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By Carl Golden | January 28, 2019, 11:00 am | in

To Stone, campaigns were not about a clash of ideas or a competition over which candidate was better equipped to lead a government and serve the citizenry.

They were war and the rules of engagement weren't to be found in high school civics books.

Stone didn't merely inch tentatively up to the edge; he set up camp there. He didn't operate in the shadows; the brighter the light, the better he liked it.

A few days before the election while we all dealt with the rising pressure and anxiety of what appeared increasingly to be an extremely close contest, a story broke recounting Stone's involvement with alleged dirty tricks during Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign.

We all fretted that the revelations potentially could tip the balance in the voting now only three days away, but Stone glanced at the front page story, said "Lousy photo; they didn't get my best side" and tossed the newspaper into the trash can.

Kean went on to win by 1,797 votes, the slimmest margin in state history and one which led to the first ever gubernatorial election recount. Stone, naturally, claimed the credit; the rest of us were not so sure.

Following Kean's election, I lost contact with Stone. I joined the new administration while Stone went on to even greater prominence and riches.

I crossed paths with him rather infrequently, usually at political events or on those rare occasions when he'd stop by the governor's office to chat with Kean.

On one of those visits, I sat in on the conversation while Stone counseled the governor on re-election strategy for 1985.

Kean's public relations strategy was to appear to be a man of the people, a man who was not afraid to get his hands dirty.

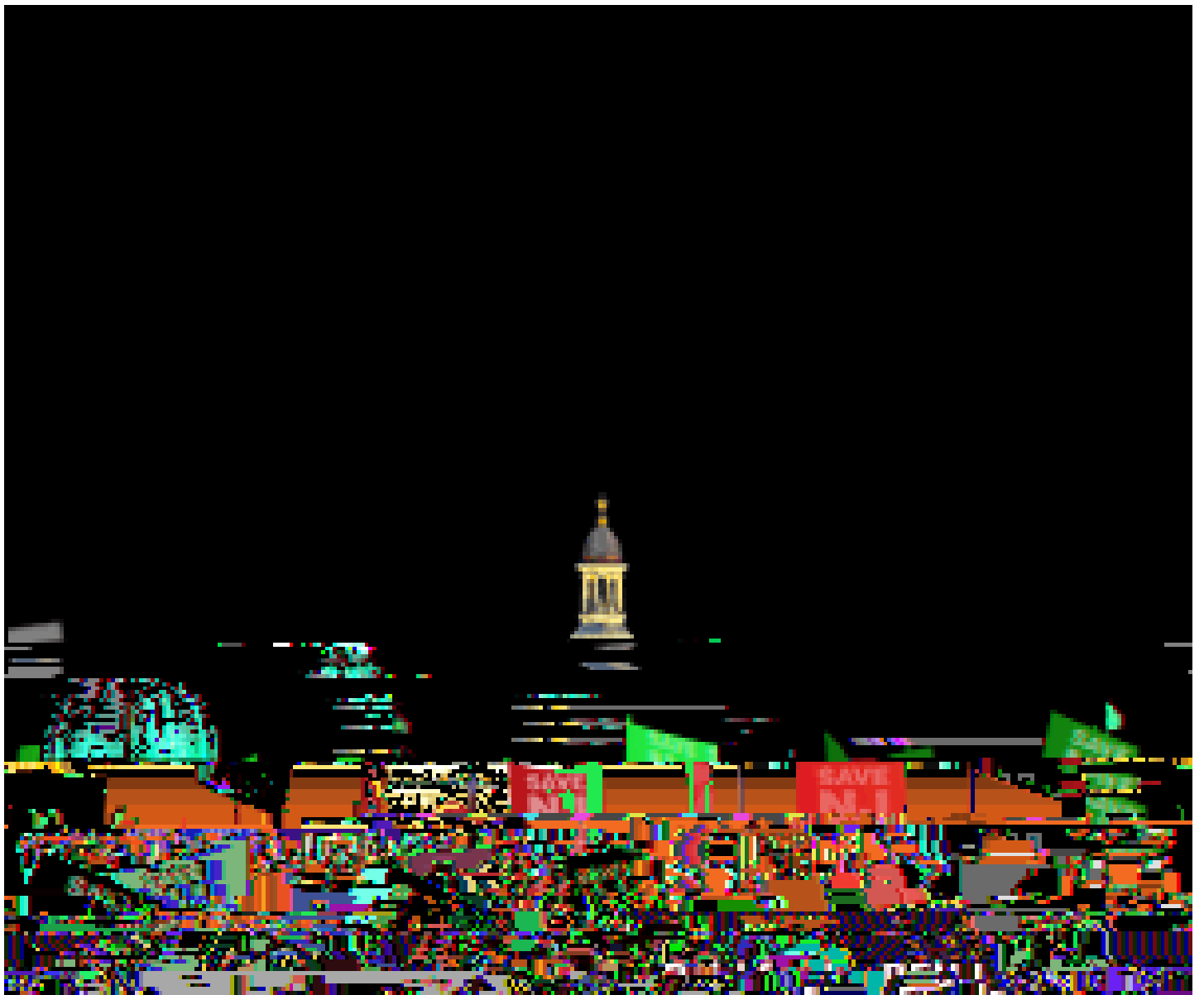
The raid was an over the top show of force



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