

SENATE.....No. 285.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, }  
May 17th, 1865. }

*To the Honorable the President of the Senate :*

A Resolve has been laid before me providing for the appointment of a Joint Special Committee of the Legislature, to procure a portrait of the late President Lincoln. In order that the Legislature may not adjourn under any misapprehension of the posture of the Resolve, I have the honor to make to you this communication for its information.

I understand a Committee of either branch of the General Court to be an organ of that branch, and a Committee of both branches thereof to be an organ of that body, and that the whole body, or either branch thereof, may appoint, in their own way, such Committees as, in their judgment, will promote their efficiency and convenience in the performance of legislative business. And I do not understand that the Governor can properly intervene or participate in deciding what committees shall be raised, or how they shall be appointed, without transcending the proper limits of the Executive sphere.

I have therefore placed the Resolve in the hands of the Secretary of the Commonwealth without the Executive signature.

I beg leave also (while I do not doubt the competency of the Legislature to instruct a committee to procure for its use such a work of art,) respectfully to suggest that a sum of money needs to be provided in the proper form of a legal appropriation, either now or hereafter, in order to give ultimate effect to the purpose intended.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Department

May 17th, 1865.

To the Honorable the President of the Senate:

A resolution has been introduced in the Senate, providing for the appointment of a special committee of the Legislature, to procure for its use a portrait of the late President Lincoln. In order that the Legislature may not adjourn under any apprehension of the failure of the resolve, I have the honor to make to you the communication for its consideration.

I understand a Committee of either branch of the General Court to be an organ of that branch, and a Committee of both branches to be an organ of the whole body, and that the whole body, or either branch thereof, may appoint in their own way, such Committees, in their judgment, will promote their efficiency and convenience in the performance of their respective duties. And I do not understand that the Governor can properly interfere or participate in deciding what committees shall be raised, or how they shall be appointed, without transgressing the proper limits of the Executive sphere.

I have therefore placed the resolve in the hands of the President of the Commonwealth without the Executive signature.