

NEWS CONFERENCE
GOVERNOR PARRIS BRYANT
TALLAHASSEE
SEPTEMBER 5, 1963

NEWSMEN PARTICIPATING: Vernon Bradford, TAMPA TRIBUNE; Robert W. Delaney, ORLANDO SENTINEL-STAR; James Gillespy, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL; David Gretsch, FREELANCE; Jerry Mock, JOHN H. PERRY PAPERS; Allen Morris, CRACKER POLITICS; Tom Baker, INSIDE POLITICS; Doug Starr, ASSOCIATED PRESS; Ray Starr, ABC RADIO; George Thurston, WFLA, WJXT; John Turner, WFGA, WTJV.

GOVERNOR: Good morning.

GILLESPY: Gene Fisher was here in the office yesterday. By any chance have you gotten a recommendation from the Milk Commission for a new administrator?

GOVERNOR: No.

GILLESPY: His was just a social visit?

GOVERNOR: Well, I didn't have the opportunity to see Mr. Fisher yesterday so I don't know whether it was social or not.

D.STARR: Governor, Saturday you are going down to Tampa to kick off your bond issue drive program, would you care to discuss that today, sir?

GOVERNOR: Well, I certainly am very anxious that you use your good offices as much as you can to acquaint the people of Florida with the details of the program and that, of course, is what the Tampa meeting is designed to initiate. It is the organization movement of a group of citizens who believe that in this new era Florida simply has to make a significant and affirmative response to this challenge. We will organize from the level of state chairmen through district chairmen all over the state through county organizations, and I hope convey to everyone who is interested full information about the program.

D.STARR: When will you name Mr. and Mrs. "X"?

GOVERNOR: Saturday.

D.STARR: You will name them Saturday?

GOVERNOR: Yes, they will be announced at the luncheon on Saturday. The luncheon, incidentally, is at the Floridan Hotel at 12:30 and it's open to everyone who is interested in promoting this college building amendment.

BRADFORD: Is it likewise open to those who might have some reservations or questions about it?

forms?

GOVERNOR: Well, I can recall some of the things that I am sure have motivated candidates in the past races. Once a candidate says, "I am a candidate and I am running," civic clubs which can't get into politics can't invite him to speak anymore. Now this is a very practical consideration. No candidate wants to be barred from all non-partisan civic clubs and, therefore, he wouldn't want to come out and make such a statement, not for any dishonest purpose, but he just want to keep on spreading his message.

D.STARR: Another quibble in other words?

GOVERNOR: If you please. But, it seems to be a perfectly legitimate concern of a candidate.

MORRIS: Governor, do you believe that some public officer should be given the responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of this law?

GOVERNOR: Yes, I do.

MORRIS: Secretary of State?

GOVERNOR: I think that somebody should.

D.STARR: What's the penalty for not complying?

GOVERNOR: If you fail to do so, and that is established by law, you forfeit office, which is a fairly significant penalty. (laughter)

MORRIS: The penalty applies only to the winners?

GOVERNOR: That is correct. But then he is the only one who has anything to lose.

D.STARR: Losers win, in other words.

GOVERNOR: You do make a nice point there, Mr. Morris. It shows the great difficulty and we might just as well face it that you ought not to put artificial barriers in the way of the right of a people to select whom they wish to fill an office. Now they may make fools of themselves in their selection, but that is one of the great American privileges, because a man who appears to be a fool today may not look so foolish tomorrow. And not only that, many times people have been apparently improperly elected and yet have developed in their office to show a capacity which the public in its wisdom saw and the individual in his evaluation did not see.

DELANEY: Governor, after a man becomes a declared candidate and begins filing reports, is he not restricted on what he can spend money for? Isn't that one of the real reasons, too?

GOVERNOR: Well, yes. I think the restrictions are fairly liberal, as I recall, you can spend them for travel. I don't recall just what those restrictions are.

DELANEY: But all the expenditures after that point must be reported on the campaign contribution expense report?

GOVERNOR: That's correct. All expenditures related to the campaign. Are there other questions?

RAKER: Governor, I'd like to ask if you have any comment one way or the other on Senator Adams' statement yesterday in regard to his opening of a campaign depository? Have you given any thought on it?

GOVERNOR: No, I don't know whether the prohibition against my making a contribution to that depository or whether there are such prohibitions or not, but I am not entering into that race any more than I am any other race. I feel that I ought not to do so. (laughter)

DELANEY: You spoke a moment ago about the most difficult of opponents, I think, in relation to the Everglades Highway?

GOVERNOR: Did I say difficult?

DELANEY: Well, I think you said something about trying to please the most difficult opposition - and I was wondering if since last week you have consulted any ecclesiastical advisors on whether or not the Deity really was opposed to the Turnpike? (laughter)

GOVERNOR: No, but in still quiet moments I heard no voice.

