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PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN  
2/2/67

Reported by:  
Alex C. Kaempfer, CSR

GOVERNOR REAGAN: Well, good morning. No statement.  
Fire away.

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

Q Governor, a week ago you were asked how you felt about Dr. Rafferty being President of the University of California, and your reply was, "Well, Dr. Rafferty was elected State Superintendent of Education, and I believe he has a contract with the people to fill out that job."

Do you mean by that that you feel he should remain as State Superintendent of Education for four years and not consider running for President of the University?

A Well, I think when you get into the area of someone choosing to run for an office in which he is going back to the same electorate for their approval or disapproval of such a move, that's a little different than seeking the employment, which is what this other thing would imply, to actually be taking a job. I don't think the two fall into the same category at all.

Q Governor, what is your response to the criticism by Senator George Miller that you deliberately have put up a smokescreen on your budget to obscure, as he put it, your retreat from reality?

A Well, now, that's pretty good phrase making the satirists have come up with there, but I don't see how anyone can call recognizing the fact that we're spending one million dollars a day more than we're taking in a retreat from reality. As a matter of fact, I think there's been just a little bit of digressing from the fact.

The fact is that someone for the last eight years has been retreating from reality, and maybe reality as a

result has become so unusual that we just don't recognize it when we face it. The reality is we're spending \$365 million plus a year more than we're taking in.

Q Governor, this isn't on fiscal matters. I can come back to it later. In view of the fact that your wife is here today, is there any truth to the report that you're looking for a new house?

A Well, I had a chance to glimpse at that paper this morning, too. As a matter of fact, even before we came up here, we had an interest in and have been scouting around for a weekend for a country place where I certainly could have a horse and where we could have a place to get out of the city as we've done down south where we had a place in the country.

Now, however, we're aware of the fact that a group of citizens are moving toward and have indicated the desire to build and present the State with a new Governor's residence, and this now has kind of thrown our plans into, well, we're wide open with regard to whether we just continue pursuing what we were or whether we consider finding an interim place, if such construction is going to start, and allow the present mansion to become what I understand has been indicated it would become in such an event an historic monument.

Q Who are the citizens?

A Oh, I can't tell you how many. I know that this has been stirring and I understand that it's beginning to take shape. I'm not qualified to make any announcement for them. It would have to come from them.

Q Do you know who the head of the group is?

A I don't know that there is any head or not.

Q Or even one or two members of it?

A Well, as long as I'm not able to more comprehensively name who such a group might be, I'd rather not just go flying away at some names.

Q Governor, your budget message --

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Let's get done with the mansion first. Well, some of us had some more questions on it.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Go ahead.

Q

Q Are you going to be moving out of the mansion?  
Can you tell us specifically?

A Well, under the circumstances that I outlined, yes, if there are going to be plans and there is going to be a new one -- we have a situation there very frankly with an 8-year old boy, I don't think this has been the normal situation with Governors recently.

The mansion is located with very little grounds around it in a downtown or business section with no neighborhood, no play area or playmates, and frankly if there's going to be a new one, yes, we would consider moving out and letting this proceed to become an historical monument.

Q Can you tell us how soon, sir?

A Don't know.

Q Governor, the area they have talked about in relation to this new site is somewhat quite northeast of town on a bluff overlooking the American River. If this is true, wouldn't you consider that quite a ways from the center of town?

A Look, with the present financial picture, if there are some civic-minded citizens who want to give the State of California a mansion, and the State of California moves to accept it, I'm not one to look a gift house in the mouth.

(Laughter.)

I have just become a hero of the Lyn Nofziger set.  
(Laughter.)

Q Governor, if that doesn't come through, would you be against <sup>the State</sup> proceeding with its own plans to build its own mansion on its own State costs as has been discussed in recent years?

A I would be right now, yes; we're economizing.

Q Well, would this mansion that the private people would build, would they consider the site that's already on the master plan or would it be somewhere else outside of the city?

A I wouldn't know. I don't know.

Q Would you like to take a hand in the architectural design of the new mansion?

A Well, now, you're asking a thing that really gets down to the depths of human nature. That's probably what's been wrong for the last 30 years in making such a decision. There isn't anybody who wouldn't like to take a hand. It's going to take a lot of self-control to put your hands behind your back.

Q Governor, can I clarify one point? Is it then your intention to move into a temporary interim residence without the mansion within a very short period and move into a interim residence until a new mansion is built?

A That's right.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Finished with the mansion?

Q What house do you think you might move into in this interim?

A Well, you've got to find one first.

Q Governor, your budget message this week received very extensive press, radio and T-V coverage. Could you tell us why you think it's necessary to go on television again for 15 minutes to further discuss this financial situation?

A Oh, I don't know that this will be just to discuss the financial situation. But if you recall, we told the people that we were going to try to make reports to them and keep them apprised of what we were doing, what the state of the State was, on regular intervals on a public service basis, and up until now we've only been able to do that with those two 2-minute briefings that were given to the various new bureaus and at press statements.

This will be the first time that we've been able to sit down and have one of these at some length, and I have to tell you right now, things are moving so fast that I wouldn't dare tell you what the subject would be now because that subject might be out of date by lunchtime.

Q Governor, will you explain the amount and source of funds that are being used to finance these television broadcasts?

A Actually, some of this is still, in fact, all of it is still from funds that were left over from the interim period.

Q Where did they come from?

A These were contributions and some left over from the campaign that helped finance the interim period of putting this together. But there's no time cost because the stations are making this time available on a public service basis so there's nothing but technical costs of making photographs.

Q How much will the production costs be?

A I don't know.

Q Well, that was basically the question, but if this is produced every week from the funds, how much longer will they last?

A Well, we don't know that this will go every week or that it will be warranted every week. We said at regular intervals. As a matter of fact, I think at one time we were talking about monthly, and certainly it would not be done with tax funds. It would be done with public funds. If this continues and if there's a demand, I think we'll go at it the same way we've done other things. We will simply solicit contributions.

Q Governor, returning to the budget for a moment.

A Yes.

Q Senator Miller said yesterday that whatever happens unquestionably the budget is going to be higher, no matter who is Governor, in other words, do you regard this in the way of thwarting your economic measures, the virtual statement that you can't have this whole budget whatever you do about it?

A Well, I hope that this won't get down to a kind of contest off that size because the only weapon the Governor has back in the event of disagreement on economies is the blue pencil, and I have every intention of using that blue pencil. I do not believe that we can ignore the need for putting this budget back on its feet, and I would like to point out once again a plus in a considerable savings to the people of California that's already occurred simply from taking an attitude that we were going to practice fiscal responsibility, and this was the low rate of interest that we were able to get or pay on our \$75 million veterans

bond issue sixteen points below the national average, and this was quite unusual for California in the recent bond market, and we have been told by the people who purchased that bond, who made that bid and got those bonds, that this reflected their confidence in the policy of the State aimed at fiscal responsibility.

Now, we sell \$600 million worth of bonds a year on an average, and there are millions and millions of dollars involved in interest payments that can go either one way or the other.

They can go up if we have to offer a premium to get people to buy our bonds, and the interest can go down if the people have enough confidence that they're eager to get them.

Q Governor, was the use of the word "looting" in your message carefully considered or do you now wish you hadn't --

A Well, I am addicted to a belief that wherever possible when you're speaking publicly you should use the simplest words rather than get into things like profligate, spending and so forth. And I used that word completely in my own mind in the context that the monies had been spent, had been spent, and the fact that the money was non-existent, that we were going into the hole, had been concealed from the people.

I can tell you I had no idea or no thought in mind that there was an implication of criminality involved. Now, the fact that some people did take it that way and interpreted that word to mean there was this implication indicates that it was a bad choice of words, and for that I'm sorry.

Yes, it must have been a bad choice of words if someone took it that way, and I did not mean to imply and do not mean to imply any criminality. I do mean to say that the last several years the people have been led to believe that they have a balanced budget, that they are spending within their means, and this has just not been true.

Q Governor, Speaker Unruh and other leaders in both houses including Republicans have said that as a matter of

practicality you won't be able to get a tax program by April 1st that you requested. If this is so, what effect will that have on your budget and your tax program?

A Well, it will just delay how quickly we can make income and outgo match. Actually, I did not envision when I said that, the creation of new tax programs. I realize this is much more complicated. It did seem to me that it was within the realm of practicality for some taxes already existent which would simply be raised, such as the tax on liquor and tobacco products and so forth, that this did offer a possibility for more immediate application.

Q Are you still hopeful?

Q In your budget message, Governor, you said that consideration should be given to broadening our present structure either by increasing or extending in a sensible way the sales tax to sectors not now subject to those levels. Does that mean a tax on groceries or prescription drugs?

A No. What this really meant was that I was trying to indicate an open mind because all of these things have been discussed, even the subject discussed of the possibility of extending the sales tax not to food and drugs but extending it to utilities and things of this kind, and I was trying to indicate that we're open for discussion on all of this.

Q Governor, are you open for discussion on Senator Clark Bradley's bill too on the grocery and prescription drugs having that?

A Well, the prescription drug thing bothers me as does the fact that right now prosthetic devices are taxed, and it would seem to me there's an area here that penalizes someone who's already been penalized enough physically.

This is not a direction that I go. Let me point out that there has been, people have proposed and economists have proposed with no axe to grind the consideration in the area of sales tax, of a reduced rate, if that's possible, but a broader base, because of the savings both to business and government with regard to the collection of the administration of the tax.

Now, obviously when they considered this, they were talking not of increasing the tax. These economists were talking about the fact that the lower rate would compensate for the fact that it's spread over more things. But they were pointing out in stores like supermarkets, the audit and the expensive auditing that is necessary, where they sell both taxable items and non-taxable items, that this is a savings that could come and accrue to all of us if perhaps it was so simple as to simply say, "Everything that you sell is taxable."

This is reciting theory, not an opinion or a view of mine. This is in contrast to the idea of simply raising the rate on the presently taxable items. I think this is something that would require a lot of thought and more heads than one on getting together to find what is the fairest and best for the people.

Q Well, he asked the same question <sup>as</sup> I was.

