

Rev. Joshua Cotter Responds to Insult from Governor Brown of California

March 2 2012

As a response to Governor Jerry Brown's unsettling remark (which can be found at latimesblogs.latimes.com/california-politics/2012/02/jerry-brown-takes-on-washington-times-reporter.html) on February 26, 2012, Unification church Vice President Rev. Joshua Cotter sent the following letter.



The Unification Church
North American Headquarters

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Re: "Moonie"
Date: February 29, 2012

To: Gov. Jerry Brown
State of California
Sacramento, CA

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to register my outrage and indignation regarding an incident reported in the *Los Angeles Times* of February 26, 2012. It was reported that in response to questioning by a *Washington Times* reporter, you asked the reporter if she was a "Moonie."

Governor Brown, when questioned by a reporter is it really your practice to ask the reporter's religion, and to do so in a demeaning way?

Moreover, why do you discriminate against members of a particular faith, in this case the Unification Church, and single them out for public disparagement? I wonder if you would ask a reporter if he/she were a Catholic, a Muslim, a Jew, an Evangelical, etc. – and do so contemptuously. It is one thing for you to harbor a private animus towards persons of a particular faith, but it is quite another for you, a public official, to publicly demean and disparage members of a particular church.

Finally, I trust that you are aware that the term "Moonie" is a derogatory, demeaning term. I believe that you, the Governor of all the people of California, do not regularly demean minorities. I do not believe that you publicly refer to African-Americans using the "n-word", or to gays as "f-----s". Do you really think it is acceptable for a public official to use derogatory language when referring to members of a particular church? Mr. Brown, you are the Governor of California in the year 2012, not the Governor of Alabama in the 1960s.

On behalf of Unification Church members in California and throughout the world, I demand that you publicly apologize for inquiring about a reporter's religious affiliation, for your discriminatory singling out the Unification Church, and for using the derogatory term "Moonie" - all of this merely to publicly humiliate and demean a reporter with whom you had a disagreement.

Joshua Cotter
Vice President
Unification Church in the USA

Los Angeles Times

Jerry Brown takes on Washington Times reporter

February 26, 2012



Gov. Jerry Brown tangled with a reporter from the conservative Washington Times newspaper after his meeting with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on Sunday.

At one point Brown, who was defending his earlier tenure as governor and his efforts to bridge the state's budget gap, asked the reporter: "Are you a Moonie?"

The Washington Times was founded in 1982 by Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church, whose followers were often referred to informally as Moonies.

The Washington Times is a conservative paper, and Brown, after recognizing his interrogator, gave no ground. Brown's spokesman Gil Duran joined in the fray, repeatedly calling the reporter, Kerry Pickett, a liar.

You can read a transcript of the exchange after the jump.

Reporter: Gov. Brown, you've gotten criticism that you've ceded...

Brown: I've gotten criticism? Only from the Washington Times...

Reporter: I understand that you've gotten some criticism that you've ceded way too much to the unions.

Brown: Give me an example.

Reporter: As far as the education, teachers unions, and just as far as some of the contracts that have been negotiated, that you could be making the same mistake that you made in your last administration...

Brown: Which one was that?

Reporter: ... Back in the day.

Brown: When California had a \$6-billion surplus and was leading America, if not the world, in many different fields?

Reporter: Well, right now it's going bankrupt.

Brown: That's untrue. I've reduced the deficit that was left to me by a Republican governor from \$26 billion to \$9 billion and I have a plan to reduce it to zero.

Reporter: So you're saying that the reason that California is going bankrupt is...

Brown: No, that's not true. We're going far. I mean, we're doing quite well.

Duran: You need to ask a question that's based on the truth.

Brown (to Duran): You don't have to argue with her...

Duran: No, S&P just upgraded to positive. That's not bankrupt.

Reporter: No, actually, because when Reagan came in later on, things actually changed.

Brown: No, Reagan came before me. Reagan came after my father and then I came after Reagan.

Reporter: And then you actually lost your term thereafter, no?

Brown: No, I'm the only Democratic governor in history to serve three terms. In fact only two governors have ever served a third term.

Reporter: So why is it then, that we're seeing from the bankruptcy though...

Duran: There is no bankruptcy. That's a lie. You're lying.

Brown: California has a \$2-trillion economy.

Reporter: Why am I a liar?

Brown: Last year... Are you a Moonie by any chance?

Reporter: Sir...

Duran: And your facts are totally wrong. I can prove it to you.

Brown: Because your incisiveness is kind of suspect. Anyway. California, the economy is doing better, it's coming back. The private economy added \$90 billion, and that feeds into the public sector as well. There are deficits because there's been excesses in the last decade, brought on principally by the mortgage bubble and breakdown. And we're now cleaning up after that mess. It does take a while to do that. I'd say we're on a very positive course. Not as rapid as I would like, but the trajectory is all in the right direction.

Reporter: Thank you, sir.