



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

FROM: Gerry Thompson

DATE: October 10, 1984

SUBJECT: Rajneesh Update

October 8

Telephone call from John Williams. As reported by Ma Sunshine, 3,500 street people at ranch; total population at ranch, 7,000.

"Certain hoops" must be jumped through in order to gain approval for street people to gain transportation back to original home.

Call from Stoops. Reported approximately 50 street people dumped in the Portland area. After pressing for details, he then indicated that the number was more like 25 since last Thursday. He also expressed knowledge of 15-20 street people dumped in The Dalles. When asked how he actually knew they had been dumped, he only indicated the street people interviewed indicate that they had been dumped by the ranch and the dumping was being done late at night. Stoops expressed concern about financial support to provide for transportation of these people back to their homes. Referred Stoops to Ned Look. He indicated he and Ned had already discussed the situation. Double checked with John Williams on the dumping situation. John confirmed there are a few stragglers who have asked to leave the ranch, but they have not yet been able to confirm any concerted effort by the Rajneesh in any one town.

Call from Don Clark who now heads up the Burnside Consortium. He indicated he had been having conversation with and expressed concern about whether or not any strategic planning was being done. He reported that city and county officials are being "yanked around" by Stoops. He feels Stoops is taking advantage of the situation.

Call from John Mathis. He reports that K.D. and Sheela desire to settle the situation to bring about "peaceful co-existence." They intend to "suspend the people's program October 12." They are fearful of making any premature announcement on the basis that people may start jumping on buses and saturating the program.

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They wish to suspend the program because they are "concerned about stabilizing the situation inside." K.D. and Sheela feel the environment is being set negatively by the various coalitions across the state. John asked I call K.D. and confirm this report. We discussed the possibility of a meeting with K.D. and Sheela this coming Thursday evening. I advised John we would await confirmation of time and place, but preferred either the Governor's office in Salem or Governor's Portland office. I pressed John for the purpose of the meeting. John indicated it would be to get Governor's endorsement of the identified needs of the Rajneesh. They are: 1) To be left alone. 2) The Bhagwan's immigration adjusted to resident alien (he currently has a visa and they feel they need the Governor's personal endorsement to the federal government to encourage this adjustment). 3) Resolution of the land use issue. They would like the Governor to go as far as he can to bring about negotiations with the Attorney General. 4) Make our meeting Thursday night as meaningful as possible and K.D. and Sheela have assured John that all their cards will be laid on the table for eventual presentation to the Governor.

John reiterated the purpose of the meeting should be to present a framework to the Governor of what is needed to bring about peaceful co-existence.

John said that K.D. and Sheela "realize their situation is very explosive." They are looking for a way to get out. John asked if the U. S. Attorney should attend our Thursday meeting. I told him no. John informed me he was in the process of forming a coalition of major religious leaders in the state to work as a task force to bring about recommendations to the Governor and the Rajneesh to create peaceful co-existence. When asked for the list of names he had been in touch with, the following was given: Archbishop Powers, Portland; Rodney Page; Rabbi Rose; Bishops Conley Baker and McKenzie, The Dalles; Ted Hallock; Sid Lezak; Ted Shay; Tom Walsh; Bob Montgomery; Robert Duran. John indicated they would be holding a press conference at 1 p.m. Thursday to announce the coalition and the purpose. I reminded John that the Governor had asked that the federal government find a way to gracefully step back and let the state handle the situation until federal government involvement was requested. I asked that no such press conference be held until he had received specific approval from the Governor.

① Ecumenical ministers of Oregon
② attorney Durham in P.O.

No!
mta tom
at 9:00 am
will tell
hold

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Call from Laura Bentley representing Concerned Oregonians in The Dalles. She was concerned that she and her group were being scalded by the Governor for their actions. I advised her the Governor complimented her on their most recent meeting and the fact that they had asked the Albany people to stay home and as long as any group was acting responsibly to calm down the situation, they would not be scalded. She asked for a meeting with the Governor. I told her I would inform the Governor of her request and we would work toward that possibility.

