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PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HELD OCTOBER 3, 1967

Reported by

Beverly Toms, CSR

(This rough transcript of the Governor's press conference is furnished to the members of the capitol press corps for their convenience only. Because of the need to get it to the press as rapidly as possible after the conference, no corrections are made and there is no guaranty of absolute accuracy.)

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GOVERNOR REAGAN: No opening statements.

Q Governor, you've been critical of some of the activities of the California Rural Legal Assistance Office, such as opposition to its Braceros and the Medi-Cal appeal. Do you favor abolishing this program, and if you do, would you like to see the poor have their day in Court through some other means or --

A No, I said we'd look at this very closely when it came across the desk next year. There is no question, why, it had worthiness of the goal and motive that set this program up. There is no question now that individuals who find themselves in need of legal assistance and don't have the wherewithall to combat, let's say, some group or some other individual who -- in a civil action and who does have the means to hire legal assistance, they should be helped. But we think that it's gone a little afield and much has kind of been a promoter of social causes.

Q Governor, in your criticism of the Rural Assistance League you specifically mentioned their intervening in the Sutter County case, but yet your own social welfare director wrote a letter to the Sutter County officials criticising the handling of that specific case up there, for denying without hearing the chance of these three or four women to go on welfare.

A Well, there is -- actually, this is further emphasized -- this is what I've said for a long time, about some

of the reforms that I think are necessary in welfare that if there could be more local autonomy, more control over their actually dealing with the problem. They are bound in first by state regulations, and then secondly they and the State are bound in by Federal regulations. There is no question Mr. Montgomery has the responsibility of seeing that the laws as they now stand are upheld, but as I say, I think it highlights the need for all of us to look and see where we are at the State level and then at the Federal level we can give this increased autonomy. If it is possible to run these programs more efficiently and economically, and I believe it is, at the local level they should be allowed to do this. Basically, when I mentioned this, I was relying on you gentlemen of the press, because that's where I read about this case.

Q Well, then -- well, do you think that Mr. Montgomery's letter changes your position toward the Legal Assistance League? Perhaps they were right in intervening then. Your own Social Welfare director criticized the case.

A No, I'm not going to go into that. Let me just say that I'm also not going to challenge Mr. Montgomery on his upholding of the law as he sees it has to be done. But we are going to look into this to see what we can do; where there are things where counties, where local officials are trying to operate the programs more efficiently and where they are hampered by state law, we are going to find out what we can do to aid in that particular situation. I agree that Mr. Montgomery on the other hand can't himself cancel out the law.

Q Governor, Assemblyman Willie Brown said that you and Governor Lurleen Wallace of Alabama vetoed more poverty funds than all the rest of the Governors put together and that California is a double loser because our tax money that supports this program doesn't come back to us when these programs are vetoed. Would you comment on that?

A Yes, very easy to comment. I don't know what other states have done. I do know that we lead in not only

vetoing but in getting Federal programs we approve drastically alter to correct some of the things that were wrong with them before we approve them. But this -- Idea that you are throwing away money by not -- not going after yourself, I'd like to recall that California is one of the 16 states that pays in so much more than it gets back, that every time we add to a program, just to the idea of getting Federal help, it means that we are putting out to get that back more than we are getting back, and I think this has been used by a lot of states for a long time in a lot of local entities, we don't get it, someone else will, and unless all of us get together and adopt a different philosophy and realize that the money is coming out of the same pockets, the people's pockets, to pay for these things, we are not benefiting ourselves by pretending that because it is a federal dollar somehow it is coming from someone else. California has some needs and some problems that are greater than almost any other state, and yet in every instance where there is Federal aid connected with those problems, California is not only financing its own, even though it comes by way of the Federal Government, but we are helping to finance lesser problems in other states.

Q Governor, how would you assess the job done statewide by the E.O.C. in the months you've been in office?

A I couldn't give an answer to that. I don't think we have had enough of a survey. We have program-by-program tried to look at them to the best of our ability -- very difficult, in an operation that's been going on without much control paid statewide or attention paid statewide. It is very difficult to check every single program, but we have tried to the best of our ability. Those that we have stopped we believe were misuses of the public's money, and not going to accomplish the end.

Q Governor, your Executive Secretary used the same phrase you did, about the Rural Legal Assistance Office, promoter of social causes, in the most recent veto of your administration, this west-side Tenant's Council in Fresno.

Do you intend to continue to veto E.O.C. programs that are aimed at social change, rather than just correcting some deficiency?

A No, not if that particular program has some merit, not if there is a problem that needs solving and it is going to be done efficiently and economically, but again the classic example that I used there was no quarrel with the purpose of the one in -- in Ventura County that was going to put some of the hard-core unemployed to work in park lands, but that was vetoed because half of the money was going to go to administrators and there was going to be one administrator for virtually every 2 of the unemployed that are going to be helped, and this began to look like a Havana Republic Revolutionary Army, everybody was a general.

Q Governor, in your attitude toward the Rural Assistance Office, are you arguing that the poor should not use the Courts to cause social change?

A No, I think -- I think I answered that. I said where there are individuals here that -- that have a legitimate case and the inability to provide legal assistance, I think that they should have this legal assistance.

Q But not groups?

A Well, let's take -- in some of the cases, like for example, the Rural League of Assistance getting into the case involving the importation of supplemental labor. I'm quite sure there are a great many citizens who feel completely the opposite of the position taken by the Rural League of Assistance, in opposing the decision of the Secretary of Labor, but these citizens don't have the means to get the legal forces to buck the United States Government, and yet there they stand, without any legal representation and we can give legal representation to someone who is opposing a program or a policy that was set by the Government, and I just -- I think a review, as I said before, is necessary.

Q Governor, in your speech in which you first criticised this outfit, you said that they had been harrassing the State and County Governments in these court cases. Yet

in some of these instances they are going to Court and winning. Doesn't this sort of take away the harrassment aspect if they are getting the Judge agreeing with them?

A Also there are a number of instances where they can also harrass without winning and yet there is the very fact that they have attracted this publicity that they have launched this case suddenly against Government Agencies, a little fearful as Government Agencies can sometimes get, and so they have at least succeeded in holding up or in delaying even though they eventually lose something that needs to be done. Let's take, if it should get into the area of crop picking. They don't have to win a case if they can succeed in stopping something going on, and when they finally -- they lose, they have one because the crops are rotting in the fields. They won't wait for the case to be over.

Q Have you any comment on Tom Pitts' charge that the growers haven't tried hard enough to get these particular workers before they use the convict labor?

A This is the old cry that's been used from the very beginning with regard to the importation of supplemental labor. I'm not one who favors the use of -- of prison labor for doing these jobs and you can rest assured that we have to be assured, and with that every effort had been made and that there was going to be great loss of crops if we didn't go to this last resort, and it was a last resort. I'm afraid Mr. Pitts wouldn't even be satisfied if I volunteered to go out and pick them by myself.

Q Do you have plans to call out any more prison labor?

A Under the same circumstances, if needed to prevent a loss to the growers in California and eventually to the people of California through higher food prices, yes, we would.

Q But, Governor, your Department of -- Department of Employment came over with a release yesterday saying that the number that have already been allocated have been -- the supply has already been exhausted and there would be no further use of prison labor.

A This could be the fact then, that we just don't have any more that qualify and that could be used in that regard. You have a certain type of prisoner that you obviously can't put out there in those fields, but I hadn't seen that, but as I said, whatever we can do we are going to do in last resort measures to -- to keep from having this tragedy of food and a hungry world going to waste.

Q Apparently you are expanding in the counties, like San Bernardino County, bringing more prisoners in there; don't you feel you are going to stir up a great deal more resentment by labor unions who feel that somehow these people are coming in and usurping their authority?

A There is an obvious answer, let them deliver the people that can do the job then. But they -- so far they haven't been able to. Sometimes they remind me of, you know, a dog sitting on a sharp rock howling with pain, is too stupid to get up. The solution is very easy. They say that we haven't -- or that the growers haven't done all they can to find the labor to do these jobs. Then why are the crops rotting in the fields.

Q Governor, are you going to be changing the subject -- are you going to be present for the unveiling of the portrait of your predecessor tomorrow?

