

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR



813-6 

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310

October 25, 1984

Ron Brown
c/o KRWK
86 4th Street
Box 388
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

Dear Ron,

Many thanks for your letter. As you can imagine, most of my mail on this subject urges that I "do something" intemperate.

While I am not prepared to equate the LDS faith to the Rajneesh movement, nevertheless you make a sound point - if we deal with one group illegally, no matter how unpopular they may be, which group is to be next?

Sincerely,

Victor Atiyeh
Governor

VA:os

Ron Brown
Reporter



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19 October 1984

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Governor's Office

Governor Victor Atiyeh
254 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Governor Atiyeh,

Following your talk earlier this week to members of the Medford Rotary, we talked briefly about the events unfolding in Wasco County.

I mentioned that some of the attitudes expressed in this state sound to me disturbingly similar to those that led to incidents nearly 150 years ago in Missouri. I am enclosing a copy of Governor Bogg's "Extermination Order" to which I referred in our conversation following the press conference, an hope that such an incident is not repeated in Oregon by the residents of Wasco County.

I would personally like to express my opinion that our State officials have handled this matter quite reasonably, and you have our prayers that everyone can return to an attitude of trust and harmony.

Sincerely,

Ron Brown

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erson city, Governor Boggs, acting upon the false reports that reached him concerning affairs at Gallatin and Millport, ordered into the field a large force of the state militia. Under date of 26th of October he ordered out four hundred men from each of the following divisions: the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 12th; making a body of 2,000 troops. At the same time General Willock of the 14th division was ordered to raise 500 men. Generals Doniphan and Parks were ordered to raise each five hundred men; but no steps were taken by them to carry out this order, doubtless for the reason that the rapid development of events gave them no opportunity to do so, and they were already in the field each in command of a large force, about eighteen hundred men in the two commands. The above military orders were issued by Governor Boggs in response to an application of the citizens of Daviess county to the governor "for protection, and to be restored to their homes and property." The orders were given because the governor claimed to have received "intelligence that the Mormons, with an armed force," had "expelled the inhabitants of that county from their homes," had "pillaged and burnt their dwellings, driven off their stock, and were destroying their crops. That they [the Mormons]" had "burnt to ashes the towns of Gallatin and Millport in said county; the former being the county seat of said county," and that there was "not now a civil officer within said county."

28. Governor Boggs' Order to General John B. Clark, October 26, 1838, Documents, etc., pp. 62, 63. One cannot help pausing a moment to notice the difference in the action of the state authorities in two cases that would have been alike, provided the report of those parties who fled from Daviess county, by the light of their burning homes, (fired by their own hands) had been true. In 1833 the saints were driven by brute force and under circumstances the most distressing, from their possessions in Jackson county; and not only was their property destroyed, but one was killed and a number of others wounded, while the number that was exiled was small.

Shortly after the above order was issued Messrs. Williams and Reese arrived at Jefferson City with their reports of the Crooked river encounter, the supposed determination of the "Mormons" to burn Richmond, added to their false reports of Gallatin-Millport affairs. Upon this showing Governor Boggs issued a second order to General Clark, under date of the 27th of October, known as his "Order of Extermination;" which, on account of its importance in our history, is given *in extenso*:

GOVERNOR BOGGS' ORDER OF EXTERMINATION

"Headquarters of the Militia,
"City of Jefferson, Oct. 27, 1838.

"General John B. Clark:

"Sir—Since the order of this morning to you, directing you to cause four hundred mounted men to be raised within your division, I have received by Amos Reese, Esq., of Ray county, and Wiley C. Williams, Esq., one of my aids, information of the most appalling character, which entirely changes the face of things, and places the Mormons in the attitude of an open and avowed defiance of the laws, and of having made war upon the people of this state. Your orders are, therefore, to hasten your operation with all possible speed. *The Mormons must be treated as enemies, and must be exterminated or driven from the state if necessary for the public peace—their outrages are beyond all description.* If you can increase your force, you are authorized to do so to any extent you may consider necessary. I have just issued orders to Maj. Gen. Willock, of Marion county, to raise five hundred men, and to march them to the northern part of Daviess, and there unite with Gen. Doniphan, of Clay, who has been ordered with five hundred men to proceed to the same point for the purpose of intercepting the retreat of the Mormons to the north. They have been directed to communicate with you by express, you can also communicate with them if you find it necessary. Instead therefore of proceeding as at first directed to reinstate the citizens of Daviess in their homes, you will proceed immediately to Richmond and then operate against the Mormons. Brig. Gen. Parks of Ray, has been ordered to have four hundred of his brigade in readiness to join you at Richmond. The whole force will be placed under your command.