

NEMS CONFERENCE
GOVERNOR FARRIS BRYANT
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Vernon Bradford, TAMPA TRIBUNE; Robert W. Delaney, ORLANDO SENTINEL-STAR; Barbara Frye, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL; David Gretsch, CAPITOL NEWS SERVICE; Jerry Wock, JOHN H. PERRY PAPERS; Don Showerman, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Ray Starr, ABC RADIO; George Thurston, WFLA-WJXT; Rick Tuttle, MIAMI HERALD-ST. PETERSBURG TIMES SERVICE; Ann Waldron, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES-MIAMI HERALD SERVICE; Ovid Lewis, FREELANCE; John Turner, WPGA-WTVJ; Glenn Tomlinson, FLORIDA BROADCAST NEWS; Doug Starr, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Tom Raker, INSIDE POLITICS; Allen Morris, CRACKER POLITICS; Frank Noel, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Rick Tuttle, MIAMI HERALD-ST. PETERSBURG TIMES SERVICE

GOVERNOR: Good morning.

R. STARR: Good morning, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Do you have any questions this morning?

TUTTLE: Why don't we start at the top with John Hamner. What is your reaction to the series of articles dealing with his expenses?

GOVERNOR: Well, the articles, of course, disturb me greatly. On the day that I was first in the office after the South American trip, which I believe was March 4 -- Monday a week ago in any event -- having seen some of the preliminaries of the St. Petersburg Times activities, I discussed this matter with Mr. Hamner and he requested that I send in state auditors. On that day, I requested the State Auditor to proceed with a complete state audit of the activities, or the records rather, of the Turnpike Authority. They began as soon as was practicable, sometime last week. They put on one man and then they put on two men. Now they have three men, and I think they are trying to run a fourth one in there to rush an audit of those records as rapidly as possible to ascertain what are the facts in this situation. I have talked with the head of the Auditing Department. Of course, they have not yet had an opportunity to develop any definitive data. I do know, however, that at my request they are pressing ahead full speed.

BRADFORD: How long do you anticipate it will be, Governor?

GOVERNOR: I don't know. I would hope that there will be information, while not in the form of a complete audit, I am hopeful that there will be information coming to me from time to time relative to specific aspects of it. While I have not -- my instructions to them were to do a complete audit and to advise me what are the fiscal facts. Now, I think you ought to have a little background of what the normal reporting procedures of the Turnpike Authority are.

sented by revenue indentures. For instance, the Legislature has adopted and implemented over the years retirement programs and today, as I understand it, under decisions from the Supreme Court we have an obligation to school teachers and to county and state officers and employees in excess of \$500 million for which no provision has been made. We are operating that program on a pay-as-you-use, as it were, basis, and the Legislature year after year has endorsed this tremendous obligation in that fashion. We owe those teachers that money now, but we have said we will wait until the obligation matures until we take from the taxpayers the money to meet the obligation. Now, let's keep in mind when we go through all this controversy about revenue financing that Florida has been involved in revenue financing for a long time and on a very large scale, which is not to say that it is good or it's bad but is to point up that it is more expensive than just the obligations of the Sunshine Skyway or the Florida Turnpike or the Buccaneer Trail or something of that kind.

FRYE: Governor, what is your -- do you think is the effect on the morale of the general state employec of these articles about this type spending at a time when agencies are taking state cars away from employees?

GOVERNOR: I think -- of course, you are assuming facts that I don't yet know -- but the effect of the articles, I would think, would be bad. If the data substantiates the articles that's even worse. If the data doesn't substantiate the articles, then, of course, to some degree it will be cleared up.

TUTTLE: Do you think a legislative investigation of the bond program may in any way jeopardize your plans for university construction in that by their very nature they are tending to look at it in some kind of negative way or crying way?

GOVERNOR: Well, of course, I am just one man trying as best I know how to provide leadership towards meeting what I feel to be critical needs. I don't have any monopoly of either knowledge or wisdom and certainly I don't have any monopoly of power. I am going to do the best I can. Now if the Legislature doesn't want to follow that leadership, I'll be sorry, but that's their responsibility, not mine. They will have to face it, and I am sure they are

prepared to do so in all good conscience, their own conscience relative to the results to this state. In my judgment, if we don't meet in some fashion the needs for higher education in this state, particularly at this time, we'll pay a price that will make the price we will pay by reason of meeting it look miniscule in comparison.

