

Memphis
July 1988

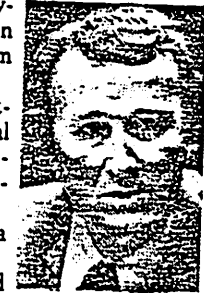
Plea bargains

ST. LOUIS STATESMAN-JOURNAL

save, AG says

JULY 23, 1988

The negotiated pleas made Tuesday by three former Rajneeshees will save taxpayers a \$1-million tab from months-long trials, state Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer said Tuesday.



"These plea agreements bring swift and fair justice in what otherwise would have been long and costly legal proceedings with potentially uncertain results," he said.

The key figure in Tuesday's court proceedings was Ma Anand Sheela, formerly the personal secretary to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

She was sentenced to 20 years in prison, fined \$400,000 and ordered to pay \$69,353 restitution for damage caused by an arson fire in The Dalles. Her actual time in prison probably will total 4½ years, including credit for time served since her Oct. 28 arrest in West Germany.

Frohnmayer said he thinks the sentence is fair. The penalty is equivalent to one that would be given to a serious rapist, he said.

"Deportation also is a just punishment," he said. It's possible that after she is forced to leave the United States upon completion of her prison term, Sheela will find very few countries allowing her entry, he said.

The fine imposed will cover about half the state's costs of investigating

the cases, Frohnmayer said. According to the plea agreement, Sheela will pay \$200,000 within a few days. The money, apparently being raised in Europe, is supposed to be wired to the United States shortly, Frohnmayer said.

The agreement also provided the prosecution with the legal tools needed to try to get the remaining money owed.

Sheela agreed to submit to a sworn debtor's examination and to a polygraph examination. Her assets will be discussed in both.

"It's our belief she has substantial assets, but we're unable to find them," Frohnmayer said.

At a press conference Tuesday after Sheela's court appearance, U.S. Attorney Charles Turner discussed the handling of criminal charges against the guru, who pleaded guilty to an immigration violation and was deported.

Asked if the big fish hadn't gotten away, Turner said the government did not have sufficient evidence to convict Rajneesh of other charges.

He said he assessed the impact of sending him to jail on the immigration case.

"We felt if he left the country, the movement would disband," Turner said. Sending him to prison "would have simply served to cause him to be a martyr."

The strategy worked. Shortly after his deportation in November, the commune disbanded.

Turner said Rajneesh, rejected by several countries, practically has lived out of his airplane ever since. He is believed to be in the Bahamas.

— Janet Davies

Feds outline background in Rajneesh cases

By ELROY KING
Chronicle Staff Writer

The most detailed explanation of the federal charges against Ma Anand Sheela and Ma Anand Puja since their arrest in West Germany last October was given by two U.S. attorneys in U.S. District Court on Tuesday.

The two women appeared to enter pleas and be sentenced on federal charges that included wiretapping, violation of immigration laws and tampering with consumer products. The latter charge involved the introduction of salmonella bacteria on food at several restaurants in The Dalles in September of 1984. The federal authorities claim was part of a plan to disrupt the election in November of that year.

The most extensive explanation was in the salmonella poisoning, which made 750 people in The Dalles ill.

U.S. Attorney Baron Sheldahl cited the background on conflicts involving the Rajneesh and several elected officials, whom the Rajneesh wished to defeat in the election that year. The poisoning plot was seen as a way to "make people too sick to go to the polls" and coupled with an influx of street people who would register to vote, could influence the election.

He said the Rajneesh Medical Corporation had purchased a vial of

salmonella culture from V.W.R. Scientific in Seattle. There was no further identification of that firm in the testimony made by Sheldahl. Some of that culture was found and seized in October of 1985 after the criminal allegations came to light following the breakup of the commune. He said those sample were identical to ones of salmonella cultures taken from the restaurants affected by the poisonings.

Many details of the plot came from a deposition from former Rajneesh Mayor Krishna Deva (now known as David Berry Knapp). He

Salmonella germs purchased from Seattle firm

was a participant in some of the planning meetings and went to restaurants in The Dalles himself on one occasion and put some of the culture on food, but "no one got sick that time," Sheldahl said.