A I've got some scheduling problems, and I don't know whether I can or not. If I can't, though, I've decided to make it all even that my successor won't have to attend the unveiling of mine.

Q Governor, you will be meeting with the Mayor of San Jose tomorrow. Will this be discussing the racial problems at San Jose State College?

A Pat ^{Gayman} ~~Game~~ (phonetics) did you do it again? I didn't know I was meeting the Mayor tomorrow. I haven't looked that far ahead.

VOICE: I think he's associated with the League of Cities or the City --

GOVERNOR REAGAN: I'd certainly be interested and happy to hear whatever problems are there.

Q Governor, yesterday you met with Walter Cronkite. Before the meeting, one of your aides said there was no news meeting with Walter Cronkite, and suggested that forget the whole thing. Is the press office going to start telling us what's news and what isn't news or is this a --

VOICE: Could you tell us which of us said that.

VOICE: Paul Beck.

VOICE: No, it wasn't Paul Beck.

VOICE: You want to interview a newspaperman who is interviewing the Governor?

Q I asked the Governor.

A Well, no, and I don't think we have made any effort -- and I think that all of you have to admit you've had about as fair a crack at everything going on with this administration as you've ever had with any administration. We have certainly -- we believe in the people's right to know. We made every effort on that basis. Actually, Walter Cronkite did ask simply to come in for a personal visit as long as he was here, that it was -- it was nothing in the nature of an interview at all. He simply wanted to come in and we spent a great deal of the time talking about the fact of the similarity of background. Both of us were sports announcers and traded some experiences on our first time out, what it was like to also do the games by telegraphic report.

Q New subject.

A New subject, all right.

Q One of your appointees to the State Art Commission said that the new members will seek to change its activities in accord with your philosophy of Government, I think with reference to the matter of partial subsidies to local art organizations, concerts and what all. Could you say what you think the proper role of an Arts Commission would be in the matter?

A No, other than I think -- I think my general philosophy is pretty well known about people doing as much as they can for themselves and Government only doing that which the people find themselves unable to do. It is true

that from the very beginning of the Federal level the concept of this country being so culturally poor that the Federal Government by way of the States had to step in and underwrite and finance everything from theater to art exhibits. I've challenged a number of occasions, and I don't think that that is the function of an Art Commission. I think we will do whatever we can to help in this, but the idea of just underwriting -- subsidizing in a land that has more symphonies, community symphony orchestras that in all the world put together, that has more than 5,000 no-profit theaters scattered throughout communities in the land, that has in spite of television reached an all-time high in the publication and the distribution of books -- I don't think we are a culturally deprived people to the extent of now requiring the underwriting by Government of everything in the field of culture and art.

Q Governor, you've now had a chance after your recent trip to talk to the Republican leaders in three states. Perhaps you can give us your assessment of what sort of man in your estimation they are looking for as a Presidential candidate for 1968.

A That is just easy. They are looking for somebody that can win it, and so am I.

(Laughter)

Q Did you run into anyone, Governor, who didn't believe you that you weren't a candidate?

A Well, now, you'd --

(Laughter)

A -- you'd have to ask them. Certainly in the entire trip nobody pointed a finger and called me a liar.

Q Governor, what is your definition of a Presidential candidate? What is your definition of a candidate for President?

A I think a candidate for President is someone who has announced that he's a candidate for President.

Q Are there any candidates for President now?

A So far, no.

(Laughter)

A There are several who have said they are willing to be, after they ascertain a few more facts about the feeling of the people.

Q Would you be willing to be, Governor, after you've ascertained more facts about the people?

A Let's -- I don't think I've got another new thing to say on this. I've covered it. I've explained my position. One reporter pointed out the average, 37 times a day on this three-day trip. I have nothing more to add, so let's move on to another subject.

Q Still, from Presidential politics, the Senator Percy was here in Sacramento a short while ago, speaking out for a de-escalation of the Vietnam war, rather opposite views from yours a short time before that. Since then other Republicans, Chris Morton, Mark Hatfield, have said pretty much the same thing. If you were writing the Republican party platform for 1968, how would you do that to satisfy both these views and could you support a Republican for President with views such as Senators Percy's or Mark Hatfields' or Christopher Morton's?

A I've said that I'm going to support the candidate of our party. I'm not writing the platform, and no one man is going to write it. I haven't changed my views at all and there is nothing more to be added on that subject with regard to the war. I don't think that unity necessarily requires unanimity of thought, but I'm sure that whatever policy is adopted will be not completely pleasing to everyone. I don't think any party could do that, unless it was a totalitarian party, and then they don't care if it pleases everyone. And so I just -- I just don't think there is an answer to your question.

Q Would you give us an evaluation of how you feel with regards to the Vice-Presidency as contrasted to the Governorship of California? Which you think has the most responsibility?

A Well, I think that a job such as this offers a greater opportunity for someone who really wants to -- or try and put into effect the philosophy and the belief in a

kind of government -- I think there is a greater opportunity here than there is in that other office.

Q Governor, in your Milwaukee speech, you mentioned the Russian-built mines and torpedoes in Saigan Harbor. Maybe you've been asked this before, but where did this come from, the mining and torpedo action in Saigan Harbor?

A I was asked once before, and I said it came from the press. There have been reports, first of all there are constant reports of the mine sweepers that are on patrol in that harbor, and there also have been reports of damage to ships by way of such explosives. So it is --

Q Governor, was it ever said anywhere that these were Russian-built mines rather simply casual -- perhaps dropped by Viet Cong Guerrillas?

A I don't recall reading any reports that they were Russian-built mines. I didn't invent it and I don't think I imagined it, but it is also a matter of record that constantly and in testimony before Congressional Committees, intelligence reports have estimated the great percentage of munitions -- and I am quite sure that while I can't pick out the particular story or edition where I read it, I'm quite sure that this has also been mentioned as finding these, and that they -- they were just as it's been mentioned, that 85 per cent of the munitions that are being used against Americans enter through the Port at Haiphong.

Q But there is no new reports that you have access to, to indicate from which you drew the statement?

A No specific story, no. This has been -- you could check back over the last couple of years and find this has been a -- that there have been references in the press to this.

VOICE: Anything else? That's, Governor.

Q One thing, Governor, the Senate -- Governor Finch expressed a feeling that Senator Kuchel should be a part of your Favorite Son Delegation; have you changed your position if he's opposed in the primary that you wouldn't make a name in the delegation?

A If he's opposed in the primary, the only alternative would be to have all of his opponents also delegates, but also that's the kind of hypothetical question, because the Senator himself has ruled himself out and said that he didn't feel he should be a member of the delegation.

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HELD OCTOBER 24, 1967

Reported by

Beverly Toms, CSR

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GOVERNOR REAGAN: Well, as I start to answer the first question you'll be able to learn just how much of your health that is improved by an ocean voyage.

(Cough)

Q Governor, apparently the FBI has become interested in how you obtained a copy of that telegram. I wonder if you had any inquiries directly from the Bureau and how would you answer it, if you did?

A No, I've had no inquiries. I would have thought that Washington would have preferred to just let the matter die. Let's get something straight once and for all, because I read a number of accounts myself. I'd be very happy to tell you exactly and completely what happened. I did not intercept someone else's message or mail. I did not read someone else's message or mail, intentionally, that is. I was delivered in the regular delivery of wires or cablegrams -- I keep calling them cablegrams, I mean radiograms -- in the Conference of the Governors, all of us seated around the U-shaped table, I was delivered three messages, each one in a sealed envelope. Each one was addressed to me. One of them turned out to be a xeroxed copy of the message I had received in the original several hours earlier. Another one was a xeroxed copy and when I opened it and saw the heading "White House, I immediately took the envelope and looked again to make sure that I hadn't opened something in mistake. It was a xeroxed copy. As it develops, Price

Daniels received the original 20 hours earlier that I received this copy. Everyone -- almost everyone around the table was receiving messages. As I say, it was a regular delivery. The first few lines were obviously dealing with the Vietnam resolution and the list of such resolutions in the Governors' Conference. So, frankly I assumed that this must be some kind of general distribution, trying to convince us of the necessity for adopting a vietnam resolution and I read it. It wasn't till I got to the last few lines on the next page that I decided that evidently it wasn't meant for my eyes or anyone else's because in the last few lines were the instructions for arm-twisting a couple of Republican Governors. I immediately handed it back to the staff, said, "I guess this wasn't intended for me," but I told them right then that I intended certainly to notify the Governors who had been mentioned, and I felt it was a responsibility of mine to do this. I did notify them, without saying that I had received the message myself. I told the Republican Governors in caucus that there was such a message and that evidently this whole thing was as we had thought from the beginning, the desire of the White House, not something spontaneously springing up from our fellow Governors.

