

DECLARATION OF RICHARD D. HENDLIN

I Richard D. Hendlin do hereby declare under penalty of perjury:

I am a Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's Office, California Department of Justice, and have held said position for the past 5 1/2 years.

As a professional prosecutor for the People of the State of California, I am regularly assigned the most serious felony cases including first degree murder and capital punishment prosecutions. I have successfully prosecuted over 130 cases in California Courts of Appeal.

Prior to working at the Attorney General's Office, I attended California Western School of Law in San Diego, where I served as editor of and was a published author in the California Western International Law Journal; served on the Advocacy Honors Board, and was selected to the Dean's List. During my attendance at law school from 1974 to 1977, I was employed as a judicial law clerk to the Justices on the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One; as a law clerk with the United States Attorneys Office in San Diego, Civil Division; as law clerk to the San Diego Municipal Court; and as a law clerk with one of the most prominent law firms in San Diego: Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch. I received my B.A. degree with high honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1973.

In 1977, I was first introduced to the writings and taped discourses of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh through a fellow Deputy Attorney General. In February, 1979, after spending a little over a year of reading Rajneesh's profound and inspiring books, I took a leave of absence from the Attorney General's Office, to travel to Poona, India, to witness first hand this phenomenal human being.

I found Rajneesh's clear insight into and compassion for the human condition unsurpassed by anyone with whom I am familiar. Rajneesh's depth of understanding of the psychological, philosophical and religious dimensions of man is staggering. He is extremely well-versed in the fields of history, philosophy, psychology and religion, and is world reknown as a great spiritual leader.

Rajneesh is a master of meditation techniques--both traditional and modern-- and by his example -- both in words and silence -- serves as a positive, creative force in the lives of tens of thousands of individuals worldwide. I have applied many of the various techniques explained by Rajneesh to great advantage in my professional capacity as an attorney, whether picking a jury or arguing before an Appellate Court; as well as in my personal life. I believe I am a more productive, compassionate, and intelligent person as a result of my exposure to this remarkable man.

I should note that the above comments are not lightly made. I am an extremely discriminating, skeptical person with a doubting and logical mind. I would be the first to expose a psuedo so-called spiritual master and to identify a charlatan if such be the case. However, my close scrutiny of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, his actions, words and silence over 5 years compels my conclusion that he is that rare, genuine man who has truly attained the peaks of human consciousness or enlightenment. Moreover, he has the wonderful gift of being able to share and communicate his wealth of understanding with others in a humorous yet eloquent manner. His recent public silence continues to loudly proclaim his message of encouraging meditation and, to use Socrates dictum, to know thyself.

Of course, the very existence of such a man is bound to be unsettling to those people whose limited tolerance to new ideas prevents them from recognizing the truly remarkable nature of such a man. But, this has been the situation for most great thinkers throughout time -- from Buddha, Jesus and Socrates to Galileo, Darwin and Lincoln. It is indeed a shame that the controversy which has developed around Rajneesh in the United States obscures the valuable lesson of the man himself.

It is my understanding that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will soon be considering Rajneesh's application for permanent residency. I cannot too strongly urge that the INS act favorably on his application. To deny it would be a gross injustice and in contradiction of this country's greatest ideals. The citizens and government of the United States should be honored that a person such as Rajneesh seeks to live here and contribute to the betterment of humanity. It should welcome him with open arms. At the least, it should allow him to stay.

If I may provide any further observations regarding Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, please contact me at my business address: c/o California Attorney General's Office, 110 West A Street, Suite 700 San Diego, CA 92101, telephone 619-237-7816.

I declare the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED: July 21, 1983, San Diego, California

State of California)
)
County of San Diego)

Richard D. Hendlin
Richard D. Hendlin

On this 21st day of July, 1983, before me, Vida Allen, personally appeared Richard D. Hendlin, personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, and acknowledged that he executed it.

VIDA M. ALLEN
NOTARY PUBLIC—CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Vida M. Allen
Notary Public