Q Governor, what is your own personal view on horse racing, particularly night harness racing? Are you for it?

A My own view on horse racing? Well, I think some legislation is needed. There have been few changes in the racing bill in California, the racing program, since 1936, and we were a much different state in 1936 than we are now. The breeding industry alone has grown to be about a \$250 million investment in California.

The idea that we could only afford keeping one track open and we only had the horses and the people interested for one track at a time I think has been very adequately reviewed by Stanford research. They have a comprehensive review of this whole thing and many recommendations, and I understand some legislation right now is being framed along these lines.

I have made no secret of the fact that I personally do not favor or personally am opposed to night racing. I would like to see us increase the number of racing days. I would like to see us go into simultaneous racing north and south. I think that we have now the horses and the people to afford this. If night racing is to come, I will

tell you what my view there is. I do not believe it should come as night harness racing or night "any other kind of adjective" racing. If you're going to have it, then it should simply be night racing and open to anyone that wants to take a crack at it in that field, but it should not be restricted as a kind of monopoly practice in one form of racing.

Q You mean thoroughbred as well as harness?

A If they're going to have night racing; as I say, my own personal view is I don't favor it. But if they're going to have it, I think you must have just night racing. I don't think you can pick out one segment of the sport and say "only this one."

Q There is talk in some quarters, Governor, that the last thing to be boosted will be corporation taxes. Is that true?

A The last thing to be boosted would be corporation taxes? Well, I don't think anyone has ever voiced such a thought in this government. I think the whole idea is that taxes must be as fair as possible.

Now, let me point something out about corporation taxes. When you consider taxes, you've got to recognize this fact: a corporation doesn't pay a tax. People pay taxes; only people can pay taxes. And there isn't a corporation tax that isn't passed on in the price of the product to the people.

Now, the thing that has to be considered is, will a tax be regressive, will it dry up its source of revenue, will it make it more difficult for us to have the industries to provide the jobs? But no one has made any decision on that.

I will tell you this decision: no one has ever indicated or will indicate, as far as I'm concerned, in this administration that anyone in this State should be unfairly exempted from bearing a fair share of the tax burden.

Q We hadn't finished that racing. Do you say you are opposed or not opposed to night racing, or would oppose it?

A I said my personal view is against it. I would like

to see us try the other first, the expanded racing dates and so forth.

I'm concerned any time when we look at racing as only a gimmick for cash revenues. It is a sport and the legislation concerning it should be done for the good of the sporting and not just that it's another source of revenue.

Q Would you veto a night racing bill, however, if it came to you?

A Well, my indicating would be that if this is the sentiment of the people and it's reflected through the Legislature, no, I think that while a veto certainly should be employed where a Governor's conscience so indicates, I think at the same time you have to be guided in those instances as to whether you're standing alone in the face of what the public wants.

Q What about Sunday racing?

A No. I'd be opposed to Sunday racing. I think this would be an affront to a great many people in our State. I think even the horses deserve a rest.

Q Governor, would you like to see the racing industry expand as a sport and concurrently would you approve of pari-mutuel betting expanding with the expansion of the sport?

A Well, you're not talking about what finances the sport. I doubt if you'd have very much of a race meeting if you just had the horses running around the track.

Q In other words, you're in favor of extension of gambling in California?

A Well, no, I am in favor of the racing program as we now know it under the present rules regarding betting and so forth being expanded to increase period. I think that some of the northern tracks have been discriminated against in being given racing meetings that are limited to periods of inclement weather, and this is what I meant by dual racing north and south, in the best winter and the best tourist attraction, they should have this possibility.

Q Maybe what he meant was, are you in favor of the State operating some kind of off-track pari-mutuel betting?

A No. I know this has just recently come to my attention,

talk of this. No, I'd be opposed to that.

Q What about dog racing, Governor?

A Well, being in the breeding business of horses and just having sold a horse at a loss, I'm not anxious to develop any other competition.

Q Governor, I want to change the subject. Last Sunday ~~Sandy~~ Reston of the New York Times wrote that "during the fight over Clark Kerr's dismissal, you developed two theses: first, that the University was competing with the private institutions and private institutions should be concentrating on the very best and the University and State college system should be a sort of welfare system. And the second was that the University teachers have an obligation to deal not only with the intellectual but also the moral development of the students. Could you comment on that and summarize it?

A Yes. Let me take the last point first. I've made the statement a number of times, and I still believe it very much. I think from the first grade on up to the sheepskin at the University level, I think that parents have traditionally believed and have a right to go on accepting that the teaching and the education that their sons and daughters are getting does involve the building of character and the teaching of moral principles to guide their conduct as adults, and I hope that we never abandon that principle.

Now, as to the first part of that, I know Scotty Reston, and if he had bothered to ask me, he would have found out that that was a fabrication and it did not reflect my thinking at all. But then I have come to expect that the gray lady of journalism will lack a certain objectivity where things of California are concerned.

Q Governor, what did Reston say? We didn't hear it.

A He said that I was advocating some plan in which the State universities would be confined to a kind of welfare project of educating those hard to educate and leave the good scholars to go to the independent colleges and universities. And this, of course, is completely contrary

to any view I've had.

Q Since we're in the University area now, are you going to attend the Regents' meeting tomorrow, Governor, in Los Angeles?

A I will attend the Regents' meeting tomorrow in Los Angeles.

Q You will?

A Yes.

Q Governor, are you aware of the reports that New York University is now making a concentrated recruitment program in California as a result of the budget cuts in the University and no raises for the professors?

A I'm aware that this guerilla warfare has been going on, and it's a two-way street. We've been doing the same thing. And it's been going on for years, along about this time of year. To imply that there is any stepup in the recruiting efforts is ridiculous. It might be to someone that enters the fray a little heartened now thinking there might be better hunting.

But I don't know of any place where it is more competitive and where there is more proselyting going on on each other's campuses than in the university field for instructors. And it is just standard operating procedure.

Q But as a followup, Governor, if I may, is the University of California able to do it as intensively as they have in the past as a result of the budget cuts?

A Well, I don't know, but they must have. They've been doing pretty well in the past. They boast of more Nobel prize winners on the campus than almost any or any other school can boast and certainly the numbers of schools put together can boast, so we've been doing pretty well.

I am also interested in the fact that figures were released indicating that two years ago when the great disturbances hit the campus at Berkeley that the normal rate of attrition, the normal outflow of professors who chose to go some place else, was stepped up several times over. And it didn't seem to cause any panic at that time. So I can't see why anyone should panic now just in

anticipating that this might go on.

Q Governor, members of the social work profession are objecting to your appointment of Mr. Montgomery as a social welfare director, and said they're basing their objection on the basis of the Welfare and Institutions Code which says, "The Director shall be appointed wholly on the basis of training, demonstrated ability, experience and leadership in organized social welfare administration." And they suggest that he has had no connection with organized social welfare administration. What is your comment on that?

A Well, we're convinced in our own minds and I am convinced that Mr. Montgomery is well qualified for the job and I don't anticipate any trouble on his getting some competition.

Q But he has no connection, or does he, you feel, have a connection with organized social welfare administration as specified in the Code? I mean, what is his background? This is their question.

A Well, I think the Code is a little bit like the Holy Writ and the Constitution. It depends on who's reading it and who's interpreting it. According to my interpretation he is well qualified.

Q Governor, on the subject of welfare, why are you meeting with Oregon's welfare director, you and Spencer Williams and Governor McCall?

A Well, because I had a couple of sessions with Governor Hatfield, and I learned of some of the progress that Oregon has made along the very lines that we're trying to achieve progress here, in the redirecting of relief checks to pay checks, the useful employment, and they have had remarkable success up there.

And I'll ask anybody's advice and ask anyone for information that's done something that I believe could be helpful to California.

Q Do you feel then that a state that has a population one-tenth of the State of California can help us?

A Yes. I don't think that this is based wholly on quantity. It would seem to me that if a state with one-tenth

the population normally would have one-tenth the number of people on welfare, but it also normally would have only one-tenth of the people to take care of them, and I don't see that the problem differs in the fact that ours is just ten times bigger because we've also got ten times as many people to take care of it.

If they're able to handle their one-tenth better than we're handling our ten times as many, I want to know about it, and we'll multiply the solution ten times.

Q On that same topic, Governor, Chad McClellan has said that various people in the state service centers operating in the Los Angeles area have been very helpful in the program McClellan has been operating down there, and yet in your budget they're unfinanced from a practical standpoint as far as State money is concerned. How can you reconcile these two things?

A Are you talking about these one service centers?

Q Yes, I am. I'm talking about the five state service centers.

A All right. We found out that the five -- this was an experimental thing. Remember that none of these replaced any service that's going on. They duplicated it. The present offices of all of the various agencies and services still remain open, but they also then put representatives of these in these one service centers.

Now, we found out that the five -- well, really six -- remaining open because we never had any intention of closing the Venice center -- making alterations in it; rehabilitation stayed right there -- because of their problem, there was never any intention to close that -- but we found that the five are handling 91 percent of the total business that the 13 were handling. And it seemed to us we could conduct the experiment on those five and save the money on the other eight.

Q That wasn't my question, Governor. My question was why in the budget are the state service centers unfinanced as far as State funds are concerned, and you have only a notation in there that they'll be financed by allocating

manpower from other agencies?

A Well, this is exactly what happens; other than the rental of the building most of those are on a lease basis. That's already accomplished. But, as I say, here's a service or a rehabilitation department, your State labor department, all of these agencies with their offices presently open, and all that these one service centers are are centers where representatives from all of those agencies come together in one place.

Now, it would seem to me that if this turns out to be a successful operation, then you explore how you quit duplicating and work one or the other.

Q Now, employment, for example, has said that it can not staff State service centers; part of its budget is federal and it's partially federally controlled. Is it possible that other agencies are going to be unwilling to lend their personnel, in the light of the 10 percent cutback, to lend their personnel to the State service centers?

A Well, we'll just meet that and see how unwilling they are when the time comes.

Q Governor, Who do you intend to appoint to the 22nd Agricultural District at Del Mar?

