

NEWS CONFERENCE  
GOVERNOR FARRIS BRYANT  
TALLAHASSEE  
OCTOBER 31, 1963

NEWSMEN PARTICIPATING: Vernon Bradford, TAMPA TRIBUNE; Robert W. Delaney, ORLANDO SENTINEL; Barbara Prye, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL; David Gretsch, FREELANCE; Jim Hagan, FLORIDA BROADCAST NEWS; Jerry Mock, JOHN H. FERRY PAPERS; Allen Morris, CRACKER POLITICS; Frank Noel, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Steve Prentice, FLORIDA BROADCAST NEWS; Doug Starr, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Ray Starr, ABC RADIO; George Thurston, WJXT, WFLA; John Turner, WPGA, WTVJ; Martin Waldron, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES-MIAMI HERALD SERVICE.

GOVERNOR: Good afternoon.

SEVERAL: Good afternoon, Governor.

GOVERNOR: I am glad to be back and I am glad to be here now. I would like to start this news conference by making an introduction to you, which has a particular meaning for me. Sometime after nomination for Governor and before election, I spoke to a group of businessmen in Florida about the necessity for supporting higher education to a greater degree than we had ever done before. The plans were not formulated then as they have been since that time, but one of those businessmen present moved by those remarks and those ideas wanted to try to do something about this problem. It was Mr. Friedland of the Food Fair Chain. He established therefore a fund, which he is paying on an annual basis to the Education and Research Foundation and through that to the University of Florida for the establishment of the Food Fair Professor of Marketing at the College of Business Administration at the University of Florida. That professor has now been selected and is at work. He is Dr. M. S. Heidingsfield. Prior to his current affiliation, he was the Associate Dean and Professor of Marketing at the College of Commerce and Finance of Villanova University. He has been a Manager of Market Research for RCA Sales Corporation. I have some biographical data on him here that I would like to give to you because I think you will be impressed by it, too. But with this preliminary, I would like to present to you Dr. Heidingsfield at this time. Dr. Heidingsfield, would you mind stepping up here a moment.

I wanted to say to you publicly, and through you to Food Fair, and really through you to every one of the business people that are doing so much to advance the cause of Florida out of a true civic interest how grateful we are for your presence and for the prestige and the learning that you are going to bring to the University of

fishermen along Florida's West Coast? If you are, sir, do you have any comment on it?

GOVERNOR: No, I am not. What are they demonstrating?

R.STARR: They claim that they want more money for what they are doing and the packagers don't feel that way. Thought we might have another Florida East Coast situation on the West Coast?

GOVERNOR: This is the shrimp fishermen? Their desire is certainly normal. Most of my staff does the same thing. (laughter)

DELANEY: Speaking of your staff, last weekend while you were away your executive aide who was sort of acting governor allowed not only the University of Florida, but Florida State and A. and M. to get beaten. Do you think he was living up to his responsibility?

GOVERNOR: That was one reason I rushed home. (laughter)

FRYE: Has he discussed his resignation plans with you?

GOVERNOR: Not lately, no.

R.STARR: Governor, have you been brought up to date on the probe by your office of gambling in the State of Florida?

GOVERNOR: Oh, yes.

R.STARR: Can you give us any more on it, sir, than we already have?

GOVERNOR: Let me put this in proper perspective. Sometime before I left I was asked about these federal activities. They are continuing. Every now and then some arrests are made in a particular field and to the public eye it looks as though there was a sudden flurry of activity, but these are continuing. Regularly there is laid on my desk by Mr. Enrich a summary of the activities by all law enforcement agencies of which he has knowledge in Florida. And most of the time they are working up this case or that one or the other and after months of work it culminates in some arrests, but the incidence of arrests or the statement by somebody in Washington doesn't create a cycle of criminal activity in this state nor of investigative activity. So when I said that there was nothing unusual going on, that was completely accurate. These efforts by all the law enforcement agencies, including the F.B.I., to work in the Central Florida area, and the Tampa groups and the Miami groups, activities of the Beverage Department and others is normal and continuing. And we are in contact with all law enforcement agencies of Florida in that regard.