The day went by and it wasn't until that evening that Jack Bell of Associated Press came to me and said he heard there was a wire, what about it, and I said, "Well, yes, there was, but I don't have it. I gave it back to the staff." So we did not voluntarily go out to give this to the press. The press evidently from my having mentioned it to the other Governors, with that many people knowing about it -- undoubtedly there was talk. It was the press who came and solicited the message. The message was shown to them at that point, but it was addressed to me in a sealed envelope as were all messages.

Q Governor, did the message obviously come to you direct from the Radio Shack or --

A Well, I would assume because the man delivering them had quite a handful of messages that he was dealing

out around the table.

Q The man was not a member of your staff?

A Well, my staff was right behind me and when he came into them, they passed this on up to me. He went on around the table passing out the messages and then as you do in a meeting of that kind, you kind of try to open them quietly and read while -- with one ear paying attention to the business of the meeting.

Q Well, Governor, you say you gave it to the staff. You mean your staff or to the ship's staff?

A To my staff, yes.

Q And then what happened?

A Handed it back to them and continued on in the meeting until the first recess, at which point I spoke to one of the Governors involved and then spoke to the other Governors in the caucus.

Q Well, have you attempted to find out yourself how it happened to come into your hands? Felt it necessary to do so?

A No, as I say, why should I inquire into my luck.

Q Governor, can you say with certainty and positively that nobody on your staff had anything to do with it getting into your hands? No one assisted it into your hands or helped to get a copy or helped to get it delivered to you?

A No, I can say that with certainty. This was just a detour. He came in right here at my shoulder and they pointed to me and he reached up and handed it to me.

Q I'm speaking of the point at which it was copied from the carbon -- zeroxed from the carbon.

A I think in an operation this big, it just happened that this was big casino, this particular message. But there were at least a dozen that I know of, of mistaken deliveries. As a matter of fact, Paul Laxalt, Governor of Nevada, received a message intended for me. You can't set up an operation that big, that had to keep 42 Governors in daily touch with their own capitols and 150 press service without having some mistakes made, and so I think it was

perfectly understandable from that standpoint.

Q Were you the only one, Governor, who got -- are you the only one who got a zeroxed copy?

A As far as I know. No other Republican mentioned getting one and I doubt if any of the Democrats would have mentioned it if they had.

Q Who delivered it to you?

A This came by way of the -- there was someone of the staff of the Governor's Conference who usually came around that they were delivering messages.

Q You have no idea who might have linked it to Jack Bell?

A As I say, the only think I can figure is that once I mentioned this in caucus, various Governor's staff were present there, there was quite a group--that the old rule follows that the more people know something, the easier it is to get out. I'm quite sure there must have been conversation about this.

Q Governor, I think there is one thing that ought to be clear. After Bell went to you, he then came to me and I had the copy and the press got the actual copy of it from me, because I'm the staff who happened to have it. But they went to the Governor first and he said the staff has it. They then naturally came to me and I had it and gave it to them. But we never at any time made any zeroxed copies or made any effort to distribute it on our own.

Q So, Governor, you are convinced it is sure chance and there is no violation of Federal Law, as some people would have suggested?

A No, I'm convinced there wasn't.

Q Governor, in the current crisis over the financing of the State Water Project, there were two proposals offered to you yesterday at the meeting with Mr. Gianelli and Senator Cologne. Which do you prefer, the maximum deferment or Mr. Gianelli or the minimum deferment by Senator Cologne?

A Well, you are jumping the gun a little bit on me.

This was my first meeting on that. We have a full cabinet meeting scheduled on that to take this up. I don't think that we can even have the answer just as a result of one meeting. I think there are a great many things that have to be looked into. First of all, it is almost impossible for Mr. Gianelli at this point to know, dollar for dollar, what our financial situation is, the extent of this with bids that still have to be let and so forth. So this is going to require some study.

There is also the question of legality, if we should chose to go that old bond route, those bonds that were authorized 30 years ago. Some of those were used by Mr. Gianelli's predecessor, but we have -- there is conflicting legal opinion as to whether this would hold up without a Supreme Court test.

Q Governor, what is your understanding of the so-called juggling of figures, as alleged?

A Well, I only know that there was testimony to that effect. We are in no position to charge that such a thing happened. We do know that in an effort to get the bond issue passed there's been no secret of the fact several years ago in passing that, that they glossed over the fact that it would not pay for the program. They glossed over the fact that there was nothing built-in providing for escalation; the fact that they pretended that the prices for everything they would have done would remain the same level throughout the years of construction of the program, when they know that that's not true. But we are in no position to say whether there has been or not -- or to confirm what was the testimony that was given before the Committee.

Q Governor, is there any chance that you'll put either the State Water Project or Medi-cal on special call before the forthcoming special session?

A We haven't made a decision yet on Medi-Cal, haven't been able to. There's no plan now for putting the Water-Cal on the special session. I don't believe we have the information and time for that.

Q Governor, do you think tuition at Junior College level would be a good idea?

A I've never given consideration to that because actually that's -- I think belongs properly in the hands of the local school boards. This is local education, and I've never gone beyond the two that we have considered.

Q Governor, last week Finance Director Smith commented on both Junior College tuition and also raised questions on the open-door policy for Junior Colleges. Would you comment on his comments and your position?

A Well, I don't know exactly what he did say. I know that perhaps there have been a lot of conversations, speculation by anyone connected with finance and education, because this is a nation-wide problem, as I know from talking it over with our fellow Governors on this trip. All over the country, the case of financing higher education is rapidly approaching a critical point. Education is increasing in cost, just so much faster than normal growth and price increase, that every State is faced with the same problem of trying to find some way to preserve quality and yet at the same time adequately finance.

Q Governor, were you perhaps repelled by the spectacle of the Oakland Anti-draft demonstration?

A Yes, and I think the aftermath, to suddenly find a community and the taxpayers saddled with \$200,000 estimated damages for things scrawled on sidewalks and on buildings, and for parking meters torn up and so forth -- there absolutely is nothing that justifies this kind of conduct, in a system such as ours where there is adequate provision for dissent for making your views known, for trying through legal channels to get changes in Governmental policy or law. This is just -- this is riot. This is taking to the streets in violence. This is trying to force your will upon the people by violence and by law-breaking, and I just don't think it should be tolerated any time, any place in our country.

Q Governor, in view of what you've just said with

regard to the rioting, don't you think that something stronger should have been done by the Regents last Friday with regard to a stand in stopping these uprisings from beginning in Berkeley?

A Well, I think that the Regents now have taken a stand. I'm a little concerned that there seems to be some confusion about what they did. The new policy, as I remember, we are trying to preserve our system of local autonomy for the campuses of our Universities, but the new statement of policy from the Regents puts it squarely the responsibility of the Chancellor of each campus that where the breaking of the law is advocated in any meeting, whether the law is to be broken off the campus or on, this would not be tolerated and the Chancellor has a responsibility to take action and to mete out punishment for doing so.

Q Will the size of the law enforcement agencies on campus be then increased?

A Well, now this again is going to be up to each campus to find out what their problem is. I wouldn't be able to know whether that is going to require an increase in police force or whether it is -- say, I must take another boat ride.

(Laughter)

A -- or whether this just means that the administration of the University having the authority to expel or to punish, to suspend, they can handle the situation.

Q Lieutenant Governor Finch said last week while you were gone that the authorities on the Berkeley Campus were obviously out-gunned and out-manned.

A Well, he was closer to the scene. I was gone and I would accept his word for it. They seem to be.

