

Transcript of Reagan News Conference With Bush on Plans for Administration

Following is a transcript of the news conference held by President-elect Ronald Reagan, with Vice President-elect George Bush, in Los Angeles yesterday, as recorded by The New York Times:

OPENING STATEMENT

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here. Good morning. I have a statement that will be given but that I will read for the sound media. Under and I am glad to be here today, especially under the current circumstances, and since this news conference is live, I think this is a good time to thank, again, all of those who worked and voted on our behalf. You all gave a great victory and I can assure all of those I'm speaking to now that we won't disappoint you. And before I begin taking questions, I know that you're interested in the transition and what its status is. We've already begun to work, putting together an administration and beginning immediately on the job of translating campaign promises into reality. I'm turning again to Bill Casey to head up the latter effort, as chairman of the transition executive committee. Bill will also serve as chairman of the interim foreign policy board.

Baker, Richard Wirthlin, William E. Timmons, Verne Orr and Drew Lewis, Martin Anderson and Richard Allen. Director of personnel management is Peniston James, president of E.P. James & Co., an executive search firm. Other transition officials will be named in the next two weeks.

Assistance From Carter

Now, I'm appreciative that President Carter has moved swiftly to make this transition both easy and effective. He has named his chief of staff, Jack Watson, to work with Mr. Meese in effecting an orderly transition. Other officials of the Carter administration have also indicated they are anxious to cooperate in the transition.

In a separate area, that of the inter-agency policy board, I'm most grateful that three prominent Cabinet members have agreed to work with us. They are Senator Henry M. Jackson, Senator Richard Stone and Edward Bennett Williams.

As I promised during the campaign, I will work hard to rebuild a bipartisan base for American foreign policy. The board will receive recommendations from a group of 120 distinguished foreign policy and defense policy advisers before it reports to me in January. And I am requesting that it begin, today, its work of assessing the major foreign policy challenges that we face.

Members of the board announced earlier include former President Gerald R. Ford, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Gov. William P. Clements, Casper Weinberger, Eugene McCarthy, James Burnham, George Shultz, Gene J. Kirkpatrick, John J. McCloy, Anne Armstrong, and Richard V. Allen.

And now, both of us are here and available for whatever your questions might be.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Agenda for First Week

Q. Governor Reagan, during the campaign you spoke many times of the things that you would do immediately upon taking office. Can you, this morning, give us a specific agenda for your first week in office, including such subjects as the Federal hiring freeze and others which you discussed in the campaign.

A. Well, this is what I pledged to do, and I will retroactively do it. I did it before and it was successful, and I think you start that immediately. And everything else, I think I'm going to be in a sense, a part of this whole transition process, and working with the Congress and the Executive branch on things that will require Congressional support.

Bush Role in Election

Q. I wonder what your reaction is to the statement yesterday by Paul Weich of the Committee for Survival of a Free Congress, that you did not intend George Bush to win and that, in effect, he'd better heed carefully to the conservative line or there will be trouble for him.

A. Well, I'll let George speak for himself and I'll speak for myself. I know that we have had throughout the campaign — and I look forward to these next four years having the same relationship that has not only been on a team, but it has been one of a growing friendship. And we have not found ourselves in disagreement. And my own intention is, and he's going to find this out as we get planning details, I want to make sure that I think is a very valuable asset, and so he will have a number of things to do. George, do you want to speak to this? [Mr. Bush apparently declines.]

Role of Religious Groups

Q. Governor Reagan, as you go about forming your new government and selecting the people who are to head the Cabinet, be in your Cabinet and run the Government, how much consideration are you going to give to the advice of these new conservative organizations and The Moral Majority and people like the Rev. Jerry Falwell?

A. Well, I have told the people who have supported us in this campaign that I'm going to do as I did when I was Governor of California: that I am going to be open to these people. You are a President of all the people, and I am going to want to seek advice from those who are familiar with a particular problem. I think their help, and I don't know any other way to say it than that. In other words, I'm not going to separate myself from the people who elected us and sent us there.