DELANEY: Governor, have you had a chance to study the Space Era Education Study enough to comment on it further than you did a couple of days ago?

GOVERNOR: I have just studied it quite extensively. I read the initial task force report. I have read the printed report once, and I have heard Dr. McDonald explain it twice -- one time spending almost all day doing it. I think, however, that until the Board of Control has completed its considerations and is ready to make specific recommendations that I had better withhold my own specific comments about it. Let me say in a general way that I think Dr. McDonald and Dr. Steven and the other consultant, Dr. Hollis, have done Florida a tremendous service in this respect, particularly, that they have for the first time in our history faced us up to the reality of what is needed in higher education. In the past we have made some giant strides. I think that it was all that we were ready to uske, but we have said, "oh, there is a tremendous flood of students coming and, therefore, we had better start a new university at Tampa or a new university in Palm Beach," without ever saying but when we have done that, have we really met the need. And the record indicates now that with the need projected, and somebody made the point to me last night, with the need projected for 1970 and '80 and the students are alive today that will be there then -- they are not gleams in somebody's eye or figures on somebody's statistical board -- we have never before said to meet that full need we will need to do this complete job. Now, I doubt seriously that we can at this session of the Legislature meet the full responsibility, but I think at least we have gotten from this committee a goal which we cannot deny and which we can strive to seek to the limit of our ability. The only quarrel that I think the Legislature is going to have among itself

is as to the method of raising the funds to meet a minimum responsibility of this need. It is best to do it by putting a tremendous load upon the six million people of Florida today in the way of current taxes to make capital outlay investments for the future, or it is better to spread a part of that load out over an increasing population enjoying an increased level of personal income over a period of years coincident to a degree with the period of enjoyment of the facilities, the product of the investment? Now this is the real decision it seems to me that we will be talking about. I don't believe that there will be any legislator who will not say that we ought to move forward to do it.

DELANEY: Do you think the idea of removing, as it was put in the space education study, removing the higher education system from politics will be approved with enthusiasm?

GOVERNOR: Well, now, first of all, let me quarrel with the use of terms a little bit. Not yours.

DELANEY: These are Dr. McDonald's.

GOVERNOR: Right. I say not yours. When people talk about removing something from politics what they really mean is removing it from the control of the electorate, to the degree that that is accomplished. Now, Dr. McDonald wanted to remove from politics by making the terms of Board of Control members a great deal longer than they are now. The experience with this in other states has been good in that it has prevented the appointing authority from coming in and, perhaps without sufficient judgment or knowledge, upsetting an established and justified course of conduct on the part of the Board of Control. Whether this appointive authority is the Governor or the Board of Education has nothing to do with removing it from politics. Or whether it is the Board of Control or the Board of Education has nothing to do with removing it from politics. It's politics either way. The question to be resolved by the people in that regard is this: Is a governor more responsive and is his platform more expressive of the desires and needs of the people than are the platforms of the long tenure cabinet officials who frequently are elected with specific reference to other duties such as agriculture, fiscal affairs, insurance, etc.

TUTTLE: States which have adopted this program we now look to, such as California, have some of the foremost higher education in the country. So how do you get around that?

GOVERNOR: I don't get around that. Of course, we have several little questions we are tying up here in one ball of wax. California made its great stride by striking at the opportune moment. It leaped to grab opportunity when it appeared. I think this is Florida's hour. California's development by reason of many factors preceded ours by 15-18 years, but we are now traversing more or less the same pattern that California has done in the past. And I think it is important that we grab the opportunity in our day that California grabbed in its hour of opportunity. And I think if we do that, that we will realize in degree the same result they did.

DELANEY: Did you read this report the other day, Governor, as saying in effect that it was Dr. McDonald's and the other consultant's recommendation that the state should appropriate funds and that the Board of Control should have complete control over the dissemination of those funds except for regular auditing processes?

GOVERNOR: Yes. What Dr. McDonald said was that the Legislature should determine the level of support for its university system which it desires to achieve, and appropriate that money to the Board of Control, when then has the discretion to distribute the money as it was advised among the universities and the various programs of the university educational system.

DELANEY: Well, do you think this is a good idea?

