



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

September 27, 1984

FROM: Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT: Rajneesh Briefing Session

Hopefully the last memo on Rajneesh. A briefing session for you with Norma Paulus, Dave Frohnmayer or his representative, Bob Oliver, John Williams and myself has been set for 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 28.

I just received a call from John Mathis, the federal mediator from the Community Services Agency affiliated with the U. S. Department of Justice. His boss, Bob Lamb, regional director out of Seattle, is flying into Portland tomorrow. John and Lamb want to meet with you as soon as possible. We have scheduled that meeting for 11 a.m. They would like in attendance you, me and John Williams. This will follow closely on the briefing session scheduled at 10:30. Perhaps you can hear from the Attorney General's office and the Secretary of State and then move to the 11 a.m. meeting with Mathis and Lamb, finishing up with John Williams afterward.

After the briefing there will be some issues before you.

1. Street people. Effective September 26 Rajneesh will no longer send street people who wish to leave the ranch back to their original location. They will be virtually dumping them in Shaniko, The Dalles or Madras. Jefferson County District Attorney Sullivan has made a request to our office to provide state funds to purchase bus tickets for any street person who wishes to return to their original location. Sullivan is practically pleading for assistance because he is fearful of disturbances that could be caused by the number of street people roaming the area.

Bob Oliver and I have met with Leo Hegstrom, Jon Yunker, John Williams, Colonel Pankratz and Keith Putman. There is no automatic fund in state government anywhere to provide such assistance. This then creates the question, do we find a way to provide the money.

The obvious reason for providing the money would be to immediately remove the people from the area which then would hopefully deter any problems, violent or otherwise. The argument against providing

At present find & take control

such money would be how quick would it take the Rajneesh to become aware of the assistance and begin to take advantage. Carry that out to the worst possible case. Imagine Rajneesh bringing in six busloads, dumping them in the streets of the three little cities and saying here, state, now you take care of them. The one thought was that law enforcement personnel with a rank of Sergeant and above both local and state would be given the authority to quietly present a bus ticket to a Rajneesh street person that they might encounter. My concern would be it would be a matter of minutes before this news would travel to the ranch. If there is a way we could prevent abuse of such assistance, it might be worthy of consideration, but at this point, my personal consideration is we would just be buying more trouble walking into another Rajneesh trap.

- 579 does not want 3 buses*
2. Dave Frohnmayer has presented a proposal in letter form to me which I transmitted to you in your briefing packet. Dave is proposing an inter-agency on-location team to be located perhaps in the Bend area. Inter-agency of course would include local, state and federal officials. We would have to designate a leader with authority to deploy and direct personnel and that leader would need to be accountable to the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. The scope of activities of the team would have to be clearly outlined and Dave is willing to give us suggestions. Obviously this team would be on site to show the state's interest, to assist the public and to gather information as necessary. Dave estimates the cost for this would be \$50,000 and has asked that we find a way to provide the money. We have suggested the best way to do this is go ahead and proceed, should you agree, and then confront the Emergency Board. Dave is anxious for your decision.

Rumors will spread now

3. The federal government, through the community services agency, has reported they are establishing a rumor control center. We have had no confirmation of that, but are assured a rumor control plan is on its way to our office.

4. You will probably be confronted by Norma Paulus for several things. One is for assistance in monitoring the election process, providing necessary state police assistance, should they have to enter the ranch to confirm citizenship of registrants plus an order to the AG to take affidavits of any of the Rajneeshee rejects or defectors for later possible use in court challenges. I believe the cost of the latter is estimated to be about \$50,000 and for some reason the AG continues to drag his feet on assisting in this effort. He uses the excuse of lack of personnel and dollars.

I suggested that Williams, Frohnmayer and Paulus immediately develop a plan to assist in gaining affidavits, estimate the cost and if you agreed that it was a necessary step, they should prepare themselves to go to the Emergency Board after the fact. They have no plan yet and have only been throwing barbs at one another as to whose responsibility it is.

Rajneesh Briefing
Page three

5. Hunting season begins Saturday and I think you need to ask for assurance that military and state police have capabilities to respond to any emergency that might develop. In a sense that may be overreacting, but I view it as only a step toward preparing for the worst possible scenario.

6. Norma continues to insist, as has Dave in the last couple of days, that the Governor make a trip to Wasco County to calm the city. I am not sure how you can calm the citizens except by your mere presence. Keep in mind it is not just Wasco County residents who are excited. It is coming from all over the state. Perhaps a public statement would be helpful or a meeting of the citizens in the Bend area that would gain good press coverage.

7. We continue to be pressured for a meeting of K.D., Sheela, you and the Attorney General. None of us recommend that. When we flat out deny the request, the next request will be for staff meetings with K.D. and Sheela. I don't believe any meeting will accomplish anything, but because it is well confirmed the current actions of the Rajneesh is a blackmail effort to gain your recognition, your consent to help with their cause, to keep the Bahgwan living on the ranch legally and to apply pressure to the legislature or whomever to gain the designation of Rajneesh as a city. Neither of those items are negotiable. The Bahgwan is in the hands of the INS and the city or land use issue is in the courts. However, if you feel that at least talking would be helpful, please feel free to call upon me or Bob Oliver. Neither of us believe it will be useful, but then again, who knows.

I think those are the only issues you will be asked to decide on. Norma Paulus, although she vascillates, thinks that discussions with Sheela and K.D. would be useful and even at one time thought it would be useful to have their city. I believe she has changed her mind.

Attached is a report of the meeting with the federal agencies. Please forgive the rambling -- the report is in the order given us.

8. - The federal mediator will pressure you for a meeting w/ Sheela -- or a staff meeting with Sheela -- or a conference call between me, KD, Sheela & the federal mediator.