Multnomah
Received a call from Commissioner Caroline Miller. She is aware that some street people are beginning to flow into the Portland area. Mike Stoops, she believes, is taking advantage of the situation. He has called a lot of public officials in the Portland area and is making the situation more difficult than it should be. He has convinced Commissioner Biskar that the commission should adopt a resolution next Wednesday recognizing that street people are being dumped in Portland, that the situation is becoming urgent and asking for financial assistance from the Governor and state government. She feels this would be damaging and could make the situation even worse. She suggests that the Governor appoint a small task force to work with the Governor with representation of the Portland area to help keep the situation calm and deal with all requests rationally. She suggests that the task force be comprised of three individuals in Multnomah County and would recommend Don Clark and Jean deMasters. She specifically requested that Stoops not be included in any such effort. I assured her I would make the Governor aware of her request.

Richard Atiyeh called. He had been talking to Colonel Riley of the Salvation Army. Riley is concerned about the altercations at the Rajneesh Hotel created by the "dumped street people" who are picketing the hotel to force tickets for their return. Richard asked that I call Riley.

Call to Colonel Riley who indicated he did not want to make any decisions that might be an embarrassment to the Governor. He is concerned about the street people picketing the Rajneesh Hotel. Usually there are about 12-14 actual street people involved. He expressed concern of Stoop's indication these people have nowhere to go and sometimes picketers who had actually been interviewed on TV stating that they had nowhere to go and nothing to eat. Riley assured me that the Salvation Army will house and feed these people and in fact, those who had been interviewed had been eating at their Harborlight facility. Riley said in interviewing

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these people they indicated most would leave town if they had a bus ticket. I suggested Riley be in touch with Ned Look. (He did have a conversation with Ned Look). I also strongly recommended to Riley that if his inclination was to provide the bus transportation, he needed to be extremely cautious. He felt they were being cautious, that if they did provide transportation, they would do it on a very quiet basis so that it would not become publicly known. It was my feeling there was no way he could do it without it becoming known eventually at least through the street people network. I briefed John Williams on the situation and asked that he be in touch with Riley right away. That conversation took place and was later reported as satisfactory, although we do not yet know what Riley's decision will be.

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At 8:30 Bob Oliver reported he had been advised by Ray Phelps in the Secretary of State's office that there were "several busloads" on their way to Wasco County to register street people to vote. The County Clerk would be shutting off all registration because of a suspicion of fraud and individuals would be advised that each case would be heard individually.

At 8:35 Stoops called to tell us that a busload of 48 street people were dumped at approximately 5 p.m. last night in downtown Portland. Ten of these people went to Baloney Joe's and five went to one other shelter. His information came to him from a couple of ministers who interviewed those who showed up at the shelters. It was their believe that the bus was a Rajneesh charter bus.

at 8:37 K.D. called asking if I had talked with John Mathis yesterday. He wanted to know if John had confirmed that Sheila Videa and one other woman in charge of their humanitarian foundation had decided to "temporarily suspend" their people's program on October 12. The reasons given for this decision were the current tensions in Oregon and the need to give "breathing space" to Oregonians. K.D. emphasized this was a good faith effort to cool down the tensions. This gave me an opportunity to question K.D. about Stoops' reported dumping in Portland yesterday. He was not aware, but assured me he would confirm and get back to me. I asked K.D. on what basis people were being given bus tickets or only transportation to the nearest city in Oregon. He said any street people who had been recruited on the basis of assurance he would be given a ticket back home, regardless of when the request came, now or six months later. However, the cutoff point for that was somewhere between September 26 and 30. Anyone who leaves after that cutoff point will not be given a ticket, regardless of their reasons for leaving. Currently those who have been transported out of the ranch have left for the following reasons.

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1) Violent people, meaning they live by different ground rules than the Rajneesh. 2) Don't fit into the program. 3) Chose to leave to take care of business and expect to return to the ranch. 4) Just simply choose to leave for their own reasons.

NO //

K.D.'s next suggestion was that two trusted individuals meet so that communications could be strengthened. He had been advised by one of their insiders that the problem could possibly be that we do not understand their language nor do they understand our language. He asked that this meeting occur before our Thursday meeting with a purpose of "building a bridge" between the Governor's office and the ranch. He asked that I meet with Al Jennings, at Al's recommendation, and that Al would meet with me any time at any place. He told me Al was here in Salem at 581-7969.

*Call OK
if am
meeting*

K.D.'s next request was for Bob Lamb and John Mathis to meet with the Governor and me prior to the Thursday meeting. K.D. offered to attend that meeting, but only if I felt it would be beneficial. I advised him I did not think he should be present at this time. *1:30 //*

K.D. then confirmed that there were 44 street people delivered to downtown Portland at approximately 5 p.m. October 9. These were street people who asked to leave the ranch, all of whom had arrived at the ranch after the ticket cutoff date. K.D. did say that they have had a communications problem over the return ticket situation. It appears that some of their recruiters did not get the cutoff information in time and actually recruited some people with the promise of a return ticket after the cutoff date. He assured me they were working on the problem and hoped to have a resolution soon.

