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PROCEEDINGS IN COURTHOUSE

Attorney given protection during Valley CRLA hearing

By MICHAEL JAMES
Staff Writer

El Centro Attorney F. Douglas McDaniel, one of the central figures in the present controversy over the California Rural Legal Assistance, reported to police Wednesday he has received a number of threats against his life.

Police have placed McDaniel under protective surveillance until after the two-day federal commission hearing on CRLA scheduled to be held in El Centro Thursday and Friday.

McDaniel told police he had

received three phone calls threatening his life.

Last Thursday, Governor Reagan's office released copies of an inter-office memo from Robert B. Johnstone, an attorney at the El Centro CRLA office, to the central office of the CRLA. In that confidential memo, Johnstone listed a number of Valley residents who could testify in favor of CRLA and who either knew its "law and order song and dance" or who would testify to whatever the CRLA wanted them to.

The hearings are due to start Thursday morning in Judge George R. Kirk's courtroom at the county courthouse. Judge Kirk has nothing to do with the proceedings — the county made the courtroom available as a courtesy.

Hearings, which will start at 9 a.m. and are expected to continue to 5 or 6 p.m., are to be held under somewhat bizarre ground rules.

As the commission has no existence under law and because it has benefited from no Presidential order, it cannot subpoena

witnesses and cannot give a binding oath. This means there cannot be punishment for perjury by witnesses.

The commission is headed by Robert B. Williams, a retired justice of the Maine Supreme Court. The other two members are George R. Currie, a member of the law faculty at the University of Wisconsin and a retired Supreme Court Justice from that state, and Robert B. Lee, a member of the Colorado Supreme Court.

As the commission has no statutory basis, it can do nothing binding to anyone. It can only eventually come up with advice.

The commission meetings, according to a number of attorneys at the courthouse, is expected to be something of a "legal circus."

Each of the commissioners has a clerk who is an attorney. The commission also has a staff of three San Francisco attorneys.

The commission also is bringing a staff of court reporters

See ATTORNEY, Page 3

Attorney given 'protection' as hearings open

(Continued from Page 1)
who will prepare a running transcript, known to be a very expensive procedure.

Court Reporters Refuse Request
An attorney for the commission approached the regular county court reporters, James Knox and Eldon Atwood, and asked them to prepare the running transcript. While the reporters are known to have made such transcripts in the past when they were ordered to do so by one of the local Superior Court judges, they declined the commission's request.

The number of witnesses which will appear had to give notice of their intention to testify last week and had to provide the CRLA with an outline as to what they were going to testify. The deadline for that was a week ago today.

Attorneys for persons critical of CRLA — McDaniel is one of them — will be permitted to cross-examine pro-CRLA witnesses only if they give testimony contradicting specific statements by critical witnesses.

San Jose, Calif.
The News
(Cir. D. 75,531)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Reagan Asks Local, State Efforts On Coast

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Gov. Reagan says if California is to preserve its unique coastline a partnership between state and local governments — and not the state alone — will have to do the job.

The governor told his weekly news conference Tuesday that a "kind of compact" for the protection of the coast is what he envisions but not a state-directed effort.

"I don't think that the state should have the power of total veto," he said, adding that "we definitely believe there is an area for state involvement here and that can fall short of simply overruling local government."

Reagan also told newsmen he doesn't have "too much confidence" in a federal commission's hearing into California Rural Legal As-

sistance. He said the panel has shown "an unwillingness" to hear full testimony.

Reagan said the commission of three out-of-state supreme court justices apparently was declining to hear some testimony against CRLA. The panel was appointed by Frank Carlucci, director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, to investigate the effectiveness of CRLA and probe Reagan's

charges that it engaged in illegal activities.

The Reagan administration has refused to participate in the hearings in an adversary position, contending the probe was not supposed to be a trial-like affair.

Reagan also said he is considering introducing a tax reform package soon to rival a Democratic-backed proposal that has cleared its initial committee test in the Assembly.

Reagan said his office hasn't "paid much attention" to the Democratic plan because it represents, he said, a half-billion-dollar tax increase. He also charged the program fails to put a lid on local property taxes.

The plan by Assemblyman Joe Gonsalves, D-La Mirada, would reduce property taxes by about \$400 for every owner-occupied home in the state.

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Death Penalty

Reagan Will Not Declare Moratorium On Executions

By Tom Arden
Bee Capitol Bureau

Gov. Ronald Reagan will not follow the lead of governors of at least two other states to declare a moratorium on the death penalty until the US Supreme Court acts on the legal question of whether it is "cruel or unusual punishment."

At his press conference yesterday afternoon, Reagan was asked if he had given any thought to the possibility of a delay in California executions.

"No," replied the governor, "I think that things are following their normal course here. I don't think we have any intention of declaring a moratorium over and beyond the decision that's been handed down."

Reporter's Query

"In other words if the dates are set, then you will not interfere with the dates that are set by the courts?" a reporter asked.

"No, unless there would be circumstances warranting clemency and the commuting of the sentence on that basis," Reagan declared.

"Governor," he was asked, "Would that create a problem if people were executed and then subsequently the court declared that the death penalty was unconstitutional?"

"Well," Reagan responded, "wouldn't that apply to all the people who have been

sentenced to death and have been executed?"

The US Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of methods used by California and other states to impose the death penalty.

To Await Ruling

The governors of Ohio and Maryland have indicated they will stay executions in their states until a ruling is made on whether it is "cruel or unusual punishment" to impose the death penalty.

The number of condemned in California has reached 99. The last execution in the San Quentin Prison gas chamber was in April 1967 when Aaron Mitchell of Sacramento was put to death for killing a policeman while committing a robbery.

Gov. Reagan spoke out on other issues as follows:

CONSERVATION — Declared the state has a "place" in the preservation of California's coastline but it must be in cooperation with county and local government. "I don't think the state should have the power of total veto," he said, taking a position against that of conservation groups who advocate a strong state role in protecting the coastline.

TAX REFORM — Indicated he would offer a tax reform plan to rival that which the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee approved earlier this week. But Reagan said discussions will continue with legislators of both Republican and Democratic parties to see if an agreement can be reached.

WELFARE — Pledged use of the administrative power of the governor to put into effect part of his welfare reform program but made it clear legislative action is necessary on some phases of it. Announced he will continue meeting with Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti, D-Los Angeles County, and Sen. James R. Mills, D-San Diego County, president pro tempore of the Senate, to try to reach a compromise on welfare reform.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE — "Very frankly," the governor said, "I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission's findings." He made the comment in response to a question on what he thought about the deci-

sion of the three-member federal commission investigating the California Rural Legal Assistance that three charges in the governor's criticism were not valid. Asked what kind of a verdict he expected the commission to make, Reagan smiled: "I doubt that we will close off Folsom Boulevard and have a street dance when it comes out." The governor's residence on East Sacramento is within a block of Folsom Boulevard.

CAMPUS PUBLICATIONS — Reported violation of guidelines set in connection with printing of campus newspapers probably will be taken up at a University of California regents meeting Friday. The governor said he felt some campus publications "were out of hand" even before the publication of an editorial in the Daily Californian at the UC Berkeley campus encouraging students to tear down the fence in the People's Park, site of bitter confrontations between demonstrators and the police.

He declared any action in taking down the People's Park fence, as recommended by three Berkeley city councilmen, should be a decision of the university administrators.

San Jose, Calif.
Mercury
(Cir. D. 126,382)

MAY 19 1971

Allen & Co. Est. 1888

Witnesses Shun CRLA Hearing

242
SALINAS — One witness Tuesday walked out of a special commission hearing testimony about the California Rural Legal Assistance and several others failed to show up.

Salinas attorney William Moreno, who had been called

do my office is here in Salinas."

With that Moreno walked out of the hearing charging, "There is no authority to formation of this court."

Monday, Moreno testified that he believes CRLA attorneys were involved last summer in negotiations for both wages and hours of UFWOC members at the Martin Produce Co.

A special three-judge panel is hearing testimony connected with a critical report by Lewis Uhler, head of the state Office of Economic Opportunity.

Another story on Page 16

to testify about alleged CRLA negotiations with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, challenged the authority of the commission.

"I'm afraid you gentlemen don't want to hear me," he said. "If you ever

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Soledad CLRA Hearing-- Guard Says They're Gagged

By Joel Tlumak
Examiner News Staff

SOLEDAD — The special commission investigating California Rural Legal Assistance went into Soledad Prison today to question guards and inmates on the activities of the poverty lawyers behind prison walls.

Ten prison guards and officials have requested to appear before the commission to substantiate charges that CRLA attorneys were behind some of the tensions of Soledad and partly responsible for some of the inmate disturbances here.

Impact

Before the closed door hearings started this morning, a spokesman for the California Correctional Officers Association complained that the guards and prison officials were being handcuffed by the state's attorney general.

"The impact of the testimony has already been reduced by 75 percent," said CCOA press officer Kenneth Brown.

He explained that the attorney general's office has prohibited guards and prison officials from testifying on any incident that may be pending in the courts, the subject of current investigations or which may eventually lead to an inquiry.

Information

The difficulty, as Brown sees it, is the commission's ruling that although the prison hearings are behind closed doors, the full text of testimony will later be made public, with the exception of withholding names and identifications.

In their requests to testify, the 10 guards and prison officials said they had information to prove CRLA attorneys were behind an aborted murder plot, threatened prison officials with legal harassment, helped smuggle revolutionary literature to prisoners, defamed guards by calling them "pigs," and were involved in a plan to get weapons to the inmates.

