

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Slouch By Jim Earle



"I'm really looking forward to when I can wear senior boots."

Return of Good Ol' Days would mark Reagan success

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — After he delivers his economic package to Congress with its painful cuts in federal spending, says President Reagan, "I'll be hung in effigy."

When he delivers his message to a joint session Feb. 18, Reagan forecasts: "The screams will be heard from border to border and coast to coast But there isn't anything that has been deemed sacred and untouchable with regard to the cuts we're proposing."

After it was predicted that Budget Director David Stockman's "Black Book" would call for slashing budgets for Social Security, Medicare and other programs some 80 million people depend on, the White House passed the word that seven social programs would indeed be sacred.

The seven programs include the basic Social Security retirement payments, Medicare, school lunches and breakfasts, veterans benefits, supplemental income benefits for the blind and disabled, and Head Start and the summer youth program. These programs fall into the category of what Reagan calls the "truly needy."

But there has been no word on the food stamp program, which is expected to be cut, housing guarantees or the Comprehen-

sive Employment and Training Act, which some aides say is scheduled for extinction.

Stockman has said that \$50 billion will be slashed from President Jimmy Carter's 1982 fiscal year budget totaling \$735 billion. The only department that will be spared the axe, except for economies on efficiency, will be the Department of Defense, according to White House press secretary Jim Brady. There, Reagan will be acting out his philosophy on the need for a big military buildup.

The president stresses that it is a two-part package: a 10 percent annual tax cut over a three-year period, accompanied by budget reductions.

And that is just for starters. He also is planning reductions in the tax rate on dividends, interest and unearned income, and he plans to make good on a campaign promise for a tuition tax break for parents who send their children to private schools and colleges.

Reagan's long-nurtured anathema to big government is having its day. When he meets with state legislators, county officials and mayors, he has the time of his life talking about the return of federal power to the states. And not just the power; the money, too.

He told a gathering of state and county executives earlier in the week:

"You are the first to see which programs work and which don't, and you know what's best for the states or your communities and that means what's best for the people. I've long believed that state and local governments have a better chance to be efficient and responsive than does the federal bureaucracy."

"I'd like to see the block grants (to states) be only an interim step to actually transferring tax sources ... and stop this whole roundtrip of our money," he said.

Reagan is counting on business, in particular, to take its tax breaks through depreciation and other credits, and run with that, that is, to revitalize their industries and to stimulate the economy. Jobs are expected to flow from all this activity.

All this will be coupled with the elimination of regulations and red tape that he and much of the business community feel have hamstringed them in a highly competitive field.

In the end, his success will be measured by the pocketbook. If prosperity returns to an inflation-ridden country, and the unemployment rate is cut in half, he will be able to move on to restore those good old days. But if the picture is otherwise, the people will continue to look to the federal government for survival.

Rhetoric shouldn't startle the Soviets

By DAVID S. BRODER

EVANSTON, Ill. — Ronald Reagan is doing all right so far in the suburbs and small cities of the Midwest and West, but there seems to be some concern about the "belligerence" of his foreign-policy comments.

In part, that is the carryover of the "warmonger" label that Jimmy Carter tried to pin on him in last fall's campaign. But the fear has been rekindled by some of Reagan's and Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statements in the opening weeks of the new administration.

Personally, I am not persuaded that there is much to be disturbed about, in what Reagan and Haig have had to say. But when you hear the same concern expressed, in almost the same words, by townspeople, journalists and students in places as diverse as Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, Topeka, Madison and Evanston — as I did last week — then it begins to register.

What triggered the worries were the Reagan comments at his first press conference, suggesting that, in his view, the Soviet Union was implacably committed to the course of seeking world domination and would use any tactic it could to achieve that goal. Haig added fuel to the fire with his charge that the Soviets were supporters of international terrorism. Pravda and other organs of Soviet propaganda have been replying with equally bristling language.

What I said when the topic came up — as it did at every stop on last week's itinerary — was that there were two reasons why I thought the Russians were unlikely to find the Reagan-Haig rhetoric as provocative as their counter-propaganda rumbles might suggest.

The first is that Ronald Reagan has been saying exactly the same things about the Soviet Union for the last quarter-century. And the Russians have to have a good book on Reagan.

Here, for example, is Reagan on the Vietnam war, in a book called "Ronald Reagan's Call To Action," published five years ago: "The plain truth of the matter is that we were there (Vietnam) to counter the master plan of the Communists for world conquest, and it's a lot easier and safer to counter it

8,000 miles away than to wait until they land in Long Beach The Communist master plan, as we know it from published reports, from intelligence sources, and from our own painful experience, is to isolate free nations, one by one, stimulating and supplying revolution without endangering their own troops. What they did in Vietnam was simply to follow the plan they have pursued in many countries around the world. ... There is a Communist plan for world conquest, and its final step is to conquer the United States."

Now, I assume that the computers in the Kremlin Bureau of American Affairs have all that old Reagan rhetoric coded and indexed, so Brezhnev and Co. can hardly be surprised to hear him saying what he is saying.