DELANEY: There was a report in Gainesville last week, Governor, that a large number of the Florida legislators and members of the Congressional Delegation felt that if an election were held today that Senator Goldwater would carry Florida over President Kennedy. Do you have any views on that?

GOVERNOR: I have nothing to add. I have not been in touch with the electorate since my trip and I have nothing to add to previous expressions.

DELANEY: I don't recall, had you --

GOVERNOR: We will make the text available to you so that you will have it in full detail.

FRYE: Didn't you say that on "Meet the Press"?

GOVERNOR: We have texts of that, too.

FRYE: Do you?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

FRYE: You don't trust anybody. (laughter)

GOVERNOR: No, they make them and send you 300 copies, as a matter of fact. I think I still have 299 of them left. (laughter) Are there other questions?

R.STARR: What are your plans for election day, sir, are you going to Ocala to vote?

GOVERNOR: Yes, after Cabinet meeting.

R.STARR: And then come back here?

GOVERNOR: Yes.

R.STARR: Would there be an opportunity if this is favorable the following day for you to meet the press? Or if it is not favorable to give us your comments on the election?

GOVERNOR: I would be glad to meet under any circumstances. I think it is sufficiently significant if you want to push it up to Wednesday.

D.STARR: Will you be available at the Mansion Tuesday night?

GOVERNOR: I will probably be available Tuesday night, assuming that I come back immediately after voting. I don't have any fixed plans. But if I am in town, I will be glad to be available.

D.STARR: Will you be available in Ocala?

GOVERNOR: If you can find me. (laughter) I mean I won't be hiding, but I am not going to be hanging around a telephone waiting for your

call.

FRYE: Would you mind making out two statements, one for each -  
(laughter)

GOVERNOR: That might be a help. Are there other questions?

SEVERAL: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Thank you.

Florida and the impetus that you are giving us to build a greater institution of higher learning in the state.

HEIDINGSFIELD: Thank you very much, Governor.

GOVERNOR: We have got a great state and we need great people guiding us in it, and I hope that your tenure at the University of Florida will be as pleasant and fruitful for you as I know it will be profitable for the State of Florida.

HEIDINGSFIELD: Thank you. That is very kind of you, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Do you have any remarks that you would like to address to this group?

HEIDINGSFIELD: Well, I am brand new in Florida, and I am delighted to be here. And I feel very strongly that under the leadership of Governor Bryant we are going to become one of the great centers of higher education and that's why I came.

GOVERNOR: Thank you. Higher praise you couldn't give.

HEIDINGSFIELD: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Are there questions?

D.STARR: Would you give us the first name of the Food Fair man?

GOVERNOR: Friedland. George Friedland.

R.STARR: Governor, in Japan you talked about Mr. Gromyko and the Russians and the Chairman of the U.S.S.R. stopping of their moon program. You said that you hoped that the Nova program wouldn't stop in Florida. There are now rumblings from Congress that Nova may be slowed down. What can the Governor's Office here do to get this program rolling for Florida?

GOVERNOR: We can and have conveyed to those friends with whom we have some voice in Washington our feeling on this subject matter first of all - that we ought not to be governed in our activities in this field by the announced plans of the Russian government. We ought not on the one hand to be in the business of conducting our defense on the basis of putting out fires or on the other hand that when they announce that the fire is already out to withdraw our forces. I think it would be very foolish to do this. I'm not convinced that just because Chairman Khrushchev says that they have slowed up that they have therefore slowed. I don't think that there is any demonstrable relationship between what he says about their program and what in fact is their

program. I think that if the moon is worth going to, it is worth going to whether the Russians are going to get there or not. I think, if anything, if accepted at face value or otherwise the statement by the Chairman is evidence that we are ahead and it is because we are ahead that he makes his statement whether they stop their effort or not and that we ought not to give up the advantage that we have so hardly won.

