



State of Oregon
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Statement by Gov. Vic Atiyeh

March 5, 1980

Recently some well-meaning questions have been raised regarding the governor's fund. For the most part the questions have not been directed to the legality of the fund or the full disclosure of the fund's contributors and expenditures. Instead the greatest concern seems to be how this fund could be perceived by the public.

I do not believe the fund is illegal or immoral. But I do concede that perception many times can be as real as fact.

Citizens must have a deep respect for government. I have said time and time again that respect for government and credibility in government are the cornerstones of my administration.

Because I believe in that philosophy and because the fund has been perceived by many to be wrong, and because the need for the fund--is not nearly as important as credibility, I have asked the Chairman of the committee to dissolve the fund.

The fund was started to pay for partisan activities which should not be supported from tax dollars. One major purpose of the fund was to pay an assistant for Dolores to handle her heavy scheduling and correspondence work load. It was this need which originally sparked the drive for funds, and I am sure was the prime motivation for many of the contributors. The fund was never considered an election campaign fund, for now or the future.

-MORE/OVER-

There continue to be expected activities of this office which I believe should not be supported with taxpayer dollars. I do not know how these needs may or may not be met in the future.

The money and interest remaining in the fund will be returned to the individuals who made contributions pro-rated to the amount of their contribution. Continuing the full-reporting philosophy, a complete accounting of this final transaction of the fund will be filed with the Secretary of State.

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