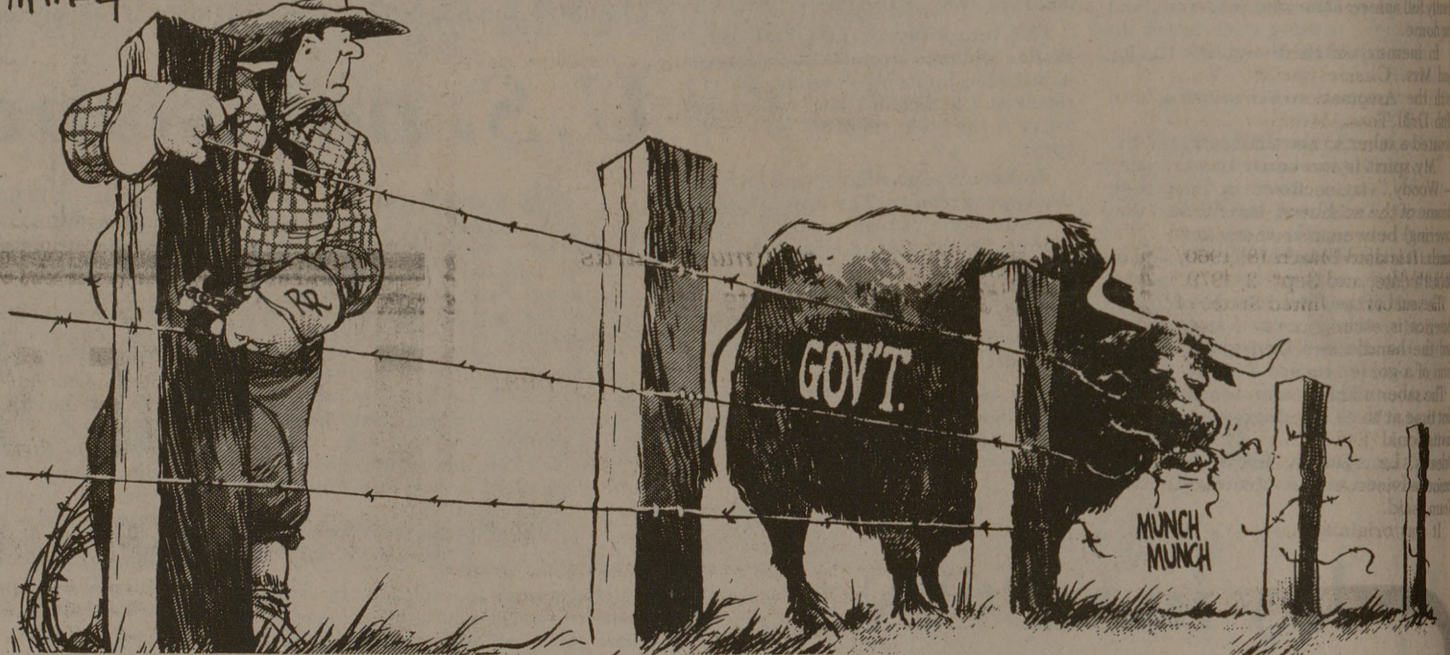
The second reason why I doubt they find this language "provocative" is that Reagan has no interest in disturbing or challenging the Soviet regime at home.

My impression is that what bothered Moscow about Jimmy Carter was his tendency, in his first two years in office, to agitate the "human rights" issue. "Human rights," to them, is an issue of internal security and the protection of their own authoritarian regime. I doubt very much that the Reagan language about Russia's inclination to expand its external empire is one bit as "provocative" in Russian eyes, as Carter's correspondence with celebrated Soviet dissidents or his public championing of their cause.

Reagan has turned off the "human rights" rhetoric and is plainly prepared to take a live-and-let-live attitude toward internal Soviet repression. He is being very cautious in his comments on the Polish situation, which, far more than any provocation from Washington, might cause the Soviets to move their armed forces into action.

That, at least, is my view. But the citizens I met last week — or at least a good many of them — are disturbed and a bit frightened by the exchange of epithets between the new President and the men in the Kremlin. I note this — without agreeing — as the only jarring note so far in Reagan's smooth acquisition of authority.

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It's your turn

Washers, dryers draw resident's ire

Editor:

On behalf of all the Krueger residents (and assuredly many other dorm inhabitants) I would like to file a not-quite-earth-shattering but still-fairly-important complaint. The laundry system. Basically, it's the pits. Today I spent twenty minutes looking for a functioning washing machine. It was indeed a drag. To make matters worse, what I did find in this search was fifteen inert and semi-stagnant tubs (with funny looking things swimming around in them) and only ONE brave operating soul — #K23 — bless its bearings.

On top of this, they don't give you cash refunds for the tickets eaten by the machines (so you can go to another dorm's coin-operated machines). No siree. Instead I got another wonderful laundry ticket which, I'm sure, will eventually be devoured by one of the dynamic duo (washer or dryer).

We could wear fig leaves. Blow off washing clothes. Or wait until Spring Break and shovel the problem off onto Mom. Disgusting. Trying to hide the smelly critters won't work either. Both you and your pregnant laundry basket will know the real truth. Seriously, I find it extremely difficult to believe that something can't be done.

Buy more washers. Substitute new washers for the decrepit ones. Hire more repairmen. Retrain those already hired. Call Red Adair. Call Marvin Zindler. But until then there still remains this proverbial pimple on the face of our campus.

Carol Carr '84

Article misleading

Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to comment on the article by Ms. Laura Young which appeared in The Battalion on February 6, 1981. Although we appreciate the exposure this piece afforded our organization, there are several inaccuracies and misquotations which might have obscured the fundamental purpose of this organization.

The correct name of this organization is

the Association for Women in Science. We prefer the term organization to club because "club" implies that membership is limited to only students. As a professional organization, we welcome faculty members and all interested persons from the community, as well as students. The purpose of this organization is to allow for an exchange of ideas and information concerning all aspects of women in science.

Dr. Greta Fryxell, Assistant Professor of Oceanography at Texas A&M University, will speak on "Women in Science: Pitfalls and Prospects for the Future" at our first meeting which will be held on Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in 112 O&M. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Fern Halper
Lauren Sahl

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 350 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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Warped



By Scott McCullar