Sheldahl said the culture was put in food at salad bars and in coffee creamers. On at least one occasion, food in a grocery store was con-

taminated with some of the culture, but again, no one got ill.

Another member of the commune, Ma Anand Avelos, made a trip to The Dalles to poison food in at least three restaurants. She wore blue clothing and a wig to avoid detection.

Bonnie Barlow was identified as another participant in the scheme. She agreed to poison some of the restaurant food, but later changed her mind and threw the poison and syringe away.

Sheldahl said Knapp and Barlow both heard Sheela and Puja brag about the success of the operation on "making all those people sick."

Sheela told the court her participation in the immigration fraud involved assisting Sanyassins in obtaining visas by advising them to lie to immigration authorities and helped them prepare for their interviews. Those activities began as early as 1980. Her co-conspirators in this activity were not mentioned by name. Puja was not accused in the immigration violations.

The wiretapping count involved the installation of listening and recording devices in what was described as "the old Xerox room" in the Socrates complex at Rajneeshpuram. Those devices enabled the monitoring of conversations at six pay phones and other phones. Sheela was accused of

directing that operation and Puja was a participant in it.

The maximum penalty for the immigration charge would have been five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. The wiretapping charge could have brought a five-year prison term and \$250,000 in fines and the tampering with a consumer product could have brought 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Judge Edward Leavy did not impose any fines.

Sheela will be forced to leave the country once her prison sentence is complete and she will be barred from returning to the U.S. without the specific permission of the U.S. Attorney General. Puja is a U.S. citizen and can't be forced to leave the country. However, her sentence included language encouraging her to leave.

She drew a prison sentence on the food poisoning charge, but got three years probation on the wiretapping charge. That will begin at the completion of her prison sentence, and Leavy ruled that if she stays in the U.S. the probationary period will be "supervised"; if she chooses to leave it will be "unsupervised."

Other charges against the two were dismissed. There had been more than one count of wiretapping and Sheela was accused of multiple counts of violation of immigration laws.

Plea bargain said best deal possible

By ELROY KING
Chronicle Staff Writer

PORTLAND—The plea bargaining arrangement that sent three former leaders of the Rajneesh commune to terms in a federal penitentiary were "about the best deal that could be worked out," Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer and U.S. Attorney Charles Turner said in a press conference following the sentencing of the trio on federal and state charges here Tuesday.

Although there are some who feel that the prison terms that will actually be served should have been longer, Frohnmayer said the plea arrangement saved the state of Oregon an estimated \$1 million in the cost of a trial.

In a printed statement that the attorney general read at the press conference, he said the agreements bring swift and fair justice in what otherwise would have been long and costly legal proceedings with potentially uncertain outcomes.

He estimated that Ma Anand Sheela would spend about 4½ years in prison on the concurrent sentences on state and federal charges. The other two, Anand Puja (Dianne Ivonne Onang) and Shanti Bhadra (Catherine Jane Paul Elsen) will likely spend about another year in custody. All three have been in custody since last October when they were arrested in West Germany. They have been jailed in

Oregon since February and will be given credit for time served.

The attorney general said that the \$469,353.31 in fines and reimbursement will help pay the costs of the criminal proceedings against them.

Of that total, \$200,000 has already been raised in Europe and is in the process of being cabled here and should arrive within a day or so, Frohnmayer said. He said he didn't know how or from whom that money was raised.

Frohnmayer said the cost of the proceedings against the Rajneesh leaders and other Rajneesh cases was the most expensive criminal action in state history, but said the fines against Sheela will help pay some of those costs. The other two women were not fined and Sheela was not fined in federal court, although she could have been. Turner said he had no estimate of the federal authorities' costs in the phase of the prosecution.

He agreed that the plea arrangement was a good deal and said he felt "all of the sentences were in the public interest or I wouldn't have agreed with them." Turner said he fully participated in all of the agreements worked out, adding that he was disappointed that Sheela was not fined as part of her federal sentence, but said that was within the province of U.S. District

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Plea bargains said 'best deal' possible

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Judge Edward Leavy.