DELANEY: Are the rains still coming down?

GOVERNOR: I haven't had a report since last week, so I had better check on that. (laughter)

SEVERAL: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR: Thank you.

GOVERNOR: Yes, and I would anticipate that they would be there. As a matter of fact, I am very hopeful that those who do have reservations will be there, because the best response to those reservations in my judgment is full knowledge of that program.

R.STARR: Have you heard many brickbats thrown against this program around the state, Governor?

GOVERNOR: No, I have not. There are, I know, reservations in the minds of some people, but by and large the resistance or objections, if there are any, have been relatively passive.

R.STARR: Have you heard about any of the speeches Mr. Holley is delivering in St. Petersburg against the proposal?

GOVERNOR: I have heard that he was opposed to it, but I hadn't heard any of the details. It doesn't surprise me, though it does distress me.

DELANEY: Governor, Mr. Alligood, who is connected with the Society of Engineers, has been here the last couple of days and said yesterday he came here partially as a result of concern in the engineering profession that while this program was more or less sold on the basis of strengthened education programs for engineers that there was some fear on the part of some of the engineers that this would not materialize. Have you been able to relieve his anxiety on this concern?

GOVERNOR: I have not talked with him, however it seems to me there could be very little foundation for such fear. I think initially the fact that one of the specific appropriations for the Central Florida area is the establishment of a branch of the engineering school at the University of Florida. Of course, the Engineering School, with its new Dean and the emphasis that has been placed on it throughout this administration, has grown rather rapidly. The new architectural - I am not sure of the full name of the building, but this tremendous new graphic science building at the university in this related field is one evidence of the progress that we are making. And I think anyone must recognize that engineering will and does play a large part in plans for this expanded educational program.

DELANEY: I think some of them seem to fear that engineering was not getting the kind of priority they felt it should in the plans?

GOVERNOR: I think it's very healthy. I am quite sure that everyone interested in a particular field will think that his field is not getting sufficient emphasis in this. For instance, there is no law school in it at all, but this is part of the problem as well as part of the answer. It has to be a balanced program, and I am confident that it will meet the needs as they arise in the priority that will be established.

D.STARR: On a related subject, Governor, Fred Karl made a speech yesterday in which he suggested that you lay down guidelines and safeguards in your outdoor recreation program. What do you think about that?

GOVERNOR: Well, I don't know just what he's talking about. I think, of course, it's a very wise observation. He would, of course, be aware of the activities of the Bond Review Board and the safeguards that are put into the law at that level. He would, of course, be conscious, because he voted for the amendment itself, of the reservations there. He would, of course, be aware of the reservations or the safeguards in the implementing bill because it passed by 112 to 2, and I am confident that he was one of those. I think he is aware - I hope everyone is - of the fact that we are proceeding towards the development of this plan in open meetings by the Outdoor Recreational Planning Committee, the executive branch of this organization, and from there we are taking the recommendations to the full Cabinet as the Outdoor Recreational Development Council. And all of these steps are designed to insure that there is a full public discussion, that we get the best minds to work on this problem that are available, that we use the full resources of knowledge that we have, and that we achieve the maximum results for improved outdoor recreational facilities. However, let me say this, if there are other reservations or safeguards that ought to be taken then certainly I am anxious to take them and would welcome - and I don't say this in any facetious or reserved fashion at all - would welcome those suggestions.

GILLESPIE: As I recall what Representative Karl said, Governor, he seemed to have some fear that unless watched closely or some safeguards were put on it that there was a possibility that the state could be sold what he called white elephants. He wanted to be certain

that the state got full value for the money they laid out for land.

GOVERNOR: Very good. Actually, as you observed at the last two meetings, which most of you attended both of the committee and the council, the first thing that we are doing is cataloging everything that we know of to be available - the state land, the governmental land that is available at various levels and that which is available by purchase, or lease, or donation, or otherwise, so far as we know it, and as you observe, the criteria being established as to its desirability for the purposes that we have in mind. Now, in addition to that we are trying to develop on the basis of the information that was produced some months ago the needs in the terms of where we need the lands or other facilities and what land or other facilities are required. And then these two are going to be matched up and through the use of qualified appraisers and real estate people upon review of the committee and the council action will be taken. I believe that every safeguard that anyone could hope to have will be taken as there ought to be.

BRADFORD: Governor, what is the status of the Everglades toll road? That hasn't reached the Bond Review Board status yet, has it?

GOVERNOR: No, sir, it has not.

BRADFORD: Isn't it rather unusual in these days to build a two-lane toll road?

GOVERNOR: Well, I know of some - the Sunshine Bridge -

BRADFORD: That's an unusual thing.