Persecution of Foreigners

Q. Governor Reagan, in the foreign policy section of your speech on television Monday night, you said, "Americans do not shrink from history's duty to stand by those who are persecuted, and you specifically said that you would speak for those who seek the right to self-determination without interference from foreign powers."

I wonder if you could tell us what this means and, specifically, whether you think it applies to the situation in Poland now, where an independent workers' movement is growing up in a country that's on the border of the Soviet Union, in which there are a couple of Soviet divisions stationed.

A. Well, I know what it means or I wouldn't have said it. It means that I think of all of these problems, and the policies of aggression by the Soviet Union, that all of these must be a part of discussions and negotiations that go forward. I don't think I'm sitting down at the table with the Soviet Union to discuss arms limitation, for example, but you discuss the whole attitude — world attitude — as to whether we're going to have a world at peace or whether we're simply going to



The New York Times/Teresa Zabala

President-elect Reagan and Vice President-elect Bush at their post-election news conference in Los Angeles

sworn in. And that is all, I think, to add to it.

Kissinger in Cabinet

Q. Governor Reagan, would you consider Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State? There is a report that he might be recommended to you.

A. Well, we are here today to announce a transition team, and we have given you the personnel that is involved in that. Beyond that, we will not go, and there will be no discussion of names until we're ready to announce the actual appointment of someone.

Abolishing Cabinet Units

Q. Governor, you had said during the campaign that you would like to abolish the Department of Energy and the Department of Education — the two non-defense departments. What are you going to do in terms of appointing Cabinet officials? Are you going to appoint heads of another group, military or private, about abolishing them?

A. Well yes, these departments exist and of course you're going to have to have heads to the departments. Let me make it also plain that I am well aware that in both of these new Cabinet-level departments, there are functions — legitimate functions — that have existed for a long time and that were then incorporated into this.

South American Press

Q. Governor, for South American press, I would like to ask you if you regard to yourself, your Government as an expression of the national unity of the United States, or is it the incident of another group, military or entrepreneurs? What is the position by yourself? It's a big flame of the national Government unified for the first time in this latest years? That's my first question.

My second is, why with the South American press the journalists are always in the White House. If you will put a remedial to that situation? Thank you, President.

A. To answer your first question, I have only one concept — if I understand the question correctly — I have only one concept of this job: I think the President and the Vice President are the only two people in Washington who have been elected to represent all the people. Others there have a responsibility for districts, for states, as well as the good of the country too. But there are two people that are there who were chosen by all the people to represent all of them.

With regard to the countries of South America, Central America and here on the North American continent our two neighbors, I've repeatedly made it plain that I think over the years we have let relationships deteriorate. And this should not be. And we are going to make every effort to bring together, by way of bilateral agreements and so forth, the peoples of the Americas so that North and Central and South America can be united in their determination to be free.

Post for Richard Allen

Q. Governor, since Mr. Allen resigned from your campaign in the last few days before you embarrassed him — he said — your reappointment of him, today, to the transition staff, inquiries to you still have confidence in Mr. Allen. Have you made any inquiries into the charges against him? And do you believe he's been cleared?

A. Yes, our people have and find absolutely no evidence of wrongdoing over the last matter. In fact, several of our major newspapers have come to the same conclusion after this matter was brought out. I found no conflict of interest. We found nothing that should change our mind about him. And I might say that he has been working with those major scholars and others who've been advising us in the field of foreign policy.

Press Conference Schedule

Q. Those of us who've traveled with you over the last several months have been trying to pin you or your staff down on a schedule of press conferences, if and when you will the office. Now that you've done it, can you tell us how often you will hold press conferences, once you assume the Presidency?

ences, once you assume the Presidency?

A. Well, I don't think that's a detail we've settled on but, again, if you'll look back at the record, we were — and I was — quite available as Governor and — to the press — and consider this as a part of letting the people know what's going on in Government. So we'll do our utmost to have them on a fairly regular and consistent basis.

Assignments for Bush

Q. During the course of the campaign, Ambassador Bush said that if he gained your confidence during the campaign, he would have "tons to do" and if not, he'd be going to a lot of funerals. From what you've said.

