

November 1, 1984

TO/ Gerry Thompson
FROM/ Dave Fiskum
SUBJECT/ "Rajneesh Homeless" Status Report

The following is an attempt to summarize for you the status of the "Rajneesh homeless" issue in the Portland area at the end of the first week of my assignment for the Governor's Office.

INTRODUCTION

As of Thursday, November 1, the Salvation Army had processed about 500 homeless persons at a cost of some \$50,000. The Army had raised about \$40,000 to support what it calls "Operation Love." Of the \$50,000, about \$35,000 went for bus tickets.

Other facilities in Portland, including Baloney Joe's and Burnside Projects, had seen a handful of homeless persons from Rajneeshpuram, typically housing them overnight and directing them to the Salvation Army for transportation out of Portland. (see note below)

RELIEF PLANNING

On Tuesday, October 30, I met with some of the key agencies dealing with the homeless persons in Portland (see attached list). One purpose ~~purpose~~ was to take an inventory of resources that could be available in an emergency. Another was to introduce myself to these persons and indicate what the Governor had asked me to do in Portland and elsewhere. Much of the following is based on this meeting, and on other individual contacts during the week.

Shelter: One of the biggest questions is where an influx of homeless persons would be housed. Here is the result of my inventory.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Overnight Shelter Capacity</u>	<u>Average Overnight Census</u>	<u>"Additional" Emergency Capacity</u>
Harbor Light (Salvation Army)	54 (men)	Full	250
West Women's Hotel	35 (women)	Full	15
Baloney Joe's	100	60	100
Burnside Projects	114	Full	0

(In Madras, 106 homeless persons have showed up at the Harvest Light Mission. Bus tickets have been provided to 52 of them. Others either have had tickets or made their way out of town.)

Everett Hotel	----	-----	60
Salvation Army Headquarters			75
Moore Street Facility (Salvation Army)			200
Gresham Facility (Salvation Army)			50
White Shield (Salvation Army)			25 (women)
Portland Rescue Mission*			50
Downtown Chapel*			100
Union Gospel Mission*			50
Penile Mission*			50
Burnside Consortium			30-50
Hooper Detox Center			50
Ad Hoc Housing through Burnside Consortium			100
St. Vincent DePaul Senior Center 10 NW Davis			60
Total			1,285
★ (Not yet contacted)			(40 for women)

If the majority of these spaces is occupied and the Salvation Army, in cooperation with the state, feels more space is needed, the Red Cross is prepared to open another shelter for up to 250 persons.

At each location, it is generally true that the facilities would be able to take care of the homeless for about 24 hours, perhaps 48 at the outside. This would tax their resources at a time when they say they already have more homeless Oregonians than is usual for this time of year. But it could be done. The question on the minds of the facilities is how they would recoup the cost so the influx of Rajneesh would not deplete their ability to handle Oregonian homeless during the holidays.

As long as the stay was 24 hours, or at most 48 hours, it would not be necessary to transport extra cots to the facilities. It seems that many of these persons actually prefer to remain on the floor -- and it saves space and logistical problems as well.

Transportation: There are at least two major transportation issues -- moving homeless in and around Portland in advance of our ability to send them home, and the capacity ~~of~~ ^{for} transportation out of town.

The first issue is probably manageable. Many of the facilities above, particularly the Salvation Army, have vehicles and drivers. If necessary, we could approach Tri-Met for assistance, but I will not do that until it appears necessary. If the homeless are congregated in downtown Portland, the need to move them around should be lessened. It also may be possible to have Trailways pick up persons where they are if we have large groups of them in the shelters.

★ Transportation out of town is another matter. If the homeless persons remain in Portland for longer than 24 hours, the problems we encounter become much more severe.

So far, the homeless have been leaving on Trailways, which in a crunch, could move up to 250 persons out in one day. They have not processed anywhere near that many in one day yet, but it is Trailways estimate of what would be possible and still move people toward their homes across the United States. The cost per person is \$99 or less, including some "2 for 1" packages. Trailways is honoring vouchers and would continue to do so.

I am investigating two other transportation options. One is through Greyhound which also will honor the vouchers, but at greater cost than Trailways. Another option was brought up by St. Vincent De Paul, which says it has an unofficial offer from an airline that it will make empty seats available to homeless who need to go to the East Coast or to Florida. There are some requirements, mostly relating to cleanliness, but this may be an option at some point if the offer is confirmed.

If the current pattern continues -- a fairly steady, but small, influx of homeless persons -- the transportation out problem is manageable. If there is a larger influx of 100 or 200 per day for several days running, it probably still would be possible to get the homeless on their way, though we may encounter some problems in manpower for processing. If there is a major influx of 500 to 2,000 at one time, transportation out becomes a major problem. -- and the effects ripple through the relief system. I do not have an answer for this at the present time.

Food: The question here is again two-fold -- feeding the homeless persons at the shelters and giving them enough food for the road.

For 24 to 48 hours, most relief agencies could feed even a large influx of Rajneesh homeless persons. Most would call out additional volunteers and solicit donations from networks of churches. One problem would occur at the Burnside Projects' Everet Hotel where the best answer probably is to extend the meal voucher system current in place at the Projects shelter itself. The director is concerned about the additional cost.

