



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Rajneesh File

DATE: October 19, 1983

FROM: Bob Oliver *Bob*

SUBJECT: Jayananda's Call

On the evening of Tuesday, October 18, I was called at home by Jayananda.

First, Jayananda expressed interest in a scheduled visit by Verne Duncan and/or other representatives of the Department of Education, to determine whether the Rajneesh are capable of operating a qualifying high school. He asked what sort of man Verne Duncan is. I told him Verne is an intelligent, honest, fair man -- they will not find him a friend, but on the other hand they will not find him a vindictive enemy. Janananda further inquired about the impact of alleged threats to kidnap a child now living at Rajneeshpuram, and whether this ought to be mentioned to Verne. I told Jayananda it was not my place to advise him on what to say to Verne Duncan, but this situation be used as an example of how innocent persons could be harmed if the volatile situation involving Rajneeshpuram is aggravated by hot-heads.

Jayananda digressed into a discussion of the effect of the Attorney General's investigation, and the Governor's instructions. I tried to be careful to discuss only matters which are public knowledge, and which involve relatively straightforward legal principles. I told him Oregon law probably authorizes the Attorney General to proceed with a lawsuit based on the Governor's instructions, but I could not speak for the Attorney General as to his plans in that regard. I told him I understood the Attorney General would not direct his investigation toward the philosophy or religious practices of the Rajnnesh, nor their business-related activities, but is concerned primarily with the validity of Rajneeshpuram's incorporation. Jayananda did not inquire as to the issue of state funds and the escrow arrangements now in progress, so this subject was not under discussion.

The conversation, which lasted about 15 minutes, was cordial.

cc: Gerry Thompson
Colonel Pankratz

Gerry Thompson

October 19, 1983

Bob Oliver

Rajneesh

Attached is a memorandum received this morning from Colonel Pankratz, regarding a strange development in Medford which may have some bearing on the Rajneeshpuram issues. Also attached is a memorandum of my conversation with Jayananda on the Evening of October 18.

The allegation that Sheela is "keeping the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh in a drug-induced stupor" is interesting. In a memo to Governor Atiyeh on March 23, 1983, following my visit to Rajneeshpuram, on page 5 I made the following observation: "We were told the Bhagwan's health forced him to leave India, and he came to Central Oregon so that he could be away from pollution and consume more natural foods. Based on what they said, and numerous subjective impressions including his lapse into silence, Judy has hypothesized that the Bhagwan may have 'slipped a cog' -- and that his isolation and silence is encouraged by his senior followers to preserve his image as a great master. On the other hand, Bob Davis met with the Bhagwan a few months ago when preparing to terminate his employment. Bob says the Bhagwan is one of the best-read and most articulate individuals he ever met, although quite naive about worldly matters going on around him."

Rumors about the role of drugs in the movement already were current last March when Judy and I visited the ranch, so evidence of their presence was among a number of things we were looking for. Judy has had considerable experience in her work dealing with persons who have abused drugs, and is familiar with the behavioral and physical evidences of drug abuse. We saw no such evidence during our stay. At the same time, as indicated in the memorandum of last March, ours was a highly structured visit and our contacts were strictly limited to senior members of the group. It would be naive to draw any conclusions from that sampling about the behavior of the group at large.

cc: Colonel Pankratz