

VICTOR ATIYEH  
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM, OREGON 97310

July 10, 1984

Robert Fisher  
1350 S.W. 7th  
Albany, Oregon 97321

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I understand you called this office last week to inquire "Why the Rajneesh are allowed to carry automatic weapons."

ORS 166.210 defines a "machine gun" as "A weapon of any description by whatever name known, loaded or unloaded, from which two or more shots may be fired by a single pressure on the trigger device." I assume this is what you mean by "automatic weapon."

ORS 166.250 generally prohibits possession of machine guns and any kind of firearm which is concealed. However, ORS 166.260 sets out numerous exceptions. Among these are peace officers. Pending the outcome of litigation now before the courts as to the legality of Rajneeshpuram's incorporation, that community does have a peace force consisting of persons who have been certified as trained police officers. It appears they would fall within the exception of ORS 166.260, and would be eligible to possess and carry an automatic weapon.

It is true that police officers in Oregon generally do not carry automatic weapons while performing routine duties. However, there does not appear to be any legal reason why they could not.

I hope you understand this letter is for informational purposes only. It does not carry the weight of a ruling by the Attorney General, or the decision of a court.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Oliver  
Legal Counsel



# While You Were Out

To Bob

Date JUL 3 1984 Time 2:45

Robert Fisher called

of Albany address attached

Phone 928-1713

- Telephoned
- In person
- Please call
- Wants to see you
- Will call again
- Returned your call

Message Called twice and would appreciate it if you could write or call and answer the question of why the Rajneesh are allowed

Taken by J to carry auto-matic weapons.

<b>PHONE MEMO</b>	TO	Bob Ward		DATE	7/3	TIME	12:50	AM PM
	FROM	M	Robert Fisher	AREA CODE	928-1713			
	OF	Albany						
<b>MESSAGE</b>	Why are Rajneesh allowed to carry automatic weapons?							
								SIGNED
PHONED <input type="checkbox"/>		CALL BACK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED CALL <input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU <input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN <input type="checkbox"/>	WAS IN <input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT <input type="checkbox"/>	

AICO FORM NO. 50-176