

## Poor Give a Mule to G.O.P. Governors!

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

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LEXINGTON, Ky., May 1—A scrubby \$70 mule named Hope was presented to the nation's Republican Governor, today by a delegation of poor people to remind them that Kentucky life is not all bluegrass, bourbon and thoroughbreds.

The ceremony was in pointed contrast to one last night at Keeneland race course, where a \$70,000 chestnut colt was given the Governors as a souvenir of their visit here for their 1969 spring political conference.

At the race track, the Governors, their wives and a select group of guests sipped highballs and watched a special match race as shadows edged across the green manicured infield and a soft breeze rustled the maples in the paddock.

Today at noon, in the driveway of the motel where the Governors are conferring, a blue truck pulled up in the hot sun amidst 200 reporters and spectators, and Gov. Louie B. Nunn of Kentucky strode out to meet it. In the back of the truck, secured with rope, was Hope, a picture of indifference.

The mule displayed perfect manners throughout the presentation and acceptance speeches. Governor Nunn, who stood on the truck's running board facing the television cameras, closed his remarks this way:

"This mule is symbolic of the failure of past welfare programs to meet the needs of the people of this country. When I look at the face of this mule, a somewhat sad, forlorn animal, I shall think of the sadness that dwells on the faces and within the hearts of the poor people of our state.

"When I look at the back of this mule, I think of the tremendous burden of responsibility we bear for these people. When I see his tail, I am mindful of his trying to get off the parasites that plague this animal.

"And as this mule walks away and I see his rear quarters, I shall always be mindful of the conduct and behavior of some of those who made this presentation."

There was applause from some of the onlookers.

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A mule, given by The Poor People's Coalition of Kentucky, was accepted by Gov. Louie B. Nunn of that state.

The Governor was speaking in response to Mrs. Wanita Bain of Knox County in the southeastern mountains of Kentucky, a soft-spoken, dark-haired woman, who had stood on the road behind the truck and read a prepared statement appealing for more participation by the poor in planning antipoverty programs.

"Our gift," she had told the Governor, "is a symbol of the desire of the poor people to continue to participate in the decisions and activities of government that affect our lives."

The mule presentation was the only rag in a day of riches for the Governors. After two hours of morning speeches, they lunched and then golfed at the Idle Hour Country Club and then moved out in the late afternoon for a cocktail party, dinner and dance at the 500-acre farm-estate of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney here.



**Gov. Ronald Reagan of California is able to laugh even though the horse, Finger Lickin' Good, a gift to the Republican Governors from the Thoroughbred Breeders of Kentucky, finished fourth in a race Wednesday night. Mrs. Reagan's hand is shown, bottom right, on horse's nose.**