making life untenable.

Apparently because I have failed to supply a list of names, the focus is now being turned to our office. I shared with you privately that Robin felt embarrassed about the situation and felt that perhaps she had been too honest with us about the situation. Your comment back to me was, remind Robin she works for me now and she should be honest with us regarding any situation. Elaine is now in the process of laying the blame at the feet of Robin. You need to know that Robin was not involved in either of the scheduling items. Her only role was to make certain that the appointed telephone call take place. Acting as any efficient staff member, she called in advance of the call to affirm Packwood's D.C. staff that your call would be coming through at the appointed time. She was as appalled at the treatment you received as were your long-time staff members. It probably would be fair to say Robin was embarrassed.

Governor

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Packwood's staff is in a snit. They are all trying to cover their own ass as well as each other's. Because they can't cover their own, it is obvious the game plan is to hang Robin out to dry. I refuse to accept that and in fact will stand on my haunches with Elaine for a real she-cat battle.

Elaine has even gone so far as to let the Senator know that Robin has spread the rumor throughout the Capitol that Packwood refused to talk to you because he was in a steam bath. Robin was not even out of this office, let alone know enough of the people to spread such a rumor.

My request to you is when you meet with Packwood, please let him know how unbearable working relationships are with primarily his Portland staff as well as his D.C. staff, and just because we have Robin working for you now, we want no fallout and if I ever hear again Elaine make the statement that working relationships between Packwood and Atiyeh will never be OK because of Robin, I will personally take on Elaine.

It is my view that it is up to you to let Packwood know how his staff is behaving and I would request that you ask Packwood to personally put a stop to it. These actions are damaging to both parties.

As an aside, I guess we should consider it favorable that Packwood, and more specifically, his staff, is paranoid about your challenging the Senator. Jim Stever told me today that Elaine Franklin is concerned that Packwood wouldn't be able to get out of the primary with you as an opponent and there must be an effort made to keep the Governor from challenging the Senator