

EXCERPT FROM GOVERNOR ATIYEH'S MEDIA AVAILABILITY (11/1/83)

QUESTION: Governor, back to the election, should the President decide to run again, will you support him considering his actions last week in Beirut and Grenada?

GOVERNOR ATIYEH: Using that as a basis, my answer is yes. I didn't object, after listening to the President speak, and I did listen to his speech. He told us why he was doing what he was doing. I had some problems with what was not done, particularly the media part of it. I think the media should have been brought in right away after the invasion had taken place. That's another issue all by itself.

But, I have to look back, and when I look at where we were before President Reagan became President of the United States; things that were so destructive of our system -- thirteen (13) percent inflation rate, twenty-one (21), twenty-two (22) percent ~~crime~~ ^{PRIME} rate, there was no question in my mind that we couldn't survive -- we, the United States. And, although interest rates aren't yet down where they should be, they're sure a long way from where they were, ten (10) percent at least, less; inflation is way down. And there are areas in which I have a disagreement, however, I do not want to return to the philosophy that was prevalent before he became president. And so I'm very likely to be stumping for the President.

QUESTION: Back to Grenada and Beirut, do you think it would be smart if he pulled the troops out now, or do you think that they should stay there?

GOVERNOR ATIYEH: I believe that the intention is to pull them out, whether today or tomorrow or next week, I'm not sure, but I'm positive the intention is to pull out American troops, when they've accomplished their mission. It's my belief and my expectation that they will be withdrawn. Lebanon is a different set of circumstances. They are there to see that the cease-fire, which has been brought to bear, is observed and except for the loose cannons on the deck -- meaning some terrorists or some stray splinter groups -- the cease-fire has continued. I certainly -- as Americans do -- feel very badly about the bombing and the loss of Marine lives over there, because these young men and women are over there for a good cause. They're there to preserve peace -- not to wage war, they're there to preserve peace. To see someone who is there to preserve peace get killed adds to the tragedy.

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