

October 22nd, 1919

Hon. Frank G. Howland
Barre
Vermont

My dear Senator Howland:-

It is evident from your letter just received, that I have not made myself entirely clear regarding the position of the Vermont Equal Suffrage Association in relation to a special session of the legislature.

You will remember that at our first interview the Association through me as Chairman of Ratification, asked you to head a legislative committee to call upon Governor Clement in the near future and ask him to state his conditions upon which he would call such session. You said you would like the privilege of selecting your own committee but would like to have me send you a list of names of men whom I knew to be favorable to special session and to ratification. We were of course only too glad to have you select your own committee and I sent you list requested on September 30th.

As Governor Clement stated in his public announcement some weeks ago that his chief objection to the session was the matter of expense to the State, we have endeavored to get as many legislators as possible to sign the petition for special session and to vote to go at no expense to the State. This of course means that they forego mileage and per diem.

If the Governor does not make expense one of his objections to session we shall not have to make further effort to cover same; if on the other hand he does make that objection, we have machinery to put in motion whereby the expenses of those men unable to pay their own, will be paid from a fund which we expect to provide.

Mr. Hopkins of Burlington is mistaken when he says that I asked him to serve on your committee. I merely told him, as I have some others, that you were to select your own committee and that there might be a possibility of his being summoned by you to serve. May I ask if you purpose to call upon the Governor soon to get his conditions? We had hoped the session might be called, as I remarked in my last letter, before the roads are impassible.

Yours most respectfully,