GOVERNOR: Well, I don't think for Florida at the moment it is attainable. I think we've got some preliminary reorganizational steps that we've got to take before we can approach that goal. I'm not sure that that is a good thing to do. I recognize that the result would be a greater freedom for the university people to operate and to achieve goals with which they are familiar and about which they are capable of making judgments therefor than is, let's say, the Governor and the Legislature. On the other hand, when you take this away from the Legislature and the administration, you do lose certain democratic values which historically we have clung to. The question is, is our evolving need in higher education of such a nature that we are ready to pay this price to achieve that goal. / ^{Now,} I don't think I would be

willing to go as far as Dr. McDonald and the other consultants advised. I do agree that we have got to make strides. It is interesting, though, when you come down to specifics the only specific that Dr. McDonald mentioned was the limitation on salaries, and right now it is a cumbersome thing. Let's say you've got a professor you want to employ for \$11,000. Well, almost all professors today--full professors--are in that category and you have to start off, I suppose, with the dean or the department head and then come up to the dean and then go to the dean of academic affairs and then to the president and then through their fiscal officer and then up to the Board of Control and then up to the Budget Commission and then back to the Board of Control and so on. This is a cumbersome process and needs to be streamlined at a minimum. But this is the only thing that Dr. McDonald pointed out as necessitating this release. Now I think that certainly and without argument this minimum \$10,000 ought to be raised. I don't think it is realistic today. I think \$15,000 is a minimum realistic fund above which these various statistical authorities should have the power to review.

BRADFORD: Just in the university system or for all --

GOVERNOR: Just in the university system. Let's face it. We've got a competitive market in professorial products that we have to face. And we are bidding for people and brains and trying to buy them with money and with a climate that makes them want to come here. And we have to face the market situation.

FRYE: Do you think the distribution of funds among universities should be a political decision?

GOVERNOR: Do you mean should it be determined by the people?

FRYE: Well, I mean in the Legislature now, isn't some of it as to which university gets what money based on some politics in the State Legislature, and back scratching?

GOVERNOR: In the sense that the members of the Legislature are each trying to please their constituents, yes. But then, Legislatures are supposed to please constituents to some degree.

this is democracy.

FRYE: Yes, but this is a university system, an educational system we are dealing with, should it be put on the same basis as other governmental operations?

GOVERNOR: Well, I went into a moment ago -- there is a balance of considerations. The question is now to what degree do we want to give up the voice of the people in the Legislature and take on the voice of wisdom or experience or professional knowledge not in the Legislature.

BRADFORD: Governor, isn't the distribution of university money also based to a degree on the politicking among the universities themselves?

GOVERNOR: No question about that. When you use politicking in the term of people getting together and on whatever basis reaching an agreement about the resolution of differences, this is politicking. But I don't want you to use politicking with respect to this in the sense of where these politicians over here handle it and they are not worrying about the people's rights, and so forth. Actually, they are trying to voice true politics; what they understand to be the people's wishes. Now, to the degree that they fail to be statesmen this is bad. But I think that particularly some of these representatives from university towns are as great statesmen as we have in the Legislature and they are able to see beyond their university and beyond their county to the whole state need.

FRYE: The people don't really know that the tremendously complicated field of locating a university is not comparable to locating a prison, or allocating funds for it. I mean, it's ^acompletely different operation?

GOVERNOR: You are right. The bigger government becomes the more difficult it is for the democratic process to properly operate.

THURSTON: Granting that politics is not necessarily evil, but is it necessarily desirable for members of the Legislature to become involved in the actual operation of an individual institution?

GOVERNOR: I want to respond to your premise first of all. When you say "granting that politics is not necessarily evil," you are grudgingly conceding that democracy is not necessarily evil.

Democracy operates through politics. That is the only way it has got to operate, so I would say that operating on the assumption that democracy is good, there are still limitations in a university system to which the pure principles of democracy can be placed. We can't go on the old Greek democracy basis of having a Gallup poll and everybody vote O.K. we'll put a university so and so. We can't do that. To what degree should we limit it.

THURSTON: Should the members of the Legislature become involved in operation of a university system beyond the establishment and general good practices and seeing that it obtains the desired heads?

GOVERNOR: This is correct. You have expressed it. They ought to establish policies and goals, set up mechanics in a broad sense -- give the tools in other words -- and then through audit and legislative investigation insure that it has been pursued in the way that they intended for it to be done.