CRLA attorneys deny all the charges.

Not all 10 guards and prison officials who requested to testify are expected to be allowed to tell their stories.

On the other side, CRLA fears that several inmate witnesses will chicken out at the last minute under institutional pressure.

Charges of CRLA attorneys being involved in Soledad prison trouble were made in the 283-page recital of the poverty attorneys by Gov. Reagan's poverty chief Louis Uhler.

Radicals

In his report, Uhler specifically points to a CRLA attorney who purportedly wrote Soledad Superintendent C. J. Fitzpatrick and threatened him with a lawsuit if he didn't meet with prisoners to reduce racial tensions in one of the prison wings.

Uhler also charged in his report that CRLA was closely tied to radical lawyers, naming in particular Faye Stender, who represents the so-called "Soledad Brothers" and aided in the defense of Black Panther Huey Newton.

Both these activities by CRLA — seeking a voice in prison policy and associating with the radical movement

— were cited as objectionable by Uhler.

And the commission is interested in exploring both these charges at today's hearing.

CRLA doesn't deny handling legal cases for Soledad inmates.

Inmate Mail

Dennis Powell, head of CRLA's Salinas office, revealed at yesterday's hearing in Salinas that his office receives mail from Soledad's inmates.

"Less than 10 a day," he said.

But CRLA contends it is not engaging in any illegal or unethical activities at Soledad.

The commission, in its second week of hearings on Gov. Reagan's charges against CRLA, left Salinas today under heavy attack from the opponents of the poverty attorneys.

Two key witnesses for the state refused to testify yesterday after the commission had earlier ruled that one state witness couldn't make a broad attack on CRLA.

They called the hearings "a farce."

In Salinas the commission found three charges against CRLA had "no merit" — charges they were illegally representing clients in criminal matters. CRLA explanations for the cases went uncontested.

Yesterday, the commission continued to explore whether CRLA was involved with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee of Cesar Chavez and whether the poverty attorneys unethically harassed farm growers.

These questions will be the subject of further inquiries tomorrow and Friday at El Centro in the Imperial Valley near the Mexican border.

Palo Alto, Calif.
Times
(Cir. D. 44,520)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Reagan asks 'compact' to protect coastline

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —Gov. Ronald Reagan says if California is to preserve its unique coastline a partnership between state and local governments—and not the state alone—will have to do the job.

The governor told his weekly news conference Tuesday that a "kind of compact" for the protection of the coast is what he envisions but not a state-directed effort.

"I don't think that the state should have the power of total veto," he said, adding that "we definitely believe there is an area for state involvement here and that can fall short of simply overruling local government."

Reagan also told newsmen he: —Doesn't have "too much confidence" in a federal commission's hearing into California Rural Legal Assistance. He said the panel has shown "an unwillingness" to hear full testimony.

—Nearly tripled the pay for his Ecology Corps of conscientious objectors from \$15 to \$40 a month and announced Angels Camp would be the second site for a corps center.

—Expects some action Friday by the University of California regents regarding an editorial in the Daily Californian urging the tearing down of the People's Park fence.

Outlining his position in detail for the first time on coastline management, the governor said there was need for zoning action before the 1,000-mile coast is haphazardly developed.

"We do think that there is much that could be done in a zoning up and down the coast to insure there will always be preservation of those unique beauty spots along the coast, that there will be preservation of park space and certainly beaches to the extent possible for our population," Reagan said.

"I don't think that the state should simply take over because if we once set that precedent, what's to keep us from taking over the mountains, or the desert or the valley?" he added.

Victorville, Calif.
Daily Press
(Cir. D. 5,350)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Clerk won't talk

SOLEDAD (UPI) —Two prospective witnesses notified a federal commission Tuesday they would not testify at a hearing into California Rural Legal Assistance activities.

Mrs. Amelia Harris, a former CRLA legal secretary in Salinas, telegraphed that she believed the commission was "not interested in learning the whole truth" and that she would not "subject herself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustrations of such a sham."

John Martin, a grower at El Centro, said he believed the commission did not want to hear his side and "I don't want to dirty your lily-white record."

The commission, made up of three supreme court justices from other states, was named by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity to investigate Gov. Ronald Reagan's veto of a federal grant for the poverty agency.

Governor Reagan contends the CRLA did not properly fulfill its duties and engaged in partisan politics in violation of OEO regulations. The CRLA asserts the governor is angry because its lawyers defeated him in welfare cases before the courts.

At a news conference in Sacramento, the governor said he didn't "have too much confidence in what is going to come out of this commission's findings."

He asserted the commission was unwilling to "allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

The governor's administration has refused to take part in the hearing, objecting to the commission's adversary-like nature of taking testimony. The governor has asked for an investigation instead of the court-like hearings.

Commissioners have ruled that three of 35 specific allegations against the CRLA are without merit.

Those allegations were that the CRLA handled a traffic court case, helped a Chicano boy be transferred from jail to juvenile hall on a misdemeanor charge and helped three women pickets who were arrested in a strike called by the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

William Carnazzo, an attorney who represented a grower in an eviction case, testified under cross examination Tuesday that he probably would advise a farm worker to move out if he found housing substandard.

MAY 10 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

State-Local Partnership Needed To Preserve Coastline--Reagan

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Gov. Ronald Reagan says if California is to preserve its unique coastline a partnership between state and local governments — and not the state alone — will have to do the job.

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pact" for the protection of the coast is what he envisions but not a state-directed effort.

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government."

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"We do think that there is much that could be done in a zoning up and down the coast to insure there will always be preservation of those unique beauty spots along the coast, that there will be preservation of park space and certainly beaches to the extent possible for our population," Reagan said.

"I don't think that the state should simply take over because if we once set that precedent, what's to keep us from taking over the mountains, or the desert or (alley?" he asked.

Although spelling out his position, the governor declined to discuss the several bills pending in the legislature dealing with coastline development control.

On the subject of People's Park, the governor had harsh words for the mili-

tants who attempted last week to rip down the fence surrounding the controversial piece of real estate.

"Most of the people who wanted to storm the park this last weekend, were similar to those who caused the problem in the first place," he said. "They were not students for the most part. They were so-called street people."

Two years ago the governor sent the Highway Patrol into Berkeley to control a violent outbreak over the park. One person was shot to death by a sheriff's deputy in the clash.

The governor renewed his support for the university to decide for itself whether to keep the park fenced off and used as a soccer field and parking lot or lease it to the city, which has agreed to negotiate again for the plot.

Palo Alto, Calif.
Times
(Cir. D. 44,520)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Soledad official stabbed to death; 2 accused

SOLEDAD (AP) — Kenneth E. Conant, 49, program administrator at Soledad Prison, was stabbed to death today and two other prison employees suffered minor injuries in subduing his two convict attackers, officials said.

He was the fourth prison employee stabbed to death since Jan. 13, 1970.

Chuck Stowell, assistant superintendent, said Jerry W. Lund, 28, and Eric V. Hilton, 24, both Los Angeles robbers imprisoned since 1967, were

held and a prison-made knife was recovered.

Lt. E. D. Steele and supervising counselor or Ed Whalen were slightly hurt in overpowering the convicts.

The stabbing took place at 9:30 a.m. as Conant sat at a desk in the prison's central facility, preparing to preside at committee meetings with prisoners.

An investigator for the Monterey County district attorney was in the prison on another

matter and reached the scene within moments.

A special federal commission investigating Gov. Reagan's charges against the California Rural Legal Assistance had scheduled closed hearings in the prison today but postponed them to an unspecified future date.

In Sacramento, the California State Employees Association called for "immediate steps to prevent further tragedies," including revival of plans to build

a new maximum security prison.

Loren V. Smith, CSEA general manager, dispatched two top aides to discuss with State Department of Corrections officials the possibility of building the Otey Mesa Prison in San Diego County. The project was once planned to replace San Quentin Prison, but was scrapped for financial reasons.

"Security improvements were needed at Soledad before the first murders took place," Smith said. "It should be obvi-

ous by now that the actions were insufficient. **Pa**

"For the kind of hardened inmate Soledad is called upon to handle, the facility is antiquated," he added.

He was the fourth prison employee slain since mid-January 1970 in a succession of violent episodes which also have taken the lives of four black and two white convicts.

While racial problems were involved in most previous incidents, prison officials said the principals in this case were Caucasian.

Victorville, Calif.
Daily Press
(Cir. D. 5,350)

MAY 19 1971

Allen & P. C. B. Est. 1883

State, local agencies must save coastlines

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"I don't think that the state should simply take over because if we once set that

precedent, what's to keep us from taking over the mountains, or the desert or the valley?" he added.

Although spelling out his position, the governor declined to discuss the several bills pending in the legislature dealing with coastline development control.

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Two years ago the governor sent the Highway Patrol into Berkeley to control a violent outbreak over the park. One person was shot to death by a sheriff's deputy in the clash.

Huntington Park, Calif.
Signal
(Cir. 6 X W. 25,000)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Reagan Calls CRLA Probe 'Fun and Games' Inquiry

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Reagan says a federal commission of jurists has engaged in "fun and games" in probing California Rural Legal Assistance Inc., the war-on-poverty group that has fought Reagan's welfare programs for four years.

The Republican governor said, "Very frankly, I don't have much confidence in what's going to be the outcome of this commission's findings."

With a strained edge to his voice, Reagan added, "I doubt that we will close off Folsom Boulevard and have a street dance when it comes out."

