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Governor's Office

AMERICANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

POST OFFICE BOX 955
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

Telephone: 298-4387 298-5002 296-5145

September 28, 1983

Gov. Victor Atiyeh
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

may
10/4/83

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

I have called your office and written to you numerous times, both personally, and as representative for A.C.R., one of three community action groups formed in Wasco County, expressing our concerns about the Indian guru, BHAGWAN SHREE RAJNEESH, and his followers. Since we first expressed our concerns, the actions of the Rajneeshees have further proven our concerns to be legitimate. We can assure you that public concern about the actions of the Rajneeshees is rapidly growing.

Inasmuch as the city of Rajneeshpuram is a closed religious city receiving State revenues; and

Inasmuch as the Rajneeshees have taken over the Antelope School with unqualified teachers and injecting religious education into a public school, and

Inasmuch as the closed religious "city" violates both the Federal Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Oregon in the matter of separation of Church and State; and

Inasmuch as the Rajneeshees have consistently violated other people's rights by stopping people on public roads (including yours truly), by false arrests, and by intimidating lawsuits;

We believe there is just cause for FULL INVESTIGATION by proper authorities. We understand that before the Attorney General can investigate the Rajneeshees, some State official or agency must request or instruct him to do so. We earnestly request that you request or instruct the Attorney General David Frohnmayer to investigate the Rajneeshees in consideration of both their history and especially their actions in our state. We believe a thorough investigation by the Attorney General will reveal that in spite of the many claims of the Rajneesh to be law-abiding citizens, they have in fact violated many laws and infringed upon the rights of many people. Please give Mr. Frohnmayer the go-ahead to do just that.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Tatom
CHARLES H. TATOM, COORDINATOR

Pat May
PAT MAY, Secretary

cc: A. G. Frohnmayer

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Americans for Constitutional Rights is a community action group formed in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon, by a group of citizens who are concerned about the actions of an Indian guru, "Bhagwan Shree" Rajneesh and his followers. The guru and his followers settled on the Muddy Ranch in Southeastern Wasco County in the late spring of 1981, and proceeded to establish a religious city in violation of State Land Use Laws, and in violation of both State and Federal Constitutions in the matter of separation of Church and State. The Rajneeshees have committed other actions that are direct infringements upon the rights of their neighbors and other citizens. AMERICANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS GROUP WAS FORMED FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF LAUNCHING A SERIES OF STATE-WIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS TO INFORM AMERICAN CITIZENS ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE RAJNEESHEES IN THE MATTER OF THE ANTELOPE-RAJNEESH CONTROVERSY, AND TO INFORM AND ENCOURAGE CITIZENS WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. A.C.R. are not religious bigots or radicals, infringing upon others' rights. NEITHER DO WE SUPPORT ANY PETITION THAT IS BEING CIRCULATED TO CALL UPON THE GOVERNOR TO KICK THE RAJNEESH OUT OF THE STATE. Our goal is to INFORM all citizens as to the truth about the Rajneeshees' actions, and list the legitimate complaints of concerned citizens, calling on all citizens to work in concerted effort to protect our constitutions and laws from further abuse.

AMERICANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Charles H. Tatom, Coordinator

Pat May, Secretary

FEATURING SPEAKERS:

GARY MCMURRY, Attorney-At-Law

CHARLES TATOM, A.C.R. Coordinator