

Reagan, Scoring Courts, Links Shooting to Permissive Attitude

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 5—Gov. Ronald Reagan of California attributed the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy today to a growing permissiveness in the nation.

Mr. Reagan attributed this permissiveness in part to the courts and also to a growing attitude "that says a man can choose the laws he must obey, that he can take the law into his own hands for a cause, that crime does not necessarily mean punishment." He went on

"This attitude has been spurred by demagogic and irresponsible words of so-called leaders in and out of public office and it has been helped along by some in places of authority who are fearful of the wrong but timid about standing for what is right.

"In so doing they have thrown our nation into chaos and confusion and have created a climate that permits this ultimate tragedy.

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"This nation can no longer tolerate the spirit of permissiveness that pervades our courts and other institutions."

Mr. Reagan, who is considered a Republican Presidential possibility, read his statement to his regular news conference, then departed abruptly without answering questions, leaving his press aides to reply to newsmen's queries.

His communications director, Lyn Nofziger, and press secretary, Paul Beck, in a sometimes heated exchange with newsmen, both refused to say who were the leaders that the Governor was attacking.

Mr. Beck said, "I think the statement speaks for itself. I'd rather leave it to you to interpret."

Mr. Nofziger interjected, "We're just not going to get in a position of calling names or making accusations against certain people in this country."

When a reporter said, "You've already done that," Mr. Nofziger replied, "All right, then, we'll stand on the statement."

Declines to Elaborate

Another newsman asked if the Reagan statement was meant to reflect partly on Senator Kennedy himself. Mr. Nofziger answered, "You'll have to draw your own conclusions, because the statement is there, and we do not intend to go beyond it."

In his statement, the Governor also declared that the permissiveness he was denouncing would not be tolerated in California.

"This administration will lend aid and support to our local governments and to all those who need and request it," Mr. Reagan said. "We will not stand by and see the institutions of a free country destroyed by those who claim it is being done in the name of freedom.

"This is not a sick society, but is a society that is sick of what has been going on in this nation."

Mr. Reagan reiterated his sympathy for the Senator, his family and for the other victims of "this senseless, savage act."

He also announced he had sent a message of condolences to Mrs. Kennedy.