A I couldn't answer that. As you know, this is one of the busiest things we're doing, is continuing to get people into the administration, and I couldn't offer that.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Back there anything more?

Q On the service centers, one more: I think that what he's saying is, if the service centers are good, if it's good to have experiment, why not use State money? Why only federal money?

A Well, I could give you an answer that would be kind of facetious at the moment; maybe the reason is there isn't any State money.

Q Governor, I didn't really understand your answer on the grocery tax. Do you or do you not support a tax on groceries?

A I don't have the information to give you an answer

on that. My inclination would be no, and for all the obvious reasons. But, as I say, I have seen reports of economists and a study of this tax will have indicated that the burden would not be any greater for those people least able to pay provided there was a compensating factor in reducing the overall tax rate, and that there might be substantial savings in the administration of the tax by broadening the base.

Q Governor -- well, a two-part question. Governor, February 11th do you or do you not definitely plan to meet the marchers; secondly if you do go to Oregon that day, do you plan to take the press with you, or what would be the arrangement now that the Grizzly is gone?

MR. NOFZIGER: The second one should be funneled to me because he's not in charge of the mechanical arrangements. And the answer to that is no. If you want to go up, you'll have to find your own way.

A Let me make just one answer, as far as I can. Let me just say this. I hope if they're planning a march or any kind of a meeting up here, that they will adjust their schedule.

Unfortunately, I can't. Long before any of this ever happened, I was obligated for a speaking engagement in Oregon in connection with this other visit, and I can't change that date. And I hope that if they're planning such a march, that they know this already and won't feel that I'm golfing in Palm Springs or something.

Q Governor, that was one of my questions. The other one was, do you expect to make a vigorous pitch tomorrow before the Regents for tuition?

A Well, since this meeting was called by four Regents in compliance with the bylaws that give them the right to call such a meeting, I feel that the rest of the Regents, myself included -- it's their show, and we should find out what it is they want to talk about.

Frankly, I don't mind telling you that I am a little at a loss to explain the reason for calling the meeting. Because if their words and their telegrams are to be believed

about the subjects they want to discuss, all of these matters were either disposed of or arrangements were made for their discussion at the regular meeting, which is taking place within two weeks. And I frankly feel that the bulk of the Regents have been imposed upon with regard to having to journey to Los Angeles for this meeting.

Q Governor, this afternoon you're meeting with members of the State Employees Association. And apparently they're worried because there is no provision in the budget for a raise for them in the next fiscal year, and there are reports that those employees hired after January 12th may be fired?

A I know of no plans for any firing. We put a freeze on rehiring. And I've always stated and even during the campaign that if in economizing it were possible to reduce State employees, that I have always felt that wholesale firing is not an answer, that the answer is simply to take advantage of normal attrition and put a freeze on. So I don't have anything of that kind.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Any more questions? Thank you, Governor.

MR. NOFZIGER: Gentlemen, can I have your attention for just one minute? Mrs. Reagan has asked me, as long as she is here, to make one other thing clear about the mansion, and that is, that it is a safety hazard, it's a firetrap, it's dangerous, you've got people up on the second floor, have a little boy, and this is a source of continuing worry to them; and one other reason that they are looking at homes -- the amount of traffic on those streets -- and all these safety factors are the major reasons for it.

Thank you.

Press Conference of Governor Ronald Reagan

2/7/67

Reported by:

Alex C. Kaempfer, CSR

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GOVERNOR REAGAN: Well, again, there's no statement, so fire away.

Q Governor, your proposal that State employees work the two holidays is marked by a lack of enthusiasm. Does that mean perhaps you might withdraw that request?

A No. As a matter of fact, it never was anything but an invitation and announcement that the door would be open. We certainly didn't mean it in any way to coerce anyone or to feel they were forced.

It was our understanding that the Legislature traditionally worked those days; certainly our office was going to work. And we thought that since we were going to have to, between all of us, come to the people of California with a great request for additional funds, that it might be something in the nature of a gesture to show that all of us were going to pitch in and try to do our part to share in the financial problems of the State.

Now, certainly there is going to be no reflection on anyone who doesn't accept that invitation. We didn't intend to cause any such stir.

Q The C.S.E.A. seems to think you have not made enough case or showing that there is an emergency situation that would warrant this action. What is your reaction to that?

A Well, maybe if you're in Sacramento for a long time a million dollars a day more than you've got doesn't sound very big and important. I just happen to be of a stingy

nature of mind. I think when you're spending a million dollars a day you don't have, this is quite a crisis and emergency situation. And I'm sorry if somebody's been around government so long that they think that it's kind of a never-never land where nobody presents the bills.

Q Have you discussed this with the California State Employees Association leadership before you made the invitation?

A No, we just issued an invitation and said the doors would be open.

Q Governor, Senator Miller said today that this having employees work on the holidays couldn't possible save any money. Do you disagree with that?

A Well, now, it might not save any money. You've got to put out the same amount of money. But if we're going to assume, and I do assume, that the three million six hundred thousand dollar a day payroll means the people of California are getting three million six hundred thousand dollars a day full measure of work and service, why, we would be presenting the people with a certain amount of work and service at no increase in cost.

Q Don't you think it's had a bad effect on the morale of the employees as a whole?

A Well, I'm sorry if it has. It wasn't intended to have any such bad effect. I have a great respect for the thousands and thousands of fine, devoted public servants who are doing a good job for California, and I would like to feel that all of us would consider we're on the same side.

Q Governor, don't you consider it rather difficult for the employees to say no when the Governor asks them to come to work?

A No, I wouldn't think so. No records are going to be kept. I don't think it would be nearly as difficult as saying no to a request for a contribution.

Q Governor, there are quite a number of State employees whose jobs are such that they've got to be there when the office is open. Doesn't this compel them

to work even though they don't want to.

A Well, I don't know.

Q People who run the heating plant, people who run other physical plants that have to be maintained?

A Well, now, I was never under any impression that any of those things were allowed to -- there are certain housekeeping chores that go on whether the building is used or not. I doubt if they shut down the furnaces or the air conditioning or utilities in any of these plants or any of these buildings.

Q Governor, Senator Burns has been critical during the free speech movement of the University of California --

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Wait -- all through with this subject?

Q I'll get back to that in a minute.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Let's get this done first.

A Some of them are taking notes. They'd like to get this one cleaned up. Let's see if there are any more questions on this particular subject.

Q Now that you've learned I assume that the Legislature is not going to convene on Monday, does that make any change in your plans?

A Well, I just a few minutes ago learned that, and I haven't had a chance to sit down and see what this may do. I understand that the Legislature, actually, this comes down to not so much as deciding to take a holiday as a little matter of some maintenance work that was required in the chamber, and they changed their schedule accordingly to allow that work to be done. So it would seem that somebody is going to be working in the legislative halls.

Now, does that do that?

Q I have one more on that topic if I might, Governor. There are 28,000 prison inmates who are traditionally given those two holidays from their jobs within the prison, and prison officials I've talked to say they fear a work stoppage if they try to convince these people that they should work on those days. Did you intend this to cover

them? (Laughter.)

A No. And I never intended that anyone in charge of anyone should try to tell them they had to do it. Now, I don't know where the situation lies with a prisoner with regard to volunteering.

Q Is a prisoner a State employee?

A So if they want to take a day off, I'm quite sure that that's not going to be reflected in books or the balancing of the books there for the people of California. They're there.

Q Governor, regarding asking or not asking department heads in advance concerning the days off, when you say you just learned the Legislature was not going to meet Monday when the general services administration knew it over two weeks ago, does anyone in your department check on these things beforehand?

A All we know is what we've been told, the word was told to me that that's traditional that they did work on those two days. We just took that into consideration. It didn't occur to us to say, "Are you going to change this"?

Q Governor, if you don't keep any records on exactly who does work on those days, how are you going to be able to gauge how much work was done or accomplished?

A Oh, we're just going to walk around and look at all the happy, busy faces. (Laughter.)

Q Can I change the subject, Governor?

A All right. Subject can be changed now; yes.

Q Senator Burns had been critical of Dr. Clark Kerr during the free speech movement for his failure to what he called use facilities at the University to check out and eliminate communist influences on the campuses. Now that Dr. Kerr has gone yet on the campus exists Bettina Aptheker a member of the communist party who recently applied for campus membership in the communist party. Shouldn't the University move now to eliminate these communist influences and to cancel her chapter application?

A Well, once again you're involving me in a question that I think properly belongs to the administration of the

University and the Board of Regents. And once again I say that while I believe there is an area where the Legislature and the executive branch have a responsibility on behalf of the people with regard to the University, I think you have to negotiate in that gray area or decide where is the dividing line that constitutes actual interference with their task, and I don't believe that this is something that should be imposed . I have my own personal views. I believe that in our country we have, in many instances, not only here but in general, we have been a little unrealistic in our attitude toward communism, which is avowedly an enemy of our way of life and our system and advocates the overthrow by force of our government.

But so far this whole pattern of being a little unrealistic about our own survival is something that I have long thought we should look at. But I'm not going to impose any rules or regulations on the University.

Q Governor, do you approve the granting of a charter to the communism forum at the University of California personally, as Governor?

A I personally?

Q Well, as Governor?

A No, I wouldn't. I've been one who has thought for a long time in that connection that it's a little unrealistic to open the campus to communist speakers.

And now let me, having said that, let me make it plain that I am not one who fears the ability of our young people to hear communist speakers without being taken, and I am not one who believes that you shouldn't hear all sides of something. I just object -- I believe that free speech does not require furnishing a podium for the speaker. And I believe that students should hear various views on all sides. I don't believe you should lend these people the prestige of our University campuses for the presentation of their views.

I'm heartily in favor of saying to a student, "I know where there's a communist meeting. Go listen to what those people are saying." But you don't have to invite

them into the living room to hold a meeting in your house.

Q Governor, Assemblyman Moretti is charging that you're breaking your commitment with the people by proposing to delay a portion of the property tax relief for another year. Have you a comment on that?