FRYE: Well, Governor, the Legislature recognizes the tendency of a person to favor an institution in his town -- it is provided that no member of the Board of Control shall serve from the town in which a university is located -- and yet you have in the Legislature senators and representatives of towns with universities serving as chairmen of appropriations committees and that sort of thing. That's what I was wondering, is there a contradiction there or is that the way it should be done?

GOVERNOR: Well, to some degree there is a contradiction. And I think everybody has to recognize that a legislator is subject to local pressures. We just have to rely basically upon the innate goodness of the members of the Legislature, who by and large want to serve, and the innate wisdom of the people in electing legislators and returning them to office, to make that decision. A dictatorship is more efficient, but if we are going to have a democracy there are just certain prices we have to pay and this is one of them.

THURSTON: Would you object to the university presidents being paid salaries larger than yours?

GOVERNOR: No, sir, this has got nothing to do with it.

SMITH: Governor, in your arguments in favor of politics you keep bringing up the word "democracy" which is difficult for anyone to understand, because no one wants to be in a position of being

opposed to a democracy. But from a practical standpoint isn't it true that these legislators are influenced by several hundred lobbyists on many issues and are not necessarily responsive to the people?

GOVERNOR: Sure. They are influenced by their own backgrounds, their own funds of knowledge, newspapers, television stations, folks back home, lobbyists, all of these things.

FRYE: Vocal minority.

GOVERNOR: Vocal minorities and letters that come up from organized groups. All of these things go into the compound, and it is not perfect.

FRYE: But you think that it is best for Florida right now?

GOVERNOR: Democracy? (laughter) Yes, I'll take that stand even if it defeats me at the next election. (laughter)

FRYE: No, the continuing political control of the university system?

GOVERNOR: No, that we have got to modify. I said I was in favor of granting to the Board of Control broad discretion in the functioning of the university system. I didn't think we were ready at this time to go as far as Dr. McDonald and the other educators recommended in the reorganization of our system. I think that Dr. McDonald recognized this and suggested that the Legislature establish a special committee to consider over the next two years how Florida wants to move in this direction.

TURNER: Governor, I would like to change the subject for a moment. Dade County is going to hold hearings on the continued rise in anti-Cuban feeling down there. I think the federal government is going to hold similar hearings at a later date. Would you comment on this please, sir?

GOVERNOR: No. First of all, they are going to hold a hearing on the continuing rise of anti-Cuban feeling there?

TURNER: The rising anti-Cuban feeling in the Dade County area.

GOVERNOR: Is the hearing designed to find out if it is rising?

TURNER: It is constantly rising and they are going to look into reasons for it --

GOVERNOR: The reason for it and what points of friction there are and possible cures for it? I think this would be a fine thing to do. Now, I don't think -- I am not familiar with the investigation. If they are just going to try to find out if there are problems there, I can tell them and save an investigation. But if they are going into the reasons for it and the possible methods of removing those reasons, I think it is a fine thing to do.

TUTTLE: Are you aware of former Governor Collins' idea?

GOVERNOR: I read about that.

TUTTLE: What is your reaction to that?

GOVERNOR: Fine, if two things -- we avoided in this country, since the war at least, forcing people to move around into compounds and we don't want to be involved in anything like that. However, so to the degree that we could secure the removal of Cubans to a climate and society which is more like their own perhaps than the one in which they have been by circumstances forced to live, it would be a good thing to do. I think there is merit in his proposal, but the problems of implementing it are again another matter.

THURSTON: Governor, you wrote a letter to Mallory Horne and Wilson Carraway in which you referred to the milk controls situation as being chaotic and the letter said in part "I am opposed to having price controls extended. Resistance to price controls is very strong but some change must be made." You didn't suggest in the letter what changes you thought should be made. I wonder if you have any considered changes in mind?

GOVERNOR: Of course, I suggested to the Milk Commission that they abolish price controls. Three of my appointees voted to do that. They were not successful, however, they didn't get four votes which was required. I believe that our present operating situation is bad and that it must be changed. I can't persuade the Commission to move in one direction. I personally am unwilling to move in the other direction and I really am looking for help from the Legislature. I say to the Legislature that we've got to move off the position which we now stand, and I would like help and direction.

THURSTON: Would you favor abolishing the Commission?

GOVERNOR: I am not sure what all the implications of that are. I think we do need to insure that health standards and cleanliness

standards, which were the original reasons for the establishment of the Commission, are maintained. This might be done through the Board of Health independent of the Commission. Frankly from what I know, abolition of the Commission would not give me any qualms at all.

