



ROBERT W. OLIVER  
2478 Morning Dove Ct., N. W.  
Salem, Oregon 97304  
(503) 371-8709  
October 12, 1997

Gust Orloff, Executive Director  
Oregon Historical Society  
1200 S. W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Mr. Orloff:

From 1979 until 1987, I was a member of Governor Atiyeh's staff, mostly as Legal Counsel and ultimately Chief of Staff. For several years in the midst of that Administration, we were faced with a chronic --- and occasionally acute --- problem, the presence of the Bhagwan and his followers in Central Oregon. The Governor constantly was being urged in countless messages to 'do something' to rid the state of this group, though there were scarcely any specific recommendations as to how this might be done without violence and within constitutional limitations. Ultimately, the movement collapsed of its own weight and Oregon was spared being the site of another Jonestown.

During those years I maintained a file on Rajneeshpuram, into which I placed copies of various documents of a nonroutine character. The original documents presumably found their way into the State Archives at the end of the Administration. However, I am reasonably sure they are scattered about in various files and it would be a daunting task to assemble them. My file consists of copies and some printed material, which I maintained for my personal use. I cannot assert that it is comprehensive, but it does fairly represent the activities of the Governor's staff during that period, and the information on which decisions were based.

I seriously doubt that anybody would find this material to be sensational. Nevertheless, it could be helpful to some future historian researching an interesting chapter in our state's history. For that reason I would be happy to donate the file to the Oregon Historical Society. Let me know if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Oliver



# OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT  
THE

*oregon history center*

1200 S.W. PARK AVENUE PORTLAND, OREGON 97205-2483  
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November 7, 1997

Mr. Robert W. Oliver  
2478 Morning Dove Court, N.W.  
Salem, Oregon 97304

NOV 14 1997  
Governor Atiyeh

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you very much for your fine letter of October 2, 1997. The Oregon Historical Society would indeed be very interested in your papers on Rajneeshpuram. In fact, I have had conversations with Norma Paulus, Cliff Carlson, and others about OHS's pulling together material relating to this episode in Oregon history.

I am asking Mr. Lou Flannery, Associate Director of Collections Development, to call you to follow-up on your fine offer.

With my great thanks for your generosity and with highest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Chet Orloff  
Executive Director

CO:ch

cc: Governor Victor G. Atiyeh  
Portland, Oregon

Mr. Lou Flannery  
Associate Director of  
Collections Development  
Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon

Ms. Kris White  
Director Archival  
Collections  
Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon

Ms. Barbara Abrams  
Deputy Director -  
Operations and Programs  
Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon

P.S. You will be pleased to know that we have been transcribing Governor Atiyeh's oral history which is a very significant document in itself.

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