A. [Mr. Bush] If I said that, I'm sorry. . . . he seems to have gained your confidence. Are you expecting him to have a major role? If so, can you define it for us and will he have an office in the White House or will it be at E.O. 3 — at the Executive Office Building?

A. [Mr. Reagan] Well, I mean say you're asking for details here. I said earlier — and I thought I had covered that. No, he's not going to be going to do a lot of funerals. [At this point Mr. Bush made an inaudible comment, drawing a chuckle from Mr. Reagan.] Maybe we'll talk more about what we're laughing about? No, it — I feel very definitely that it would be a waste of a valuable asset to look upon that position as anything other than a definite aid — and the experience that he has had in Government. But to say that at this point we have sat down and talked this and worked it out, no, that again has got to be part of the transition process — when we have an opportunity to do it.

Role of Turkey

Q. Governor Reagan, what is your evaluation about the commitment of Turkey as a NATO ally to the Western security, and are you going to increase economic and military aid to that country when you take office?

A. Well, again now, you're getting into into policy that I think are going to be the result of more thought and consultation than we've been able to do in the campaign. But I think all of us have to recognize that Turkey and Greece — and I would hope that the problems are seen there if we could in any way help ease that situation will be eased because that is the Southern flank of our NATO line and therefore is most important to our own national security.

Democrat in Cabinet

Q. Governor Reagan, in light of the little bit earlier that you would seek a bipartisan base for foreign policy, would you be willing to consider putting a Democrat on your Cabinet-level committees?

A. That could very well be. I've made no decisions on that and that, again, would be getting into discussing individuals. We haven't done that yet, but I very definitely want, in foreign policy particularly, I want the world to look upon this as a political division that affects our foreign policy.

Suggestions on Hostages

Q. Governor, concerning the American hostages, do you expect to reveal your specific ideas to President Carter during this transition period and

Reagan Says Bush Role Is Not Yet Worked Out

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 6 (AP) — Ronald Reagan said today that he had not worked out a formal role for George Bush when he became Vice President, but added that Mr. Bush's time would be well spent by "going to a lot of funerals."

Asked at a news conference if Mr. Bush would have a major role in government or would merely spend his time "going to a lot of funerals," Mr. Reagan said, no, in this campaign I can't say that I've had contact with Democratic members of the Congress. But I have had contact since the two that I named who are a part of our transition team, in foreign policy, two Senators. But again, based on my previous experience, I recognize the need for bipartisanship there on getting necessary legislation and we've already intended to make contact with their leadership also, and with their members, just as I

offer them as suggestions to ending the crisis?

A. Well, the President has very graciously offered us both briefings, which we think we will take advantage of, naturally. And I think if there is any opportunity, or if out of those briefings comes any thought on our part that we could suggest anything that would be helpful, we certainly would do that.

On the other hand, as I've said before, we don't want to seem to be trying to invade the province of the President who is still President. And I hope, from the news reports that we have seen, that the Iranians will not have any ideas that there will be profit to them in waiting any period of time. We want these people home.

Q. Sir, if your ideas are vastly different from President Carter's, would you prefer to hold on and hold back until you get an office? A. No, not if I thought for one minute that it could by one minute move up their release.

Assurance for Allies

Q. Governor, among America's allies there seems to be a bit of concern over the foreign policy will change. What can you tell America's allies in Western Europe about America's foreign policy now that you've taken over?

And I think there are certain misconceptions you feel about yourself among the people of Western Europe?

A. Well, I think, if very possible, I think in a campaign, when they have to have translated into their own language campaign rhetoric and so forth, there's got to be a certain element of confusion about the participants in the game over here. But I want them to know, and we will make it plain to them when it is our opportunity to do so, that we intend to continue, we intend to continue with them on major decisions. We believe in the importance of the NATO alliance and we'll do everything we can to reassure them that we're not going it alone. We want to restore confidence in us and that they can have trust in our word, and that we do consider that alliance very important to the United States.