He noted that since Sheela, the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and Shanti Bhadra were not American citizens, they "will never be recycled through the U.S. courts." Part of Sheela's sentence calls for her to leave the country and never return once she finishes her sentence. The Bhagwan has already been deported and Bhadra could be. Puja is a U.S. citizen, but the way has been cleared for her to leave the country as well once her prison time has been served.

Frohnmayer said he felt Sheela and the others agreed to the plea arrangements because there was massive evidence against them. He disputed one remark that the "big fish" (the Bhagwan) got away and Sheela is going to jail." Frohnmayer said that when the Bhagwan was

deported, state leaders guessed that the movement would disband — and it did. Had he been sent to jail, he could have become a martyr and the movement might just have become stronger, he said.

He later commented that since the Bhagwan had left the U.S., he has been "living out of an airplane," and "that's not much of a lifestyle." Both men said they had no idea where Rajneesh is.

They also said they had little evidence against the Rajneesh being involved in any of the criminal activities that unfolded at the ranch once the group began to disband.

All three women will serve their time at the federal prison at Pleasanton, Calif. That prison was mentioned only as "a California federal facility" during the sentences before the two judges, and

Turner quipped that the name might make listeners think it was a pleasant place.

He said it is not. It is a medium security facility with "fences and guards and bars" just like any other prison, he said. He said he anticipated the three women would work in some phase of a prison industry, but that has not been determined. It is anticipated the three will leave for prison within days.

If the \$200,000 does not show up as anticipated, or if the rest of the fine and reimbursement is not paid, Sheela could be "back before the judge," Frohnmayer said. As part of the plea agreement, she has agreed to participate in a debtors exam and take a polygraphy test when she is questioned about her assets. She hasn't been too willing to discuss this

in the past, he added.

Frohnmayer had praises for all those who participated in the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of the Rajneesh defendants.

"We (the citizens of Oregon) were told (by the Rajneesh and their backers) through all of this that the citizens of Oregon were bigoted," Frohnmayer said, and that the Rajneesh were on the edge of being the victims of violence.

"But none of this happened," he said. The only victims were the people of Oregon. Not one Oregonian lifted a finger to injure any of them," he said.

That took extraordinary restraint, he said. That may be the way the history of what Frohnmayer called a disturbing and traumatic chapter will be written.

Sheela gets harshest sentence

PORTLAND—Ma Anand Sheela, the former personal secretary of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and the apparent mastermind of the criminal activities by some of the leaders of that commune, drew the harshest sentence and the sharpest reprimand from Judge John Jelderks when he sentenced her and two other women to prison terms on Tuesday.

The Wasco County Court session was held in a Multnomah County courtroom under tight security, and most of Jelderks' comments were reserved for Sheela.

The judge noted that all systems need checks and balances to prevent abuses, saying "few people are psychologically equipped to handle absolute power." He noted that Sheela was in a position of extreme authority at the commune and chose to abuse that position of power.

"You are more accountable for the criminal activities that took

place than anyone," he told her. He said the victims of the murder plots, the poisoning attempts, the assaults and the arson at the Wasco County planning office were not the only victims.

Other victims included members of the commune who believed in and trusted their leaders and in no way condoned or participated in the criminal activities.

At least two of the victims, County Judge Bill Hulse and County Commissioner Ray Matthew, were in the courtroom.

Among the charges the three women entered guilty pleas to were of attempts to poison these two. The judge called on them, but neither made any statement in court. County Planner Dan Durow, whose office was damaged in the arson, was present but was not called upon to comment. The victim in the attempted murder count, Swami Deva Devaraj, was not present in the

courtroom during the state cases. Seating at the state sentencing session was limited. The courtroom had been in use for other cases prior to the start of the sentencing. It was cleared, then secured by two Wasco County deputies with metal detectors.

Spectators were allowed in one by one and each had his person and purses checked out. Several of those who had planned to attend were not able to get seats in the small courtroom. None of the spectators at the state or federal proceedings could be visibly identified as Rajneesh followers.

The three women wore jail coveralls during their appearance before Jelderks. They entered the courtroom together and each was seated next to her attorneys. They had worn gray suits in federal court. Catherine Jane Elsea was

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Hulse, Matthew feel salmonella sentence 'light'

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represented by Frank Stoller, Dianne Ivonne Onang by Raymond Thomas and Ma Anand Sheela by Steven Houze. The state was represented by Bob Hamilton, Byron Chatfield and Steven Pfifer, assistant attorney generals.