THURSTON: It has been suggested that the regulatory powers of the Commission be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and patterned after the Federal system of a milk pool. Would you regard that as a desirable solution?

GOVERNOR: You mean for us to get out and let the Federal Government take it?

THURSTON: No. For us to abolish the Commission and transfer most of its powers to our Department of Agriculture and pattern that control system after the Federal pattern?

GOVERNOR: I don't know enough about it. I have talked with members of the Commission, present and past, and here are dedicated, intelligent people properly motivated, each of them reaching relatively different conclusions on the basis of the same data. And I don't have any fixed conclusions as to a regulatory system which would solve this rather difficult problem.

LEWIS: Governor, I have got a very partisan question I want to talk about just one moment, that is the Democratic primary that has just been completed. I see where the Republicans say that they are going to put forth a great effort to collect members of the Legislature in the next two weeks. Will the Democrats put forth any challenge along that line?

GOVERNOR: I certainly hope that the Democratic Organization -- the Democratic Party -- will make a maximum effort to increase its strength in the Legislature of Florida and I will encourage and assist to the degree that I am able to do so toward that goal.

LEWIS: Are you happy with the Democrats that were elected and chosen by the people?

GOVERNOR: Well, I am always happy to abide by the decisions of the people (laughter)

SHOWERMAN: Governor, when you said that you were for Democracy whether it defeated you in the next election or not, what election were you referring to? (laughter)

Under a procedure that was set up about -- anyway a year ago, perhaps longer than that, although there had been reports before that -- each month there is made to me a report by the heads of each of the divisions of the Turnpike Authority. A report is made by Mr. H. E. Lewis of the construction progress and problems; by Mr. T. M. Ervin of the right-of-way problems and progress; by Mr. Gardner now on the status of the legal status of the Authority; by the head of the Highway Patrol; by the head of the operating division; each of the divisions of the Authority make a report on their activities and their status at the time of the report. In addition to that, the CPA firm of Ernst and Ernst conducts an annual audit, which I presume it was doing before this administration took over. I know that it has been since we took over. Their last report was December 31, 1962, that is as of that date, which was delivered to my office sometime in February. And that audit, of course, is a report of the fiscal activities of the Authority.

BRADFORD: Was there anything in that latest report that disturbed you?

GOVERNOR: No, there was not. Now, the report, however, for Ernst and Ernst is not the same kind of report really that a state auditor makes. I had reviewed that report before this controversy came up, as I do all these reports as they come in. Incidentally, I will be glad for you to see those reports. They do not indicate in any instance that there is anything wrong with the operation of the Turnpike. As a matter of fact, these reports, plus the conferences that I have had with Mr. Lewis, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Hamner, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Bayle, and others in the Turnpike Authority, indicate that the progress of the construction is going ahead at an excellent pace, that it will be completed ahead of time, that the operations of the Authority are well within its budget -- below its budgeted expenditures -- and that the state is getting value for the operation of the Authority.

BRADFORD: Well, does that type of audit go in detail into such things as personal expenses?

GOVERNOR: No, it does not.

BRADFORD: It is more confined to the actual Turnpike construction?

GOVERNOR: I kind of thought that was going to face me again.
(laughter) Actually, I was using a figure of speech. I was quoting a Florida Congressman who reputedly and on the floor of Congress some years ago when called upon to vote upon a veterans bill -- a bill giving benefits to veterans -- said, "I am going to vote for the veterans if it defeats me in the next election." (laughter) I was sort of paraphrasing his remarks.

THURSTON: Do you think the Democrat majority in the Legislature is in danger of being wiped out? (laughter)

GOVERNOR: No, sir. I don't. (laughter)

R. STARR: Governor, have you had any comment back from the Cabinet statement Tuesday that we should have a quick end to this Florida East Coast Railroad strike?

GOVERNOR: No.

If you are about finished, let me conclude with reference again to the Turnpike situation, which, of course, is a matter of great concern to all of us.