Q Could we back up a little bit to the question about the Junior Colleges. For clarification on Smith's question in the open-door policy, do you think the State might have to limit that to permit Junior College enrollment?

A Well, this is a question that certainly could stand some research and review. This is the situation whereby

in our Junior Colleges, you can enter just simply if you are 18 years of age, and you don't have to have a high school diploma to get in, and it is true that in **many** of our Junior Colleges there are students that come in and out of the college. They will enter and last up till about the first hard exams and then they get a chance at a job and they leave and they come back, and I've had instructors tell me of students in their classes who entered as many as a dozen times, and it would seem to me that this, with the heavy financial burden providing an education, that perhaps we should review the ease with which they can take them to the Junior College, because we have to give ourselves to that maximum attendance, and when the class at the end of the first hard exam suddenly slips down to half its former size, this is a matter of concern.

Q Governor, Mr. Smith, when he was discussing this Junior College question, talked about tuition as a user-fee and said that it was all right for -- at the colleges because -- and the University, because people didn't have to go there. He was then asked whether he would apply the user-fee idea to Junior Colleges, which is where his answer, "It might be a pretty good idea" came up. Do you think that in the long -- in the long range that it would be -- that this state would or should come to the idea of charging a tuition for Junior Colleges?

A Well, as I say, you are talking about a local system of education. I don't think it is the State's responsibility or right to get into this subject. I think Gordon was expressing a personal opinion that if the Junior Colleges should be confronted with the same finance problem as the State Colleges and Universities, that he was expressing an opinion they might look at this. But it's never been considered as a part of our program at all.

Q Do you have -- you have to appoint a Board of Governors of the Junior Colleges pretty soon, Governor. You are not going to examine them on their feelings about tuition before you --

A No.

Q On another matter, Governor, you also have to appoint a combined Park and Recreation Commission. Will you be doing that before that lawfully takes effect or do you have the appointees pretty much in mind?

A Actually, I haven't had a chance to discuss that with Paul ~~Harley~~ ^{Maerle} or any of our people and we will be taking that up now that this trip is over.

Q I have -- on the San Francisco election, you once said the late Senator McAteer was a candidate, you were going to stay out of it completely. Now we seem to have one Republican and two Democrats that are leading the field. Do you still plan to stay out of that election entirely?

A Yes, this is a local matter and it is supposed to be a non-partisan election, even though there are partisan overtones, as you mentioned. But this is up to the people of San Francisco to make that decision.

Q Governor, October 16, about a week ago, Paul Beck sent a memo to the Capitol Press Service listing 11 property projects that you could veto. Now, the direction of the Regional office of OEO in San Francisco said this morning of those 11 projects, two are not vetoed, are still in operation in San Diego and Fresno Counties; one was suspended before your veto and your veto did not effect it, and one program wasn't under your veto powers at all. Were you aware of these errors in that report?

A No, but I'm not surprised at them. It just further lends proof to the utter confusion of the poverty program. Our efforts -- it is very difficult to keep track of these and to make the necessary investigations on these programs. We are doing our best. We have vetoed that many. There is a time element involved on some of them. It is possible that on those that we might have gone beyond the time limit. I do know that we have succeeded in getting over half the programs changed before we allowed them to go forward, and they made drastic changes in them, on the premise they hadn't changed them we would have vetoed. So it is possible that there were errors of that kind.

Some of the programs that are still in existence are programs that we will consider very seriously when it comes our turn that -- but they were approved before last January.

Q Can I change the subject? Can you tell us in some detail what you are doing to dissuade Mr. McDonald from his efforts on your behalf in the New Hampshire Primary? Could you tell us just what it is that you've done and are going to do?

A We have done everything from direct communication with him to sending letters to every daily newspaper in New Hampshire expressing our resistance to this, repudiating this and hoping that those papers would so notify their readers.

Q Have you done anything to dissuade Max Rafferty?
(Laughter)

A No, he expressed -- I'm very honored and gratified by his high opinion of me, but since he's not involved in any primaries any place in any of the other states or entering my name in contests, I just accepted it as a very flattering and friendly observation.

Q Do you plan to reciprocate?

A I intend to remain neutral in the primary here regardless of who the candidates are.

Q What is your reaction to Senator Kuchel's endorsement of Governor Rockefeller? Do you think endorsements belong this early in the would-be race?

A I think everyone has to make that decision for himself. I've made my decision about neutrality, but then maybe the Senator's better acquainted with the Governor of New York than I am.

Q Governor, now that you -- ladies first.

Q Thank you. When some of the other reporters were visiting in your office, Governor, they were talking about the poor chance Richard Nixon may have in '68, and you seem to agree, saying, "Yes, we are all concerned about the electability."

A No, it didn't quite come out that way, and I shouldn't have done it, in a social atmosphere of the ladies that were there. The statement that was made was to the effect that there were people who were concerned in our party about this, and I acknowledged that I knew there were people who had that concern, but I further said that I thought the answers to all of this would be obtained in the next several months.

Q Governor, now that you have spent several days with many of the nationally prominent figures considered for presidential caliber, do you feel your chances are any different now?

(Laughter)

A I never -- I've never given any consideration to it. I'm not a candidate.

Q In Long Beach speech, Mr. Battaglia said he did not think you would ignore the party's appeal if it came to that, to be a Vice Presidential candidate. If the party asked you to be a Vice-Presidential candidate, what would you do?

A Well, I've expressed myself, I believe, that first of all, I don't think they are going to, but secondly I think that there is a far greater opportunity for implementing my beliefs about government and what it should do here than it would be in that position.

Q Governor, would your cold interfere with your trip this week at all?

A I'm very nervous about that. I'm doing everything I can short of goose grease and turpentine on my chest.

VOICE: Anyone got a cough drop?

GOVERNOR REAGAN: Anybody has any home remedies or anything to suggest, deliver them.

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HELD OCTOBER 31, 1967

Reported by

Beverly Toms, C.S.R.

(This rough transcript of the Governor's press conference is furnished to the members of the Capitol press corps for their convenience only. Because of the need to get it to the press as rapidly as possible after the conference, no corrections are made and there is no guaranty of absolute accuracy.)

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GOVERNOR REAGAN: Good morning.

Q Governor, is there any truth to a published report that a homosexual ring has been uncovered amongst your administration?

A No, there is no truth to the report, and I know where the report comes from. I was informed last night, while most Californians won't see it, because I think that's the best clue as to the veracity of the report, is the fact that as far as we know most of the major papers are refusing to run the Drew Pearson column in which it appears. Drew Pearson has been sort of riding on my back for a number of years, long before I ever got into this business, back when I was just making speeches along the banquet trail. Pearson has devoted columns to me and I'd like to say now three Presidents of both parties have called Drew Pearson publically a liar and to my knowledge none of them have ever seen fit to retract that opinion, and I certainly have never seen anything that would justify my disagreeing with those three Presidents on that score.

Q This report, however, was in a major San Francisco newspaper this morning.

A Well, then someone violated what I've been told they were going to do, but I can only say that I'm not going to dignify Drew Pearson, by even attempting to answer anything as scurilous and as ridiculous as this report.

And I think that -- I myself wonder how respectable newspapers

can continue to carry the column of a man who has done what he's done and this is about the lowest, this is stooping to destroy human beings, innocent people and there is just no sense in getting into that kind of a contest with him.

Q Governor, this agreement you have extracted from the newspapers --

A I didn't extract -- wait a minute, come on, I didn't extract any agreement. I simply said that at the time that this -- I was notified of this, I was told that the major newspapers of California were -- as they did with the scurilous attack on George Christopher during the primary, were not going to run this column as they didn't run that one, and again I have to say I have to question why they run any of them, because if he's as vicious and dishonest as he's been in my own experiences, he must be that way with most of his other material.

Q Governor, forgetting the Pearson column for a moment, there has been, however, over the last couple of months, rumors among the press corps, rumors in California that you have conducted an investigation into some staff members in your office.

A You fellows all started out with a pretty good rumor also that due to some changes in personnel, that it was to set up a campaign organization for me for President, and when that didn't turn out to be true, now all of a sudden we take a different attack with the rumors. Rumors are rumors and there is nothing to add to our original story about anything that's going on. I just don't know what you are talking about, really.

