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WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02254

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
617 - 647-2964

July 14, 1983

Rajneesh Hotel  
115 S.W. 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to comment upon Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's qualifications as a teacher of religious thought. I am enclosing a copy of my curriculum vita. My interest in Bhagwan's writings started eight years ago and has continued to this day. I have listened to his audio tapes and have seen some video tapes. I have never become a disciple nor have I visited his ashram but I feel that contact with his books and tapes is adequate to justify an informed judgment.

My relevant fields of interest are sociology of religion, social psychiatry and community sociology. I have taught and published in these fields for over thirty years. In my opinion, Bhagwan has provided a brilliant and original set of materials for work in all three. His commentaries on the classic texts of the world religions are in a class by themselves as regards showing the contemporary relevance of these ancient writings. His work with his disciples as reported in the darshan diaries shows a degree of psychological insight that would make any Western psychologist feel proud. The meditations that he has devised combine catharsis with meditation in such a way as to open both the heart and the mind.

The community that he had in Poona which I have explored through interviews and books appears to have been an exceptional place with genuine educative, psychological and spiritual healing powers. His plan to develop a model community in Antelope deserves to be supported. However, if it is to be true to his precepts, it must develop in harmony with its neighbors.

In sum, I consider Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to be a uniquely brilliant spiritual teacher. It is a privilege to have him in America. I have used his books in courses for several years and my students have profited greatly from them. It is regrettably that he has become controversial but this country need not hesitate to accomodate controversy especially with regard to someone whose intellectual and spiritual gifts are of such magnitude.

Respectfully



Maurice R. Stein  
Jacob S. Potofsky Professor of Sociology

MRS:eh  
enc: Curriculum Vita

VITA - 1982

MAURICE R. STEIN

Education

University of Buffalo, B.A. cum laude, 1949  
Columbia University, Ph.D. in Sociology, 1958

Teaching and Administration

1949 Teaching Assistant, University of Buffalo  
1952-53 Instructor, Dartmouth College  
1953-55 Instructor, Oberlin College  
1956-67 Assistant Professor to Professor, Brandeis University  
1966-69 Chairperson, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University  
1969-71 Dean and Faculty Member, School of Critical Studies, California  
Institute of the Arts  
1968--- Jacob S. Potofsky Professor of Sociology, Brandeis University

Writings - Books

The Eclipse of Community, Princeton University Press, 1960, 3 printings  
1960-64. Paperback edition with new introduction 1964, Harper Torchbooks,  
Harper and Row, several printings. Princeton Paper and Hardback Expanded  
Edition with new chapters 1971.

Identity and Anxiety, Free Press, 1960, 5 printings 1960-64, co-edited with  
Arthur Vidich and David White. Selected by Book Find Club. Paperback  
edition 1965.

Sociology on Trial, Prentice Hall Spectrum Books, 1964, co-edited with Arthur  
Vidich.

Reflections on Community Studies, Wiley, 1964, co-edited with Arthur Vidich  
and Joseph Bensman. Paperback edition, Harper and Row, 1970.

The Drifters, Little Brown, 1967, co-author with Eleanor Parenstadt, et al.  
Paperback edition, Little Brown, 1971.

Blueprint for Counter-Education, Doubleday, 1970, co-author with Larry Miller.  
Selected for show and catalog organized by Kynaston MacShine called "On  
Information" at Museum of Modern Art, 1970.

Writings - Articles

Co-author with Alvin W. Gouldner of chapter on research methods in his Patterns  
of Industrial Bureaucracy, Free Press, 1954.

"Suburbia, A Walk on the Mild Side," Dissent, 1957. (Reprinted in Voices of  
Dissent, Grove Press, 1953.)

Writings - Articles (cont.)

"Anthropological Perspectives on the Modern Community," in Culture in History, ed. by Stanley Diamond, Columbia University Press, 1960. (Reprinted in The Uses of the Primitive, ed. by Diamong, Columbia, 1963.)

"Identity and History," co-authored with Arthur Vidich in Identity and Anxiety, 1960.

"The Dissolved Identity in Military Life," co-authored with Arthur Vidich in Identity and Anxiety.

"Suburbia, Dream or Nightmare," in Society Today and Tomorrow, ed. by Hunt and Karlin, Macmillan, 1961.