Elsea pled guilty to the attempted murder of Swami Devaraj; Onang entered a plea to that charge as well as the Wasco County judge assault of Judge Bill Hulse and Commissioner Ray Matthew and Sheela entered pleas to those charges as well as the first degree arson at the county planning office. It was Sheela's first appearance in court on the state charges, Elsea and Onang had previously entered not guilty pleas to the charge of attempting to murder Devaraj.

Elsea's plea came in spite of

Stoller's advice for her to proceed to trial. The other two attorneys said they had advised their clients to go along with the plea arrangement and avoid trial. All three women said they had decided to enter the guilty pleas and agree to the plea arrangements because of the multiple charges against them and felt the agreement would possibly lessen their sentences. All said they disputed the evidence the state would have presented during the trial, but agreed the state would be able to present that evidence. Part of the agreement included the dismissal of some related charges.

Chatfield outlined the evidence the state would have presented in the attempted murder case, saying that Devaraj was viewed as an enemy to a faction of Rajneesh led by Sheela. He was injected with adrenalin.

Onang provided the drug and the syringe, Elsea did the actual injection and Onang attempted to interfere with his treatment while he was still at the ranch. Sheela directed the operation.

Chatfield said adrenalin was used because it could cause death, but would be difficult to detect. (Adrenalin is a natural body substance that can speed the heartbeat).

Hamilton outlined the case in the assault on Hulse and Matthews, saying Hulse was given water contaminated with salmonella bacteria twice on Aug. 29, 1984 while on an inspection tour of the ranch. Matthews was given contaminated water only once and Virgil Ellett, then a county commissioner who he said was not viewed as hostile to the

Rajneesh, was given un-contaminated water. Hamilton said both Matthews and Hulse became ill, but Hulse was more seriously ill and "suffered a life threatening condition."

He also outlined the evidence in the arson case, in the fire which extensively damaged the county planning office on Jan. 14, 1985.

The fire was started under the direction of Sheela after long planning in the hope the destruction of records there would cover any evidence of illegal building activities at Rajneeshpuram. Hamilton said individuals (he did not name them) broke into the planning office, spread files around the room, spread lighter fluid around the area and then used candles for fuses to start the fire.

Hulse, Matthew feel salmonella sentence light

By BARBARA HICKS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Wasco County officials who attended the sentencing of Ma Anand Sheela, Dianne Ivonne Onang and Catherine Jane Elsea in Portland Tuesday had varying reactions concerning the fairness of the sentences.

Sheela and the other two former officers of Rajneesh Commune, drew prison terms from 4½ to 20 years, and Sheela drew \$400,000 in fines plus \$69,353.31 restitution in state and federal courts in Portland.

Attending the sentencing were Wasco County Judge Bill Hulse, County Commissioner Ray Matthew, County Clerk Sue Proffitt and County Planner Dan Durow.

Hulse, who was poisoned at Rajneeshpuram, said he wasn't real thrilled with the results.

"I have no problem with the 20-year sentence (for assault in the first degree involving the poisoning), but I have a problem with the probability of her being out in 3.7 years...I have no problem with giving credit for time already served."

Hulse said he thinks that the sentence would have been adequate had they attempted to harm only one person. But the fact that Sheela and others attempted to poison 750 people should have been taken into consideration in the federal courts, he said.

Of the deportation after her release, Hulse said, "I think it's great."

Hulse said he is glad the court action was done quickly, since that saved taxpayers money. He added that if Sheela, Onang and Elsea stayed in prison the entire time that would cost taxpayers money.

Cameramen from Portland



Bill Hulse

Ray Matthew

County officials victims

television Channels 2, 8 and 12 "descended like a bunch of flies," Hulse said. The first question they asked him was what he would say to Sheela if he had five minutes alone with her. He answered that he wouldn't care to have five minutes alone with her, and if he did he would probably say things that were not printable.

"I have feeling for all those people (who lived in Rajneeshpuram) because of their brainwashed situation, but that woman tried to inflict bodily harm on this whole community. I have a real problem thinking good thoughts of her," he said.

