

# Eikenberry wants tougher laws for sex offenders

OLYMPIA (AP) — Attorney General Ken Eikenberry on Monday criticized lawmakers who rejected his ideas while refining a broad measure to snare sex predators, contending their package won't protect the public.

Eikenberry, who had proposed a modified return to the open-ended sentences scrapped by the 1984 Sentencing Reform Act, also took a swipe at fellow Republican Norm Maleng.

Maleng, the King County prosecutor who led a governor's panel that wrote the current legislation, designed the Sentencing Reform Act. Maleng is unwilling to recognize that the attorney general's proposal has merit, Eikenberry told a news conference.

The sex predator legislation that cleared the Senate last week would double and triple sentences for sex criminals and require two years of supervision once they are released.

Among other things, the measure also would permit juries to civilly commit offenders deemed still dangerous once released.

A virtually identical measure is due for House passage Wednesday.

But Eikenberry said the legislation "will not provide for public safety."

He lobbied lawmakers to combine the tougher sentencing scheme with an "indeterminate" plan in which a special executive board, acting much like a parole board, could decide to extend the sentence at the end of the prison term if the offender was considered still dangerous. His plan also would provide for post-release supervision for life, if necessary.

Maleng, who shrugs off Eikenberry's allegation that he is close-minded, found agreement among the majority of lawmakers when he argued that

statistics show open-ended sentences result in less time behind bars.

Maleng said judges under such a scheme are under tremendous pressure to hand out minimum sentences on grounds the offender may have his term extended if he doesn't shape up. At the other end, Maleng said, a faceless board finds it easy to release offenders for non-judicial reasons, such as to reduce prison overcrowding.

Eikenberry also contended that a linchpin of the legislative package, civil commitment, not only has constitutional problems but would corral "only a fraction" of the 700 sex offenders leaving prisons each year. He said a heavy burden of proof will be required to impose civil commitment.

Sen. Phil Talmadge, D-Seattle, said he was "highly amused that the Republican at-

orney general would find the Republican King County prosecutor soft on crime, when everyone knows Norm Maleng is not soft on crime."

He said Eikenberry's sentencing scheme was abandoned because it did not work and "this fact was recognized by Gov. Booth Gardner's task force and everybody else but the attorney

general."

Senate Law and Justice Committee Chairman Gary Nelson, R-Edmonds, said he favored Eikenberry's sentencing plan, but "I couldn't get the votes for it." Lawmakers will revisit the idea in future sessions if the current plan permits too many offenders back on the street, he said.

## Rajneesh money, jewels sought

PORTLAND (AP) — The sudden death of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has federal investigators wondering what happened to the Indian guru's riches, or whether the jewels and millions of dollars reportedly stashed in Swiss bank accounts ever existed at all.

The central Oregon commune of Rajneeshpuram — once home to 4,000 of the guru's red-clad followers — was disbanded in 1985, when Rajneesh was deported for immigration fraud.

At least 42 of his disciples were charged with criminal activities ranging from wiretapping and attempted murder to the deliberate poisoning of 750 people in The Dalles.

There were also rumors of financial wrongdoing within the organization, but federal investigators found no trace of the wealth once ascribed to the self-proclaimed "guru to the rich."

On Jan. 19, the 58-year-old Rajneesh reportedly died of a

heart attack in Pune, India. With the death, certain questions remain unanswered:

What happened to \$55 million in jewelry that was carried on the books of a trust that took donations for the commune? And who got the \$43 million from a secret Swiss bank account set up for the guru by his former secretary, Anand Sheela, and one of her top aides, Prem Savita?

Savita, an English-born accountant who supervised many of the sect's complicated financial affairs, fled the commune Sept. 15, 1985, and is still listed as a federal fugitive on a wiretap charge.

Sheela — who was accused by the guru of stealing the money — later claimed the report was nonsense. She eventually went to prison, but not for stealing money from Rajneesh.

Jack Ransom, a Portland lawyer who represented the commune and Rajneesh personally in several matters, said the \$43 million was a gross exagger-

ation.

"There was never any money — or nothing on that scale," he said. "I was somewhat acquainted with the commune's books and records and I thought they were pretty well-kept. But nothing on that scale came to the commune."

Several federal officials, including U.S. Attorney Charles H. Turner, are not so sure.

"I don't know about \$43 million, but I think Sheela got some money, definitely," Turner said.

The missing jewelry was another matter.

When Rajneesh was arrested on a chartered airplane while trying to flee the country, his luggage included a box containing nearly \$1 million worth of jewelry, a couple of bank bags stuffed with \$58,000 in currency, and a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver loaded with Teflon bullets.

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**WHEN: Tuesday, Feb 6th  
Wednesday, Feb 7th**

**TIME: 6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**PLACE: Student Health Center: Room 21**

**1 hour informational meeting: Jan 30th 7:00pm**

**TO PRE REGISTER:**

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