BRADFORD: Governor, have you received the audit report on the Development Commission?

GOVERNOR: No, sir, I have not.

BRADFORD: Have you had any indication about when it might be forthcoming?

GOVERNOR: I have not. Have you, Mr. Kynes?

KYNES: No, sir, I have not.

GOVERNOR: No, we have not.

WALDRON: Has anybody made a poll on the prospect of the Amendment No. 2 passing next Tuesday?

GOVERNOR: I believe the St. Petersburg Times conducted one.

WALDRON: That was only one area - do you know the statewide poll?

GOVERNOR: I do not.

WALDRON: Have you had any indication since you've been back that it might be in trouble?

GOVERNOR: No, except from the great danger, and it is a great danger, of apathy, I think the overwhelming consensus of the people of Florida is that it ought to pass. I recognize that when people go into the poll unless they are convinced their tendency is to vote "no," that in a situation of this kind you lose all the votes of those who are against it and you also lose those who are in doubt or in ignorance. You must, therefore, have an affirmative majority to do the job. This is a great danger.

FRYE: You felt, when you left here, very optimistic about it. Do you feel the same way now, has anything changed?

GOVERNOR: Nothing has changed. I am very, very pleased at the activities that have been conducted. We have been getting reports from some areas that we were a little bit doubtful about that look much improved since that time.

BRADFORD: Governor, do you think that the fact that there has been some opposition to one or more of these other proposed amendments might have an adverse effect on the bond issue?

GOVERNOR: I think that is highly so. I believe that where you have the three of them running together there that a tendency follows from a negative determination on one to vote negatively on the others. I don't think, however, that this is significant. I believe that Amendments 2 and 3 will both pass if the vote is representative.

FRYE: What about one?

GOVERNOR: I have not been in close touch with one. I really haven't paid much attention to it or tried to sound out feelings on it.

WALDRON: Well, will you make any kind of statewide television appeal between now and then?

GOVERNOR: No. I do expect to fill a long-standing engagement with the Central Florida Showcase for this weekend and I would not be surprised if that topic did come up.

FRYE: When is that?

GOVERNOR: Saturday evening.

FRYE: In Orlando?

GOVERNOR: Yes, ma'am, the home of you-know-what newspaper. (laughter)

WALDRON: Corner Cupboard? (laughter)

PRENTICE: Do you expect the vote to be representative?

GOVERNOR: No, I don't think it can be ever, really. I think that the sentiment taken by a poll where you go out among the people will reflect a greater percentage for the proposal than the one that will be cast at the poll.

FRYE: It sounds like you are saying then that you don't think it will pass?

GOVERNOR: It is going to pass, but I am worried because of the possibility of apathy which is an unmeasurable factor.

GRETSCH: Governor, in Orange, Leon and Hamilton Counties there are corresponding bond issues for capital outlay. Do you think there will be any adverse, or otherwise, effect due to all these revenue issues coming up?

GOVERNOR: I would not think so.

GRETSCH: You don't see any feeling of overbonding?

GOVERNOR: I would think that the impetus gained by those local people pushing for their local programs would be beneficial to the general program.

FRYE: Governor, what will you do if the college bond issue is rejected?

GOVERNOR: Think about it.

FRYE: What will your next step be?

GOVERNOR: I would think about it then and see what ought to be done.

FRYE: You haven't thought about it?

GOVERNOR: No, I really haven't formulated any plans about what might be done.

BRADFORD: Would a special session of the Legislature be one of those things about which you would think?

GOVERNOR: Among many. I would like not to give any idea that I am contemplating calling a special session because I am not. Obviously, that is one of the alternatives that you would turn over in your mind.

R.STARR: Governor, if the local bond issue is beneficial what about this complicated ballot down in Dade County which is one of the most populated counties we have in our state. Do you think that this will help or hurt the bond proposal?