Q Governor, does your office ever investigate individuals that work in your administration?

A No.

Q You ever conduct a personnel clearance itself?

A Oh, well, naturally you don't take anyone into Government without doing the utmost to check them out completely, and thoroughly, because I think this is a trust that you hold with the People of California.

Q Who conducted the investigation?

A What?

Q Who conducts the investigation?

A There are a number of channels through which you go and regular State channels. There is an organization set up within the State. It does not just come under my administration for the checking out of personnel.

Q Governor, pursuing this Pearson thing just momentarily, the New York Post has informed us for the Press Conference, printed the full text of Pearson and his column in today's paper, and one point it mentioned was that the -- your communications director on the Independence told some reporters at least two of your aides had been dropped because of moral grounds. Would you comment on that?

A Yes, he's here and you can ask him directly. I am prepared to say that nothing like that ever happened. I've also -- and we heard these rumors even before we got off the ship. I've even heard rumors also that behind closed doors I gave statements to press and this is just absolutely not true. Want to confirm it, Lynn?

LYNN: Confirmed.

GOVERNOR REAGAN: I think Drew Pearson shouldn't be using a typewriter and paper. He's better with a pencil on out-building walls.

Q Are you calling Drew Pearson a liar?

A I'm saying that in the experience of the stories, including one that he printed about me during the primary -- it's my turn again, he seems to have gotten back around to me again, but in every experience that I've had with regard to stories involving me, there has been no truth and he's a liar.

Q How about in this case.

A He's lying.

Q Can you think of any reason why a story like this would come out, political enemies or personal vendetta by Mr. Pearson? Why do you think this would come out?

A Look at his past record. He writes with a certain

amount of bias. I think I could recall to you up in one of the States on the other side of the mountains, one of that northern belt of States, I can't tell you now Montana, Wyoming, Idaho or one of the Dakotas, but up in there a few years ago in an election he literally with a last minute column destroyed the man on the eve of an election. The votes were counted, the election was over before about four hours it was revealed that the story was told to be false.

Q Governor, this rumor is running around all over the State. In view of that fact would you favor having an investigation by the Ethics and Morals Committee to find out exactly whether there is any truth in it or not?

A I'm satisfied with the knowledge that we have and I'm certainly not going to dignify this kind of scurilous gossip.

Q Governor, isn't it true that almost all of the people that are given names for you to appoint to various jobs within the State administration are recommended by prominent well-known responsible citizens?

A Well, to the extent that we have -- we had openly a screening committee set up -- well, two screening committees, actually, north and south, to help us recruit when we took office, and these committees went out seeking people who were not actually engaged in going after government jobs. But to try and find the best personnel possible just as we promised in the campaign we would. They were very successful in this and most of the personnel that we have made -- that we have appointed have not been job-seekers at all, but have been people that we persuaded or they persuaded to take these jobs. In no instance, however, did those committees ever finally say and come to us with a name and say "this person." They gave us a rating and a choice of names and we made the final decision. Now, to that extent we still use unofficially those people who are on those committees many times to check out or to ask their help for additional personnel.

Q In your investigations of the people that have

joined your administration, have you ever uncovered anything like this?

A No.

Q Governor, do you believe there is cause for a libel suit in this case?

A That's going to be up to the people who are named.

Q Governor, do you think that people in California have been feeding Mr. Pearson this information or did he just dream all this up out of his own head?

A Oh, I don't know, it is Halloween. Maybe that's why he chose to come out from under his rock this way today. I wouldn't know. I know that one previous story about me back several years ago when I was, as I say, was just a banquet speaker, a performer, his own man called me and got the story direction from me on the particular subject and then picked up the column and it was as if there had never been a call, completely refuted everything that -- all the information I had given him and simply went ahead with a column that was thoroughly false and dishonest.

Q You don't think this, though, is a political vendetta against you, perhaps, by people in California who are using Mr. Pearson?

A I've never had the feeling that Mr. Pearson gets used by anybody.

Q Would you be -- would you welcome the support -- do you think you would get the support of former staff members in any future political expedition you might be taking?

A Well, I always felt confident of their loyalty at the time they were here. I don't know whether anything has happened to change that, but yes, I would think so.

Q You would welcome the support?

A Yes.

Q Of each of those people who have been with you and are not now.

A Yes, that's right.

Q Governor, do you -- pardon me.

A W t a minute till this gentl man and then you.

Q Well, Governor Reagan, you have attracted and do attract a lot of attention around the country and although this column will not appear or has not appeared so far in California newspapers, it will appear we can assume around the country. Do you plan any action that might take away from this, what you call, lie?

A No. As I say, that's -- I'm not going to give that much consideration to anything said by Drew Pearson. I think the authorship of the rumor sort of explains it and gives it its measure, right there.

Q As you move in prominence upward, do you expect future attacks of this kind from various sources against yourself and your staff?

A I think, judging by past history, I don't know that I'm moving upward or not. Moving into the second year pretty soon of the present job. But I think this goes with the game and I think that it is a little like President Harry said about it, if you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen. No, I think this sort of goes along with the game of politics. Fortunately this is one place where the business I was in does give me a little conditioning for the present occupation, because it also sort of went along with show business.

Q Governor, with respect to one phase of this report, the reference to tape recording made by Arthur VanCort allegedly at a cabin near Lake Tahoe, are you familiar with anything of that sort?

A I'm familiar with what Mr. Pearson said and again I say there is absolutely no truth in it. You want to ask him? Art?

ART: Complete fiction.

Q How do you know, Governor, that Drew Pearson was the originator of this rumor?

A I don't know. I don't know. I didn't mean to imply when I said that that he couldn't -- I don't know where he gets whatever he gets and tees off with, but whether he needed anything to tee off on or not, I can only tell you

maybe nothing more than as you yourselves have said, there is gossip going around and that's all he needed. I don't know where it started.

Q Well, of course the original item was there was a very oblique reference which did not name this administration nor any individuals in the Periscope column of Newsweek last -- I believe it was last Tuesday.

A I didn't even connect it with California, frankly.

Q Governor, can I change the subject?

A I'd be happy.

(Laughter)

Q The husband of the Governor of Alabama is speaking in Sacramento today and appears to agree with you on the many issues, Viet Nam, crime in the streets and big government. Since you are not a candidate for President, do you have any comment on his ^{Wallace} candidacy?

A No, why should I comment? He's a registered Democrat, he's their problem.

Q Do you think -- agrees in the things that you agree, you think he's a right candidate for the Democrats?

A Well, that's up to them to decide. If he's against crime in the streets, I can't disagree with that, but then I'm sure all of us can find certain points of agreement with each other.

Q What do you think -- pardon me, what do you think will be the effect of his candidacy in terms of pulling votes away from the other two candidates, whoever they may be?

A Well, I've expressed myself in believing that if he should continue along the path not of being a Democratic candidate, but of being a third party Democrat in certain areas yes, he could hurt the Republican party. For example, among those people that resist voting Republican just on the basis of the name and there are people like that -- in areas like that, in those areas where there is disenchantment with the present administration, he might offer some of these people a chance to vote their protest against the administration without switching Republican. And to that extent he'd

take votes from us.

Q Do you think he could get any votes in California?

A Well, I hope if he does, they are all from the Democrats.

Q What chance do you think he has in fact in getting his name on the ballot, speaking as a politician, the difficulty for him to actually --

A What does it take?

Q 66,000.

A 66,000 votes. Oh, I would think that -- I think almost anyone could get that many names on a ballot for almost any cause. We have had in our past -- we have had some pretty kind of far-out and wierd parties that have been able to get on the ballot. So that's possible.

Q Governor, what position would you take if you were voting in San Francisco on proposition P?

A Well, I haven't paid too much attention to the local election over there. What is that?

Q The Vietnam issue.

A Oh, well, I don't believe cities should have a foreign policy. I don't think any good can be served by that unless it would be the idea of pulling out of Vietnam should be endorsed by the people. Then again it might lend comfort and aid to the enemy. I think it is plain that Vietnam is a -- North Vietnam is counting on winning this, not in Vietnam, but in Washington, just as they won against the French in Paris, and anything that makes them hold out longer by believing there is hope of that kind of victory, it is not to our disadvantage.