Bush Foreign Policy Role

Q. Governor, if President Carter's attacks on you have compromised your position with your allies, do you think that George Bush has a specific job to do in that direction, in talking to their foreign powers? A. Well, I know that that can be most helpful in that, and will be.

Senate Majority Leader

Q. Governor, now that the Republicans have control of the Senate, is it already an effort under way to prevent Howard Baker from becoming the Senate majority leader. Do you have confidence in Baker in that role, and would you support him?

A. I not only have confidence in Howard Baker, but I have been informed by members of the Senate that there is no friction and there is no moving forward to change in any way that his position is solid. He will be the majority leader of the Senate.

Moral Majority's Authority

Q. Governor, will you permit the Moral Majority to have any role in signing off on your decisions about the Cabinet members?

A. Well, they're the only one who officially has a role in signing off on that is Senate ratification of Cabinet members. On the other hand, this does not mean, as I've said, that we are not going to utilize all the input we can get with regard to having a Cabinet that will, first of all, be made up of people who are the best we can find with qualification for the jobs. I think they understand that. And we will welcome any input that any group, or any individual has, with that regard, and that will be a definite part of the transition.

Democrats in Congress

Q. Governor, have you had any discussions to date with the Democratic leaders in the Congress? And how do you plan to work with them in implementing your program?

A. Well, no, in this campaign I can't say that I've had contact with Democratic members of the Congress. But I have had contact since the two that I named who are a part of our transition team, in foreign policy, two Senators. But again, based on my previous experience, I recognize the need for bipartisanship there on getting necessary legislation and we've already intended to make contact with their leadership also, and with their members, just as I

have been meeting throughout this campaign at every opportunity with the Republican members of the House and Senate.

Announcing the Cabinet

Q. Do you plan to announce your Cabinet by the first week in December, and do you hope to release the names all at once or release them one by one? And is there a specific effort to find minorities or blacks to fill any of the Cabinet posts?

A. These will be considerations, of course, because I think it should be, in addition to being well-qualified — and I'm sure there are well-qualified people in various ethnic divisions, racial divisions and all. And yes, we shall be looking at that. To the first part of your question, we hope by late November or early December to be able to announce our choices for the Cabinet.

France-Soviet Ties

Q. Governor, the relationship that France and the Soviet Union have till now seems to have bothered President Carter. Does the privileged relationship that Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has with Mr. Brezhnev bother you?

A. No, but I also hope that the United States and President Giscard and our administration can have, will be very close and that they will recognize that we look upon them as a very close friend.

Northern Ireland Situation

Q. Governor, the situation in Northern Ireland has been an irritant in relations between the United States and the United Kingdom; can you tell me what your approach will be towards that situation and can you say if you will be reviewing the decision of the State Department to suspend the sale of U.S. weapons to the IRA forces in Northern Ireland.

A. Well, I can't answer specifically on something of this kind, until I've had an opportunity to look more. But I would say this — with the name of Reagan that the United States will not intervene or interfere, but the United States, I think, should make it plain that if there is any way that we can be helpful, we would be more than eager to do so, because I think it's a very tragic situation.

Proposals for Congress

Q. Do you plan to introduce any of your proposals to the lame-duck session of Congress, or such a cut in Federal spending?

A. I think that some of our own Congressmen — and now that we have a prospect to move in the Senate, I think that there are proposals that I was talking about and many times referred to that were already in discussion or in legislative form. And I'm quite sure that as the Congress reconvenes that they'll be glad to hear from those, and I'll be delighted to see them do so.

Second-Term Possibilities

Q. Governor, you'll be taking office at an older age than any President in history. Are you prepared to say today whether you intend to run for re-election in four years? A. No, I haven't thought beyond that to which I have been elected. And if there is any question, I feel just fine.

Economic Program

Q. Sir, you staked much of your campaign on your economic prescription for the country. Now that you've been elected, can you tell us how quickly you expect to move on your economic program and how quickly the American people can expect results on it?