GOVERNOR: I would think that it would help, because it will call out a larger and more representative segment of the population and that will be beneficial to the college building amendment and the recreational amendment.

R.STARR: Would it be beneficial to the others also?

GOVERNOR: What others?

R.STARR: The off-year election?

GOVERNOR: I would assume so.

WALDRON: Governor, have you taken any active interest in the situation in St. Augustine?

GOVERNOR: Yes, I have. I have been briefed on it thoroughly and have seen to it that steps were taken to insure so far as it is possible that the rights of individuals are properly protected.

WALDRON: Well, were you the one that sent the Highway Patrol in?

GOVERNOR: I am the Governor.

THURSTON: Governor, could you tell us what specific steps you have taken in that regard?



GOVERNOR: The Sheriffs Bureau is active in the area, the Florida Highway Patrol, by coincidence, is conducting an operation crackdown tied in with the safety program in that area at this time, our office investigators have been closely in touch with the situation and in the area if necessary, and coordination has been established between various law enforcement agencies to insure that everything is done that ought to be done.

FRYE: Have you personally talked to the sheriff down there?

GOVERNOR: No, ma'am, he has been talked with by Mr. Kynes, however, several times - or at least one time - since I have been back, perhaps more.

D.STARR: You didn't outlaw dove hunting in that area? (laughter)

GOVERNOR: Not yet, no.

FRYE: Governor, have you discussed with Mr. Jarrard the possibility of his resignation?

GOVERNOR: Well, I heard from the press the other day and told them that I wanted to check into the situation before making any comment. I haven't had, in talking with the press, the full opportunity to do so, but I do want to make this position of mine clear. I anticipate that over this next 14 months there will be various of those persons who have come here to Tallahassee at my behest who will be making their plans for future activities beyond 1964. I want them to discuss these with me fully because I need to make my plans for '64 based on what they are going to do. For that reason I am going to refrain, unless they give me specific authority, from discussing their plans and would suggest that on any occasion when you desire to know what they plan to do that you go to the party directly concerned and seek information there.

D.STARR: What do you plan to do in 1964?

GOVERNOR: Practice law.

FRYE: In 1964?

GOVERNOR: Oh, 1964.

D.STARR: After '64? I mean after you leave the Governor's Office?

GOVERNOR: I plan to practice law. However, I mean in '64 there will be those undoubtedly who will be making other arrangements. I don't want them to say, "well, if we go talk to the Governor about it then

when they ask him at press conference what we said all our private plans will be revealed." I think, therefore, it is better that I not discuss their plans if they discuss them with me, but that I refer you to them.

BRADFORD: Would it be your advice, Governor, to one of your Little Cabinet Members who might seek a public office that he resign from the appointive office when he makes that decision?

GOVERNOR: I don't think I would have to advise any of them. I think that would follow, not when he makes the decision necessarily, but when the time comes to become a candidate.

WALDRON: At one time during your career as Governor you indicated that you might like to teach after you retire from this office. Have you given up that idea?

GOVERNOR: Well, I haven't had any offers. (laughter)

FRYE: You mean your trial balloon didn't work? (laughter)

R.STARR: Governor, General Richard Ervin told us that until you got back there would be no decision made on the Seadade-Islandia situation. Will there be something forthcoming on this before the I. I. Board meets?

GOVERNOR: No.

R.STARR: Will it come up in the next meeting?

GOVERNOR: I haven't had a chance to review this with the members of the Cabinet because - frankly, I rushed back from Japan and rode into town at two o'clock at night to be back for Cabinet meeting only to find that they apparently had not counted on my being back so soon and there was no Cabinet meeting. But I have not had a chance to review with the members of the I. I. Board the developments in that deal and don't want to make any statement until I do. I did make a statement before I left about my general views concerning the Seadade proposal.

DELANEY: Governor, Senator Scott Kelly in a recent speech blamed you for the need for the money and used the words "fiscal irresponsibility" in regard to this higher education. Do you care to comment on that? Are you familiar with his speech?