A No. I said that it's very possible, the other day when I was speaking on this, very probable that we won't be able to do as much in property tax relief as we would like to do because of the necessity of paying off this \$180 million debt. So that temporarily part of the resources that we might call upon for property tax relief might be used in this first year for paying that off. I don't think that's breaking a commitment. It's just not being able to do as much as we'd like to do.

Q There have been several bills introduced in this legislative session concerning property tax relief, and they seem to be going in different directions. The latest one has typified that there might be relief to the home owners but not the owners of business or income property.

What is your feeling on these bills that are now in the hopper? Which way are you going to go?

A Well, I haven't had time to review all the bills that have come in. I don't think that it's so simple as to draw that line so completely because I've long been one that's believed that one of the fallacies of our tax thinking is to believe that you can tax, say, the business community and that this in some way is removing the burden from the people, because in the last analysis once again you bring it down, you have to analyze that people pay taxes. You can't tax a thing. Somebody has to pay that tax. And most business taxes, in fact, all business taxes if they're not reflected in the price of the product which is paid by the people, there is no business.

And I would think that this ignores the position of the farmer, if he is going to be exempt from any relief, what about the farmer that ~~farms~~ or wants to continue

farming and finds that his farm land has been taxed to the place where it's uneconomic to consider it as farm land?

I don't think it's as simple as just drawing that line.

Q Governor, can you give us an indication of when your own tax legislation will be introduced in the Legislature?

A No, I can't, I really can't.

Q Would it likely be February or later?

A I just got back to town at 1:00 o'clock this morning. I can't tell you.

Q What is your present stand on extending the sales tax to groceries?

A The other day there seemed to be some confusion about that when I answered that, and let me try to make it plain again. I said that I didn't have a closed mind with regard to the extension of the sales tax either in simply increasing the amount as it presently stands or broadening the base.

There are arguments both ways, and I'm certainly willing to hear them. And I used the example that there were people who had said that it might be possible to get the same effect with not increasing the tax rate or even perhaps lowering it but extending it in order to get the administrative savings both to business and government that are now the administrative expenses that are caused by the expensive audits in businesses like supermarkets that are selling both taxable and non-taxable items.

And if this could be shown to be enough of an administrative savings that it actually would redound to the benefit of the taxpayer to get rid of his overhead, then we should take a look at this. Theoretically, the tax on groceries, of course, is posed on the basis that it reflects on those people with the least ability to pay.

So when we talk about it I say I have an open mind. It's not because I want to impose on those people. It's because I want to see if it's true that very possibly without hurting those with the least ability to pay, we might be able

to effect some savings that would be reflected in their pockets.

Q Governor, do you still hope to have those tax measures ready for your signing by April 1st?

A I wish we could. The quicker we start taking it in -- when I suggested that, I was thinking naturally not in terms of new tax legislation or new types of taxes. I was thinking of such things as the simple increase of an already existing tax, like cigarettes and alcoholic beverages and so forth that we could begin getting the revenue and start cutting the deficit we're now operating under.

Q Governor, do you have any plans to request the introduction of such a tax bill any time in the foreseeable future?

A Well, we hope to.

Q When?

A You asked that before. I can't tell you when.

Q Have you ever thought about an oil severance tax which has been mentioned here in the past but always blew up quite a storm?

A Actually I haven't been -- this has not been so far in any meetings that I've had with our legislative leaders, hasn't been presented.

Q Governor, are groups from private business helping to prepare your tax programs, taking over some of the work that was performed by the finance department?

A No. As a matter of fact, a committee that was helping with the finance department -- I have asked them through Gordon Smith or told Gordon Smith to ask if they won't take the lead in getting whatever additional personnel is needed, whether from the campus or financial world, to start exploring the idea of a basic tax reform.

I don't consider that the tax things we're talking about now are tax reform. We're trying to meet an emergency situation. I still feel, as I felt during the campaign that we need a real study of the whole theory and structure behind our taxation policies to find out if

there are some that are outmoded and don't fit this type of economy that we're in. And this I've asked a group to start exploring.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Are there any more questions on the tax subject?

Q Yes, I have one: a private group? You've asked a private group to study the tax situation?

A No, I've asked a citizens group to engage in such a study.

Q Can you identify that group, some of the people in that group?

A Yes. This was the committee that was previously announced as helping advise the finance department, and which has still been continuing along that line.

Q Is that the one that Weinberger has been heading the task force?

A No. This is a finance task force. I'm trying to remember -- I know that Dudley Brown is one of the members of this. Lee Kaiser is a member. Gwin Follis.

MR. NOFZIGER: Lee Kaiser is the chairman.

A (Cont'g.) Lee Kaiser the chairman; Gwin Follis. But what we've suggested is also that they might like to call upon some of our economists, financial economists on this subject.

Q Governor, when these matters were discussed you talked with the businessmen in the south yesterday or the day before?

A No. That was purely on getting into government operations, looking into government operations.

Q I have a question on taxes.

A Another tax question.

Q Governor, has this advisory group or your department of finance or anybody in the administration looked at the ten-volume series study on taxation that was done by the Assembly with the Petris-Unruh bill?

A I have looked at it and I have said that this is what I thought would be the beginning point, that this should be the starting point, because I know that quite a

study was done, but I'm also aware that the Legislature or the Assembly representatives themselves in the opening of that, in the forward, said that it was not to be considered a complete in-depth study on the whole structure and theory of taxation.

Q Governor, if businesses pass on taxes to the consumer who also pays sales tax and property tax and all the other consumer-type taxes, this is still leaving large corporations and large private landowners and building owners relieved of any new taxes under your theory, who is going to bear these new taxes?

A Well, can you tell me any way now that the people, the customers, are not paying those taxes? Do you know any business that isn't operated on a basis that there has to be ex-percent of return on the investment to stay in business, and if they don't make that they're out of business, and therefore all expenses are included in arriving at that point?

Now, I'm quite sure that just the competitive law of supply and demand would prevent anyone getting some tax relief from just pocketing that and trying to continue on. I'm quite sure there would be somebody smart enough and astute enough in the same business to pass the savings on to the people in order to get the competitive advantage. It's always worked that way. I think the marketplace can be depended on for that.

Q Governor, another source of revenue that's been talked about is a bill to allow gambling like dog racing or State-operated lotteries. Would you be in favor of that or opposed?

A Well, in the lottery thing, I've always been opposed. I don't think that's in keeping with a great State like ours to raise money in that way. I think it's offensive to a great many people. It's so indicated. It's been voted down on a number of occasions. And I still feel that way.

Q Governor, as another revenue source have you considered toll roads as they have in Ohio and back East?

A Well, no, because the present system that we're operating on, the toll is paid at the gas tank -- much the principle -- you have the same principle back East. They've chosen the toll road route. We've chosen the gas tank route. Here to me is one of the most ideal types of tax. This meets that requirement that has always been described as the best kind of taxation: the charge is directed against the service. To pay the tax, gas tax, you drive on the highway, you make up your mind whether you're getting your money's worth or not.

Q In that regard, Governor, Highway Patrol Commissioner Sullivan said that in San Diego yesterday the \$11 million to be collected in the added registration fee this year was not added to the California Highway Patrol budget, and that he'll plead that it be restored plus another three million to aid in doubling the size of the Highway Patrol according to the statutory schedule.

Will you put that money back in or ask that it be put back in by the Legislature?

A I haven't had a chance to see that or to hear from Mr. Sullivan. I'll listen to him and hear that.

Q Could you tell us whether that eleven million was left out of the budget?

A No, I can't. I don't know.

Q Governor, at this stage are you opposed to an increase in personal income or corporate taxes?

A Well, no more than I've said that I'm reluctant but unfortunately there's nothing I can do about it. I'm reluctant -- hesitate as long as I could about the whole idea of an increase in taxes.

We were all, I felt, bound to look at the route of economy first to find out whether we could meet the problem by economies: we couldn't. We have to increase taxes. But here again I'm stingy. I think that we go as little as we possibly can get by to cure this problem, to solve this problem, with taxes, with an idea to continuing the economy drive, finding new areas of increased efficiency and economy, with the idea that the

per capita tax load in California should hopefully be reduced.

Q Would you be more reluctant to sign a personal income tax bill than a sales tax bill?

A No. The sales tax happens to offer the best opportunity for a sizable chunk of money from a wide distribution, but I'm a believer that in our kind of society a wise tax policy <sup>that</sup> incorporates both income tax and sales tax in combination is the fairest system of tax we can have.

Q Then in answer to his original question, are we to understand that you are in favor of an increase in personal income taxes?

A Only if it turns out that the things that we're already talking about aren't enough, we'd have to go to that and very possibly we may, in solving this problem.

Q Then this would be your second step?

A It could be called that, yes. As a matter of fact, I'm still sitting there, little stubborn me, insisting that more figures be shown to prove the need of all the taxes we're talking about. I want to have it shown to me in dollars and cents that everyone of them is absolutely necessary. I don't want to add a tax on, because I found out, and this is true of any government, including our own, that governments don't tax to get the money they need: governments always need the money they get. And I'm interested in us not getting the money unless it's proven that we need it.

Q Governor, you favor the sales tax but say at the same time that the plan would be spread out over a greater realm of the population, but doesn't a family of five, no matter what their income, still eat the same amount of groceries and have the same amount of meat around the house and still wouldn't this load up the smaller income family?

A Well, as I say, as I told you, this is one of the theories that has resulted in our having a sales tax that exempts food. I said on the other hand I don't think simply on that theory that we should rule out investigating to see

whether the including of food could not be done on a basis that would have administrative savings that would be reflected in such a way that it would not unfairly penalize the other. I don't think it's fair, though, to say that every family of five has the same grocery bill. That just doesn't follow.

But I go along with you. I go along on the theory that the sales tax as it is presently set up be done on that basis. But I don't think we should close our minds if administrative overhead has reached the point where it might be shown that we could reduce the overall tax or at least hold its own while we investigated these others. And I was a little amazed that this came out differently the other day. And I must have left a word or two out when I was saying it: the only place where I've been critical of spreading the income tax, I thought I made it very clear, was over utilities.

When it was proposed spreading it to utilities, I said my inclination was to disagree with this because if you're going to relieve the property taxpayer, it doesn't make much sense to turn around and put the tax on the gas and light and water bill.