I frankly am sorry that such a thing is on a local election ballot.

Q Does that issue, though, come within your belief that this is peaceful dissent?

A Oh, it has to be peaceful dissent, yes, but I think that -- I think any responsible citizen should give a serious consideration as to whether it does indeed lend comfort and aid to the enemy.

Q Governor Reagan, the fires in Southern California have been described by reporters on the scene as monster fire~~st~~. Do you think there is anything the State can do to help out the people in that area?

A Yes, there are things we can do and we have done already. We have our disaster office, we have the Department of Corrections and a number of other State agencies that could be interested in this in close contact. We know that equipment is going from the north. We are making fire-fighting crews available and we also in Los Angeles County have our people now in consultation with them as to what would be the proper declaration as to state of disaster and so forth for that area. We are in touch and prepared to do anything we can do and are doing some things to be of help and we also have National Guard made available, in all those areas.

I'm a ~~vegeran~~ of those fires. I saw -- had one go through our ranch down there in the Malibu Hills. I know what a tragedy this can be, and of course I was on the perimeter in our home down there at -- of the Bel Air fire a few years ago. My brother lost his home. We sat there through the night watching to see whether the fire would stop just short of our area. We had the cars loaded and ready to evacuate. It is a great tragedy.

Q Are you prepared to declare that a disaster area?

A Well, this is what our disaster people are in consultation about. There is certain various levels of what can be required or what you designated and we want to do what will be the most helpful.

Q Governor, do you plan a special call to correct an alleged error in the Senator Collier's Camper Bill?

A Now wait a minute, I know -- I remember we discussed this the other day. We haven't come to any decision yet as to whether on a special call or not. But, obviously one of those things -- it actually isn't necessary to clear a special call, because as you know, the Highway Patrol has declared a 90-day warning period in which there are going to be no fines, no tickets handed out for this 90-day

period which will take us into the regular session. And of course then with an urgency clause, why we could get this handled in the regular session.

Q Governor, could the Legislature do that by resolution without you providing for a special call on that?

A I'd have to check on that, too.

Q Well, in addition/^{to} the Highway Patrol this could be enforced by local police.

Do you have any commitment from the Police Officers Association?

A No.

Q Governor, do you plan on any special items on the agenda in addition to the re-apportionment?

A We are still discussing the possibility of one, but no decision has been made on that.

Q Is that Medicare?

A Yes.

Q Governor, back to the Wallace thing for just a minute, would you give us your assessment of this man, his qualifications as a potential President. What do you think of him as a Presidential candidate?

A I think that is up to the opposition party if he should be the Democratic candidate. Then as Republicans I think we would then --

Q If neither one, what do you think of him as Presidential material?

A I'd rather wait until we see what the decision of his own fellow party members is on that. I say, if he's the candidate, I'm quite sure as Republicans we will have a lot to say about his qualifications.

Q The 11th commandment goes over then into Democratic parties?

A No, no, not at all.

(Laughter)

GOVERNOR REAGAN: I'll just let them handle their own problem for a while.

Q Governor, the future of California's smog control

is perhaps going to be debated in Congress tomorrow. Have you done everything that you think is necessary to insure Senator Murphy's amendment to perhaps be put back into the bill?

A Yes, we have. As a matter of fact, I'm in constant touch with Senator Murphy on this. We have our own state smog control director back there now. We have also contacted all of our Congressional delegation, and on both sides of the aisle. We have them firmly behind this amendment. There is no question but that California should insist on its right to have its own standard in this because anything that is leveled down to meet a standard that would fit rural areas of small population, where they have no smog problem, has got to hurt California. We are doing everything we can to see that that amendment is passed.

Q What do you think its chances are?

A Well, I have to hope they are good.

Q Governor, to dissent on college campuses and universities, do you think the loyalty oath ought to be maintained at the University of California for Professors and teachers?

A I personally have never seen anything wrong with taking the loyalty oath any place. We ask a man to take it before he fights. I don't see why -- a governmental body has a right to ask that of any employee.

Q Thank you, Governor.

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HELD NOVEMBER 14, 1967

Reported by

Beverly Toms, CSR

(This rough transcript of the Governor's press conference is furnished to the members of the Capital press corps for their convenience only. Because of the need to get it to the press as rapidly as possible after the conference, no corrections are made and there is no guaranty of absolute accuracy.)

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GOVERNOR REAGAN: I have a brief statement here I'd like to open with. I'd like to open by announcing that what I'm sure will be a solution to a problem that's affected this State for many years, the creation of a system that will once and for all take the selection of judges out of politics. This milestone in the selection of judicial appointees represents a complete agreement for the first time among this administration, the State Bar and the Judicial Council of California, and it will be presented at the Legislature early next year and I hope it will receive quick and favorable action from all Legislators interested in removing politics from judicial appointments.

As you know, one of my campaign pledges was aimed squarely at taking the appointment of judges out of politics and plans were submitted at the last legislative session by both this administration and the State Bar. Legislative approval was not forthcoming. Now, however, we have agreed on a unique plan of action that will assure the people of California that those who are qualified will be named to the bench, and no longer will judicial selections be determined on the basis of partisanship.

I want to thank the State Bar and the Judicial Council for working with us in developing this plan for the benefit of all Californians. Details of the proposed legislation are before you. Thank you.

Q Governor, I have two questions I'm supposed to

ask you here. Two weeks ago you called Drew Pearson a liar. Does this now include the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, Star, the Newsweek Magazine and other publications which have since printed stories along the lines of Mr. Pearson's article?

A Gentlemen, I told you that the story last week, that I had known for six months of such a ring in my administration and had refused to do anything about it, was totally false and I reiterate it was totally false.

Q Governor, the second question was, did you say, when informed recently of Pearson's suggestion that you take a lie detector test, that Pearson had better not spit on the sidewalk if he returns to California, and if so, was that statement intended as a threat?

A Well, gentlemen, that I think was an injudicial statement that I made at one airport when somebody -- I think that's where I made it, when somebody said something. Yes, I said it; shouldn't have said it. I think there is a certain leeway in provocation.

Q Except for the six-month delay charge, disregarding that, is the story about the administration officials resigning substantially true?

A Look, let me ask you something. I just can't believe that you fellows want to continue to pursue this question. Now, I told you a few days ago that I had made my last statement on this subject. I have never had and do not have any evidence or proof that would warrant an accusation, no accusation or charge has ever been made. Now, if there is a credibility gap, and I'm responsible, it is because I refuse to participate in trying to destroy human beings with no factual evidence and I'm not going to do that, and if that means it is a credibility gap, then so be it, there is a credibility gap.

Q Why then, Governor, would a Boston newspaper say you are no longer to be believed?

A Well, gentlemen, that's up to them. If they want to say that. But I would suggest if their accusation is to be made against other people, you go to the people

making the accusations. I've told you, I've said all I'm going to say on the subject. I think we better get onto another subject because I'm not -- just not going to talk about this. I told you, there is a credibility gap, all right, and I told you the reason for it. So now which ones of you are going to write up that I thumped the table and lost my temper and shouted angrily?

SQUIRE: Any more questions on this subject.

Q Yes. Mr. Nofziger has been accused by six newsmen of not owning up to telling them confidentially that people left the administration because of immoral behavior.

A Yes, I don't know that that is true, and I told you this subject as far as I'm concerned is closed. Now, do we want to have a press conference or do we want to just stand here with me refusing to talk?

Q Well, the question bandied about is that someone is lying. Is it Mr. Nofziger then?

A No, I don't think that there is any lying been going on at all. I've told you if there is a credibility gap what the basis for it is, and that basis still remains and the credibility gap will have to remain if that is the way you chose to interpret it.

Q In ~~The~~ present issue of Saturday Evening Post Arthur Sylvester makes the contention that there are times not only appropriate, obligatory, for the government to lie. Do you subscribe to that?

A No, I can't -- I know Mr. Sylvester's position and I think he was talking about a true credibility gap of whether the People have a right to know about the doings of the government, of the People's affairs, and I have never subscribed to that believe~~d~~ and I think you will agree that I've done everything I can to keep the people informed about the People's business, and we will continue to do so.

