



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

DATE: September 25, 1984

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT: Briefing by Oregon State Police: Rajneesh
Williams, Pankratz, Lamkin, Thompson, Oliver

I had asked that all involved federal agencies be identified for our office. As best we can tell, the following are involved in some way: FBI; Customs; Immigration; Justice; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; U. S. Attorney; U. S. Marshall.

I requested that state officials, i.e., Governor's Office, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Police, meet with the involved federal agencies to begin the coordination of information which to this point has not even occurred on a state level. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Attorney General's conference room.

Our state police, with the aid of Major Lamkin who is headquartered in the Rajneesh area, were able to provide us with their views on the situation.

Should there be an eruption of violence, the city of Rajneesh or the the city of Antelope would notify the county who would in turn notify the OSP and, depending upon the seriousness of the situation, would notify the Governor.

The sheriff of Wasco County has alienated both sides. District Attorney Sullivan in Jefferson County has been successful in mediating and restraining the situation. Two-thirds of the ranch land is in Jefferson County, but most of the dwellings and population exist in Wasco County.

Until recently we have been dealing only with political problems. Our state police agree that the Rajneesh are now creating a potential violence problem. The arrival of the street people now estimated to be at 1,000 are causing concerns to local residents as well as the Rajneesh peace officers. The Rajneesh we know have a number of security people estimated to be somewhere between 50 and 80. They are well armed with side arms and semi automatics. The peace officers tend to be very aggressive people and it is difficult to separate peace officers from regular Ragneeshees. They wear no uniforms and are not

Governor
September 25, 1984
Page two

identifiable from a distance. Should violence erupt within the ranch, evaluation of private citizens would be difficult. Access to the ranch is across 19 miles of winding road and would be difficult.

Last Friday the FBI contacted the OSP about larger than usual purchases of weapons and ammunitions by the Rajneeshees. Federal, local and state officials all agree the situation is becoming very volatile. The fears of our own OSP are: 1) Sheela and her irrational actions and reactions. The Rajneeshees themselves seem to be fairly controllable, but will abide by Sheela's acts and demands regardless of how irrational they may be. 2) Outsiders could create an unsettling. Furthermore, with the soon-to-happen hunting season, there is considerable concern hunters will demand access to the BLM lands contained within the ranch itself. Hunters have called the OSP and insisted they are going to hunt that land. Other ranchers have said they intend to give hunters hell. 3) Media reporting tends to sensationalize and be inflammatory which is making it more and more difficult to keep the calm.

OSP have kept their communications channel to the Rajneesh through their peace officers and K.D. They would like to reason the Rajneeshees out of moving street people into the ranch, but Sheela will not listen. She continues to maintain the theory this is a humanitarian move on their part.

State Police have pointed out to Rajneesh the ability to check criminal background and police have offered to do the checking for them, but this offer has been rejected twice.

We do know that approximately 20 percent of the street people arriving at the ranch are being rejected for various reasons, but usually because they have started problems or refused to follow rules. OSP estimate there is an average of 500 outside visitors to the ranch per day. This causes double concern should there be violence.

Attached is a copy of a letter from Dave Frohnmayer basically recapping our previous meeting with him. His letter outlines some of the current actions underway.

1. Secretary of State has set in place a mechanism capable of monitoring registration through a central computer.
2. The Wasco County Clerk's office has taken steps to ensure the integrity of the registration process.

Governor
September 25, 1984
Page three

3. The State Police has increased patrol in the Antelope area with backup from other state police officers.

Dave further proposes eight elements.

Agency on-location team to monitor and provide for public safety located in the Bend area. Dave feels it would take approximately \$50,000 to fund such an operation and has asked Executive Branch to find the dollars. It is their belief that if such a project should be undertaken, the dollars should be spent from all agencies involved with a request to the Emergency Board for reimbursement.

Contacts and briefings continue. John Mathis, federal mediator, has been in constant contact with me. The push continues for a meeting with Sheela, Governor and Attorney General. We have refused to accept that offer. The request now is there be a preliminary conference call between Sheela, K.D., the federal mediator and myself. I am told the purpose of this call would be to discuss the potential of a meeting and demonstrate that Sheela is willing to exercise due respect to the office and state government. We have not accepted. Supposedly this call would be preliminary to a meeting of Sheela and K.D. and involve staff of Attorney General and Secretary of State and the Governor, to begin negotiations and prepare for the eventual meeting of the Governor and Rajneesh. Everytime I ask the purpose of the meeting and negotiations, I am told they still wish to gain recognition of political and economic power. When pushed further, this boils down to an exchange of peace on their part for the Baghwan's right to continue living at the ranch and providing an official city status to the Rajneesh. At this point we are not able to negotiate either of those items. The Baghwan is a matter for the U. S. Immigration and the official city issue is a matter of litigation brought by the Attorney General.

Without exaggeration, there is a high level of emotion and paranoia. Everyone is frightened of the potential of violence and the press continues to sensationalize. We are constantly hounded what the Governor intends to do.

You will be confronted, I am certain, by a high level of interest from the media when you disembark in Portland. Suggested responses are:

1. When asked, are you aware of Rajneesh situation: Yes, of course your are. I have maintained the position with our press interviews that you have been briefed fully and almost daily.
2. When asked, are you willing to call a special session to change the election laws: There has been no official request to your office. However, you are aware it is being discussed by various legislators and citizens. There exists a question of whether or not a special session could effect the upcoming November election. There are some constitutional questions that need to be answered and furthermore, there would be a feeling that under pressure we would make changes to our election laws we would later regret. (Primarily the change that is being bantered about is changing the residency provision to six months.)
3. When asked what you intend to do: Suggest that you respond that although you are aware of the situation, you intend to receive a full briefing from your agencies and staff immediately upon your return. Encourage calmness on everyone's part and reiterate that we are working daily with the Rajneesh as well as the citizens. The State Police have increased their patrols and visibility in order to bring about an assurance of public safety for all residents.
4. When asked what we are going to do about the upcoming election: This is a matter for the Secretary of State, but you have received assurances that she will take whatever steps are necessary to protect the integrity of the election process.
5. When questioned about the unnecessary amount of firearms being carried by the Rajneesh: We are aware of the firearms. We too are concerned about them and that situation is being watched closely by our own law enforcement agencies.
6. When asked about the street people: You are aware the are being brought in by the busloads and also aware that approximately 20 percent of them are being rejected. You do know that on Tuesday, September 25, K.D. notified us through our federal mediator that they would no longer return street people to their original point of departure. Rajneesh will now only return them to the nearest city. Most of these street people will not qualify for any public assistance. Each one will be dealt with individually on the basis of any trouble caused by them. In other words, any disruptive actions -- loitering, so forth -- will be dealt with by the local police agency and the OSP will stand by to assist if necessary.