Reagan said the commission of three out-of-state supreme court justices apparently was declining to hear some testimony against CRLA. The panel was appointed by Frank Carlucci, director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, to investigate the effectiveness of CRLA and probe Reagan's charges that it engaged in illegal activities.

The Reagan administration has refused to participate in the hearings in an adversary position, contending the probe was not supposed to be a trial-like affair.

Reagan told his weekly news conference Tuesday, "I think a great many people are confused as to why we

did not join in the fun and games that were proposed as the method for conducting the hearing."

Asked what motives the justices would have for not being objective in their judgment of CRLA, Reagan said: "You know, I just lie awake at night wondering what they are myself."

Regardless of the outcome, Reagan said, he still expects President Nixon to support the view of CRLA and similar OEO-financed legal agencies. December, charging the group

"I think the President has made himself perfectly clear," he said. "He's made a proposal for a whole new approach to rural legal assistance."

Reagan vetoed CRLA's \$18 million budget for 1971 last December, charging the group with a variety of violations of federal rules and guidelines including "illegal activities" in regard to the United Farm

Workers Organizing Committee, the farm labor group led by Cesar Chavez.

Carlucci continued CRLA on a six-month grant pending the outcome of the commission's probe.

Reagan complained CRLA spent more time filing "class action" suits against local government and the state than it did helping the individual poor people with their legal problems. CRLA successfully fought several Reagan attempts to cut back welfare and health care benefits.

The governor proposed that CRLA be replaced by a privately financed state-run group.

Tuesday, the commission declared there was no merit to a charge that CRLA attorneys violated OEO rules by aiding the farm workers' lettuce strike in the Salinas Valley in late 1970 and early this year.

Inglewood, Calif.
Daily News
(Cir. 6XW 7,840)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888



Pauses in thought

Gov. Ronald Reagan pauses in thought during his news conference. He said he requested Senators John Tunney and Alan Cranston to vote in favor of the SST program. He also indicated he doesn't have too much confidence in "the outcome of a federal commission's hearing into the California Rural Legal Assistance.

—UPI telephoto

Stockton, Calif.
Stockton Record
(Cir. D. 63,644)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1883

Sacramento Summary

By the Associated Press

Tuesday, May 18

A summary of major action:

Gov. Reagan said he is not very confident about the outcome of a federal investigation into alleged wrongdoing by California Rural Legal Assistance Inc.

He added 46 young conscientious objectors have signed up for his newly created California Ecology Corps.

THE ASSEMBLY

Bills Passed

Unification — Would excuse school districts in which two unification elections have failed in a 12-month period from holding future unification votes; AB 336, Sogley, R-San Rafael.

Trials — Would make rabies, dog licensing and building code violations infractions instead of misdemeanors, elimination trial procedure; AB 1439, Moorhead, R-Glendale.

Students — Would allow community colleges to charge a \$1 fee for any schedule change after first two weeks of term; AB 603, Russell, R-Tulare.

Resolutions Introduced

Fires — Would order State Insurance Commissioner to study feasibility of adapting swimming pools for emergency firefighting purposes; ACR 107, Priolo, R-Pacific Palisades.

THE SENATE

Bills Passed

Bumpers — Would require cars sold in California after Jan. 1, 1973, to be equipped with bumpers capable of withstanding impact of 5 miles per hour at the front and 2 1/2 m.p.h. at the rear without damage; SB 42, Harmer, R-Glendale.

Appropriation — Would appropriate \$4.37 million to augment the emergency fund in last year's budget; SB 874, Collier, D-Yreka.

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Reagan Won't Do Dance In CRLA Verdict

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —Gov. Ronald Reagan doubts that the conclusions reached by a federal commission investigating the California Rural Legal Assistance will please him to the point of throwing a "street dance."

"Very frankly I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission's findings," he told his weekly news conference Tuesday.

Reagan said he had heard from witnesses that the commission—appointed by the Nixon administration—displayed an "unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

Asked what he thought the results would be, the governor responded, "I doubt that we will close off Folsom Boulevard and have a street dance." Folsom Boulevard is a Sacramento thoroughfare near Reagan's residence.

The specially appointed commission of three state Supreme Court justices from other states is looking into Reagan administration charges against the federally funded agency which provides legal help for the poor.

The commission was set up by the Nixon administration after Reagan vetoed \$13.8 million in federal funds for the agency, charging it had failed to serve the needs of the poor and had violated Office of Economic Opportunity regulations.

Although two lawyers have been retained to assist anti-CRLA witnesses, the Reagan administration has refused to take part in the hearings.

Santa Barbara, Calif.
News Press
(Cir. D 37,612 - S 39,636)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

State and Local Partnership Needed on Coastline: Reagan

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LEGAL AID

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ZONING ACTION

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sition, the Governor declined to discuss the several bills pending in the Legislature dealing with coastline development control.

On the subject of People's Park, the Governor had harsh words for the militants who attempted last week to rip down the fence surrounding the controversial piece of real estate.

"Most of the people who wanted to storm the park this last weekend, were similar to those who caused the problem in the first place," he said. "They were not students for the most part. They were so-called street people."

OUTBREAK

Two years ago the Governor sent the Highway Patrol into Berkeley to control a violent outbreak over the park. One person was shot to death by a sheriff's deputy in the clash.

The governor renewed his support for the university to decide for itself whether to keep the park fenced off and used as a soccer field and parking lot or lease it to the city, which has agreed to negotiate again for the plot.

TAX REFORMS

Reagan also said he is considering introducing a tax reform package soon to rival a Democratic-backed proposal that has cleared its initial committee test in the Assembly.

Reagan said his office hasn't "paid much attention" to the Democratic plan because it represents, he said, a half-billion-dollar tax increase. He also charged the program fails to put a lid on local property taxes.

The plan by Assemblyman Joe Gonsalves (D), La Mirada, would reduce property taxes by about \$400 for every owner-occupied home in the state.

Brea, Calif.
Daily Star Progress
(Cir. D 5,530)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

2 Witnesses Refuse Federal Commission

SOLEDAD (UPI) —Two prospective witnesses notified a federal commission Tuesday they would not testify at a hearing into California Rural Legal Assistance activities.

Mrs. Amelia Harris, a former CRLA legal secretary in Salinas, telegraphed that she believed the commission was "not interested in learning the whole truth" and that she would not "subject herself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustrations of such a sham."

John Martin, a grower at El Centro, said he believed the commission did not want to hear his side and "I don't want to dirty your lily-white record."

The commission, made up of three supreme court justices from other states, was named by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity to investigate Gov. Ronald Reagan's veto of a federal grant for the poverty agency.

Governor Reagan contends the CRLA did not properly fulfill its duties and engaged in partisan politics in violation of OEO regulations. The CRLA asserts the governor is angry because its lawyers defeated him in welfare cases before the courts.

At a news conference in Sacramento, the governor said he didn't "have too much confidence in what is going to come out of this commission's findings."

He asserted the commission was unwilling to "allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

The governor's administration has refused to take part in the hearing, objecting to the commission's adversary-like nature of taking testimony. The governor has asked for an investigation instead of the court-like hearings.

Commissioners have ruled that three of 35 specific allegations against the CRLA are without merit.

Those allegations were that the CRLA handled a traffic court case, helped a Chicano boy be transferred from jail to juvenile hall on a misdemeanor charge and helped three women pickets who were arrested in a strike called by the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

William Carnazzo, an attorney who represented a grower in an eviction case, testified under cross examination Tuesday that he probably would advise a farm worker to move out if he found housing substandard.

Stuart Pollock, a CRLA attorney, asked: "Suppose he said, 'I've got eight kids and they're in school and one of them is sick'—would you still tell him to get out?"

"Probably," Carnazzo replied.

Pollock told the commission the answer was "why we have a CRLA."

Riverside, Calif.
Enterprise
(Cir. 5XW 44,294)

MAY 9 1971

Allan's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Assemblyman demands probe of gag order on state workers

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The head of the Assembly Labor Relations Committee said yesterday he will demand a state investigation into "intimidation" of two welfare workers named as potential witnesses in hearings on California Rural Legal Assistance.

"I am personally outraged by the clearly arbitrary action of the director of the Imperial County Department of Welfare in respect to Donna and Michael English," Assemblyman David Roberti, D-Los Angeles, told a news conference.

The man and wife say they have been ordered to remain in the county welfare building during working hours, forbidden to use the telephone and restrooms without permission and barred from meeting together or with welfare recipients whose cases they've been handling.

They said the orders came from County Welfare Director Florence Kinloch after disclosure last week by Gov. Reagan's office of alleged CRLA memos naming them as possible witnesses before the commission probing Reagan's charges against the CRLA.

Riverside, Calif.
Enterprise
(Cl. 5XW 44,294)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Foes of CRLA 'restricted' during hearings, Reagan angrily charges

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Reagan said yesterday critics of California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. have been "restricted" in hearings of a blue ribbon panel appointed by the Nixon administration to investigate CRLA. The Republican governor renewed his attack on the three-judge panel at

his weekly news conference, complaining the judges had shown "an unwillingness to allow or hear testimony that might be determined to CRLA's activities."

Reagan said he believes President Nixon is committed to finding a new system of legal help for the poor to replace CRLA no matter how the panel rules.

But, Reagan said, "I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission."

Reagan claimed that the judges had not allowed adequate cross examination of CRLA supporters. He said critics of CRLA have been "restricted" in what information they could give and are upset with "the manner in which witnesses had been treated up to now."


It was Reagan's second major attack on the commission appointed by federal antipoverty chief Frank Carlucci to determine whether to continue funding CRLA, operating under a six-month temporary grant after Reagan's veto of a \$1.8 million full-year grant.