GOVERNOR: No, I really am not. If you ask a specific question, I will be glad to respond to it, but I haven't read his remarks.

FRYE: Are you fiscally irresponsible? (laughter)

GOVERNOR: I haven't gotten my bank statement yet, but I may be. As

you-know, I have been close to being. (laughter)

DELANEY: No, his inference was that the reason was this was needed was because of a failure to recognize needs in 1961. You have heard before I am sure.

GOVERNOR: Well, during those years in which the Senator served in the Senate of the State of Florida and a number of other years, the need - for eleven years prior to 1961 there was only a total of 60 million dollars for capital outlay for institutions of higher learning. To say that the need accumulated in one two-year period - I would also point out to you that if there had been any shortage occasioned by that one period that it would have been more than caught up by the \$25 million bond issue that was floated. I would like also to point out that in fact the capital outlay money appropriated and spent after the '61 Legislature was greater than had been the average during those years and that in fact we not only caught up the buildings at two of the universities which were carried over from the previous administration because there were inadequate funds to build them, but that we went ahead with the largest program that had been authorized in the past. We did more building after '61 than had been the experience in previous years. Now, we may not have authorized more money, but we did more building - we actually built what we had appropriated for. Of course, what they failed to do - I am speaking when I say "they" I mean the Senator in his '59 and '57 sessions when I wasn't here.

BRADFORD: Governor, regarding your alleged fiscal irresponsibility, has anybody been keeping track of the \$50 million a year savings that Mr. Evans started sometime ago?

GOVERNOR: We are working on the third 50 now. (laughter) As a matter of fact that has been saved so many times that it hardly needs recounting. (laughter) The last addition to it of any great significance being the Road Department savings, which is almost half of it at one fell swoop.

WALDRON: Did you take a communal bath in Japan?

GOVERNOR: No, I didn't have that privilege. (laughter)

WALDRON: How did you like the food?

GOVERNOR: It was beautifully prepared. (laughter)

DELANEY: Last week in Gainesville, Governor, the president of Eastern

Airlines made a statement that airlines people don't feel that a new airport is needed in the Jacksonville area, but that the \$20 million federal funds that might be used there should be better spent down in the Pensacola-Daytona Beach-Orlando area. Do you have any knowledge on this or do you have any thoughts on it?

GOVERNOR: Well, some of my friends are in favor of the Jacksonville situation, and some of them are in favor of the Orlando situation - I stand with my friends. (laughter)

DELANEY: There is a real solid position.

GOVERNOR: Actually, I don't know anything about it, as you well know.

D.STARR: He also said that there were a lot of tourists being flown over Florida and down into the Islands and that something should be done to stop them somewhere in Florida?

GOVERNOR: I agree with him. We are not only trying to do that - I wouldn't put it on the basis of stopping them in Florida. We are trying to do everything we can to attract them to Florida, including using Florida as a base of operations if they want to slip off to the Islands for a day while they are on their Florida vacation. This is a fine thing to do. It broadens our own attraction, but Florida continues to be the tourist mecca of the world and this is what we want to make it and keep it.

TURNER: Governor, I have heard people express concern over the Florida exhibit charging \$2.00 admission fee at the World's Fair when 75 per cent of the exhibits are free. Do you think this is detrimental at all in the role of the exhibit?

GOVERNOR: I don't think it costs money to get into the exhibit. That is money into the separate parts of it, is it not? I am not familiar with the rate schedule on it.

TURNER: Yes, sir, I think the Porpoise Pool for one thing.

GOVERNOR: It costs \$2.00. Well, now that is a different matter entirely. Obviously, it would be better operated free, obviously that would take more money from Florida pockets to make it free. I think that if we can make the exhibit so attractive that people will pay the price and feel that they have gotten value for their money, we would have done a superior job.

R.STARR: Governor, are you aware of this demonstration of shrimp