Q Governor, reports have come from the Attorney General's office that you rejected their offers to help screen your appointees when you started taking office, to exclude people who might be undesirable in any way.

Would you mind telling us what apparatus or method you did use to make sure that none of your appointees was undesirable, had any undesirable qualities and why you did not use the facilities of the Attorney General's office?

A Well, I can't say that I'm completely familiar with all the details of who we did or did not use. There is a State force not in the Attorney General's office that has been utilized, but I did what I think has been consistent with other Governors in the past. We set up our own machinery because the responsibility was mine, and I am satisfied that we have done a very effective job of screening.

Q Would you have done it differently if you had it to do again, Governor?

A No.

Q This separate apparatus job, is this in the Governor's office or in some other agency?

A That's out of the Governor's office.

Q Do you clear everyone with the C.I. & I, for instance?

A Yes.

Q That is under the Attorney General.

A You know something, Jack, you may have caught me. I didn't think it was. I thought it was an independent agency. If that's under the Attorney General, then we have used the Attorney General's office. I was confused then. I thought it was a separate independent force. We have used it, do use it.

Q Governor, referring to credibility gap, one member of your own Commission of Retarded Children, Mrs. Vivian Walter says that the Danish visitors' statement about Sonoma State Hospital is true. Do you plan any further checking on that?

A No, his statements seemed to be at odds with the statement of the personnel there, and I would call to your attention that the personnel there were very severely misquoted, according to their subsequent statements in the

*Seneca
State*

interview that was given by our Danish visitor. And, incidentally, I'm a little confused as to how a representative of a government agency of another country came to this country and his own council and his own fellow officials of the Danish Government were unaware of his presence here and he made no attempt to officially contact and make official visits, if that's what he chose to do. Now, the stories have been pretty well carried since that the conditions of the hospital -- don't get me wrong, there is no hospital that could not do a better job if we had more people and if we had more money, but in the first place, the hospitals for the retarded are not in the plan for cutbacks of the mentally -- of the hospitals for the mentally ill. There has been no reduction of staff there of any account. There were a few reductions in housekeeping staff, but this was a normal hospital routine as the superintendent has stated. They have more personnel and better training than they had previously. The main problem is something this State has been trying to do something about, and again we are hampered by not being able to afford all that we want to afford. There is no question but that these four large hospitals, this is not the ideal way to care for the retarded. But the care of the retarded is a pretty recent thing from the day when they were just simply herded into hospitals with the mentally ill. We know that if we can emphasize again, the smaller and the local health care center, as we are doing with the mentally ill, will be better off. We are trying to bring this about.

I think that we rank very high, if not the highest, among the states in this particular. They chose to dwell -- whoever wrote that first story chose to dwell on one particular ward. There is such a ward in every institution of that kind. This is a ward of people who are physically mature, completely grown up, and who have minds that have not developed above the one-year old stage, and the matter of keeping clothing on them, the matter of their inability to take care of themselves or to have any restraint, this is an accepted

San Jose
State

fact. And it just presents a terrible problem.

One paper on San Francisco the other day wrote quite a story on this that explained in detail and very fairly what this problem is. Now, granted, if State could afford to have virtually round-the-clock and individual nursing care for individuals of this kind, I'm sure that situation could be improved. This is impossible either in the State level or even in private care, and I am hopeful that we will be able in the days ahead to speed this tendency or this trend towards local health care centers.

Q Governor, right after that incident you implied in an interview that you felt that this might have been rigged to look as bad as possible. What led you to that assumption and what information did you have to indicate it had been rigged?

A Because as I was on a week-end and away from the office and away from anyone here, and having had some evidences of lack of cooperation in the mental health program in some areas in the past, perhaps I spoke hastily of the fact because also -- and I'll never make this mistake again, having been misquoted myself, I should not have jumped to the conclusion that the quotes by hospital personnel were as they appeared in the article in the original article, and I was irritated and upset at hearing something that I knew from all the reports we had could not be true.

And since I had found out they didn't make those statements, then I suppose I should apologize for even believing temporarily that they did.

Q Was it rigged? I wonder if you found out if that was rigged.

A I don't know. I only know that Mrs. Walter brought in there as a visitor -- an interview was arranged, not a press conference, apparently, according to the hospital personnel he made no comments or criticism while at the hospital. He went back and gave an interview and gave out the story.

Q Dr. O'Neill has written a memo to the staff at the hospital saying that he agrees that conditions are -- that they are way understaffed at the hospital and I wondered if you approve of the present level of care in all of the wards, at Sonoma State Hospital.

A I just told you he's made this statement publically, this has been quoted in the press since. He said obviously there isn't any hospital that they could do better if they had more money and more staff, but he has also said he recognizes that this is a problem that will always be true of any department of State Government or of government. And it was -- he has also made an unequivocal statement that any lack of staff or wish for more staff is not as a result of any economies of this administration.

Q Governor, in the same area, the CMA has now offered to make an investigation -- I guess what might be called a credibility gap here. Would you favor such an investigation?

A A credibility gap?

Q Problems of mental hygiene care in this State.

A Well, gentlemen, at least one of your papers represented here followed up the -- our Danish visitor's story, by going over to the hospital and given a same tour and wrote what I thought was a very objective and fair story of what they discovered.

Q That is general investigation, cutbacks and so forth, not this one incident.

A We have a continuing investigation of this kind going on; I told you at the very beginning, with regard to mental health, we were going to stay on this. And I have been in constant touch with Spencer Williams about this and there is a constant eye on these programs.

Q California Medical Association made this suggestinn.

A They are welcome.

Q Governor, do you have any plans at all to increase the staffing at the State hospitals next year, say?

A I think we are going to meet whatever need we can. They were increased this year to a certain extent for the mentally ~~regarded~~. Remember, we are talking about two

separate programs. Many people are confused. All they see is mental and mental health. They don't realize we have 10 hospitals treating the mentally ill. These were the hospitals involved in the cutbacks. There was a story in the paper this morning that we expect in the next few years Dr. Lowry has stated, to be down to probably a permanent case load of about 12 to 15 thousand in our mental hospitals, down from the 36 thousand of a few years ago. This is because of our continuing emphasis on the local health care centers.

There are four mentally retarded institutions. This is a problem we haven't caught up with. We need to do more. We hope we can put greater emphasis on the local end of this. There is a waiting list. This is a great and tragic problem, but we are doing everything we can and as I say, this was not involved in the program of cutbacks.

Q Governor, do you feel you've been shooting from the hip --

A Pardon?

Q Governor, do you feel you've been shooting from the hip too often on some of these statements?

A No, I don't really -- maybe now and then there are a couple of times when, as I say, I do regret, Squire, that I took for granted the -- that the quotes were accurate and you have to know the surrounding circumstances to know why I should jump to that conclusion and then I realized that I never should until I check personally and find out if the quotes are accurate. I wish somebody would do that about mine.

Q Governor, you say we need to do more. Do you plan to do more?

A We very definitely hope we can. We made the biggest single increase in funds for the local health care centers of the mentally ill that's ever been made in this present year of great economy. We are going to continue trying to do this. Actually, if we can have the freedom of capital necessary to make the transition to local in

the mentally ~~regarded~~, every time we do it we better our position not only as to care, but actually it is more economical to care for them in the local centers than it is in the hospital.

Q Governor, I talked on the telephone with Dr. O'Neill's assistant the other day, Dr. Butler. We spoke specifically about the 100 patient ward of mentally retarded persons and I asked him what the ideal should be in care of persons of this type, and he said that in his opinion the ideal would be reducing that work load from 100 persons to 25.

Q Do you suppose there is any chance that in this one specific area you might add more staff at the mental hospitals?

A If there is anything that can be done, it will be, but not if that is at the expense -- and I think also I can recall some statements of Dr. Butler, also, when Dr. Butler pointed out that again as I said there is no department, and I doubt if there is any business, that couldn't do better if it could spend more and had more. You can't do this if it is at the expense, lessening the care for those who can be trained and improved. Remember, we are talking here about people in which your only goal can be custodial care. There is nothing that can be done to improve.

