

Ky. Governor Fails Stunt

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# Mule Presentation Kicks Back on Poor

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky., May 1—Two-dozen poor people who attempted to embarrass the Republican governors with the gift of a mule saw their effort foiled today when Kentucky Gov. Louie B. Nunn accepted their offering with a sarcastic speech of gratitude.

The poverty representatives, led by Hollis West, a well-dressed Community Action Program director from Knox County, rolled up to the fancy motel where 26 of the Republican governors are holding their spring meeting. With them they brought a four-year-old mule name Hope, described in their press kit as sired "by Poor, out of Desperation,

who plowed the mountain fields for 40 years."

It was a conscious and well-staged effort to parody last night's gift to the governors by the Kentucky Thoroughbred Breeders Association of a handsome two-year-old colt, sired by Kentucky Derby winner Chateaugay and said to be worth \$70,000. The unnamed colt will race under the ownership of the governors and any earnings will be contributed to charity.

The poverty representatives' propaganda said their gift mule was designed to protest Nunn's creation of area development district boards, which they said would exclude the poor

from adequate representation in running the poverty program.

The host Governor decided to greet them with an elaborate show of hospitality at the portico of the motel, hopping up on the running board of the truck and patting Hope's nose with seeming enthusiasm, while the spokesman for the delegation recited their demand for one-third of the seats on the new poverty boards.

With television cameras grinding, the Governor, natty in a pin-stripe suit, rhapsodized on the symbolic virtues of the mule.

"When I look into its face" he said, "I will think of the sadness of the poor

... and when I look at its back, I will think of the burden upon all of us in public office, charged with responsibility, and on the taxpayers who pay the costs of helping the poor."

The mule's switching tail, Nunn said, would remind him of the difficulty creatures—whether humans or beasts—have in "keeping parasites off their back."

"And when the mule walks away," Nunn said, "and I look at his rear quarters, I will be ever mindful of the conduct and behavior of some of those who made this presentation."

West told reporters the Governor's response was "beyond comment."