Hulse said he does not believe Sheela will serve the 20 years sentence to her for the poisoning.

"Ray (Matthew) and I could never figure out why I got sicker than he

did," he said. He added that he found out during the sentencing that Sheela and Onang admitted to poisoning him with salmonella twice. Matthew was only poisoned once, Hulse said.

Hulse was sick for a week and spent four days in the hospital.

Hulse said Sheela did not speak, other than to plead guilty, and to say she understood the charges. "She wasn't her old flamboyant self."

"Good riddance," said Hulse. "I hope it never happens again."

Matthew, who attended the sentencing, remarked, "I'm glad the era is over. It was nice to see that justice did prevail and now we can get the show on the road."

Matthew said he believes the sentencing was fair. However, "I'm a little bit prejudiced, and I think the sentences shouldn't run concurrently. Their intention was to

damage a lot of people. She would have gotten the same sentence if she damaged only a couple of people (referring to the spreading of salmonella). She damaged 750 and the sentence was not increased at all. She intended to damage a whole community, and I don't feel the time from ~~the sentencing~~ that I thought the years should have been accumulative rather than concurrent, Matthew said.

County Clerk Sue Proffitt when interviewed by Channel 2 television reporter Jim Hyde, was asked what she would say if she had a few minutes to speak to Sheela. Proffitt's answer was "Never come back."

Proffitt said she believes the 3½-4 year that Sheela will spend in prison is inadequate. "When you see that she faces immediate deportation, that is acceptable," she added. "Judge Jelderks said it is highly unlikely she will be able to come back to the United States."

According to Dan Durow, Wasco County Planning officer, sentencing was not adequate. Durow, who was planning officer when the planning office was burned, attended the state court sentencing.

"I think the only fair sentence for Sheela would be when she walked out of prison she'd be an old woman." He added that he believes she will serve about 4½ years, and he doesn't believe that is justice.

Durow said the maximum fine \$400,000 and restitution of \$69,353.31 and an additional \$100,000 fine are fair. He was glad she received the 20-year sentence for arson, "but what she actually serves is what counts," he said. "All her prison time is concurrent, so it means very little," Durow said.



Oregon

Sentence includes fines, banishment

Sheela to serve 4 years

By Dennis Anstine
PI Staff Writer

PORTLAND (UPI) — Ma Anand Sheela, the former acid-tongued Rajneeshee leader, was sent to prison for about four years Tuesday on her guilty pleas to charges of attempted murder, arson, assault, wiretapping, salmonella poisoning and conspiracy.

She pleaded guilty to three federal and four state charges and was given a total of 69 years in prison terms for her illegal actions in attempting to spread the influence of the Rajneeshee sect in central Oregon. The terms will run concurrently with the first 4½-year sentence she received from U.S. District Court Judge Edward Leavy.

U.S. Attorney Charles Turner said that Sheela will be given credit for the nine months she spent in jail awaiting trial on the sentence she received for her part in the 1984 salmonella poisoning of about 750 people in The Dalles.

Sheela, who was dressed in a gray dress suit in the federal court and blue jail denims during the state proceedings, also was placed on five years probation; fined \$400,000; ordered to pay more than \$69,000 in restitution for an arson fire; and ordered to leave the U.S. when released from federal prison. Sheela will pay \$200,000 in fines immediately.

Sheela and a Rajneeshee co-defendant, Diane Ivonne Onang, 38, also known as Anand Puja, pleaded guilty to charges of wiretapping and tampering with consumer products (salmonella poisoning) before Leavy. Sheela also pleaded guilty to a charge of giving false statements to immigration authorities.

Sheela, Onang and Catherine Elsea, known as Shanti Bhadrani while at Rajneeshpuram, were sentenced on state charges by Circuit Judge John Jelderks.

Sheela and Puja pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges involving the attempted murder of commune member Dr. Swami Devaraj with a syringe injection of adrenalin, first-degree assault in the poisoning of

Wasco County Commissioner Raymond Matthew, and second-degree assault in the poisoning of Wasco County Judge William Hulse.

Sheela also pleaded guilty to the break-in and arson fire of the Wasco County planning office. And Elsea pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of Devaraj.