Q Governor, can we now assume then that in addition to the two hundred forty, fifty million dollar tax increase that you said in your budget message you would be required to seek, you also are going to seek some sort of a tax of approximately \$180 million in addition to that to pay for this borrowing that you were talking about? Is that an added tax on top of the two-forty?

A Yes. In the budget message, if you'll recall, I said it would take the two hundred and -- well, now it's about \$251 million in savings, and roughly about \$250 million in new taxes to simply balance the budget. Then I said over and above that there still left the problem of \$180 million debt to be repaid and property tax relief.

Q But you'll have to get, you'll have to have a new tax to get the \$180 million?

A That's right. Now, the one hundred eighty million

could be in the nature of a temporary tax -- oh, wait a minute, I've got a correction. Did I say this? Did I say income tax with regard to utilities?

Oh, I meant -- correction; everybody erase. I meant sales tax, that the spreading of sales tax to utilities and putting it on the householders' bill is certainly no way to relieve the property tax. So this was one place where I meant to imply the other day or meant to state, and state now, that my own thinking is I am opposed to the imposition of sales tax on utilities.

Q Governor, I don't understand why you have to raise taxes to pay back that one hundred eighty million because year after year that the State has borrowed back and forth from the special funds just when there is a low flow of cash income to meet the day when there's a high flow of cash income, it's just a matter of leveling off?

A I know, but they went beyond that. This now is one hundred eighty that there isn't any to pay back with. This is always predicated on the basis that yes, you go in and borrow fifty or seventy-five or one hundred million dollars from some fund that has money at the moment, knowing that ex-number of weeks from now the tax funds are going to come in to put back into that fund.

They went too far. This one hundred eighty is one hundred eighty that there is no such tax fund in sight to repay. We just went beyond the limits of that kind of borrowing.

Q Governor, when you say you would favor a temporary to make up the one hundred eighty million, what type of tax would that be?

A Well, what I meant was, and I can't tell you that we're firm on this, but for example, suppose an increase in sales tax we designated for the first year. This was where the discussion came up of a possible delay in full property tax relief. Suppose you designate a part of that for the first year as a tax to repay this debt, and then with the understanding that you could either consider canceling that at the end of the year or redirecting that

portion of the tax into property tax relief or anything else the Legislature might decide.

Q Governor, during discussion of horse racing last week, you didn't touch on one point, and that is, do you favor increasing the State's fair share of the pari-mutuel take?

A Well, before we start increasing the rate of tax, I think that there is money to be obtained by a modernization of the whole racing program and extension of it, allowing more days for racing. And I would like to see this done because right now I think you'll find the State is the biggest winner in the race track business and there can come a point in which you've got to remember here's a show that's being put on and the people who furnish the cast to put on the show are the only ones who lose money in doing it, the people who own the horses.

Q Governor, do you have a dollar figure in mind for how much property tax relief you hope to offer this year?

A No, no, I don't, because we're still talking all of these angles and all of these various source of revenue over.

Q Governor, do you have any feeling toward providing extraordinary property tax relief for older people on limited income?

A Well, I think that this is one of the, it's probably the biggest emergency, and as I told you once, I was inquiring as to why we couldn't perhaps declare a moratorium since -- assess the taxes against the property and collect them later.

I realize that this presents some problems also. Some of those people have sizable mortgages for example on their house. We'd have to see whether that tax lien against that property would mean anything.

But I do think that whatever we do, this must be given consideration to make sure that either adequate relief comes in the (inaudible) relief or then we explore some specific way of helping them because the person on retired income is the one that's taking the biggest beating right now.

Q Governor, I'm sorry, I was adding up your figures just a few minutes ago when you were talking about \$250 million savings and \$251 million deficit and \$180 million cash sources, is that right, \$681 million?

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Four hundred thirty?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Governor, that means you will have to seek new tax sources totaling approximately \$431 million?

A Yes, that's right.

Q Or at least a temporary measure?

A Yes, it says some place between four and five million dollars in new taxes to do the things that we want to.

Q And carrying that one step further, if you were temporarily using \$180 of the \$380 available through at one cent increase in the sales tax for eliminating that debt that then would leave you approximately two hundred million for --

A That's right.

Q -- property tax relief, is that the area you're now going to?

A This is one of the things we're talking about, what I meant when I indicated we might be able to do as much as we do.

Q I mean, the figure is \$200 million, the figure you're thinking of on property tax relief?

A If we're getting the right figure that you're getting from the increased sales tax.

Q However, if you start some of those taxes April 1st, it would lessen the full year's impact?

A That's right.

Q Are we through with the sales taxes for a minute? Have you held any meetings or discussions with Republican leaders lately about presidential candidate in '68?

A No, no. I've had enough problems.

Q Governor, on Saturday Phil Battaglia said that sometime this week he would make available the details of the interim government fund which has been used to finance your T-V report. When will that come out?

A No, and he's out of town today. But I understand

he made that statement, and he's been in charge of that, and I'm sure you will have 'a statement as soon as he can get back and make it.

Q Do you know the details yourself?

A No, no, I don't.

Q Governor, you've been on the job several weeks now. Could you tell us your impressions of it, what you like about it, what you don't like?

A Well, I'm going to tell you that I've enjoyed it. It's hard. It's busy. I know that as president of the Screen Actors' Guild I never would have approved the hours. But I think that there's a great job to be done and, very frankly, I'm hopeful that we're going to be able to do it. I'll try very hard to do it. But it's pleasant. I find it enjoyable and interesting and exciting.

Q Governor, when you were drawing out your proposals regarding higher education budget cuts, specifically what did you at that time indicate any of the kind of reaction you later received when they were cut?

A Oh, let me say that once I cut through the peeling I found that there was a little, it was a little bit sourer than I thought it might be. I wasn't quite prepared for some of the unfounded charges and some of the virulence of the attack, particularly by some who attributed beliefs and statements to me that did not represent my thinking and who had not bothered to find out what my thinking was.

Q During the campaign, when tuition was discussed by the Democrats, saying you wanted to levy a tuition charge, you indicated that this was untrue, that you didn't intend to do this without a study first having been made?

A I said if and when it becomes necessary.

Q Didn't you speak of the study also?

A No. I think you'll find that I always said that if and when it becomes necessary, and then I explained what I felt should go with it so that it would not penalize those who needed help in getting an education.

The "if and when" -- very frankly, I was just optimistic enough, even during the campaign we were trying very hard to get as much information as we could on what the

financial situation was. And I don't mind admitting to you now there was one (inaudible) in which we were led to believe from Sacramento that perhaps it would be possible through economies alone to meet the financial problem without new taxes. But as time went on and as the election passed and we then had more access in the interim period to the various departments and to the budget department, each day new facts were added that made us realize that we had been optimistic, that in the campaign we had understated the case with regard to fiscal irresponsibility.

And now with our three auditing firms having given us the report, we know for a fact where we stand and it happens to be much worse than we ever believed. At one time during the campaign we were given indications that the State might have underestimated the normal increase in revenue, prosperity was going to give us more revenue than we had anticipated.

Now, we never had gotten the complete figures as to how far over we had gone. We had no knowledge at that time about the 15 months' spending for 12 months of budget. And so I always put an "if and when" and I say "if and when" now.

I think it would be great if we hadn't had to bring this issue up.

Q To change the subject, what about the mansion? Have you found a place yet?

A What?

Q What about the mansion?

A What about the mansion? You know the full story on that. There are a group of citizens, both Democrat and Republican, who want to give the State of California a mansion, and I have learned since that this is not a new idea that followed November 8th at all, or January 2nd, that some of the people involved in this have been considering this for quite some time because they have felt that a State like ours deserved a little better. And if this is going through, as it apparently is, then we've decided that in the interim period we would like to suggest that they carry out the plans that have already

been discussed over the years of making the present mansion a historical monument, and we're not going to live in a historical monument.

Q Have you found a house?

A No. We're looking. I want to tell you that when you fellows came out with that what might be called a little premature news with regard to all of this, you created a bigger land rush than they had in Oklahoma. (Laughter.)

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Anything more, fellows?

Q Governor, just one more question on tuition. The Regents are nearer a decision on this question. What do you think the consensus of the Board is right now? Do you think they'll go for it?

A I honestly don't know. But I think that the Regents have got to face a moment of truth pretty soon on this and I hope they will. I don't want to create a down-to-town type of controversy here in arguing this case. But the plain truth is, what we are now asking is a fee that is less than 10 percent of the total cost of educating the student to the State. And it doesn't seem to me too out of line to ask a man, whether he's a man or woman, who's receiving the benefit of the education to contribute 10 percent or less of that cost. It amounts to about 77 cents per day for the tuition that we've proposed and about 40 or 45 cents a day at the college level for this tuition.

Q That's the figure that comes to two hundred fifty, was it?

A Two hundred eighty.

Q Two-eighty.

A And the thing that I'm kind of intrigued by is this. I find there is no concern. I keep asking, will someone do some checking on the present student fees as to what they're used for and whether they have to be as high as they are and there seems to be so little resistance to it that I have one regret. I don't know why I didn't forget the word "tuition" and suggest we raise the student fees about two hundred dollars, and there wouldn't have been

any controversy at all.

Q Governor, would you oppose the Republican bill that now has been filed that would earmark 100 percent of tuition revenues for scholarships?

A Oh, I would have to oppose it because that wouldn't accomplish anything.

Q It would accomplish more scholarships?

A And I don't think it would be necessary, as long as the present scholastic requirements remain. 12½ percent top scholastic high school graduates can be admitted to the University, and I think probably only about half of those are taking advantage of that with no regard to their income problem. And actually there's only about five or six percent or less than that of students in the universities now representing families below the five thousand dollar a year mark. So we've gotten figures from the State Scholastic Commission that indicates that out of the tuition funds only about three and a half million dollars would be required to augment the scholarships to take care of any hardship that might be created by tuition.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: One more question back there?  
Any more?

Thank you, Governor.