A. Well, I expect to move as quickly as possible. I think this is the most important thing, I think it was the issue that they wanted. And so we'll move instantly on that. And I think it is important that there are measures before the Congress with regard to some of the features, tax cuts and so forth, that we're going forward with those in this interim period.

Republican Platform

Q. Governor, you were obviously elected with millions and independent voters who specifically voted to the Republican Party platform? And will you specifically push for passage of an antiabortion amendment to the Constitution?

A. I am — I ran on the platform; the voters voted for me on the platform; I do believe in that platform, and I think it would be very cynical and callous of me now to suggest that I'm going to turn away from it. Evidently, those people who voted for me — most of the party or of independents — must have agreed with the platform also.

Reassurance for Opposition

Q. Governor, given the size of your victory, there are a number of people who were saying that it's being interpreted as a mandate for conservatism. Would you say to those Democrats or Republicans, liberals and moderates, who feel potentially disenfranchised by your political views? Is there anything that you would say to reassure them?

A. Well, I don't think that anyone is disenfranchised by my views. I know that, for example, through the campaign, there are a number of people who are strongly with regard to equal rights for women — and so forth. The only difference of opinion was whether an amendment, that in over eight years has not been able to secure ratification of the states, or even if it could — if the amendment was the best and the most practical way of securing these equal rights, and I have pointed to my own record, here in this state, of what we did by statute.

Now, I am going to vigorously pursue the subject of equal rights for

Feminists Dismayed by the Election And Unsure of What Future Holds

By LESLIE BENNETTS

For advocates of women's rights, Tuesday's election was "a total disaster," says Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

The Republican sweep ousted not only a President who supported many feminist goals but also some of the leading defenders of those goals in the Senate, the House of Representatives and state legislatures.

While there are exceptions, many of these officeholders were replaced by candidates opposed to such feminist priorities as the ratification of the proposed Federal equal rights amendment and abortion rights. And in the wake of the political cataclysm, both feminists and those working against their objectives are wondering what the results mean for the future of the women's movement.

Phyllis Schlafly, the leader of the national drive to block the rights amendment, called the election "a decisive defeat for the E.R.A. and for the feminist movement."

Relevance of Women's Issues

Other conservatives disagreed. John Dolan, chairman of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, which spent almost \$3 million to elect conservatives and defeat such liberal leaders as Senators Birch Bayh, George McGovern, and John C. Culver, said women's issues were "largely irrelevant" in the campaign.

Most feminists concurred with Mrs. Miller of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, who acknowledged that the election represented a profound setback for feminist goals but added, "I don't think it's a backlash."

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, said she viewed the results as "a protest vote" against inflation, unemployment and the Carter Administration's foreign policy. "Not only do I think it was not a vote on the women's movement, I don't think it was even a vote on the social policies of the right wing, although they will interpret it that way," she said.

Karen Mulhauser, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, saw the election as "a national convulsion of discontent," but not a referendum on the role of women.

'Sleeper Issues of 1980'

Senator McGovern, a longtime supporter of the rights amendment and abortion rights, and one of the casualties of Tuesday's surge, said he believed that a backlash against social change involving women was "one of the sleeper issues of 1980."

"People were reluctant to come right out and admit they wanted to put women in their place, but there was a strong current of that running through much of what happened," he said. "There's a lot of fear of changing sex roles, of new pressures on the family, and men and women alike were threatened by it and fearful of where all this is going. The family issue

raised by the right wing was a code word for putting women back in the kitchen, stripping them of any decision on the question of abortion, and forcing them back into the old orthodox roles. There was a conservative, revolutionary aspect to this campaign, and women were the chief victims, along with the poor."

No matter how they interpreted such developments, most observers saw their consequences as far-reaching. Paul Brown, executive director of the Life Amendment Political Action Committee, predicted that the success of a coalition of right-wing anti-abortion, fundamentalist and other groups in defeating progressive candidates would intimidate remaining liberals on issues such as abortion. "We have proven we do have political clout, and we'd better be reckoned with," he said. "If I were a liberal politician who's opposed to the pro-life movement, I'd certainly be intimidated."