Reagan earlier complained the judges were not going "out in the field" to investigate CRLA and were conducting "fun and games" hearings, a complaint he repeated yesterday.

Asked what he thought were motives behind the panel's conduct of the hearings, Reagan said: "I just lie awake nights wondering what they are myself."

Reagan also said Democrats who claim he could have put most of this present welfare reform into effect four years ago when he first took office are "misinformed."

"Yes, if we had known four years ago what we know now, and if we had the information we have now, we could have gone ahead," Reagan said.



But, he added, "we had to depend for much of our information on people in the fields, the professionals, who were opposed to the changes we wanted to make."

He said the "great advance in electronic data processing" helped him overcome that problem and come up with welfare data to put California out in front of all other states in welfare reform.

On other matters, Reagan said:

✓ Conscientious objectors constitute "a long, and very frankly, an honorable tradition of our country." He said 40 volunteers have already signed up for the Ecology Corps he proposed three weeks ago as an alternative to the draft for COs, proving wrong those critics who called the plan a publicity stunt.

✓ Democratic \$2 billion tax reform passed by an Assembly committee Monday is still unacceptable to him because, he said, it has half a billion dollars of tax increases hidden. He said the plan was also unsound because it has no spending limits on local government and added he still might introduce his own tax reform plan this year.

✓ Coastline conservation must start on the local level with the state playing some part, but not with a total veto.

Witnesses Decline to Testify at Federal Inquiry Into CRLA

BY PHILIP HAGER

Times Staff Writer

SALINAS—A prospective witness suddenly declined to appear before the federal commission conducting an inquiry on California Rural Legal Assistance and denounced its proceedings as a "sham" Tuesday.

Mrs. Amelia Alvarez Harris had been in the hearing room the day before and had indicated she wanted to testify against CRLA.

But early Tuesday the commission received a telegram, signed by Mrs. Harris, saying:

"... I find the commission is not interested in learning the whole truth but is merely going through the motions. I will not subject myself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustrations of such a sham. I believe the commission is a

farce and an insult to the American system of justice."

Five other witnesses, who, like Mrs. Harris, had been expected to present testimony critical of CRLA, also failed to appear at the hearings. One of the five, John Martin, president of Martin Produce, Inc., was present briefly in the hearing room Tuesday morning but later sent a telegram declining to testify. Commission attorneys would not disclose the contents of Martin's telegram but indicated it was angry in tone.

Mrs. Harris, a former secretary for the local CRLA office, had said that attorneys of the federally funded anti-poverty agency had represented inmates at nearby Soledad Prison in violation of federal regulations.

Please Turn to Page 28, Col. 1

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Six Fail to Testify in Investigation of CRLA

Continued from Third Page

She also had alleged CRLA attorneys were so involved in law reform cases—a prime criticism by Gov. Reagan—that at one point its Salinas office was forced to refuse additional domestic relations and "most" credit and consumer cases. All these charges have been denied by CRLA.

Stuart R. Pollak, a San Francisco attorney representing CRLA, told the commission her allegation of "harassment" was "1,000% untrue."

Pollak charged that Mrs. Harris, now associated with the Monterey County Antipoverty Coordinating Council, had been "threatened" with a similar governor's veto of that agency unless she made allegations against CRLA.

The commission, now in its second week of hearings, was appointed by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity to investigate the dispute between the Reagan Administration and the CRLA after

the governor vetoed the organization's funds.

The commission had asked for testimony on 39 of some 129 charges made in a report by Lewis Uhler, Reagan's economic opportunities director. The other charges, the commission decided, involved no factual dispute, were "trivial" or involved on "isolated error in judgment."

In its hearings here Monday the commission held that three of the 39 charges had "no merit." And on Tuesday, another allegation, concerning CRLA's handling of an eviction case here, was dismissed when no witness appeared to offer additional evidence.

In Tuesday's hearing, attended by about 100 persons the commission heard testimony critical of CRLA tactics in a local landlord-tenant dispute.

William P. Carnazzo, a Salinas attorney, told the commission that CRLA had filed a "totally unmeritorious and frivolous" case in behalf of a group of farm workers who had been evicted from housing provided by his client, a Castroville artichoke grower.

Carnazzo said CRLA sought to force his client into a settlement by overwhelming him with time and money-consuming litigation.

Neil Levy, a CRLA attorney here, defended the case as a legitimate representation of his clients' interests. Levy took note of a serious shortage of decent housing for farm workers in the area, saying it was "not uncommon" to find families forced to live in automobiles.

San Francisco, Calif.
Examiner
(Cir. D 203,026 - Sat. 159,057)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. R. Est. 1898

Welfare Witness Probe

SACRAMENTO — AP) —

The head of the Assembly Labor Relations Committee said yesterday he would demand a state investigation into "intimidation" of two welfare workers named as potential witnesses in hearings on California Rural Legal Assistance.

"I am personally outraged by the clearly arbitrary action of the director of the Imperial County Department of Welfare in respect to Donna and Michael English," Assemblyman David A. Roberti (D-Los Angeles) told a news conference.

The man and wife say they

have been ordered to remain in the county welfare building during working hours, forbidden to use the telephone and restrooms without permission, and barred from meeting together or with welfare recipients whose cases they have been handling.

They said the orders came from County Welfare Director Florence Kinloch after disclosure last week by Governor Reagan's office of alleged CRLA memos naming them as possible witnesses before the commission probing the agency and Reagan's charges against it.

Los Angeles, Calif.
Times
(Cir. O 983,915 - 3 1,269,467)

447 P.C.S. Est. 1868

Reagan Hurls New Attack at CRLA Probe

BY TOM GOFF

Times Sacramento Bureau Chief

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Reagan charged Tuesday that a federal commission investigating his veto of anti-poverty funds for the California Rural Legal Assistance program is listening to only one side.

The governor, in a renewed attack against the three-judge panel, said there has been "an unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

He told his weekly Capitol news conference:

"Very frankly, I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission's findings . . .

"I doubt that we will close off Folsom Blvd. (a thoroughfare near his Sacramento residence) and

have a street dance when it comes out."

The federal commission was set up after Reagan vetoed federal Office of Economic Opportunity funds for CRLA.

Reagan's remarks Tuesday were predicated by a commission finding in Salinas that three of his charges against CRLA were without merit.

He said, however, he did not believe President Nixon would be influenced by the commission's findings.

"I think the President has made himself perfectly clear," Reagan said. "He's made a proposal for a whole new approach to rural legal assistance."

Reagan announced that "allocation adjustments" had made possible an increase of \$15 a month to \$40 a month in the pay offered conscientious objectors for service in his new California Ecology Corps.

Reagan said that despite criticism that the program was "a publicity gimmick" some 40 volunteers already have been signed up by local draft boards.

Oakland, Calif.
Tribune
(Cir. D 225,033, Sol. 209,931,
Sun. 251,534)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Two Witnesses Refuse to Testify

SALINAS (AP)—A former California Rural Legal Assistance secretary has charged the federal commission investigating its operations with bias in favor of CRLA.

Amelia Harris of Salinas, who was to have been a key witness supporting Gov. Reagan's fight to sustain his veto of federal funds, declined to testify.

She sent the commission a telegram yesterday declaring:

"Having observed the commission's biased limitations on testimony, I find that the commission is not interested in learning the whole truth but is merely going through the motions.

"I will not subject myself to the personal aggravation, harassment, and frustration of such a sham.

"I believe that the commission is a farce and an insult to the American system of justice."

Her message was read from the commission bench into the record.

John Martin of the Martin

Produce Co. of El Centro sent the commission a telegram saying he had decided against testifying because "I didn't want to dirty your lily - white record."

Martin said he made his decision after traveling 600 miles to the Salinas hearing.

Mrs. Harris had been expected to testify in support of state charges that CRLA attorneys illegally took criminal cases and were responsible to some extent for recent prison disturbances.

Martin had been expected to testify about CRLA lawyers representing nine of the employees during wage negotiations.

The state has charged that in doing so the CRLA attorneys actually represented the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

Los Angeles, Calif.
Times

Vol. 58, No. 115 37,369,497

Allen's P.C.E. Est. 1868

26 Part I—Wed., May 19, 1971

Los Angeles Times 2*

U.S. Assails State Unit on Minorities Program

Report by Labor Dept. Calls on Resources
Agency to Act for Spanish-Surnamed

BY HARRY BERNSTEIN

Times Labor Writer

The federal government has sharply criticized a major agency of the Reagan Administration for alleged discriminatory practices and called for a greater effort in behalf of Spanish-speaking persons.

The report, from the U.S. Department of Labor, was the second federal attack on a state agency in less than three weeks.

The latest controversy stems from an investigative report made by the Labor Department on the state Department of Human Resources Development, which operates the state's unemployment and job training and placement programs.

A Nixon Administration's investigative team charged April 30 that the Reagan Administration's State Office of Economic Opportunity has been using \$800,000 a year from federal funds primarily to harass and spy on California's antipoverty agencies and not to help the poor.

Those allegations were denounced as false by state officials, but the dispute over the State OEO is still unresolved.

Report Leaked

The report is still confidential, but when it was leaked to newsmen, federal officials immediately issued a conciliatory statement saying that while they stand by the report, the state has been cooperating fully to solve the problems found by federal investigators.

The investigation was made by the federal government after California Rural Legal Assistance filed discrimination charges against the state agency on behalf of five organizations representing Mexican-American and Spanish-surnamed persons.