I THINK THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FACTS BE ACCUMULATED, PUBLISHED AND DECISIONS REACHED ON THE BASIS OF THOSE FACTS. TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY SUBSTANTIATE ANY ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, REMEDIAL ACTION IS CALLED FOR. TO THE EXTENT THAT THOSE ALLEGATIONS ARE NOT SUBSTANTIATED OR ARE PROVEN TO BE WRONG, WE NEED TO READJUST ANY THINKING RELATIVE TO THEM. THE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB BUILDING THE TURNPIKE, WHICH IS ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTION. THE INVESTMENT OF ITS MONIES HAS PRODUCED REVENUES FAR BEYOND WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. THE SCHEDULE OF CONSTRUCTION HAS ADVANCED BEYOND WHAT WAS ANTICIPATED. THE QUALITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION IS GOING TO BE PLEASING TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA. IF THERE ARE IMPROPRIETIES, THEY MUST BE CORRECTED. IF THERE ARE NOT, WE SHOULD NOT ENDANGER PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN A WORTHY PROJECT BY LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

FRYE: Do you have full confidence in Mr. Hammer?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

Are there other questions?

TUTTLE: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Thank you.

GOVERNOR: No. It is really directed from the standpoint of the bond-holders. This audit is a requirement of the indenture, and it is an audit which is designed to assure the bond-holders that their money is being handled in such a way that they need not fear for its security. Now that is really the purpose of that audit, and it is because of the nature of the audit that I thought it necessary under these circumstances to ask for the state audit because the state audit goes, as you know, into detail of the operation of the Authority. I will say -- I have not, of course, yet had a report from the auditors, but when that report is available it will, of course, be a complete public record as are all state audits. And it will be the first comprehensive factual data of its kind we have of the operation of the Authority.

TUTTLE: Don't you think there is a lack there then? Most other state agencies have these detailed audits?

GOVERNOR: I do, and I am convinced that the Turnpike Authority ought not to be different in the operation, relative to the activities of its officials, than any other state agency. I think that this was an initial mistake and if I had thought about it in '61, if I had been conscious of it to tell you the truth, I would have recommended legislative changes then. I wasn't conscious of it, I didn't and I am going to recommend that it be changed at this time.

DELANEY: Is it correct, Governor, that the Turnpike Authority people are not governed by the same limitations on the per diem allowances?

GOVERNOR: It is.

DELANEY: Don't you think this should be corrected so that they are on the same level with all other state agencies?

GOVERNOR: I think they ought to be identically on the same basis with all other state agencies. I don't see any reason. Now, of course, there is the real problem that in the initial stages of a turnpike operation and in the crash stages of that operation -- and all these programs are crash programs, because the more rapidly you can get into operation the sooner you can be deriving the revenues which will meet your obligations and pay off the bonds and free the road -- and, therefore, every day you save is worth literally thousands of dollars. For this reason, it does need to be a crash

program. On the other hand, I do feel that this is not a sufficient reason for making a basic distinction in the operation of this agency from other agencies.

FRYE: Were you aware of the extent of Mr. Hammer's expenses?

GOVERNOR: I was not and am not yet. Now, I want to say this about this allegation of Mr. Hammer's expenses: For instance, the first article that I saw relative to a bill in some hotel in New York. I think it was \$400 and some odd dollars. It was reported in the paper that this was Mr. Hammer's expense. Of course, when I called him we discussed this particular matter and what's the story. And this is the story: first of all, this was not Mr. Hammer's expense. This was his expense and that of another member of the Authority. They had two bedrooms and a parlor, which was their office during a critical period as I understand it of the turnpike operations. Furthermore, and although the reported allegedly knew this and was shown the facts, he did not report it. A reimbursement was made at that time of a considerable portion of those expenses. Mr. and Mrs. Hammer and Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were there and it is my understanding that the bills were divided -- the food bill, the tips, the various other aspects of the operation, except for the parlor which was used for an office -- and these were paid from the personal funds of the individuals into the coffers of the Turnpike Authority to reimburse for the expenses apparently incurred at that time. If the audit establishes these to be the facts, then there has been, in my opinion, a significant misrepresentation of the facts and I am advised, without knowing personally, that the particular reporter was told these facts and declined to express them in his article. This, of course, is something that will be developed at a later date.

D. STARR: How about the gasoline, Governor, and automobile vouchers for December, which were pictured, do you have any comment on that?

GOVERNOR: I think that -- I don't know the details of that. What did it say particularly?