K.D. advised me there were not "several busloads" headed toward Wasco County. He advised there was one busload and one van containing a total of 30-50 people including Sannyasins who were traveling to Wasco County for mainly "social matters." About one-half of the street people were going to Wasco County to make changes in social security and federal programs, i.e., change in mailing addresses and another half were traveling to Wasco County for the purpose of registering to vote.

NOTE: I asked that Greg McMurdo through the county clerk confirm the number of people arriving so that I could check the credibility of K.D.'s report. Greg later confirmed that there were not more than 24 street people requesting voter registration, which would indicate that K.D. was being truthful.

K.D. and I agreed we would meet Thursday, September 11, in the Governor's Portland office at 7 p.m. At that meeting will be John Mathis, Bob Lamb, K.D., Sheela and Sheela's nurse, myself and Bob Oliver, and perhaps John Williams if they agree that he can attend.

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9:53 a.m. Greg McMurdo advised the Secretary of State's office was going ahead with the plan in Wasco County and that all voter registrations would be cut off. I advised Greg of only 30-50 people going to Wasco County with only one-half intending to register. I suggested to him that invoking the plan might be premature and could be construed as only being done to effect the Rajneeshees. If construed that way, it could create problems from a civil rights standpoint and would be hard to verify that the action was taken for all entities, i.e. Portland and Albany residents threatening to register in Wasco County. He disagreed and said they had no choice and had already made their decision and directed the county clerk to take the appropriate action. They will advise those wishing to register that their registration will be "set aside" and they may have individual hearings if they so choose.

10:17 a.m. K.D. called very angry because he had been advised by Greg McMurdo that the Governor had been involved in the Secretary of State's decision. I told K.D. I did not think his information was entirely correct, and I would call him back with the chronology of events. This is how I had dealt with K.D. consistently to give the impression that I am researching everything he reports and in return giving him accurate information.

Met with John Williams and Bob Oliver and brought them up to speed on all of my conversations. Confirmed with Bob that his involvement in the Secretary of State's decision was only a meeting last week where the Secretary of State's constitutional and statutory authority was reviewed in depth to assist her in developing her plan.

Called K.D. back and advised him that we were aware of the Secretary of State's plan and that Bob Oliver had participated in an informational only meeting last week. Told K.D. that the Governor had not been directly involved in that decision, that it is an independent decision by a separate constitutional officer, the Secretary of State. K.D. asked why he had not been forewarned by us. I emphasized that any information we had been given by the Secretary of State was given to us on the basis of absolute confidentiality. Our agreement of confidentiality with the Secretary of State is just like my agreement with K.D. to keep our conversations confidential, that we never violate any agreement to confidentiality and he should respect that. He agreed he did respect it and would not ask us to break anyone's confidence. He did ask that when we are aware of such a

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situation, that we counsel with whomever the individual is to bring about sound reasoning to such a decision and point out the difficulties it might create in the long term. I told him we always practiced that.

K.D. did imply that the Secretary of State's actions this morning have caused a new problem with great magnitude. Some were Vietnam veterans who now say they were willing to give their life for their country and are now being denied their legal right to vote and want to "march."

K.D. also said it has made their situation inside even more explosive. I asked if this was because those recruited had been promised the right to vote. He quickly denied that, but didn't know how Sheela was going to react and I needed to know that he could not always control Sheela's reactions. He hoped that we hadn't caused a problem bigger than both of us.

K.D. again reiterated the importance of our Thursday night meeting and expressed hto me how badly he wants to bring about peace and is hopeful that the Governor will act quickly to help us in our negotiations.

Greg McMurdo called and said that in his conversation with K.D. about the cutoff of registrations, that K.D. threatened they would be bringing in more buses to Wasco County today. Greg assumes this means they are going to make a concerted effort to clog the system in Wasco County. Greg asked that in any further conversations I might have with K.D., I encourage K.D. to not take the threatened action and encourage him to bring quick resolution to the registration problem by challenging the Secretary of State in the courts as quickly as possible.

*Rumor control set up 2 weeks from
now
may need some supplemental
assistance
ply to come to us
thru OSP*