PRESS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN

HELD FEBRUARY 14, 1967

Reported by:

Alex C. Kaempfer, CSR

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

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MR. NOFZIGER: Today the Governor will read the statement that you all have. He'll read it anyway, for the benefit of the electronic media.

GOVERNOR REAGAN: Well, <sup>as</sup> you've been told, here's the statement that's been released as of this moment.

Today I have asked members of the California Congressional delegation and the California Legislature to join with me in seeking to reverse recent decisions in Washington that have seriously threatened our road-building program -- both Interstate and regular highways.

One decision means the loss of approximately \$250 million for the Interstate Highway Program. The other concerns at least \$70 million held back for the federal-aid highway system.

Recently Washington informed us that we would be cut back by \$70 million between January and July of this year for federal-aid highways. A further reduction into the next fiscal year for an indefinite period also is under study in Washington and could amount to an additional loss of \$35 to \$40 million annually.

We have been told the curtailment is designed to stop inflation and assist the federal government in the financial problems caused by the war in Vietnam. I believe neither reason is valid.

California's highway users pay into a fund which is to be used only for highways--no other purpose. In addition

the cutback will actually curtail further the construction industry which already is in a depressed condition with unemployment very high and going higher. And, incidentally, that slump in construction is far worse here in California than it is in the rest of the country.

The indefinite nature of the cutback upsets highway planning on any sort of long-term basis. And it only delays replacing vitally-needed highways that are now obsolete--roads that cause the most accidents, the most injuries, the most fatalities.

Now for the Interstate Highway Program. Last year, the federal government deleted about 13 miles of California's interstate Highway System because no agreement could be reached over location of freeways in San Francisco. So the state sought to substitute the Century Freeway in Los Angeles for the \$250 million San Francisco project. So far we have been turned down.

The Century Freeway is urgently needed to help solve congested traffic conditions around International Airport in Los Angeles. And it also, of course, would serve vital defense industries.

In addition, loss of this money to California will result in a serious delay in the state's overall highway program. It should be pointed out that all state and federal funds for California highways go into the State Highway Fund and are then subject to the so-called north-south split.

In other words, the Interstate funds -- even though designated for a specific freeway -- are not over and above the north-south split but are part of it. A loss of federal money to San Francisco and Northern California, therefore, is a loss to Los Angeles and Southern California.

It is important to remember that California already sends substantially more highway user money to Washington than it gets back.

Because of these reasons, I am asking every member of the California Congressional delegation and the Legislature to lend whatever assistance they can in restoring this money to our highway and Interstate highway programs. We intend to

mobilize all the areas of California's economy affected by the "cutback", including labor and industry, and thus make our voices heard in Washington. California, being a major contributor of funds, and a major recipient, should lead the way in reversing these decisions.

At the same time I have sent a letter to Allen Boyd, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, pointing this out to him, and pointing out the same things about the money being used or put into a fund that can't be used for any other purpose, and have asked his cooperation in getting into this by way of his Department, and what can be done.

Q Governor, do you expect the tuition issue to come up at the Regents' meeting in the next few days?

A Do I think the tuition issue will come up at the Regents' meeting?

Q In the next few days?

A I have a hunch it probably will be mentioned.

Q Do you intend to pursue it further than what you have done up to date?

A Well, all I can do is -- you see, I go there wearing two hats. One hat is the office I hold, in which I represent the people of California. In that room, however, I'm a regent. That's the other hat. Now, only the regents can impose tuition, and as a regent I'm going to do everything I can to make a pitch for what I believe in.

I believe in the inevitability of this. I believe it is vital if we're to continue with the growth of the University. But I would be making that only as one individual regent.

Q Do you have any indication, Governor, that the tide is turning in your favor across the State for tuition?

A Well, I don't know whether any tide has to turn. I know there's quite a vocal opposition to it. It seems to be getting itself heard. But I can only go by the fact that the one poll taken so far shows a substantial majority of the citizenry favor it. And I can go even farther on the basis of mail and wires -- the information that comes to us directly. And it is breaking all records, I understand, for

recent years or to anyone's knowledge in the State for receipt of this kind of mail and wire.

As a matter of fact, wires in just the last few days received here at the office stand at roughly eight hundred in favor of tuition and only eleven telegrams opposed.

Q Governor, there also have been polls taken which show that the regents themselves are not, do not favor tuition at this time. How do you feel about that?

A Well, that, as I say, I just try to be as persuasive as I can. This is up to the regents. I would hope that they too would be aware of public opinion in this and feel some responsibility to take into consideration the wishes of the people.

Q Governor, do you think the regents should settle this once and for all at this meeting?

A No, no. I believe this is too soon. There was a resolution passed at the last regular meeting to set up a committee to go into this to study the ramifications, what would be needed with regard to lending or scholarship programs, and to my knowledge that committee hasn't met yet.

It would seem to me they should be given time. And they don't have to start from scratch with their research. There is a very exhaustive two-year legislative committee report on this. There was another report made by the coordinating council for higher education in the State.

There is a great wealth of material that could be reviewed on this question, and I don't think a decision should even be called for by the regents until such a committee has met and reported back with a summary of some of these findings.

Q What effect, Governor, if any, will last Saturday's demonstration here have on your attitude toward tuition and general educational budget matters?

A Well, I think it's kind of obvious that what took place last Saturday here wouldn't go very far to changing my mind. If they came here with the intent of being persuasive, they missed the mark.

Q Governor, you mentioned a moment ago that you think

the regents should follow the wishes of the people. If they were to do this, wouldn't this indicate that they are politically motivated?

A No. Let me make one point here. I didn't say that they should follow the wishes. I said they should consider the wishes.

Q That they should consider the wishes of the people?

A That's right. Now, I don't know whether I can find the words to define this, and it isn't the easiest line to draw, but when we talk about non-political interference with the University, in my mind, and I made this point all through the campaign, I am unalterably opposed to this, and in this way, in this sense, I believe that you avoid any injection of the University or use of the University into partisan politics, any attempt on the part of one administration to get a university to support and endorse the philosophy, political philosophy, of any one in government.

But I don't believe that it can be considered political interference to suggest that the people of this State who put up the money for that University should not be expected to roll over and play dead and have not even one question permitted them as to whether the money they're asked for should be given.

In other words, there are those in the academic community who seem in this discussion to have made it plain that their view is, that the people of California should automatically hand the University whatever it asks for without the right to even question and say, "Well, prove to me that this spending is justified." That isn't political interference.

Q Governor, with regard to Saturday's demonstration, Marshall Axelrod of the A.F.T. said the reason the crowd acted so badly was because you greeted them with contempt; that in fact you started your speech by saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, if there are any here." Was that what you said?

A Now you call for a confession. Marshall Axelrod has again distorted, and I must say at the moment he is my

nominee for an Oscar for distortion.

I'll tell you exactly what happened. I did not address that remark to any crowd, and perhaps you can question my taste in saying it at all. I tried twice to start. I said, "Ladies and gentlemen," and I was drowned out. The remarks from the crowd began to let up and I tried again. I said, "Ladies and gentlemen" a second time, and again at that -- and I don't know what there is to boo about saying "ladies and gentlemen" -- they booed it pretty good, and I was standing there helpless to be heard, and I turned to the young man who had introduced me, and I couldn't help but say "if there are any present" to him. And he said, "Well I think there are." And I was questioning that perhaps they weren't as numerous as other kinds, at least they weren't being heard at that moment. And this was all in an aside.

Now, the distortion is in the manner that this was said that I stated this to the crowd. I did not. I will not defend that what I said was in the aside was a personal comment on the conduct that was greeting me. You can question or challenge as to whether I should have made that aside.

But I'll just bet that there are an awful lot of people who viewed that that can understand why I said it.

Q Governor, on the subject of tuition, do you have any feelings or intentions of looking into future areas of additional tuition at other levels of education in California?

A No. The only suggestion that we have made was the suggestion to the regents regarding the University, and the suggestion to the Legislature who are the ones who are in control of this at the college level for the State college system.

We have never had any plans for proposing charging for education at any other level.

Q I have about five questions. They're all duplicating, Governor, so if you'll just stay with me. Did you and Governor Kirk talk about private police agencies like Florida has during his recent visit here?

A No.

Q Have you given any thought to a private police agency along that commercial line?

A No.

Q Would you ever consider a private police agency of any kind?

A No.

Q What do you think of the general idea of private police agencies? One more after that. (Laughter.)

A Well, I don't know. Now, please don't get me into this in the sense that I am commenting on anything that a governor might be doing in another state.

I don't know whether someone, when you say this, what ramifications could be involved. I could see a situation in which there might be a need for an investigation of corruption or graft or something. What agencies you would turn to for that I don't know.

I can see where suppose a governor found that the thing that he believed needed investigating was his own regular investigatory agencies in his state. So it's kind of hard to make a general comment on it. Basically, I would like to feel that private investigators and private police are not needed.

We have faith in our own law enforcement agencies.

Q Well, that's what I think. What do you think of the existing public police agencies in California? Are they doing a good job?

A I think that California is one of the luckiest states in the world in that regard. I think with very few exceptions we have the finest local law enforcement in the world.

Q Governor, you commented on the Saturday demonstration. Did the people who participated in the Thursday demonstration change your mind or influence you in any way on the question of tuition or budget cuts?

A Well, let me say that most of you aren't aware that there were actually three student demonstrations in this last week. There was the Saturday demonstration; then

there was the one in front of the capitol on the west steps on Thursday. And, of course, I think it was obvious that there was a certain or a different standard of conduct between Thursday and Saturday.

But the third demonstration didn't get as much attention. It was much smaller. It was inside the rotunda of the capitol. And when I came in from addressing the group on Thursday, there was a delegation of students and a cappella choir from La Sierra College in Los Angeles or in the Los Angeles area.

La Sierra College is a Seventh Day Adventist College. And these very fine young men and women had come here on their own to give a concert in the rotunda. And they had quite an audience and a pleased audience as they sang there. And I was among the pleased listeners after I came in. I was surprised to see them. They had intentionally come on that day to sing, and they were each one wearing cards, hand-printed cards, which said: "I pay tuition, \$1,934 a year."