A CRLA official said that the federal report found the state agency "guilty on all counts, and makes recommendations for reform that are even more extensive than the relief sought by CRLA."

Called Misleading

But Hal Steward, assistant director of the state agency, said the federal report was misleading since, for example, it found that the agency has only 36 Spanish-speaking job counselors to service Mexican-Americans.

"There are 1,100 employees of HRD who speak Spanish and the designation job counselor is just a classification, and the counselors can use the language ability of the other HRD employees," Steward said.

But a federal spokesman said, "It is true that people who speak Spanish may be taken off some other jobs to serve as translators, but this is not the same as having a Spanish-speaking counselor to help his client directly."

Steward said that "certainly, there is room for improvement and we are making just such an improvement, as the federal government knows."

He said that last year there were only 6.8% of HRD's 11,000-member staff who were Spanish-surnamed, but today 7.9% are Spanish-surnamed.

A Department of Labor spokesman, Donald Phelps, stressed that "the state has made progress in correcting the problems we found."

CRLA has sought a cut-off of federal funds to the state agency by alleging that the state agency misused \$71 million in federal money and denies Spanish-surnamed persons testing, counseling and re-

ferred to jobs with promotional opportunities.

The federal government report said that while HRD did develop an "excellent" program to increase the number of minorities on its staff, "evidence of actual implementation of any part of the program submitted almost a year ago is negligible."

Other findings and recommendations of the federal government included:

"The proportion of minority staff in the agency is

inadequate. There is recognition of need for improvement, but while the total full-time staff increased from June to October, 1970, the proportion of minority staff decreased.

"Restrictive minimum qualifications, limited opportunity for outside recruitment and the examination procedures themselves appear to screen out proportionately more minority candidates..."

These goals should, in

general, give the agency the same proportion of minorities as there is in the population.

In language similar to that used by the Nixon Administration in de-

manding that construction industry and union ranks be opened wider for minorities, the federal report called on HRD to instruct its managers to "establish goals" for hiring minorities.

Sacramento, Calif.
The Bee
(Cir. D. 172,411 Sun. 200,546)

MAY 19 1971

Allen P. C. B. Est. 1888

2 Inmates Kill Official At Soledad

Page 1

SOLEDAD (UPI) — An administrator at Soledad Prison was stabbed to death today by two inmates while a federal commission was at the prison investigating guards' charges against antipoverty lawyers.

Kenneth E. Conant, 49, was stabbed at his desk in the prison's central facility. Two other prison employees in the room subdued the attackers.

Three guards and five inmates have been killed during the past year at the racially tense prison.

All White

The victim and his assailants today all were white.

The inmates were identified as Jerry W. Lund, 28, and Eric Hilton, 24. Officials said a prison-made knife was recovered.

The hearing by the federal commission investigating the California Rural Legal Administration was under way at the time but was postponed following the stabbing.

The men who grappled with the inmates suffered minor injuries. They are E. E. Steele and supervisor counselor Ed Whalen.

The three-member commission of judges had planned to hear prison guards and officials regarding charges CRLA attorneys were behind some of the tensions at the prison and partially responsible for racial disturbances there.

Sacramento, Calif.
Bee
(Cir. D 172,411, S 200,545)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Urban Coalition Chief Says Alternative To Nixon's Budget Is Gaining Support

Jack H. Vaughn, president of the National Urban Coalition, said today the coalition's "counterbudget" proposed as an alternative to President Nixon's 1972 budget is "rolling thunder" which is gathering strength as the national election year approaches.

The coalition offered its new budget to Nixon last February, proposing a \$230.8 billion spending program which would chop military and escalate domestic social welfare programs.

"This is not just a one-time proposal but rather a five-year look at what is going to happen to our country," Vaughn said. "For instance, where are we going when the Vietnam war is over?"

Major Issue

"Literally dozens of organizations, for example, the League of Women Voters, have adopted the counterbudget as a major campaign issue. Also, we are gaining more and more support from government officials, senators and congressmen as they read our budget proposals."

"The counterbudget" is the result of a year-long \$100,000 effort and is the most ambitious project yet for the four-year-old coalition of private groups seeking means to solve urban problems. It attempts to reorganize national priorities to remove inequities which have caused big city riots across the nation since 1966.

Vaughn is in Sacramento to speak at an annual meeting of the Sacra-

mento Urban Coalition, one of 45 such groups across the nation.

Track Record

He praised the local organization's "track record" on the five or six issues it has confronted in the past year.

"It is pretty hard to beat," Vaughn said. "They have taken on some hard, basic issues which affect the little guy."

Vaughn said Gov. Ronald Reagan's veto of the California Rural Legal Assistance program's application for a 1971 budget allocation has become a national issue, and we are concerned that it not be swept under the rug."

Good Program

"It would not be appropriate for me to comment while the current investigation of the CRLA is under way, but from all the information supplied to me by our (the Urban Coalition's) legal department, the CRLA is a good program."

Vaughn said he is discouraged by progress to solving urban problems especially on the federal level. He said government cuts in budget items which supported school lunch programs, summer schools and playgrounds are damaging.

"We talk about a 6.1 per cent unemployment rate, but in the ghettos unemployment is as high as 45 per cent, Vaughn commented. "There is a saying that when budgets are cut, it is the poor who bleed. I am afraid we are in for another very hot summer."



Jack Vaughn
Bee Photo by Harlin Smith

Sacramento, Calif.
The Bee
(Cir. D. 172,411 Sun. 200,545)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1868

Ex-CRLA Secretary Declines Bid To Special Probe, Charges Bias

SALINAS (AP) — A key witness in Gov. Reagan's fight against the California Rural Legal Assistance has declined to testify before a special federal commission, charging the commission with bias in favor of the CRLA.

Amelia Harris of Salinas, a former CRLA secretary who was to have testified in support of the governor's veto of CRLA federal funds, sent a telegram, saying:

"Having observed the commission's biased limitations on testimony, I find that the commission is not interested in learning the whole truth but is merely going through the motions.

"I will not subject myself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustration of such a sham.

"I believe that the commission is a farce and an insult to the American system of justice."

Her message was read from the commission bench.

Mrs. Harris had been expected to testify in support

of charges that CRLA attorneys illegally took criminal cases and were to some extent responsible for recent prison disturbances.

Another Backs Out

Another intended witness, John Martin of the Martin Produce Co. of El Centro, said he had to travel 600 miles to testify but sent the commission a telegram saying he had decided not to do so because "I didn't want to dirty your lily-white record."

Martin had been expected to testify about CRLA lawyers representing nine of his employees in wage negotiations.

The state has charged that in doing so they actually represented the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC).

Charges Restriction

Bob Anderson, lobbyist for Social Services Union Local 535, AFL-CIO, charged in Sacramento yesterday that two pro-CRLA witnesses were being prevented by their employers from testify-

ing. He said the two social workers, Donna and Michael English, have been told by their supervisor in the Imperial County Welfare Department that they cannot testify during working hours.

Commissioners have ruled that three of 35 specific allegations against the CRLA are without merit.

Those allegations were that the CRLA handled a traffic court case, helped a Chicano boy get transferred from jail to juvenile hall on a misdemeanor charge and helped three women pickets who were arrested in a strike called by UFWOC.

Pro-CRLA Pair Said Coerced

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —A Democratic legislator Tuesday demanded an investigation by state Social Welfare Director Robert Carleson into what he called the "intimidation and coercion" of two Imperial County social workers.

Assemblyman David Roberti of Los Angeles called on Carleson to make an "immediate and responsible" investigation into the case of Michael and Donna English.

Their names were mentioned in a controversial California Rural Legal Assistance memo made public last week by Gov.

Ronald Reagan's office as potential pro-CRLA witnesses before a special federal commission investigating Reagan's charges against the federally financed antipoverty program.

A spokesman for the Social Services Union said that shortly after their names were made public they were called into the office of Imperial County Welfare Director Florence Kinloch.

Bob Anderson, lobbyist for the union, said Mrs. Kinloch prohibited the couple from leaving the building for an indefinite period, confined them to their desk work areas and said they wouldn't be allowed to testify for CRLA during working hours.

Anderson said the couple, who have been social workers in Imperial County since 1968, also were told not to see their welfare recipients with whom they had appointments.

"This type of action shows an irresponsible disregard for the rights and dignity of these welfare department employees in prohibiting them from testifying," Roberti said.

Santa Rosa
5-19-71

2 Anti-CRLA Witnesses Balk

SOLEDAD (UPI) —Two prospective witnesses notified a federal commission Tuesday they would not testify at a hearing into California Rural Legal Assistance activities.

Mrs. Amelia Harris, a former CRLA legal secretary in Salinas, telegraphed that she believed the commission was "not interested in learning the whole truth" and that she would not "subject herself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustrations of such a sham."

John Martin, a grower at El Centro, said he believed the commission did not want to hear his side and "I don't want to dirty your lily-white record."

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Governor Reagan contends

the CRLA did not properly fulfill its duties and engaged in partisan politics in violation of OEO regulations. The CRLA asserts the governor is angry because its lawyers defeated him in welfare cases before the courts.

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Stuart Pollock, a CRLA attorney, asked: "Suppose he said, 'I've got eight kids and they're in school and one of them is sick'—would you still tell him to get out?"

"Probably," Carnazzo replied.

Pollock told the commission the answer was "why we have a CRLA."

Yesterday In Sacramento

By United Press International
THE GOVERNOR
Development — Told his weekly news conference he does not favor giving the state an absolute veto over local agencies' authority to plan for development of the state's coastline.