The chief goal of anti-abortion activists is the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution that would accord to the fetus full human and legal rights from the moment of conception, thereby defining abortion and many birth control methods as murder. The new Congress is expected to be more receptive to that, both because of the anti-abortion stands of many of those elected this week and because the new Republican majority in the Senate will take over committee chairmanships, in some cases replacing key Senators who supported abortion rights with those who want to outlaw abortion.

Reagan Supports Abortion Ban

President-elect Ronald Reagan has stated his support for a constitutional ban on abortion.

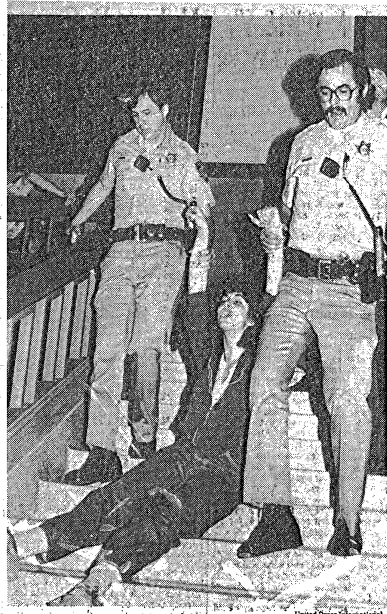
Sarah R. Weddington, an assistant to President Carter who has worked in behalf of abortion rights and the equal rights measure, said, "It's going to take a major effort not to back off in the next four years, let alone to try to move ahead."

Many feminists hope that the political upheaval will galvanize their supporters into action. They point to the fact that national polls have consistently shown a majority of the American people in favor of the rights amendment and of abortion rights, but they accuse that majority of unwarranted complacency. "This will help us to organize, because until now we have not been able to convince people that there was a genuine threat," said Mrs. Mulhauser.

Some say there must also be a re-evaluation of feminist strategy.

"The rights movement of the 1970s is not a right-wing concern, it is a feminist concern, and it is all wrong to list the right wing just with protesting it," said Betty Friedan, a feminist author.

But most feminists believe that changes in the role and status of women are irreversible. "The women's movement didn't start in Washington, and it won't be stopped by it," said Gloria Steinem.



One of the demonstrators being removed by campus police from the administration building at the University of California at Berkeley.

Anti-Reagan Protests Continue For 3d Day on California Campus

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., Nov. 6 — A group of radical organizations held a third day of protests against Ronald Reagan's election as President today but failed in an attempt to confront the administration of the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

The group held anti-Reagan rallies on the campus Tuesday night and yesterday. Yesterday's protest turned into a march on California Hall, where 84 demonstrators were arrested last night in a corridor outside Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman's offices. Thirty-three were still in custody as of this morning. Most of those arrested were charged with misdemeanor trespassing and 10 were also charged with resisting arrest. All were released without bail.

Today a crowd again assembled in the plaza of Sproul Hall and was never larger than about 700, as against an estimated 2,000 protesters Tuesday night. About 70 marchers, many of them nonstudents according to a campus spokesman, walked behind a red banner to the campus Reserve Officers Training Corps building, where they chanted anti-R.O.T.C. slogans. The group then tried to go into Chancellor Heyman's offices again, but they found the doors to the building locked.

Hongisto Wins Contest For San Francisco Post

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 6 (AP) — Richard Hongisto, the former sheriff who wore a peace symbol on his badge and gained national attention for his unconventional approach to law enforcement, has returned to San Francisco and won election to the Board of Supervisors.

"I've always intended to come back; it was just a question of when," said the man who served on the police force for 10 years and was sheriff for six years before short stints as Chief of Police in Cleveland and as the head of New York State's prison system.

Mr. Hongisto, who, as sheriff, enjoyed rapport with minorities and homosexuals, won the 10th spot on the board in voting Tuesday.

Transcript: Top Issues for Action

Continued From Preceding Page

women. It's significant, I think, that 13 of the 15 states who haven't ratified that amendment have Democratic majorities in their legislatures, and with a Democratic majority in Congress and a Democratic President, they still were not able to get those states to ratify that amendment.