And of all three of the demonstrations, may I say that if I had to rate them by the basis by which I was pleased, I enjoyed the one in the rotunda most of all.

There was one question here and then I'll recognize you.

Q Well, on the way to Oregon, the wire services quoted you as saying, when your plane flew across the border, you viewed the crossing with the same feeling of a dictator fleeing a banana republic. (Laughter.)

A Well, there's a little misquote there. I said in my opening remarks in my speech at this dinner in Oregon, I said I felt there were probably some in California who viewed my trip to Oregon as I crossed the border as something in the same nature as a president or a dictator of a banana republic fleeing the sanctuary. Of course, I didn't know when I got there that I was going to find a fellow governor who was in trouble for having asked for an increase in tuition at Oregon's already tuition-paying university.

Q Governor, the freeze on hiring of state employees is resulting in an unusual situation in the state government--

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Let's see if they're all done with this subject first.

Q It's on state colleges.

A It's on state colleges.

Q There are some professors not now with tenure and whose contracts would not normally be renewed because they're not found to meet all the desired standards. But the colleges are faced with the situation of either rehiring these or not rehiring anybody or considering rehiring them. I was wondering if this freeze is on?

A No. The freeze specifically exempts the employees in the professional field. The faculty members and in our own program, such as the water program, and so forth, there might be engineers, things of this kind, they were not included in that employee freeze.

Q Governor, if the regents do not make a decision on tuition at this meeting, and you indicated they should not, how long can they postpone it and still have the tuition in at the University and at the State colleges next fall?

A Well, I think that we have to be flexible with regard to a starting time, depending on this, accepting that in good faith they're going to expedite and do everything possible to arrive at a decision and to get the necessary information in order to implement this, then I think we have to take into consideration the timing and what our position can be with regard to it.

Q Can we get back to the law enforcement, back up to the law enforcement question? I had one. Have you decided whether to reinstate the funds for expanding the Highway Patrol?

A Actually, I can't tell you the status of that now. There have just been too many things on the ticket for me to get to that one. I don't know what the status is. I know that there have been discussions, as there have been with every department, on these problems. And what we can do.

And so I don't know what the status is.

Q Do you see anything contradictory in your concern for law enforcement, improved law enforcement, and in your budget at least no money for the continued expansion of the CHP?

A Well, it's not any opposition to a continued necessary expansion. But the last administration had proposed a sudden all-at-once doubling of the California Highway Patrol. And there isn't all one way or the other. I think that there is a possibility for an expansion at a less rapid rate than we can do. We're entitled to question whether there is a need to immediately double that highway force.

Q Wasn't that legislatively doubled, though, Governor?

A Well, whether it was or not, we're going to question the need for that much haste or whether we can afford that much haste.

Q Governor, would you care to discuss the ethics of passing a law which adds a one dollar increase to the registration fee to pay for an increase in the Highway Patrol, and then using that money for some other purpose?

A Well, I don't think it would be used for any other purpose any more than we would use the gasoline tax or could use the gasoline tax for any other purpose.

Q It's already been collected for this year, Governor.

A All right. It won't be used for any other purpose than this. And I doubt if that alone is enough to finance the complete doubling of the Highway Patrol, this one dollar tax.

Q Governor, I'm sorry, but I want to go back to one point on the tuition. You say you're flexible on the starting time for tuition, but don'tt you have to face some type of a deadline in implementing tuition if you attempt to achieve the economies you want to in this budget?

A Yes. This is going to be a problem we're going to have to meet.

Q When you say you're flexible on the starting time?

A Well, we have to be with regard to the time going by and students already enrolling now on one basis. I had hoped, when the resolution was passed a month ago, that the committee would have immediately begun to function and that we could have looked for an earlier time.

I know the Speaker expressed a desire for the committee to go back in and action could be taken by March 1st. Well, we're approaching March 1st and, as I say, the committee hasn't even met.

Now, this, I think, will probably be a subject of discussion also at the coming meeting.

Q Governor, can the tuition question be delayed by the regents until after the budget question has been answered by the Legislature and you?

A It's going to give them quite something to figure out, isn't it, if the budget has to go ahead on the present basis and they outwait it, they're going to have to do a lot of arithmetic.

Q Governor, the American Civil Liberties Union is trying to win permanent reprieve for the eighty or so men on death row. They said yesterday at the conclusion of their talk with you they were quite optimistic. Is there any chance that this may happen, that you may alter your stand?

A No. My position was that I will treat each case, each clemency appeal on its individual merits. They came into the room under the misapprehension that I had some kind of a blanket refusal to consider any such things as the normal clemency hearings for anyone. And I said, "No, this had never been my intention," that what they were misinterpreting was, and I don't blame them for this, but what led to this misinterpretation was my statement that I certainly did not believe that I had a right to put myself above the courts on my philosophy, the idea that I, if I have a thought, philosophy or belief, can simply overrule the courts. and I said that this did not mean that I did, and I've always added to that, that, of course, you will treat each individual case. This is a responsibility that

a Governor can't abdicate.

Q Governor, how soon will you be reviewing the file on the man who is supposed to die in March?

A I don't know the schedule for that, but I'm sure that it will be presented to me.

Q Governor, this is on tuition. Last weekend in Los Angeles the Lt. Governor said that if you don't get the tuition program through this year that it is the administration's intent to continue seeking tuition to the end of this term. Is this your position?

A Well, as I told you, my position as a regent is I believe in it. I would like to see it established as quickly as it could be established. I believe in it philosophically. I certainly believe that if it were to continue, as has been proven in other states with the expansion of our university systems, it is a logical adjunct to the present forms of financing higher education.

As Governor I can only tell you that I feel very deeply a responsibility with regard to the people and how far you can go to the people in asking them to share their earnings with the cost of government, and so as a governor while I can't do anything to influence tuition, I can make a decision as to how the money is going to be split or divided between all the various services of government, based on the estimates of how much money is going to be coming in.

And I think there is a limit beyond which you can not go in asking the people to pay for the cost of government. And when you approach or reach that limit, I think then you have to say to all the services of government that they're going to get their share to perform the services that the people have requested out of that amount of money, and if anyone asks for a greater share, it must be at the expense of the other agencies and departments of government.

Q Governor, can you comment on the Veneman tax program that was introduced last week?

A Well, I haven't seen that in detail. I understand

that he made substantially larger proposals than we've been considering. But that some of those also were in the nature of substitute taxes for more immediate relief in namely the areas of property tax and inventory tax.

Now, I haven't had a chance to review that, in comparison with our own. My own approach to it has been to ask the people for the least amount that we can possibly get by with and solve the fiscal problem.

Q Governor, do you have a date yet in mind when your package will be introduced in the Legislature?

A Well, I've been led to believe and hopeful that it can be this week.

Q Which day?

A That I don't know.

Q Who will be the legislative authors?

A What?

Q Who will be carrying it for you? Who will be the legislative authors?

A Oh, that I don't know. We've got a task force working on this.

Q Apparently your request to ask state employees to work voluntarily on Lincoln's birthday failed. Realizing this, are you still going to ask them to work Washington's birthday?

A Well, I don't know. Nothing has happened to make us change our mind. We haven't given it any consideration. Let me just say that one thing that is concerning me is the number of employees who are wanting to go to work and who were told that they would be in trouble if they did.

And what I'm concerned with is there are definite limits to what the administration or the executive branch could offer by way of protection to the widespread state employee force, someone who is going to suffer discrimination in his own area of work for having listened to our appeal. This kind of gives us a responsibility, and I would be hopeful that Mr. Hanson, who seems so concerned that we might be pressuring the employees, I wish that he

would be just as concerned with regard to the pressure the other way against them.

I will say this also: there were an awful lot of people who spent their holiday walking up and down the street with picket signs who probably could have performed more useful work sitting comfortably at a desk inside the building.

Q How large a number of people do you think those with threats affected yesterday?

A I have no way of knowing. But I know this. We had a number of other employees who are state employees who volunteered and are still volunteering. I have a letter on my desk from a school teacher at Long Beach who has volunteered to come up, if there is anything that we can think of that she can do here and work.

I'll tell you something else that maybe a lot of us should heed. You'd be amazed at the number of checks that are arriving as voluntary contributions from citizens of this state to help pay off the state's deficit; just contributions to the general fund.

Q Governor, does it make you wonder, perhaps one hundred ten thousand state employees stayed home, they're probably trying to tell you something?

A They're telling me they didn't want to come to the party.

Q Governor --

A We had a very nice time here, the rest of us that showed up; the halls weren't crowded.

Q Governor, don't you feel, though, that it was more than sheer coincidence that virtually all of the state employees stayed away from work on a voluntary basis? Don't you feel that maybe this was some sort of -- I hate to use the word "conspiracy" -- but something like that?

A Well, we were kind of outweighed. All we did was issue an invitation once, just an invitation. And then they were subjected to quite a barrage of propaganda from various other sections and forces, plus the necessity of going through picket lines, and so forth. So I don't think

it was exactly a fair test.

Q Governor, you said we'd be amazed at the number of checks that you received as voluntary contributions. How amazing is the total figure?

A I don't know. I haven't added it up, because they're coming in to a number of us. Bob Finch has been getting some. I've been getting some; Ivy Baker Priest. I have one on my desk for one hundred dollars from a retired couple on a very limited income but they said they still feel obligated to contribute something.

Q Back to taxes, Governor, how do you feel about the Legislature asking for an independent study from the legislative analyst to see whether there still is a fiscal crisis?

A Well, I think it's much ado about nothing and rather unnecessary. But they're certainly entitled to do it. The three independent auditing firms that came in, their work sheets are available to these others if they want to go. They had to seek their information from the same sources, from namely the finance department of the state, the budget department.

Now, you recognize that they had to base their findings on estimates, estimates of spending based on experience and estimates of revenues to be expected. Now, if we look to the past, we should be able to say those estimates were fairly accurate. If you look back in the past, the state government in budgeting is based on this estimate of expected revenue, and normally there is something in the neighborhood of a two percent fluctuation in the estimates.