THE SENATE
Passed
Bumpers — Requires bumpers beginning in 1974 to withstand slow impacts without damage. SB42 — Harmer, R-Glendale, 25-0. To Assembly.

Defeated by Judiciary Committee
Hitch — Would have restricted hitchhiking. SB92 — Negedlv, R-Walnut Creek. Split voice vote.

THE ASSEMBLY
Approved
Colleges — Allows community colleges to charge students \$1 to add or drop a course two weeks after instruction has started. AB603 — Russell, R-Tulunga, 44-11. To Senate.

COMMITTEES
Criminal Justice
Approved
Grand — Requires Los Angeles County to set up two grand juries for criminal and government matters. AB1589 — Schabarum, R-Covina. Voice vote. Floor.

Rejected
Welfare — Would have established uniform penalties in welfare fraud cases. AB124 — MacDonald, R-Ojai. Voice vote.

Jury — Would have allowed juries to return less than unanimous verdicts. AB1396-ACA72 — Ray Johnson, R-Chico. No motion to approve.

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Santa Rosa

5-19-71

Los Angeles, Calif.
Herald Examiner
(Cir. D 512391)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1889

Coastal Zoning Veto Opposed by Reagan

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—Gov. Ronald Reagan has said he does not favor giving the state an absolute veto over local agencies' authority to plan for the development of California's 1000-mile coastline.

"I don't think the state should have the power of total veto," Reagan told his weekly news conference yesterday in response to a question on coastal zoning.

However, the governor said he thought there was a part for the state to play in efforts to protect the coast from haphazard development.

Reagan also at his news conference:

● Acknowledged he doesn't "have too much confidence" in the outcome of a Federal commission's hearing into the California Rural Legal Assistance. The governor charged that the commission has displayed an "unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

aid that his new California
zy Corps, consisting of
antious objectors, has re-
40 volunteers and "ap-

parently there will be no difficulty" filling the quota of 250 persons. He announced the monthly pay has been nearly tripled from \$15 to \$40 and a second campsite has been selected near Angeles Camp. Another site previously was announced in Tehama county.

The governor said he saw a dangerous precedent in permitting the state alone to decide zoning and development for the coastline.

"Once we set that precedent, what's to keep us from taking over the mountains, the deserts or the valley?" he said. "We believe the state has a part to play, but it ought to be very careful before moving in."

The governor also said he has "under consideration" a tax reform plan to rival a Democratic-backed measure that cleared its first committee test Monday.

Reagan said his office "hasn't paid much attention" to the Democratic plan because it represents, he said, a half billion dollar tax increase. He also charged the Democratic proposal fails to guarantee that property taxes will remain stable and not be increased by local governments.

MAY 19 1971

Men's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Anti-CRLA Witnesses Boycott Salinas Hearing

By George Murphy
Chronicle Correspondent

Salinas

A Federal Commission investigating the California Rural Legal Assistance program was told here yesterday by two prospective witnesses against CRLA they wouldn't testify because the commission is rigged.

Their comments were in keeping with Governor Ronald Reagan's statements at his Sacramento press conference yesterday that the Nixon Administration - appointed commission shows "an unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

The three - member commission is investigating charges by the Reagan administration that CRLA activities were detrimental to proper legal representation of the rural poor.

The strongest attack on the commission's integrity came in a telegram from Mrs. Amelia Harris, a former CRLA legal secretary here, who was to have testified about the organization's in-

Reagan Appointment

Sacramento

Norman H. W. Jachens of Alameda, a 35-year-old Republican, was appointed yesterday by Governor Ronald Reagan to the \$22,044 position as chief of the Division of Housing and Community Development.

He is manager of an investment company and a director of the Alameda chamber of commerce.

Our Correspondent

involvement with prisoners at nearby Soledad Correctional Training Facility.

The statement was read into the record in the dry, Down East tones of commission chairman Robert B. Williamson, a former chief justice of Maine.

Mrs. Harris wired:

"Having received a carte blanche quote request to testify unquote from the commission but having observed

the commission's biased limitations on testimony, I find that the commission is not interested in learning the whole truth but is merely going through the motions.

"I will not subject myself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustrations of such a sham.

"I believe that the commission is a farce and an insult to the American system of justice."

TENOR

Grower John Martin, who was to have testified regarding CRLA's relations with Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, sent a shorter telegram but one that was similar in tenor.

Martin, of El Centro, where the commission will open hearings tomorrow, wired: "I came 600 miles to tell my side of the story."

He said the commission apparently did not care to hear his side, and closed: "I don't want to dirty your lily - white record."

Brice Bonnard, a ranch manager, was to have testified about CRLA involvement in attempting to block evictions of farm workers from the Cel-A-Pak Ranch during last year's lettuce strike here.

CHARGE

Bonnard sent no telegram, but merely did not appear, so the commission simply threw out that charge.

It was the subject of evictions of farm workers from produced the first audience outburst in the hearings. Stuart Pollak, an attorney representing CRLA, was cross - examining William Carnazzo, an attorney for a grower in an eviction case.

Pollak asked Carnazzo what he would do if tenants in sub-standard farm housing asked him as a lawyer for advice if they were to be evicted.

"I'd probably tell them to move out, if the conditions were that bad," Carnazzo replied. "Why should they stay there?"

Pollak: "Suppose he (the farm worker) said, 'I've got eight kids, and they're in school, and one of them is sick' - would you still tell him to get out?"

Carnazzo: "Probably."

Pollak: "That's why we have a CRLA," and the crowd burst into applause.

GAVEL

The courtly and soft-spoken Williamson waited for the noise to die down, then said: "I've never used a gavel in a courtroom in my life. . . and I don't want to use one today."

He warned against any further demonstrations and the crowd quieted.

The commission was shown a five-minute film, entitled "Children of the Harvest." It depicted what CRLA attorneys said was sub-standard farm housing in about 70 cent of Monterey county's agricultural areas.

The commission will hold hearings, beginning at 7 a.m. today at Soledad to look into allegations CRLA attorneys fomented disturbances among prisoners there.

San Jose, Calif.
Mercury
(Cir. D. 125,362)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Governor Hits Panel On CRLA

Mercury Sacramento Bureau

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Ronald Reagan said Tuesday he doesn't have "too much confidence" in the three-judge federal panel investigating his charges against the embattled California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) program.

Reagan's criticism, voiced at his weekly press conference, was the latest in a running battle with the federal government over the CRLA program.

Reagan vetoed a \$1.3 million federal grant for CRLA for 1971, charging the program over stepped its bounds and failed to serve the poor. The federal government appointed the three-judge panel and to investigate and funded the program for six months in the meantime.

"Very frankly, I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission's findings," Reagan told newsmen after it was noted the panel on Monday ruled three of the governor's charges had no merit.

Reagan complained the panel was placing restrictions on private attorneys cross-examining CRLA witnesses. He told newsmen some witnesses have complained the panel is forbidding "full testimony" that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities.

Meanwhile, in a brief filed with the panel Tuesday, the CRLA accused Reagan and his staff of "irresponsible and unethical" conduct to "subvert the effort of this commission."

Specifically, the CRLA said the governor's office used a CRLA document known to be stolen to attempt to show that the CRLA was hiding unethical conduct from the commission.

Reagan had these remarks on other subjects:

• **Death Penalty** — Said he has no intention of declaring a further moratorium on the death penalty in view of the Supreme Court decision upholding its legality.

• **Tax Reform** — Said he has no comment yet on a Democratic tax reform proposal moving in the Assembly except to say it was in reality a \$500 million tax increase. Reagan said the administration is considering introducing its own program.

• **Welfare Reform** — In response to Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti (D-Van Nuys), who said the Reagan administration could have saved \$176 million in welfare costs by instituting administrative changes not needing legislation, Reagan said he was still checking. He questioned why in the past four years the Legislature has been reluctant to adopt welfare reform proposals advanced by his administration.

• **Coastline Protection** — Said he prefers a coastline protection bill giving substantial authority to local and regional coastal preservation bodies, as well as not usurping local planning commissions. He said he opposes a state-mandated coastal protection plan, but agreed some state action would be needed to some extent. He said the state should not have absolute veto power over coastal development plans.

Reagan Doubts Findings Of CRLA Probe To Be Valid

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —Gov. Ronald Reagan doubts that the conclusions reached by a federal commission investigating the California Rural Legal Assistance will please him to the point of throwing a "street dance."

"Very frankly I don't have too much confidence in what is going to be the outcome of this commission's findings," he told his weekly news conference Tuesday.

Reagan said he had heard from witnesses that the commission—appointed by the Nixon administration—displayed an "unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

Asked what he thought the



GOV. REAGAN
Yesterday's Press Conference

results would be, the governor responded, "I doubt that we will close off Folsom Boulevard and have a street dance." Folsom Boulevard is a Sacramento thoroughfare near Reagan's residence.

The specially appointed commission of three state Supreme Court justices from other states is looking into Reagan adminis-

tration charges against the federally funded agency which provides legal help for the poor.

The commission was set up by the Nixon administration after Reagan vetoed \$18.6 million in federal funds for the agency, charging it had failed to serve the needs of the poor and had violated Office of Economic Opportunity regulations.

Santa Rosa
5-19-71

CRLA hearing *Imperial Valley Press* opponents clash *5-19-71*

The continuing controversy brought about by the scheduled hearings of the federally appointed commission studying the California Rural Legal Assistance in El Centro continued today as County Clerk Harry Free charged Jerome Falk Jr., attorney for CRLA, with "intimidation."