So those who chose to believe that my feeling about the amendment — during that campaign — meant opposition to equal rights for women were absolutely wrong and I think in some instances many of them knew that. Because my record is clear and I've made my assertion to you of what we're going to do.

Carter Action on Hostages

Q. Governor, there are reports out of Washington this morning quoting senior Administration officials as saying that President Carter might be prepared to take unpopular actions to free the hostages. Is there any concern on your part that, as a lame duck President, Mr. Carter might be ready to knuckle under to Iranian demands? And would you counsel him not to?

A. Well, he several times has made the statement that he would not do anything that violated the honor of country, that he and we have to accept those statements that he will do that. And so I don't think there's any place for me to intervene in that regard.

A Tribute, in Vermont: Election After Death

BARRRE, Vt., Nov. 6 (AP) — Barre, the self-proclaimed tombstone capital of the world, has elected a dead man to the Legislature.

Barre voters elected Sergio Pasetto, an incumbent Democrat, to the House on Tuesday, even though he died last month.

Mr. Pasetto defeated the Republican, Lauren Leavitt, by 609 to 338, after a vigorous campaign by Barre Democrats. Residents of Barre, known for its granite quarries, said his re-election would be a fitting tribute to the 70-year-old legislator, who died last month of a heart attack.

Democrats also conceded that Mr. Pasetto's re-election would keep the seat in Democratic hands since they would be able to nominate a replacement. In the event of a vacancy in the Legislature, the local committee of the legislature's political party recommends a replacement to the governor. The governor then makes the final choice.

The Republican challenger has cried foul and says she is talking with her lawyers.

"I'll pursue it as far as I can go," she said. "It doesn't seem right to me."

Get new ideas on the Op-Ed Page

Camp David and P.L.O.

Q. Governor, do you intend to pursue the Camp David peace process? Would you still characterize the P.L.O. as you did about a year ago — as a terrorist organization?

A. Yes, I think the P.L.O. has proven that it is a terrorist organization. And I have said repeatedly I separate the P.L.O. from the Palestinian refugees. No one ever elected the P.L.O.

And yet I intend to do again — and to cite the other situation we discussed earlier — whatever can be — the United States can do. We don't intend to mandate or dictate a settlement, but whatever we can do to promote peace in the Middle East, that we're going to do.

Meeting With Begin

Q. Governor, will you meet with Prime Minister Begin when he comes to the United States within the next couple of weeks as he plans to do? Would you invite him up to your ranch, for instance?

A. I think here is a question that has to await some of our transition process. I don't think there's a delicate point here as to whether you seem to be, again, putting yourself in the place that is not the President's, and I wouldn't want to do anything, in any way, to give that impression. And, again, I recognize the necessity of contact, but deciding when that is proper and right, we haven't settled on.

LYN NOZIGER, a Reagan aide: Governor, this is your last one.

Priority on Human Rights

Q. At the beginning of President Carter's term, he gave human rights a very high priority and he said he did it because of the Bible. Does your belief in the Bible compel you to make human rights a similar high priority — especially in the Third and Fourth World countries?

A. Yes, I think that all of us in this country are dedicated to the belief in human rights. But I think it must be a consistent policy. I don't think you can turn away from some country because here and there they do not totally agree with our concept of human rights, and then at the same time maintain relations with other countries, or try to develop them, when human rights are virtually non-existent.

This is what I think I meant earlier about that subject, as well as others, should be part of any negotiations on the foreign scene, any relationships we have with other countries.

But I don't think that our record of turning away from countries, that were basically friendly to us, because of some disagreement on some facet of human rights, and then finding that the result was that they have lost all human rights in that country — that isn't a practical way to approach it.

MR. NOZIGER: Thank you ladies and gentlemen very much.

They gave you your love of reading, your interest in people, your curiosity about the world.

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Check here if you want a gift announcement sent in your name.

Note: Allow four weeks for start of service. Offer good in U.S. and possessions only. Foreign rates on request.

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