D. STARR: Well, I got the drift of it that he applied for 10 cents a mile and used state gasoline at the same time?

GOVERNOR: Well, I don't know about this -- whether this is true or not. If it is true, I think it is improper. I don't think it is illegal in all probability in the turnpike operation, but I think as a matter of practice they ought to stick to the 10 cents a mile all the way down the line.

TUTTLE: Why should he have the state supplied Buick -- the state purchased Buick -- and in addition there to this Chrysler?

GOVERNOR: Ought not to. I think that is a mistake of judgment at the least. However, let me say this: That was a real quick answer. Actually, I don't know what utilization was being made of the Buick automobile. If Mr. Hamner wanted to have an automobile of his own and charge for its use and it was used in connection with Turnpike business, this is perfectly all right. Now what use it was being used for, whether there was any duplication, I don't know those facts. And I think that nothing is going to be able to settle that question but an audit of the operation of the Authority. Mr. Hamner has assured me he has his own people working on these various allegations now and that he will be here in this office with a complete and satisfactory explanation. I want to say this, that in my judgment, again from reading the newspaper, this matter is going to be resolved at least in part in the litigation between Mr. Hamner and the newspaper involved and I will be very happy to see it resolved.

TUTTLE: How could he put 33,000 miles on that vehicle in one year and fly the Aero Commander 614 hours?

GOVERNOR: I don't know.

TUTTLE: It seems like he would have to be in the car eight hours a day at that rate.

GOVERNOR: Well, I think the records -- I don't know, I assume the speedometer shows the mileage. If it travelled that far, it may be evidence that he is working a lot harder than you thought he was.

TUTTLE: Well, why is this vehicle suddenly up for sale? Have you discussed that with him?

GOVERNOR: No, I did not discuss the sale of the vehicle with him. I suspect that when he saw it was a point of controversy -- if it is up for sale and he hasn't told me this, is it up for sale?

A. WALDRON: It is sold.

GOVERNOR: It is sold. I suspect that when it became a point of controversy, he would just rather get rid of it and forget about it. I don't know that though.

FRYE: What about the airplane business with the Pinellas County Circuit Judge?

GOVERNOR: What about it?

FRYE: The way that was handled? Apparently there was no -- the way I got the impression -- there was no agreement, no signed, it was sort of a verbal agreement?

A. WALDRON: The bills were typed up in the Turnpike Authority.

GOVERNOR: I will have to wait on Mr. Hammer's answer to this. I want to impress upon you that it's too early for me, and I think it's too early for you, to reach an administrative-like judgment on this operation. I know that the Turnpike is going ahead at a rapid and effective rate. I know this from my monthly reports. I know it from my visual, frequent inspections. I know, as well as you can know any of these things, not only from Mr. Hammer but from the construction people, Mr. Lewis and others, that it is going to be built within the funds available, that it's going to be a finer facility in quality than the one that was built from Miami to Fort Pierce and that Florida is going to have a facility of which it has every reason to be proud. Now, that does not reflect in any way upon these various items that have been pictured in the press. Those must be answered. But what I am saying to you is that a good job is being done and if there are improprieties in connection with the doing of that job, these must be corrected or remedied in whatever way the evidence indicates but until we have got some factual data to go on it is simply too early to reach a judgment.

TUTTLE: Governor, before we leave the details of this in some of these articles there was also reference to \$65 worth of orchids. Can you in any way in your mind establish a reason for that?

GOVERNOR: I understand that there was a reimbursement in connection with the orchids. Now, I can't give you the exact figures on that

but this is my understanding.

TUTTLE: Well, what was the basis for them being purchased out of Turnpike funds originally even if there was a reimbursement?

GOVERNOR: I don't know.

FRYE: This was secretaries of state officials?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

FRYE: What was the occasion for that?

GOVERNOR: I don't know. I am sure they all enjoyed them, but I have not found it necessary --

FRYE: I haven't noticed your secretary wearing orchids.

GOVERNOR: I am simply not prepared to answer that.

FRYE: Governor, do you think this is a matter of policy, this practice of spending turnpike funds and all this reimbursement back and forth for personal bills?

GOVERNOR: It is not a good way to handle, no, ma'am. That is not the way to handle it. Even if every cent has been reimbursed, that is not the way to handle it. However, there is quite a difference between a disagreement over a method of operation where the state, if that's a fact, does not suffer and a disagreement over an operation where the state does suffer.