Now, if they believe that they can find estimates upon which to base the same kind of figures that will take advantage of this variance that will try to paint a different picture, they're welcome to try. But I'll stick by our figures.

Q Governor, I have two questions on your statement. Don't you find somewhat of a contradiction in your position where you criticize the federal government for holding back

highway use's pay, which is meant to be used for highways, while at the same time you're holding back funds that are supposed to be earmarked for the CHP? That's the first question.

A           No, I'm not sure that we are holding back any funds that are earmarked for the CHP. I just said before, I don't know the figures on it. You have me at a disadvantage there as to whether this tax that has come in is enough to pay for doubling the size of the CHP. I doubt it. I think there's a great difference here.

          You will note that in none of our budgeting have we in any way suggested that there should be any invasion made of the gas tax for the use of building highways here within our state. That's a trust fund. And at the national level it's the same situation.

          And I think there is also a different situation here too. The federal government is suggesting that this can affect inflation. The federal government isn't suggesting that they shouldn't send us the money because they're now going to embark on an economy program in Washington. That would be too earth-shaking.

Q           Governor, I had another question, before you left last Saturday's demonstration. Maybe we can get it in. What is your attitude toward unionization of faculty members, say, either from nursery school up through college and the university?

A           Well, now, you get a fellow with six terms as president of a labor union and quarter of a century on the board of a labor union, and you ask me about unionizing, and strangely enough I have to tell you that I frankly am not in sympathy with it. I believe that our professors and our teachers should properly have a professional association; they are professionals. And I don't think that their particular profession lends itself to industry-type unionizing.

          I know I myself, as all of us do, have memories of influence in our lives by teachers all the way from elementary to university level. And I wonder if they'd have

the same impact and we'd have the same feelings if we'd have one day seen them out on strike.

Q Aren't actors professionals?

A Well, actors are professionals, but I'll tell you, you've got me in another one there. We don't dare make a loud noise about being professionals because if we do, we find ourselves ineligible for such benefits as unemployment insurance and so forth.

Q Governor, can you comment on your recent trip to Oregon in view of the good reception you got there by the nine hundred Republicans and your comments on foreign affairs during your trip? Could you comment about the speculation as to your presidential chances?

A No. There isn't any comment to make. Of course, there were a number of questions in some of these areas as there always are when you meet this particular chamber of views on international affairs or on national affairs, and I answered those questions. I certainly didn't bring them up.

No. I had arranged, after talking to Mark Hatfield some time ago at great length about their welfare situation up there, I had arranged with Spence Williams that at the first opportunity we were going to Oregon to pick their brains and find out how they were making it work. And I received a number of Lincoln day speaking invitations from a number of states. And one of them happened to be from Lane County, Oregon, which is next door to the capitol, Eugene and Salem, just a short drive apart. And we just decided that this would be the time; Spence went with me. And we combined the meeting on welfare with the fund raiser for the party, which I thought was a neighborly thing to do.

And I did suggest that if there was any implication on my part or I mean any indication on my part that I was interested in any other way, there were some Lincoln day addresses that probably could have been held in more politically significant spots.

Q Governor, you answered a question a little earlier

about extending the tuition to other levels of education. I wonder if you might explain your letter or answer when a gentleman from Pollock Pines, California wrote you and possibly facetiously said, "Let's apply tuition to high schools and eventually to grade schools." And your answer says, "Well, I can only suggest this to the regents and the Legislature. I am going to continue urging with regard to your suggestion about extending this to other levels of education"?

A No.

Q January 17th.

A No. This is actually my answer? You know something? The secretary came back in with a copy of this after the letter went out and showed me what in a long session of dictating I had written, and I said, "Oh, heaven help us, I hope this is a fellow who's just asking for himself," because what I was meaning to express was general agreement with statements of his about these areas, and I had to admit to her that after I had read it back, it did look like I was endorsing this view about other areas, and it just isn't true. I haven't at all and don't intend to.

Evidently this gentleman wanted to circulate his letter, didn't he? You run into a few of those.

Q Governor, a while ago we were discussing the regents, and you said that if the regents delay decision on tuition beyond the point where the budget has to be completed, that the regents would find themselves in some sort of an arithmetic problem.

Do you mean by that that if there is no tuition voted by the regents that they will have to absorb the \$20 million in their own budget, that it won't be provided by the state so far as you're concerned?

A I mean that we've asked in the budget for ~~what~~ we believe the general fund with the economies that must be made, we've asked for what there is available for the university. And I personally am committed to that budget. And I'm going to stand on that budget.

Q Governor, Assemblyman Bagley is proposing legislation to revise the Rumford Act, and I just wondered if you would favor revision of the Rumford Act or if you favor an outright repeal of the Act?

A Well, I think this came up in the campaign, and I made it plain that when I used the word "repeal," I was talking about the provisions that were so objectionable that it would cause a great stir, but I said revision that met those requirements and still retained -- because that was kind of an omnibus bill as it wound up with some of the Unruh bill and some of the other things in it -- but revision would be satisfactory to me if it served the other purpose. But I won't comment on Bagley's legislation until I see it, and I understand it hasn't even been drawn up as yet.

Q Governor, the regents also soon will have to form this committee to find a successor to Clark Kerr. Would you like to serve on that committee as a regent?

A No. And simply from the standpoint I would think of, first of all, I am the least experienced of the regents in that field; and second of all, I think there's a time element involved. I think that such a search by a conscientious committee is going to require more time than a Governor would have free to devote to that one particular function.

Q Could you explain why your office has imposed secrecy on your appointment of members of the local judiciary advisory boards set up to advise you on appointment of judges?

A Well, now, I don't think that secrecy really has been imposed -- well, perhaps you can put it that it has in a way.

Let me point out, we've tried to establish an interim system for appointing judges, pending legislation along the lines that I endorsed during the campaign, the (inaudible) Missouri or merit plan.

Now, heretofore the Governor has submitted to the State Bar the names of his possible appointees for

their rating as to whether they are satisfactory or unsatisfactory in the eyes of the State Bar.

We have appointed a man in San Francisco to form a liaison with the local areas where judges would be appointed and to have an additional screening, and this would involve the presiding judge or <sup>judge,</sup> a representative of the bar and a leading citizen. So far the main part of the secrecy is -- because I'm quite sure when they begin functioning, there will be no secrecy. It will be very obvious in the areas where they work who they are. But it was our thought, all we have done is not make any great announcement. In the first place we haven't established it as yet so we couldn't. But even if we did, it was our thought that this would circumvent what they were supposed to do because they would suddenly become an employment agency, and they would be pressured with all sorts of suggestions, proposals and nominations. And this will happen to us, we know, and in turn we will take the nominations and the names that are suggested to them as well as to the State Bar, and finally when all of this comes back, and I've made my decision, this will go to the State Bar again for their screening, and I will guarantee you no one will be appointed to judge who has not been adjudged satisfactory by the State Bar.

Q Governor, do you plan any further trips out of the state at the moment, or do you expect to have any visits from any other governors?

A Well, I don't know of any visits that are planned from any governors, but I am planning -- the only trip I can tell you about that I know of is the big Republican gallop that is put on in Washington. Since we have from California the Chairman of the Senate Campaign Committee and the Chairman of the Congressional Campaign Committee who are responsible for this great gallop, I am going to make every effort to at least get out of town just for that one evening and back again to join them. And then the only other trip is, believe it or not, a couple of weeks later on March 11th, I am a speaker at the Gridiron

dinner in Washington, and you may all report for the first press conference subsequent to that complete with first aid kits. (Laughter.)

Q Governor, Dr. Rafferty has indicated he is thinking of running against Senator Kuchel and you, I believe, have no objection to that. But Henry Salvatori has been very close to you and has suggested that perhaps Dr. Rafferty shouldn't run. That isn't breaking the Eleventh Commandment; maybe it's bending it a little bit. And is this the first crack in the Republican unity program?

A No, I don't interpret it that way. Whatever Mr. Salvatori or any other citizen wanted to do with regard to expressing opinions as to whether someone should or shouldn't run, that's up to them. I just stand on my position. I'm not going to inject myself into the primary and I am going to support whoever are the nominees of the party.

Q Governor, what would you think of the political abilities of your friend Chuck Connors? Do you think he would make a pretty good candidate for something?

A Well, I don't think Chuck is interested in that. Chuck is very interested as a citizen just as I was for a number of years. As a matter of fact, I discovered that since the campaign Chuck's gotten himself on the mashed potato circuit through no fault of his own; it just happens that way, you know. Once you expose yourself and make a speech, you find that the biggest union in the world is the union of program chairmen finding speakers. And Chuck, I think, is enjoying it. He has some fine ideas and some philosophy of his own. And I'm happy to hear him express himself.

But he's told me he has no ambition to do anything other than what he's doing.

Q Can we get back to Marty's question on the appointment of judges. You say you have appointed a San Francisco man to form a liaison? What was that phrase?

A Yes; Mr. Harley has accepted this as a non-paying

responsibility.

Q Who is he, Governor? (Inaudible.)

A Oh, he's been put on about two weeks ago.

Q Governor, on the last subject, do you agree with Senator Monagan's warning against cannibalism in the Republican Party?

A Oh, I've been preaching that sermon for as long as I can remember. I think that our party must not only obey the Eleventh Commandment: I think we should carry off our wounded. (Laughter.)

Q Governor, if I can go back just a minute, you said you were committed to your budget in regards to tuition. Does this mean that if the regents decline to approve tuition, you will go ahead and ask the Legislature to approve tuition for the state colleges?

A Well, frankly, I have to tell you, I don't know whether it would do much good. At least I haven't given any consideration to that.

I believe that this issue rests first with the university. But what the Legislature's attitude might be, I don't know.

Q Governor, last week at a press conference you said you had eliminated yourself as a national political figure, and you cited one reason being the political controversy. Do you feel that you have eliminated yourself as a national figure?

A Well, I never thought of myself as a national political figure. You're quoting Mr. Schlesinger? Well, of course, I figure that Mr. Schlesinger would like to eliminate me in a lot of ways if he could, and so I don't consider him the most objective authority about me or where I stand.

SQUIRE BEHRENS: Thank you, Governor.