GOVERNOR: Yes, most toll roads are unusual. I think the Buccaneer Trail is possibly two-lane, I don't know it has been a long, long time since I have been over it, the Canaveral Causeway.

BRADFORD: Is the Buccaneer Trail still paying its way or is the state still --

GOVERNOR: I think the state is subsidizing the Buccaneer Trail. Let me say about that - I noticed a question in the press somewhere about the possibility of restrictions and reservations - one thing that I have insisted upon since the proposal was first suggested and will continue to insist upon until if and when it materializes - there will not be anything that even the most difficult critic could point at as being a restriction of any kind. We are going to bend way over

backward: to see to it that there is no competing restriction of any kind to keep you from improving a parallel sand road or 41 or 27 or doing anything of that kind. Now, I think this is probably the wish of the people of Florida. We ought to recognize that when you do this it does, of course, increase the interest costs a little bit more than it would have been in all probability if you had had restrictions, but in this case the feasibility studies are not predicated upon any restrictions or if they are they have got to be redone. And my recollection is that they are not, but if they are that's out of the window. And I can assure everyone that the construction of this road will stand on its own bottom, that it will be supported either by the tolls of those who desire to go upon it, if they do, or by the secondary funds of the counties that desire to build it.

GILLESPIE: Governor, would you still support this if the powers that are seeking approval of the extension of I-75 from Tampa to Miami are successful in getting this extension?

GOVERNOR: Well, let me say that I am one of the powers, to the extent that the Governor has any power, that is seeking this and my conversations with Mr. Rex Whitton of the Bureau of Public Roads, with Senator Holland, with Senator Smathers - I don't recall that I have discussed it with any congressmen - but have convinced me beyond any shadow of a doubt that prior to 1972, there is no chance of securing such an extension. Now Florida has secured what I believe to be the longest extension in its interstate program that has been instituted since the original program and that is the by-pass at Jacksonville - the Jacksonville bypass of Interstate 95 tying into the bridge on the St. Johns south of Jacksonville at the Naval base there. But except for this relatively few miles, there simply is not a possibility of that extension. Now the Bureau of Public Roads people tell me that about 1967 or '68 or some such time they will begin submitting to Congress in all probability, assuming that the program goes along as we anticipate it, a proposal for the extension of the entire system which will be effective sometime from 1973 on - that is after the completion of this program. But that up to that time there simply is not any thought of this kind of extension. Now I am quite aware that Senator Holland and Senator Smathers have introduced

legislation to secure an extension and they are very wise to do so. And they are going to continue to introduce such legislation in succeeding congresses so that we can be ready for any eventuality, but I am convinced that this will not in any way deter the advance of Florida in the procurement of the extension of Interstate 75. This is not in any way in my judgment a substitute for that proposal.

GILLESPIE: Then, sir, when both are built - should they both be built - they wouldn't be incompatible - wouldn't there be a possibility that I-75 would take away tolls from the toll road?

GOVERNOR: That is a possibility which I am confident the traffic people have considered in making their estimates. If they haven't they are less astute than I give them credit for being. But that is a possibility that is of no concern directly to the state, in the sense that there are no state monies going into this program. I am confident, from the studies that I have seen, that in the first two years of operation of this toll facility it will be supported completely by tolls and that by 1972 or 73 the growth of that tremendous area (remember, this is between two of the fastest growing counties in the fastest growing state in the nation) will be such that it will actually support it.

BRADFORD: Governor, you said you thought it should be supported by the tolls from the project itself or by secondary road monies of the counties involved. Do you have any reservations about using primary road monies?

GOVERNOR: I am opposed to the use of primary road money to any extent greater than has been wrapped into the existing program as it is outlined for construction. That is, nothing beyond this initial phase of the program. After that, no responsibility. Now this is not a philosophic proposition, this is just the understanding upon which the construction of the road has been submitted, and it doesn't mean that you would never use any primary monies anywhere on any program, but it's just that on this particular one that's the way it has been designed and it seems to me it's been well designed.

R. STARR: Governor, Senator John Pastore has released this week a list of governors who he contacted about Federal Communications Rule 315, the rescinding of equal time. He said that thirty governors said that they were for, on the gubernatorial level, to do away with this restriction. He said that you were one of three governors who took no

stand for or against it. Can you tell us why, sir?

GOVERNOR: Yes. I have tried to keep out of the next gubernatorial race on all levels as best I can. I have not had an opportunity to really study Section 315 and, of course, I had rather an unfortunate experience in the equal time area in my own campaign, which, I think probably effected my views somewhat. And for these reasons I did not take a stand on it.

R. STARR: Well, do you have any views on it, sir?

GOVERNOR: Yes. In what area?

R. STARR: Well, do you think that it is right with presidential and vice presidential working under this equal time rule, generally, do you think it should work on the gubernatorial level?

