

RAJNEESHEES ARRIVE IN OREGON

- *a LITTLE BEFORE I GO TO WORK FOR Governor

- *Media loves them

- In their words, "simple farming community"; live in "peace and harmony"
- Represent peace
- Industrious – only 50 workers
- papers and TV flooded with pictures of working the ground and building their community

GOVERNOR'S ATTENTION

- *Bhagwan arrives

- *Research time in Poona

- *sudden increase in residents at ranch

- *Rumors and calls about intimidation of Antelope residents

- *54 mobile homes moved to ranch

- *Locals agitated and enlist 1000 Friends

Fall of 1981

- *heats up

- *moving toward a large community

- *want to make ranch an incorporated city

- *Bhagwan gets an extension of his visa

- *Antelope residents becoming very agitated by threatening actions of Rajneeshees

- *Rajneeshees begin process to take over city of Antelope

- *Bhagwan requests permanent residency in U.S.

Wasco County approves election for incorporation of ranch

1982

Governor's office steps up attention being paid to Rajneeshee

- Governor instructs all agency heads to treat them as any other citizen
- Apply laws in fair manner
- Monitor and report to GT concerns

Governor requests increased attention from Oregon State Police

- Monitor activities closely and quietly
- Coordinate and work with local law enforcement
- Watch the ranch from inside if possible
- Work to calm Antelope residents and neighboring farmers
- Report concerns to GT. Oliver to coordinate regarding legal issues

Antelope disincorporates

- moves Rajneeshes to live in city of Antelope
- Rajneeshees outnumber voting residents
- Rajneeshees elect and take over city council
- Rajneeshes now have political control of City of Antelope
- Federal mediators arrive – no coordination with Governor
- LCDC and 1000 Friends monitoring for land use violations
- Rajneeshees vote to incorporate ranch as city
- Issues regarding separation of church/state at the forefront now
- annual festivals at ranch begins; brings in thousands from around world
- Sheela receiving extensive media attention locally and nationally
- Fall of 1982 Governor asks AG to challenge church/state issues as Rajneeshees try to form own city at ranch

1983

Governor approves lawsuit to be filed to invalidate City of Rajneeshpuram

*Efforts at ranch full speed ahead – dams, water system, electric systems, labs, etc

*1000 Friends continue challenging

*Antelope residents becoming highly agitated and cause concern

*Rajneeshees begin bargaining with state government, i.e. they will "back off" Antelope if legislature passes bill to make Rajneeshpuram a legal city

*Oregon businessmen want Governor to keep hands off Rajneeshees – high level of their purchasing is good for economy

*Wild rumors run rampant

*Tight coordination in Gov's office, with state police and AG's office. OSP coordinates tightly with local law officials

*Department of Education pulls and investigates Rajneesh ability to run schools

1984 Bhagwan's application for residence as a religious worker is granted

*Newly discovered AIDS disease becomes focus of Sheela

*LUBA rules against Raj. For annexation of 120 acres

*Share-A-Home program begins. It is Rajneesh way of recruiting street people from all over U.S. to taint voting in Wasco County. Rajneesh goal is to take over Wasco County government much like they did City of Antelope.

*LUBA and court action continue

*Voter registration efforts begin

*Norma Paulus works with AG to develop a way to prevent voter fraud

*Suspicion that Rajneeshee try to contaminate The Dalles water supply

*Wasco County Commissioners poisoned during visit at ranch

*Sham marriages of Foreigners to American citizens are uncovered – all for purpose of throwing the vote in Wasco County

*Rajneesh leadership becoming very forceful, intimidating and demanding and threatening.

*Evidence that "Peace Force" and others at the ranch are heavily armed.

*September 1984 10 restaurants have salad bars infected by salmonella – done by Rajneeshees as a test to see if enough residents can be made ill enough to prevent their voting on election day.

*Housing for street people being increased with a man camp at the ranch. Some talk of moving them to Antelope.

*Street people pouring in by the busloads

*Population at ranch grows to excess of 7,000 of which 3,000 are estimated to be street people

*Federal Mediator spending a lot of time with Rajneesh leadership. Continually bringing their requests (demands) to Gov's office.

*National Guard brought into the ranks for coordination just in case of trouble

*Governor carries with him both documents to declare state of emergency and to invoke authority of military in worst case possible.

*Fall of 1984, Rajneesh begin to send message that they want to meet with Governor or GT. All requests are denied

*Rajneeshees beginning to evict some street people and are reneging on offer to pay bus tickets back home. Consequently street people being dumped in Bend, Madras and primarily Portland.

*Potential of violence seems to be increasing

*GT begins working with Salvation Army in Portland to coordinate housing and care for street people leaving ranch

*Other federal agencies now interested and beginning investigation regarding wire tapping and immigration issues. Some thinking there is drug trafficking as well.

*GT calls meeting of state and federal officials to demand tight coordination

*Evidence of high level of purchases for guns and ammo

*October – talk coming from KD that Share-A-Home project will be dumped – too expensive.

*meetings being held in the local communities to help calm fears.

*Rajneeshees back off on the Wasco County election takeover.

*LCDC, LUBA and courts still handling land use issues

*Messages sent to GT that KD and Sheela are ready to settle. Meeting set between GT and Sheela

*KD and GT communication increasing. KD trying to build trust in him.

*Federal Mediator meets with GT and Governor. Lays out requests and issues. No actions taken by Governor – he stays firm. Will not be threatened – will only follow the law.

*Another meeting scheduled with Sheela and KD, federal mediator. Meeting occurs but nothing decided. Obvious Rajneeshee leadership is concerned but still wants to press for their 3 main issues

*Church/state issue in the courts and request by Rajneeshees to dismiss is denied

*GT continues to talk with and meet with KD. She holds firm on all issues.

*Federal mediator tries to change Governor's mind reminding GT that they changed their approach 180 degrees because of Governor. Not sure what federal mediator thinks will be accomplished – will not break the law for Rajneeshees nor become involved in immigration issues which belongs with the feds.

*GT backs off on KD because of KD's failure to keep promise. Will not answer KD's call. He panics.

*Federal mediators still asking for special task force. Not agreed to by Governor.

*Sheela goes to the press to announce no interest in election process, will support the Governor and will work to bring about a peaceful co-existence. Has stopped the Share A Home project and very few Rajneeshees will be leaving.

November 1984 – Rajneeshee begin dumping street people.

*Governor orders close monitoring and assistance.

*GT assigns Fiskum to work the Portland streets and work with Salvation Army to coordinate care and transportation of street people dumped.

See timeline for remainder of efforts: Street people handling, Sheela et al departure; Bhagwan departure; federal and state investigation.