"Psychoanalytic Thought and Sociological Inquiry," in Psychoanalysis and the Psychoanalytic Review, Vol. 49, No. 2, Summer 1962.

"The Poetic Metaphors of Sociology," in Sociology on Trial, 1964.

"Sociological Perspectives on the Modern Community," in America as a Mass Society, ed. by Phillip Olson, Free Press, 1963.

"The Eclipse of Community: Some Glances at the Education of a Sociologist," in Reflections on Community Studies, 1964.

"Value Sterility, Value Neutrality or Value Advocacy: The Choice Before Us," in The Human Factor, Vol. 8, No. 1, November 1968.

"On the Limits of Professional Thought," in The Critical Spirit: Essays in Honor of Herbert Marcuse, ed. by Kurt Wolff, et al., Beacon Press, 1968.

Chapters and excerpts from The Eclipse of Community have been reprinted frequently over the years. The most recent reprint appears in New Perspectives on the American Community, 4th Edition, ed. by R. Warren and L. Layton, Rand McNally, 1982.

"The Dialectic of Marxism and Sociology in the Early Work of Alvin W. Gouldner," accepted for publication by Theory and Society, forthcoming, 1982.

Research

1946-49 Research Assistant to Alvin W. Gouldner at University of Buffalo on study of gypsum mine and plant.

1949-51 Various projects at Columbia Bureau of Applied Research.

1951-52 Social Science Council Research Training Fellowship.

1962-63 Associate Member, Columbia University Research Seminar on the City.

- 1960-65 Anthropological Consultant on South End Family Project, a five year study of multi-problem families sponsored by Massachusetts Memorial Hospital and Boston University Medical School.
- 1962-65 Consultant, Longitudinal Study of the Family Settings of Schizophrenia at the National Institute of Mental Health, Washington, DC.
- 1966-71 Participant - Observation research on Art and Artists in Boston and California.
- 1970-76 Participant - Observation of Reevaluation Co-Counseling Communities East and West Coasts.
- 1977--- Participant - Observation at various Spiritual and Human Potential movements in Boston.
- 1978-80 Member - Visual Design Group - Ginn and Company, Boston.

#### Lectures and Papers

General lines of activity during various phases of work; details not recorded.

- 1958-65 Presented papers at ASA meetings on community studies and on social psychiatry.
- 1966-71 Presented papers and talks on sociology of art including a national tour while Dean at California Institute of the Arts.
- 1971-77 Presented papers to several university groups including UCLA, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and others about my research on Reevaluation Co-Counseling.
- 1977--- Began presenting aspects of research on spiritual and human potential movements to various groups.

In 1980, gave an invited paper at the ASA meetings to the Community Section called "Catharsis, Meditation and the Creation of New Communities."

Also gave an invited paper at the 1980 meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems called "The Woman's Movement as an Exemplar of Clinical Sociology."

In 1981, gave an invited paper to a Plenary Session of the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems devoted to the work of Alvin W. Gouldner.

Department and University Committees

- 1966-69 Chairperson, Sociology Department.
- 1971-82 Chairperson, Undergraduate Committee, Sociology Department.
- 1980-81 Undergraduate Advisor, Sociology Department.
- 1971--- Member of other Department Committees including Graduate Committee, Graduate Admissions Committee, and Recruiting Committee.
- 1961-62 Brandeis Faculty Senate.
- 1964-69 Educational Policy Committee.
- 1975-78 Advisory Committee to Psychological Counseling Center.
- 1976--- Advisory Committee to University Health Services.

Professional Associations

- Fellow, American Sociological Association.
- 1980-81 Awards Committee, Community Section, ASA.
- 1981-82 Nominations Committee, Community Section, ASA.
- Eastern Sociological Society.
- American Association of University Professors.

Reevaluation Co-Counseling Community Activities

- 1969-71 Attended ten week-long training workshops to become Reevaluation Co-Counseling teacher.
- 1971-76 Organized and co-led co-counseling community in Boston with over 1,000 participants.
- 1973-75 Member, International Reference Committee, Reevaluation Co-Counseling Communities.
- 1976 Manuscript on Reevaluation Communities completed and circulated but not yet submitted for publication.

Vital Statistics

Born: Buffalo, New York, September 19, 1926  
U.S. Army, 1944-46  
Married - Phyllis Stein, two children  
Paul - 15  
Nina - 5