Now, if you -- if they had walked simply across a few hundred feet to other wards, cottages on that same hospital ground, they would have found excellent care, small units of the retarded who can be improved, kept together in a kind of family-like atmosphere with adequate care. Now, if and when we can afford to improve the custodial care of these other, that is one thing, but not if it means lessening the care or the treatment for these people who can be improved and made more useful.

Q My question is, can it be done without lessening the care of others and -- or do you plan to increase the staff in that specific area?

A We have to see what happens with our Legislature and with regard to all the programs that are so jealously

guarded with regard to the spending of what is available to us from the people.

Q Governor, on that same -- in that same area. In your speeches in Seattle and Portland, when you were talking about reducing expenses in State Government, you said that all of the reduction in State employees had come through attrition and the quote~~s~~ you used was, "We did not fire or lay off." Is that a hundred per cent true?

A That is a hundred percent true, exactly in the way I've been saying it, and the program I was referring to, that the reduction that was achieved of two and a half per cent in State employees was achieved through the freeze and was achieved before any of the program of lay off or cutback began in the mental hospital. I was anticipating some day somebody would want to ask that.

Q Other than the Department of Mental Hygiene, is that true?

A That's right, yes.

Q But not true in the Department of Mental Hygiene?

A Well, this figure -- this was achieved before the Mental Hygiene program was put in. We were able to achieve this reduction, this stopping of an annual increase and this reduction of state employees through nothing but the freeze, without any widespread laying off or firing. And the reduction in mental health is occasioned by the reduction in the population load in the hospitals.

Q And that was not included?

A That was not included. No, we don't have the figures yet as to how far we have gone on that.

Q Governor Reagan, you've indicated that you'll protect yourself in the future from hastily made statements and the same disease that apparently plagued the Senator from Arizona four years ago. Can we expect only prepared statements from you from now on?

A Oh, come on. I see I've written somebody's lead for him already.

(Laughter)

A No, being frank enough to say sure sometimes I've made a statement and wished afterward that I hadn't said it. No, I'm not going to -- and have I been relying on prepared statements here? I think you've had a pretty fair crack at me and I don't think any of you can remember a time when you haven't had, and you are going to continue to have that fair crack at me. Now that I know you better, though, maybe I should be more careful.

Q Governor, I know you're proud of the accomplishments in your administration, some of them anyway, so far this year, and I know you say you want to serve this government for a period of years. I'm curious to know why on your speeches out of State in the last month or so that you chose to speak about national issues and the war in Vietnam and other issues rather than the accomplishments of what you are doing in California and what you intend to do.

A I think that's pretty obvious, when you go out on the national scene as fund raisers and trying to stimulate not only unity, but more effort on the part of Republicans for the big election, that's coming up next year you obviously have to attack the opposition where you think he's vulnerable and you -- what you think are going to be the issues that are going to mobilize Republicans for the campaign. In fact, I'm -- I think I've been devoting an awful lot of time to California's problems by way of example in my talks out of the State, but you couldn't expect the people in 49 other states to be just totally interested in what's going on in California. We'd like to think that's true, but it isn't. And so I would feel that any speaker who is going out speaking outside the State has to speak of something that he believes is going to be of general interest to the people he's talking to.

Q I'd like to clarify once and for all, do you write your own speeches?

A Yes, I kind of regret it.

(Laughter)

I'm still whittling away at the cards in there and so far just once I'd like to sit back in that airplane and not still be scribbling at one on the way to the location of the speech. You fellows know it, that's why you don't get releases on it.

Q Abe Lincoln did it very successfully, Governor.

A I didn't hear it.

Q I said Abe Lincoln did it successfully, scribbled away on the way to a speech.

A But I haven't tried an envelope yet.

Q Governor, would you clarify the role that Jack Lindsay is going to ^{play} in your administration?

A Yes. Jack is -- Jack had come aboard on a year's leave of absence from his company and coming down to the moment of decision, where he certainly is -- where he has to make a decision what he's going to do, and at the moment when he feels that he must, he is going to return to his business, but in the meantime we are going to continue to utilize him on a kind of part-time fashion by way of the campaign group that -- throughout the State that was called "Friends of Ronald Reagan." He's assuming the Chairmanship of that and he's also going to be active with the Central Committee when it comes to the putting together of our program for next year's convention, the delegation and so forth.

Q You think he'll have a chance to get out of State and talk to possibly other convention delegates?

A I hadn't ^{ever} foreseen anything of that kind. I thought I'd kind of saddled him with a pretty big job as it was for a fellow that's going to have to be going back after a year's leave of absence to his own business.

Q Do you intend to reorganize and take a look at the liaison system between your office and the Legislature?

A Oh, we have to -- naturally we have to replace him and we are -- and we hope that we are going to be able to be better organized than we had to start right from scratch with the Legislature already in session this coming

year, but I must say this, I think that both Vernon Sturgeon and Jack Lindsay last year did a super-human job in keeping track and keeping us informed of the something less than 2 thousand bills, but over 1800 bills, that finally wound up either being vetoed or passed, and I'm indebted to them. If we can do something to make it a little easier so that they can at least get down to a 14-hour day, those who are doing the job, why we want to do it.

Q Governor, have you been asked by Richard Nixon to stay out of the East or he might come in and campaign into the California Primary?

A No, there's been no contact of that kind whatsoever.

Q Governor, what is your reaction to the announcement that Governor Wallace -- former Governor Wallace is going to spend two or three weeks here soon, campaigning for his third party effort?

A I think it should be disturbing to the Democrats very much. He's their baby, not ours.

Q Does it disturb you that someone of the Republican State Central Committee members has resigned to work in this campaign?

A No, I made my position clear. I'm hopeful there will be no third party movement, wherever it affects. I think we have been very fortunate in this country, and we have seen other countries, similar forms of government that have been splintered by splinter parties to where the only way you can have administration or leadership is through a coalition of a group of splinter parties. I hope it never happens in this country. Now, there was somebody down here.

Q Governor, on the judicial appointments, what is this latest plan that is different, that might help it get through the Legislature, in contrast to the plan that was defeated this year?

A Well, I think you've got the details in there as to the State Bar last year came in with a complete plan

that I'm sure some of the Legislators thought placed too much emphasis on the State Bar or gave them too much of a voice without enough additional or layman's voice, and I think you'll find some changes there with regard to the various levels of Courts.

Q Governor, I'd like to talk for a moment, if I may, about your Task Force, and its functions. Was it not the function to tighten the ring, so to speak, in government and show you where economies could be made effectively?

A Not totally. They very frankly informed me that if they found areas where efficiency in good government demanded expansion, they would recommend that also. But I will say that most of them -- most of their reports seem to be in the area they found business practices that could be applied that would result in more efficiency and economy.

Q Did they indicate anything to you in regard to Edgar ^{Wicklander} ~~Windlander~~ (phonetics) who resigned from the Department of Education, who was making over a thousand dollars a month and reported to the morning paper he had been working about three hours a day for the past eleven years?

A Well, I haven't seen all of the reports. I don't know whether that's contained in one of them or not. And I haven't seen that item either, so pursuant to my last resolution, I'll wait until I --

(Laughter)

Q Governor, on reapportionment, was the bill passed yesterday by the Assembly acceptable to you and are you supporting any of the particular plans before the Legislature?

A I'm not going to comment on this at this moment because it's gone where I thought it was inevitable it should have gone. I think everyone knew it was going to go to a joint committee, and I'll wait and see what comes out of the joint committee. There is no question but that in the closeness now, and with our position in the -- in the Senate it is going to -- it is going to be a com-

promise measure that we will see, so I'd rather not comment until I see what that compromise is.

SQUIRE: Any more questions?

Q Governor, do you plan to support legislation to tighten smog controls on each individual automobile, that is requires each new automobile coming into the State to have smog devices?

A I know of this suggestion. Do you know we have passed legislation about regional smog basis here in the State. We have a board now in this field of pollution and I would rather wait until they have had an opportunity to get into this. Let me just say one thing about that. There is no question about the importance of this measure and to every Californian, and I doubt if there is anyone on either side of the aisle here in California government and government that is in any difference of opinion about the necessity to find an answer to this problem.

SQUIRE: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR REAGAN: As soon as we can.

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