GOVERNOR: Yes, I do. Now, one of the great difficulties is the one that arose in my own race when I was denied any time on certain television stations until next to the last day before the primary, although I had sought it diligently for months. And then at the last moment it was granted to the opposition so they called me up and said "We will give you time, but we're going to give him a time at 8 o'clock and we'll give you time at 10 or 11 o'clock -- equal time, you understand." The opportunity for evasion are multitudinous and yet, I suppose, some variation is inevitable and I really haven't been able to work out in my own mind a conviction about it which I felt was worthy of the attention of the Senate of the United States.

D. STARR: Governor, several counties in Florida this week desegregated schools for the first time, and all went very smoothly compared to anything and especially compared to some of the other Southern states. Would you care to comment on what caused this quiet desegregation?

GOVERNOR: Well, I think that what has happened in Florida has been in large part the result of the Pupil Assignment Law and its operation. This was set up by the Legislature in 1955, and control in these matters was relegated, as it ought to be, to the counties. The people at home are making their decisions about how best to approach these problems from area to area and school to school, and I think they are doing a remarkably good job of it. They live in a changing legal context and they are subject to vast pressures from all kinds, but it is the American way, I think, to leave the resolution of these problems as nearly as possible to the people in the local areas and that is the avenue we are following here in Florida. Now we are providing for local school boards

all the assistance we can possibly give them to accomplish the objectives in this area that they indicate they want to accomplish and the assistance of the Attorney General, and the assistance of this office have been continuously available and frequently used. We don't try to drive them to a conclusion but when they have reached a conclusion we do everything that we can to facilitate its activation.

DELANEY: Governor, you said a moment ago that you had tried to avoid getting involved in this coming governor's race and, without suggesting that we are trying to draw you into it, I wonder if you will answer this question. In this campaign that's in the formative stages now as has been true in the past, there are a number of people who have told friends that they are running for office -- statewide office -- now I am not confining this to the Governor's Office, they have not begun filing campaign reports that they are supposed to file under the Florida Election Law after telling anyone that they are going to become a candidate. Do you think that this is proper?

GOVERNOR: Well, let me say that I am not familiar with your predicate that anybody has told anybody else. I can only tell you what guided me and what, I think, obviously is the proper guideline. The law specifically says that a man shall be a candidate from the time that he tells someone that he is a candidate, not from the time that he forms the intent, not from the time he starts speaking to civic clubs, not from the time he starts doing anything on the contingency that if he runs it will be available. And I think that the candidate should live by that law. They should not tell anybody that they are a candidate until they are ready to comply with the requirements of the law and then when they are ready, to proceed and do so.

DELANEY: Isn't that quibbling, really, when a man is for all obvious purposes out campaigning for an office?

GOVERNOR: The quibble is in the law.

DELANEY: Well, is there any way to change this in your mind?

GOVERNOR: Only by legislative action. A candidate ought not to be penalized in the public mind because he is living within the terms of a -- if you please -- quibbling law. This is a standard which has been set up. A different one could have been set up, but I don't think a candidate ought to be punished or penalized in the public mind for complying with the quibbling restrictions which have, in that particular instance, been established.

DELANEY: Well, how could this be changed in your estimation? What legislative change would you recommend?

GOVERNOR: Well, that's a vast question, and I think I will reserve my recommendations for the next Legislature should they ask them.
(laughter)

D.STARR: What happens when a candidate tells his wife he is going to run, I mean certainly she knows?

GOVERNOR: If he tells his wife he is under the law then a candidate. I shouldn't say that so broadly because I don't know whether it's under the law or not, but in common concept they are one and any communication between them really is not a communication to another person.

D.STARR: It's about like talking to yourself isn't it? (laughter)

GOVERNOR: That's right. (laughter)

THURSTON: Sometime it is about that effective. (laughter)

GOVERNOR: You said that. (laughter)

THURSTON: Do you feel personally that the law should be strictly construed or that it should be liberally construed within a broad common sense meaning of tell another person? How formally do you have to tell them?

GOVERNOR: I think a poor candidate who want to build the best organization he can and make the best preparation he can, ought to be permitted to live by the letter of the law, not by what you might think is the spirit of the law or what I might think is the spirit of the law, because he can't live by but one spirit and with the law in the quibbling situation that it is, it seems to be unfair to candidates to say "you make these decisions at your peril." If you have the wrong spirit, or if the spirit changes and this has been known, you've just lost your chance to be governor or secretary of commerce, or whatever might be.

THURSTON: I didn't know that was an elected office.

GOVERNOR: Well, we are speaking generally.

D.STARR: Governor, I'm not familiar with this. Is there a limit on how much a candidate can spend?

GOVERNOR: I don't know of one.

D.STARR: Well, then what's the objection to announcing the candidacy other than just to get out of the tedious part of filing all these