Puja's maximum sentences also will run concurrently with her 4½-year federal prison term, and she will spend about the same amount of time in federal prison as Sheela. Puja also was sentenced to three years probation, but she is an American citizen and will not be asked to leave the country.

Turner said the two women will remain in Multnomah County's Justice Center until assigned to a federal prison, probably to a facility in Pleasanton, Calif.

Elsea was sentenced to a maximum of 10 years, but Oregon assistant Attorney General Robert Hamilton said with nine months credit given for time already served, "she could be in a state correctional facility no more than a year, depending on her behavior and the parole board."

Elsea, 40, a native of Australia, also was ordered out of the U.S.

"Very few people are equipped to deal with power, especially unchecked power," Jelderks said. "That's especially true when the voice of power purports to also speak with the voice of religion, making the power even more extreme. It makes a good case for having a clear separation of church and state like we do in this country."

"As for you, Sheela, you were in an extreme position of power and you resorted to criminal activity. Your abuse of power seems desperate and with no ultimate purpose, but for whatever reason you did what you did, you are most accountable for these illegal activities."

Frohnmayer said the sentences "conclude a disturbing and traumatic chapter in Oregon history. It's a good day for the rule of law, proving that the system works and that it can't be flouted."

Frohnmayer said it would have cost the state "at least \$1 million

to try these people. These are very serious crimes, and the penalties are about the same as that of a serious rapist."

Turner said the sentences "were fully in the public interest or we wouldn't have agreed to them. One thing you have to remember is that Sheela (and Elsea) probably won't be allowed to return to the U.S. That's quite a punishment in itself."

Frohnmayer agreed. "It's like the Bhagwan," who was convicted of immigration fraud charges last year and kicked out of the country. "He's rich, but no country will have him. How would you like to spend your life on airplanes? I think Sheela will have a similar problem."

Turner said the decision to not send the guru to prison last November worked in achieving the goal authorities wanted.

"We felt if he left the country, the movement would disband," Turner said. "Jail time would just have made him a martyr and kept the movement going."

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AG defends sentences

Ma Anand Sheela probably will serve no more than 4½ years of jail time for her leading role in the 1984 salmonella poisoning in The Dalles, and that seemingly light sentence was the main focus of questions Tuesday as Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer and U.S. Attorney Charles Turner held a press conference in Portland.

The sentence equals about two days of jail time for every person who was poisoned in the incident.

The sentence was part of a plea-bargain arrangement in which Sheela and Dianne Onang pleaded guilty to a wide array of charges.

Turner called the sentences "tough, fair, proportionate" and said he took into account the feelings of affected Wasco County residents as he negotiated the plea bargain.

The sentences "are fully within the public interest," said Turner, adding that he wouldn't have signed his name to them if he had believed otherwise.

Both Turner and Frohnmayer stressed the seriousness of the charges. The salmonella poisoning "in essence was germ warfare," Frohnmayer said.

To have taken the women to trial would have cost the state \$1 million, he added. The fine

against Sheela also pays for about half the cost of investigating a wide array of incidents at Rajneeshpuram, he added.

Frohnmayer said the sentence was equivalent to what a rapist would receive.

Turner disagreed with a statement by a reporter that the "big fish got away," referring to Sheela's sentence and that of Bhagwan Shree

Rajneesh, who was fined and deported.

If the bhagwan had been kept in jail, the sentence "would have had a unifying effect" on his followers, Turner said. "By leaving, he caused the destruction of the entire movement."

Turner said that negotiating the plea bargains was "the most difficult series of plea negotiations I've ever been involved in." Negotiations included high-level talks with West Germany, which had to



Dave Frohnmayer

Salmonella 'was in essence germ warfare.'

give permission for the prosecution to proceed. Sheela and Onang had been arrested in Germany.

Turner admitted that he was a "little disappointed" that U.S. District Court Judge Edward Leavy had not fined Sheela \$500,000 as he recommended.

Meanwhile, Wasco County Judge Bill Hulse said after the court hearings that he believed the magnitude of the salmonella poisonings merited a stiffer sentence for Sheela. "That's the thing that gripes me," he said, but he called the proceedings as a whole "really for the best in the long run."