Free claimed he received a telephone call today ordering him to submit a photograph of CRLA attorney Robert Johnstone standing in front of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee Calexico office earlier this year before noon today to Falk, or Free would not be able to testify at the hearings Thursday and Friday.

"You talk about intimidation," Free said.

He added he does not plan to comply with the order but will show the evidence to the commission during hearings. "It's the only reason I would have to testify," he said.

"Absolutely Untrue"

In rebuttal, Falk said the charge of intimidation was "absolutely untrue."

"I have never seen or talked to Mr. Free and wouldn't know him if I saw him," the attorney said.

He explained the call to Free was from an attorney for the commission, who contacted several potential Imperial Valley witnesses requesting them to submit evidence to CRLA counsel in compliance with commission rules requiring evidence be given to both sides at least five days before the hearings.

"I was aware Mr. Free and several other witnesses had not done this, but I didn't say anything about it," Falk said.

25 To Testify

The attorney for CRLA estimated he had about 25 persons scheduled as potential witnesses during the two-day hearings, but added "I don't know if there will be enough time to hear them all."

After the two-day Valley session is completed Friday, commissioners plan to take a one-week recess before splitting up to hold additional hearings in six other communities having CLRA offices June 1 and 2.

Following that, concluding remarks will be heard in San Francisco. Frank Carlucci, federal Office of Economic Opportunity director, has requested the three-judge commission submit its recommendations to him by June 15.

Oakland, Calif.
Tribune
(Cir. 225,038, Sat. 202,951,
Sun. 251,534)

MAY 19 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Reagan Calls CRLA Probe 'Fun, Games'

By BILL STALL

SACRAMENTO (AP)—Gov. Reagan says a federal commission of jurists has engaged in "fun and games" in probing California Rural Legal Assistance Inc., the war-on-poverty group that has fought Reagan's welfare programs for four years.

The Republican governor said, "Very frankly, I don't have much confidence in what's going to be the outcome of this commission's findings."

With a strained edge to his voice, Reagan added, "I doubt that we will close off Folsom Boulevard and have a street dance when it comes out."

Reagan said the commission of three out-of-state supreme court justices apparently was declining to hear some testimony against CRLA. The panel was appointed by Frank Carlucci, director of U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, to investigate the effectiveness of CRLA and probe Reagan's charges that it engaged in illegal activities.

The Reagan administration has refused to participate in the hearings in an adversary position, contending the probe was not supposed to be a trial-like affair.

Reagan told his weekly news conference yesterday, "I think a great many people are confused as to why we did not join in the fun and games that were proposed as the method

for conducting the hearing."

Asked what motives the justices would have for not being objective in their judgment of CRLA, Reagan said: "You know, I just lie awake at night wondering what they are myself."

Regardless of the outcome, Reagan said, he still expects President Nixon to support the view of CRLA and similar OEO-financed legal agencies.

"I think the President has made himself perfectly clear," he said. "He's made a proposal for a whole new approach to rural legal assistance."

Reagan vetoed CRLA's \$18 million budget for 1971 last December, charging the group with a variety of violations of federal rules and guidelines, including "illegal activities" in regard to the United Farm Workers. Organizing Committee, the farm labor union led by Cesar Chavez.

Carlucci continued CRLA on a six-month grant pending the outcome of the commission's probe.

Reagan complained CRLA spent more time filing "class action" suits against local governments and the state than it did helping the individual poor people with their legal problems. CRLA successfully fought several Reagan attempts to cut back welfare and health care benefits.

The governor proposed that CRLA be replaced by a pri-

vately financed state-run group.

The commission declared yesterday there was no merit to a charge that CRLA attor-

neys violated OEO rules by aiding the farm workers' lettuce strike in the Salinas Valley in late 1970 and early this year.

The commission is headed by retired Chief Justice Robert B. Williamson of the Maine Supreme Court. Other members are Justices George

R. Currie of Wisconsin, retired, and Robert B. Lee of Colorado.

The commission held hearings Monday and yesterday in

Oakland Tribune

Salinas and will move later in the week to El Centro, near the Mexican border. Reagan's administration has charged that CRLA engaged in illegal aid to the Chavez union there, too.

Wed., May 17, 1971

Reagan said yesterday that at least two key witnesses had refused to testify because of "an unwillingness to allow or hear full testimony that seems to be detrimental to CRLA's activities."

San Francisco, Calif.
Examiner
(Cir. D 203,026 - Set: 159,057)

MAY 19 1971

Est. 1835

A Teller Soledad Murder

During CRLA Quiz at Prison

By Joel Tlumak
Examiner News Services

SOLEDAD — Kenneth E. Conant, a top administrator at troubled Soledad State Prison, was stabbed to death in his office today and two other officials were injured while subduing the two convicts who attacked him.

The fatal attack came just as a special commission opened a meeting at the prison to probe charges that attorneys for the California Rural Legal Assistance were responsible for at least some of the tensions and disturbances here.

Conant was the tenth man — the fourth non-prisoner — killed at the big prison since January, 1970.

Meeting Adjourned

The commission adjourned its meeting immediately upon hearing of the latest outburst of violence.

There was no known relationship between the commission's closed door session, which began at 7 a.m., and the stabbing, which occurred at 9:30 a.m.

At almost the same time, the trial of three black convicts accused of killing a Soledad guard last July was resuming in nearby Salinas.

The 49 year old Conant was a program administrator, in charge of some 600 inmates at the prison.

Attackers White

Much of the past trouble at Soledad has been blamed on racial conflicts. But Conant was white and both of the inmates who attacked him also are white.

A prison spokesman said the motive of the attack today was not known.

Conant was at his desk in

--Turn to Page 12, Col. 1

Soledad Official Is Slain by Cons

—From Page 1

the prison's central facility. Lt. E. D. Steele and Supervising Counselor Ed Whalen also were in the office preparing for a meeting with an inmate committee.

Inmates Jerry W. Lund, 28, and Eric V. Hilton, 24, were identified as his attackers. Details of the attack were not immediately given.

Los Angeles Robbers

However, Steele and Whalen subdued the two convicts, both robbers sentenced from Los Angeles.

All normal work and training schedules were immediately suspended and about 1000 prisoners were locked in their cells.

Conant, married and the father of a son, lived in Sal-

nas. He had been a correctional officer for some 20 years.

Steele and Whalen were slightly hurt in overpowering the two convicts.

Knife Recovered

Assistant Superintendent Chuck Stowell said a prison-made knife was recovered at the scene.

In Sacramento, the California State Employees Association called for "immediate steps to prevent further tragedies" like today's.

"Security improvements were needed at Soledad before the first murders took place," said CSEA General Manager Loren V. Smith. "It should be obvious by now that the actions were insufficient."

Ten prison guards and offi-

cials had asked to appear before the special commission today.

Before the meeting, a spokesman for the California Correctional Officers Association complained that the guards and officials were being handcuffed by the Attorney General.

Kenneth Brown, press officer of the CCOA, said the Attorney General's office had prohibited guards and officials from testifying on any incident that may be pending in the courts, the subject of current investigations or which may eventually lead to an inquiry.

Claim Evidence

In their requests to testify, the officials and guards said they had information to prove that CRLA attorneys

were behind an aborted murder plot, that they threatened prison officials with legal harassment, helped smuggle revolutionary literature to inmates, defamed guards, and were involved in a plan to supply weapons to prisoners.

CRLA attorneys deny all the charges.

The federal commission is in its second week of hearings on Governor Reagan's charges against the CRLA. It is scheduled to meet tomorrow in El Centro.

MAY 13 1971

APR 22 C.B. Est. 1888

CRLA Said Exonerated Of 3 Charges by State

SALINAS — A commission of three judges investigating the Reagan Administration's charges against California Rural Legal Assistance has ruled three of the allegations have no merit.

The charges involved CRLA taking on a traffic court case, helping three women pickets arrested in the United Farm Workers lettuce strike be freed on their own recognizance and helping a Chicano boy be transferred from jail to juvenile hall on a misdemeanor charge.

SACRAMENTO — A Democratic legislator demanded an investigation by State Social Welfare Director Robert Carleson into what he called the "intimidation and coercion" of two Imperial County social workers.

Assemblyman David Roberti of Los Angeles called on Carleson to make an "immediate and responsible" investigation into the case of Michael and Donna English.

Their names were mentioned in a controversial California Rural Legal Assistance memo made public last week by Gov. Ronald Reagan's office as potential pro-CRLA witnesses.

A spokesman for the Social Ser-

vices Union said that shortly after their names were made public they were called into the office of Imperial County Welfare Director Florence Kinloch.

Bob Anderson, lobbyist for the Union, said Mrs. Kinloch prohibited the couple from leaving the building for an indefinite period, confined them to their desk work areas and said they wouldn't be allowed to testify for CRLA during working hours.

SALINAS (UPI) — Although a member of the hearing committee looking into the California Rural Legal Assistance said his organization found no merit to assertions that CRLA attorneys had represented persons in criminal actions or had worked for Cesar Chavez' farm union, a sheriff's deputy has testified that the CRLA worked out of the union's office.

The testimony by Walter Scott came during a hearing by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity investigation into CRLA activities.

Scott, a Monterey County sheriff's captain, said that attorneys for the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee had told him they could be reached at the CRLA

(Continued on Page 10)

Charges

(Continued from Page 1)

office during a strike against lettuce growers.

Dennis Powell, CRLA director in Salinas, testified he had ordered a stop to Farm Union lawyers using the telephone in his office.

