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KPFA News:

Governor Ronald Reagan addressed a growers' luncheon in Yosemite on Tuesday [7 Apr] and during a question-and-answer period he was asked about student demonstrators. He said he does not think demonstrators are interested in solving problems and "they are part and parcel of revolution." He continued, "If it takes a blood bath, let's get it over with. No more appeasement."

Later on Tuesday Governor Reagan said the use of the word "blood bath" was "a figure of speech," and "I wasn't aware I had used that expression." He said, "I certainly don't think there should be a blood bath on campus or anywhere else. It was just a figure of speech." He explained, "There must come a moment when we bite the bullet, so to speak, or take action when action is needed. You can't worry about radicalizing more students, you must face them."

Governor Reagan's press secretary, Paul Beck, said that what Governor Reagan meant by the expression "blood bath" was that college authorities should punish demonstrators by suspension and expulsion. Mr. Beck added, "I don't think anyone in his right mind would say he wanted a blood bath."

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