Wasco County Sheriff Art Labrousse praised Frohnmayer's office for its role in the investigation and prosecution. On the sentence, he said, "The reality of the thing is that you get what you can get."

THE DALLES, OR

THE DALLES WEEKLY REMINDER

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Friday, July 25, 1986

Frohnmayer: Ex-mayor broke open sect case

By Bill Graves
Bulletin Staff Writer

SUNRIVER — Testimony from the former mayor of Rajneeshpuram was critical in convicting guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer said Thursday.

It was only after Swami Krishna Deva, also known as David Knapp, agreed to cooperate with the state that the guru agreed to plead guilty, said Frohnmayer, who is in Sunriver for a state district attorneys' conference.

"His (Knapp's) turning was essential to getting a conviction on Bhagwan," he said.

Rajneesh pleaded guilty Nov. 14, 1985, to federal felony immigration charges and was fined \$400,000 and forced to leave the United States. He since has been touring the world in search of a country that will accept him.

Knapp, who pleaded guilty on Nov. 22, 1985, to state racketeering

charges for his role in a massive wiretapping operation at the Central Oregon commune, has yet to be sentenced.

Some Rajneeshee fugitives from prosecution on wiretapping charges are still abroad, the state still has some outstanding indictments that have not yet been made public and authorities may never know "the full extent of Bhagwan's personal complicity" in crimes at the commune, Frohnmayer said.

But the major chapter on the sect's criminal activity closed Tuesday when Ma Anand Sheela, the guru's former chief lieutenant, and two of her cohorts were sentenced on a variety of state and federal charges, he said.

Sheela, 36, also known as Sheela Silverman, was sentenced to serve at least 4½ years in a federal prison for her role in wiretapping, attempted murder, poisoning two Wasco County officials and lacing salad bars in restaurants in The Dalles with salmonella bacteria

that made 750 people ill.

She also was fined \$400,000 and ordered to pay \$69,000 in restitution for an arson fire at the Wasco County planning office. Sheela paid the first \$200,000 of her fine Wednesday.

Though some Oregonians say they think Sheela's sentence was too light, Frohnmayer seemed pleased with the penalties.

"Sheela raped Oregon," he said, and will serve more time "than a hard-core rapist would serve." Only a murderer would serve more time on a first offense, he said.

Further, he said, when Sheela gets out of jail she will be deported and be "without a country" like Rajneesh.

"We have reached largely the conclusion of the story, and the bad guys lost and the good guys won," he said.

The sentencing of Sheela capped a massive investigation by federal, state and local police that

began Sept. 16, 1985, when Rajneesh blew the whistle on Sheela and her supporters.

The investigation supposedly included the Rajneeshpuram Peace Force, but Frohnmayer said "we never trusted them" and "never thoroughly included them."

Police set up an office in Madras so they could use telephones they knew were not tapped, he said. For about three weeks, Frohnmayer, Gov. Vic Atiyeh, U.S. Attorney Charles Turner and heads of the state police and of the FBI in Oregon held conference calls on the investigation every morning and afternoon, he said.

Even before the probe began, Frohnmayer said, he was "aware of the possibility of physical danger" from the Rajneeshees.

During the 10 days before the November 1984 general election, Frohnmayer said, he began receiving hate mail, strange magazines, memberships to odd clubs and harassing telephone calls at 3 a.m.



Dave Frohnmayer

Someone even dumped animal entrails in his driveway. Similar things happened to Wasco County

Clerk Sue Proffitt. The sect had hoped to take over the Wasco County government in that election.

Dressed in shorts and a sports shirt and relaxing on an outside deck in Sunriver Thursday, the attorney general nodded toward the Great Hall nearby.

"Only a year ago these people (Rajneeshees) were going full steam ahead and planning an assassination plot in this very building," he said.

Frohnmayer explained that he and Turner were surreptitiously photographed by Knapp and Ma Prem Sangeet, Rajneeshpuram city attorney, at the district attorneys' conference last year in Sunriver.

The photographs were to aid those involved in an assassination scheme that Sheela and other Rajneeshee leaders were plotting against him, Turner and several other state officials, he said.

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