He also asserted that Scott was "just plain wrong" when he said he had telephoned union lawyers at the CRLA office during October, November and December.

The hearing concerns a veto by Gov. Ronald Reagan of federal funds for the CRLA which he says has inadequately carried out its job of serving the legal needs of the poor. The Governor also holds the legal poverty agency has violated OEO regulations against taking part in partisan politics.

CRLA spokesmen say the Governor is angry because the agency defeated him in court on welfare questions.

Robert B. Williamson, retired Maine chief justice who is the hearing committee chairman, said his organization had found no merit to assertions that CRLA attorneys had represented persons in criminal actions in violation of OEO rules.

Neither did the commission find merit in an assertion that they acted for the UFWOC during the strike, he added.

Cruz Reynoso, the CRLA executive director, asserted in a memorandum that Donna English, a welfare department employe in El Centro, is being held "under what can only be described as a form of house arrest" to prevent her from testifying before the commission. The commission will meet there Thursday and Friday.

San Diego, Calif.
Union
(Cir. D 143,337 - S 253,650)

MAY 18 1971

Allen's P. C. & Est. 1688

CRLA Aid To Chavez Cited

SALINAS (AP) — A deputy sheriff and a lawyer for lettuce growers testified yesterday that attorneys for farm unionist Cesar Chavez worked out of the California Rural Legal Assistance offices and used its facilities during last year's strike.

The testimony before a special federal investigating commission was admitted despite CRLA objections.

Gov. Reagan has vetoed federal funds for CRLA, charging it with assorted improprieties, but it has been given a temporary allowance pending the inquiry.

Deputy Sheriff Walter Scott and Andrew Church, a growers' lawyer, testified that United Farm Workers attorneys gave the Salinas CRLA telephone number as the place they could be reached during the lettuce strike last October, November and December.

Dennis Powell, head of the CRLA Salinas office, said the union lawyers were permitted to use the CRLA law library and to use its copying machine for a charge. They contended Scott was "just plain wrong" when he said he reached union

attorneys on the CRLA telephone. an Imperial County welfare worker, but that the Department of Welfare had ordered her not to leave her office, use the telephone or have any contact with the CRLA.

CRLA, meanwhile, filed a memorandum with the commission, saying it wished to question Mrs. Donna English,

Los Angeles, Calif.
Times
(Ch. D. 933,913 - 5 1,269,467)

MAY 18 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1883

CRLA Lawyers Accuse State of Deceptions

BY PHILIP HAGER

Times Staff Writer

SALINAS — Attorneys for California Rural Legal Assistance charged Monday that the Reagan Administration was using "increasingly devious and deceptive tactics designed to subvert" the inquiry by the federal commission on CRLA.

They asserted that an Imperial County welfare worker who wanted to testify in CRLA's behalf had been placed under "a form of house arrest."

The attorneys claimed that the welfare worker, Mrs. Donna English, had been forbidden to leave her office, use the telephone or see clients during working hours and was "under specific instructions" to have no contact with CRLA.

Bitterest Attack

The attack on the Reagan Administration, made in a memorandum filed with the commission as it opened hearings here, was perhaps the most bitter in a dispute that has been marked by angry charges on both sides.

The memorandum said, for example, that the governor and his allies in the

dispute with CRLA had used tactics that "... descended from the irresponsible and unethical to that which may in fact be criminal."

This charge was in response to the release by the governor last week of a confidential memo from one CRLA attorney to another allegedly saying a witness in forthcoming

hearings would "say anything we tell him to."

The CRLA attorneys told the commission the Reagan Administration knew the document was confidential and has been stolen. They said the subsequent release in El Centro of the names of several prospective witnesses, in-

cluding Mrs. English, was made to "prevent" persons from testifying for CRLA.

Mrs. English was not immediately available for comment, but Mrs. Florence Kinloch, director of the Imperial County Welfare Department in El Centro, told a reporter that Mrs. English "is on"

restricted phone calls this week."

The commission, made up of three out-of-state Supreme Court justices, was appointed by the federal OEO to make a fact-finding inquiry into the dispute after Reagan vetoed CRLA's \$1.8 million budget last December.

Oakland, Calif.
Tribune
(Cir. D 225,038, Sat. 257,931,
Sun. 251,534)

MAY 18 1971

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Study Clears CRLA of Union Link

SALINAS (AP) — A federal commission has found "no merit" to a charge that California Rural Legal Assistance violated operating guidelines by aiding a farm workers union during a strike.

Chairman Robert B. Williams, retired chief justice of Maine, announced the finding yesterday at the initial session of a hearing that continued today in Salinas.

The state had contended CRLA attorneys acted as lawyers for Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers Organizing Committee during last year's lettuce strike.

Gov. Reagan has vetoed \$1.8 million in federal funds for CRLA, accusing it a number of improprieties. The federal antipoverty agency provided temporary funds pending outcome of the inquiry headed by Williams.

State Office of Economic Opportunity head Lewis K. Uhler, a leading CRLA critic, was present yesterday, the first session he had attended since the commission convened last month in San Francisco.

Williams' decision involved three specific instances where CRLA represented criminal defendants but were not found in violation of guidelines because the cases were misdemeanors, not felonies. CRLA attorneys are prohibited from representing clients in criminal felony cases.

San Francisco, Calif.
Examiner
(Cir. D 203,026 - Set. 159,057)

MAY 18 1971

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Reagan Witness Calls CRLA

Probe a 'Farce'

By Joel Thumak
Examiner News Staff

SALINAS — The blue-ribbon federal panel conducting an inquiry into California Rural Legal Assistance was described as "a farce and an insult to the American system of justice" today by a key witness for Governor Reagan's poverty forces.

Amelia Harris, a former CRLA secretary, leveled the charge in a telegram to the commission which was read from the bench as the hearing convened this morning.

"Having received a carte blanche request to testify" from the commission, she wrote, "but having observed the commission's biased limitations on testimony, I find that the commission is not interested in learning the whole truth but is merely going through the motions.

Quiz Called 'Sham'

"I will not subject myself to the personal aggravations, harassment and frustration of such a sham. I believe that the commission is a farce and an insult to the American system of justice."

Mrs. Harris was on hand yesterday, apparently ready to testify in support of charges by Lewis Uhler, the Governor's poverty chief, that CRLA attorneys illegally took criminal cases and were to some degree responsible for recent prison disturb-

She did not appear today, but her telegram caused a flurry of charges and counter-charges.

Stewart Pollak, one of the attorneys representing CRLA, heard it read and said that "precisely the opposite is true." He claimed that it was Reagan's representatives who have been harassing CRLA witnesses, and insisted the legal agency has never tried to bother Mrs. Harris.

Phone Calls Reported

Private attorneys representing the State said informally, however, that she has been receiving many phone calls and has been bothered repeatedly in Salinas, where she lives.

Another witness against CRLA also sent a telegram to the commission today refusing to testify although he said he had come 600 miles to be present.

"I don't want to dirty your lily white record," John Martin declared.

Inspired By Hearing

Martin is the owner of the Martin Produce Company of El Centro. CRLA attorneys represented nine of his employees in wage negotiations, and Uhler has charged that in doing so they actually represented the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The telegrams were inspired, apparently, by yes-

terday's hearing in which the Reagan forces, who had boycotted inquiry sessions in San Francisco, tried to participate unofficially here and suffered a setback.

Finding No Surprise

They complained that the three-man federal panel would not let them explore matters which they considered vital. The Reagan representatives had previously declined to present evidence in support of all their charges against CRLA.

So it was no surprise when the special commission ruled that three of Governor Reagan's charges of illegal activities by the poverty lawyers have no merit.

The commission faced a difficult task when Uhler said the State would not present any case at all to substantiate 283 pages of charges Uhler had compiled against CRLA.

So the commission picked out 35 specific charges to focus on — and it invited anti-CRLA witnesses to appear at

its hearings here.

Reagan's office, still taking no official part in the hearings, provided two attorneys for the invited witnesses.

Although both attorneys — Robert Hinrichs and William Knecht — say they are not working for Reagan, Uhler and his aides were busy yesterday consulting with them on what to do.

Two Attorneys

But Hinrichs and Knecht were blocked by the commission every time they sought

yesterday to attack CRLA or incidents in the Uhler report that the commissioners had dismissed as unworthy to be heard.

Forfeited

The State could have selected the charges it believed were more appropriate to be heard — but it had forfeited that right when it declined to take an active part in the inquiry.

Hinrichs spent a frustrating day yesterday with his witness, William Moreno,

who sparred angrily with the commissioners when he wasn't allowed to testify how he believed CRLA harassed farmers in this fertile valley.

The commissioners ruled that Moreno could testify on only one incident — and give whatever evidence he had to prove CRLA was working illegally on behalf of Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in that incident.

Evidence Elusive

At one point, Hinrichs had to admit that Moreno's "evidence (against CRLA) was hard to put your finger on."

Moreno kept complaining that the "evidence" would materialize if he could go into some incidents the commission had dismissed weeks ago.

Pollak kept objecting every time Hinrichs and his witnesses overstepped the ground rules the commission had laid out.

This led Uhler to charge, outside the hearing room, that CRLA "was trying to suppress evidence."

But the commission ruled in favor of CRLA.

Traffic Case

As the second week of hearings on this controversy opened here yesterday, CRLA defended itself in taking on a traffic court case, helping three women pickets arrested in the lettuce strike get free on their own recognition and aiding a Chicano boy who should not have been in jail but in juvenile hall on a misdemeanor charge.