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April 20, 1967

Honorable Ronald Reagan
State Capitol
Sacramento, California

APR 21 1967

Dear Sir:

May I respectfully call to your attention recent incidents in this area that may suggest consideration of legislation to provide more effective controls in the area of possession of firearms.

Incident to the peace demonstrations at Port Chicago, certain residents of Clyde, an unincorporated community near the Naval Ammunitions Base, armed themselves with rifles and patrolled the streets, particularly at night. I was concerned with the obvious possibilities, met with these people and an agreement to terminate the carrying of arms was reached.

In December, groups in Orinda, concerned about incidents involving women and delays in securing Sheriff response, similarly armed themselves and instituted a patrol service. Again in meeting with these people we were able to secure the termination of this practice.

Last Friday, a request was made to me, through the Council of Community Services in Richmond, to meet with the family of a young man killed by a deputy sheriff in the course of a burglary. I met with the family in good faith only to be confronted with an armed group, the Black Panthers. This group was armed with pistols and shotguns and threatened to obtain "justice" if their demands were not met.

Today, this same group is appearing before the County Administration Building similarly armed, apparently as an incident to a meeting arranged with Sheriff Young on the same matter.

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As the acts of carrying a firearm of these types are not per se a violation of the law, I respectfully bring these conditions to your attention. I am concerned as to the possibilities, particularly when one realizes that in the last instances, we are dealing with a group not sensitive to reasonable decisions.

Very truly yours,

John A. Nejedly
District Attorney

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cc: Assemblyman Don Mulford