MORRIS: Governor, of course this is a quibble, but since you said the state did not suffer, I noticed that the state sales tax was stricken from the orchid bill and it was not paid.

GOVERNOR: It should have been paid.

MORRIS: There would be no mechanics for making that up on the reimbursement?

GOVERNOR: No, it should have been paid. There is no question about it.

TUTTLE: Governor, isn't there also a tendency to apparently lag on this reimbursement since the day after the Times article appeared the Turnpike Authority suddenly had all these back payments?

GOVERNOR: Well, let me say this. These reimbursements about which I have been speaking to you so far and about which I was told on the initial day of this matter were ones that have been made months ago, that were not made pursuant to this investigation. However, we have a little rule of thumb that we follow in the office here in that we try to get all of our people in a very wide spread operation to follow. Whenever we discover something is wrong, whether it is pointed out to

us by a friend or enemy or whether we find it ourselves, our first rule is if you are wrong, get right. And on that first day without knowing what was coming or any of the details of the reimbursement which Mr. Hammer himself didn't have at that time, I said to him and he agreed, "Check back on this thing, and any place you are wrong, if you are, get right." And that I am sure is the instance for the reimbursements or other activities which I have read about as occurring. And I think that should be done in any situation.

TUTTLE: Has he offered his resignation?

GOVERNOR: No.

TUTTLE: Or have you discussed it with him at any time?

GOVERNOR: The matter has come up from time to time. I have not asked for his resignation, he has not offered his resignation.

TUTTLE: But, it has come up since these articles started appearing?

GOVERNOR: Right. In all the general conversations concerning it, yes.

D. STARR: Do you plan to replace him?

GOVERNOR: I have no plans relative to any administrative action until I know the facts in the situation.

DELANEY: Governor, in a situation such as the one you described a while ago where Mr. Hammer and Mr. Barnes, I believe, were in New York and had their respective wives with them, what would be the proper way to handle this --

GOVERNOR: Well, I will tell you how I think they handled it. Well, they should have divided it in all probability for appearances sake, at least, because in operating a public trust it is not only necessary that you avoid doing wrong, it is important that you avoid the appearance of doing wrong because you can do damage to public confidence with the appearance of doing wrong even if you are not doing wrong. I think the way it ought to have been handled would have been for this bill to have been divided at that time and they would have paid by their personal check the amount that they personally were liable and have the rest of it billed to the Turnpike Authority. I suspect, however, that leaving the hotel, probably in the morning, to get from the bookkeeper the detailed division and so forth, it was a lot simpler to say send us a bill and we will pay the thing out down at our office when we have a chance to divide it. I suspect that is what happened.

DELANEY: Is it your understanding that they made that reimbursement back at that time?

GOVERNOR: Yes, that's my understanding. As a matter of fact, I am advised that they have cancelled checks back from that time, establishing that and that these facts were made available to the reporter at the time he found the item itself.

FRYE: Doesn't the information about the double billing at the Hollywood Hotel indicate that this type of an operation is sloppy and that you don't know what the state might be losing or not losing? It looks like the type of thing you couldn't check on.

GOVERNOR: It is the type of thing that ought to be handled with a great deal more care and precision than has been done, at the least.

R. STARR: Governor, on another road subject -- Congressman Cramer has urged you to complete I-95. Do you have any further comment on that?

GOVERNOR: Well, I will be glad to do it if he will secure the passage of legislation which will give us all the funds that we are due up until 1972, in the year 1963-64. I didn't pass the federal legislation which was passed in a Republican administration spreading this program out over the years ending 1972, but if he and the other Republicans will accomplish that purpose we will be glad to build it all now.

TUTTLE: Governor, not to belabor this point, but what is your reaction to Representative Fred Karl's and Senator John Mathews' suggestion of an investigation of all these bond programs by the Legislature?

GOVERNOR: I think the Legislature has a complete right, if not a duty, to make any investigation it deems desirable to inform itself in any way that it needs to for the preparation of legislation to accomplish the purposes which it feels is in the good of the state. Now, I read rather hastily, I admit, the story about Mr. Karl's statement yesterday in this morning's paper -- I had guests for breakfast and didn't get to read the paper as carefully as I normally like to do -- but I think when we are investigating this whole revenue financing program which is a fine thing and the Legislature can well be informed, we ought to keep in mind that the obligations that the state commits itself to and the Legislature commits itself to are not just those repre-