



TOM McCALL  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM 97310

June 19, 1973

The Honorable Les AuCoin  
Majority Leader  
Oregon House of Representatives  
106-A State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Les:

Your letter means more to me than just about any I have received ever in my life. And it will mean even more as the years pass and I lean more and more on the highlights of my public career to sustain my spirits in a too-placid harbor.

I was really quite serious in my recent contemplation of the virtues and drawbacks of the two parties. It was so close a thing that I was almost waiting for a tie-breaking sign. It came from those paragons of pygmyism, Ivancie and Whipple, who spoke not without ulterior (and I believe) selfish motive. And that reminded me that Cook also was over there and others of a stripe that didn't make my near-derthals seem so God-awful.

Then, too, at that moment of closing the door on "what might have been," I was comforted by a clear, warm reminder of the other kind of Democrats and Republicans whom I could aid and promote -- party be damned -- because of their dedication to statecraft -- also, party be damned. You are a front-runner in this classification, and it is you and the others who are so gifted that really make the two-party system a useful institution.

An institution, I mean, that gains strength on the competition between people of superior competence to determine who best honors the call of public service, in the term's loftiest meaning.

Faithfully yours,

*Tom*  
Governor