Another problems arises with the need to give homeless persons sack lunches for the bus trip home. The Salvation Army has been doing this for the homeless persons it has processed. In the event of a larger influx of Rajneesh homeless, it is likely the Army could activate a network of churches to get the lunches prepared -- again for a day or two, but not for a sustained period.

Good!
Processing: The current processing method works rather well. Salvation Army officials talk to each homeless person to ascertain for sure whether they were at the ranch, and where their home is. With that information in hand, the homeless persons are counseled briefly on the process for getting home, are told not to drink or to take drugs because, if they do, they will not be allowed on the bus, and are told to wait for the bus. At the depot, an Army official gives the voucher to the driver when the individual is on the bus; then the official watches the bus depart. The voucher cannot be redeemed along the way. This system also results in a clear record of who went home, when they left, and how much it cost to process them.

Safety and security: This currently is in the hands of the city and county authorities. It should remain there. At my request, Don Clark is touching base with officials in both police departments to let them know he is involved in responding to the Rajneesh homeless problem, and that he will contact them if special problems arise. We will need to deal with safety and security again if we have large numbers of homeless persons at the shelters; the volunteers we put to work would need some assurance of safety if they were to become involved.

*OSP
OK to
back up?*

Red Cross: Red Cross officials have been very cooperative, but as their letter to the Governor indicates, they face some special problems with this situation. They would assist local relief agencies as they can, and they clearly would become involved if there is a disaster declaration by the Governor or another official. The uncertainty comes in that middle ground -- when the problem is beyond the capacity of agencies like the Salvation Army but not yet in the magnitude of a "major disaster."

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER THOUGHTS

1. We should continue to support the Salvation Army in its lead response role.
DEFINITELY - Gov's brother on Sal Army board & can help if needed
2. The Governor should make an attempt to raise money in two ways -- from the general public (*Barbara Carey is working on ideas*), and from foundations (I am meeting with *Ned Look* regarding this). It would be helpful if the approach to foundations resulted in two things -- some support generated soon by the Governor as an indication that he stands with the people here, and support over the longer term as a recognition of the sizeable potential cost.
3. At some point, it is possible that the Salvation Army will feel that it has exhausted its capacity to respond to the Rajneesh homeless people, at least in terms of transportation. I believe the Army is prepared to act at least through the election, but then will re-evaluate its approach. Obviously, re-evaluation also would occur with a major dump, or with a sustained influx over several days or weeks.

Good!
It is hard to predict when the Salvation Army will reach the point when it can no longer respond, but when it does, it is possible Colonel Riley will turn to the Governor's Office. At that point, without fanfare, I probably would begin playing a different and perhaps expanded role. Operationally, I would set up a coordinating team consisting of me as chairman, Don Clark, Colonel Riley or his representative, and Sharon Ritter of the Red Cross. Don is in a good position to set up the necessary linkages with city and county officials, including political leaders, emergency services directors, and police departments. They tend to rely on him anyway for status reports and advice on how they should be involved if at all. Establishing this coordinating team would take advantage of local expertise and experience, and assure access to a variety of emergency services that could be necessary depending on the number of homeless people who show up in Portland.

4. We should discuss our position on state financial assistance through the Emergency Fund or some other source. Those who favor this contend that the state may have some responsibility to assist local areas with "homeless Oregonians" who are showing up at shelters earlier than in some past years. The Rajneesh homeless simply is an added burden, not the whole burden.

5. There are some attachments that may be of some interest to you:

1. List of those attending the October 30 planning meeting I called.
2. List of other contacts I have made.
3. List of other Salvation Army offices statewide that have been alerted by the Salvation Army to be ready to deal with homeless persons from the ranch.

*They insist
Rajneesh problem
& responsibility.
They committed
to street people.
QUIETLY — Yes, of
course, we will
find a way to
assist. No \$
in state coffers
but we will
find way.*

Attachment 1

Persons who attended Tuesday, October 30, meeting

Phil Stohberg, Salvation Army

Nancy Allemang, Salvation Army

Adella Martell, Red Cross

Jim Horgen, Salvation Army

Ken Gibson, Salvation Army

David Riley, Salvation Army

Sonia Fetherston, Salvation Army

Jean DeMaster, Burnside Projects

Jim Seibt, Trailways

Jody Stautt, Red Cross

Mike Stoops, Burnside Community Council

Don Clark, Burnside Consortium

Michelle Williams, Burnside Consortium

Attachment 2

List of other contacts made during first week:

1. Tim Hornbecker, St. Vincent de Paul
2. Multnomah County Sheriff Fred Pearce
3. Multnomah County Emergency Services Director Myra Lee
4. Jim Kuffner, Mayor Frank Ivancie's executive assistant
5. Steve Telfer, County Executive Dennis Buchanan's executive assistant
6. County Commissioners Caroline Miller, Gordon Shadburne, Arnold Biskar, Earl Blumenauer
7. Gerry Newhall, assistant to Commissioner Miller
8. City of Portland Emergency Services Director Joe Andrus
9. Michael Jans, director of Community Services Program

Attachment 3

Offices highlighted on the attached sheet were represented at a meeting with Colonel Riley where he instructed them to be ready for an influx of homeless persons.