
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: DAVID WATKINS WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS CONCERNS
DATE 5/2/01
CC: DAVIS

David Watkins called this past Friday wanting to set up an appointment to meet with you to discuss the following matters. I have notified Shanta that Watkins wants an appointment.

1. Watkins said that he wanted to make you aware, for what it is worth, that Mike Chaney had a tape recorder with him last Tuesday at the School Board Association meeting when you spoke. I told him that I didn't think you had anything to hide.
2. Watkins said that he was going to have to take issue with you on your response to the question about the School Safety Bill when you said that nobody came to you on it. He said that this made him look bad in front of his people. He said that he spoke to you, me and Donna about it. I pointed out that he approached me about it when it was on your desk and asked him how you were to veto a "school safety" bill at that point. He acknowledged that he only spoke to you and me at that point, but said that he had spoken to Donna with his concerns earlier. He is concerned as to his credibility with his group.
3. Watkins said that he was offering this item as a friend and a supporter who wants to see you succeed, believes in your position and wants that position conveyed most effectively. He said that you should refocus your response on the one cent sales tax question. He said that he understands you are trying to walk a fine line, but that the one cent sales tax has become a replacement and not an enhancement. He said a lot of people expressed concern to him afterwards that you were dodging the answer. Watkins said the real question was if education lost and the answer is yes, because although the revenue bailed the state out of a crisis, it did not result in long-term gains because of the general funds that have been diverted to other areas.

Watkins closed by sharing his thoughts on what your message should be at this point. He said that the next arena is the public – PTA, Rotary, Chambers of Commerce. He said that you need a 10-minute message for the public. He said that it doesn't need to be full of technical points, but rather it needs to be "simple stupid." He said that the people want more than to talk to their legislators – they want a bill, slogan or a plan – something they can put their arms around and hold on to.

I told Watkins that I'd share his comments with you and let you know that he wants to meet with you. He is out of the office this week, but will be back in town next week.

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SUBJECT: DAVID WATKINS WANTS TO MEET WITH GOVERNOR
DATE 5/2/01
CC: FILE

David Watkins, lobbyist for the School Board Association, called this past Friday wanting to set up an appointment to meet with the Governor to discuss the past session and the budget situation. I told him that I would pass his request on to you.

Watkins is out of town this week. He is available all next week and May 14th, 16th and 18th. His numbers are as follows:

Office: 292-0702 (Ann McCullen, his assistant)
Cell: 940-5256

I am giving the Governor a detailed memo as to what Watkins wants to talk about, so he will be aware of Watkins' request when he sees it on the scheduling memo. Thanks!