

Slouch By Jim Earle



"It's your time to sweep out!"

Time growing short for more budget cuts

By JERELYN EDDINGS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is trying to slow down a moving train with his new effort to cut the budget for a fiscal year that's now under way.

Congressional Republicans realize the difficulty in that, and they know they could simply run out of time to cut as much as the president would like.

The new year started Oct. 1 with many Reagan changes already in place after a summer of rough-and-tumble politics resulted in \$35 billion in spending reductions and changes in law aimed at keeping spending down.

But, only days before the year began, Reagan asked Congress for another \$16 billion in budget cuts and revenue raising measures. And on Day One, he was just beginning to send details of his new plan to the lawmakers.

The problem is this: The longer the clock ticks on the new year, the more spending has already taken place and the less there is to cut.

House Republican leader Bob Michel says it could be spring before Congress can enact the \$2.6 billion part of the package that would reform some federal benefit programs, such as welfare, food stamps, unemployment, Medicaid, Medicare and federal pensions.

All of those programs have come under the budget knife once already and further cuts could require hearings and more carefully performed surgery.

Reagan's proposal also contains \$3 billion in tax code revisions, including imposing user fees for boat and plane owners who use federal facilities and closing some business tax loopholes.

Those would require action by the Finance Committee in the Senate and the Ways and Means panel in the House. They also will certainly take months to complete

— if Congress passes them at all. Such proposals have usually been rejected in the past.

Michel said Reagan would "do well" to get \$12 billion in cuts, and the Republican leader doesn't think the president would turn down even \$10 billion worth if Congress approves that amount.

It would be tough to push through a single package of budget savings this time. In fact, Michel still hopes to enact most of the changes in Congress' 13 regular appropriations bills. He says he would like to stick as closely as possible to the Congress' regular processes, rather than circumventing them again.

Rep. Thomas Foley, assistant Democratic leader, called the circumvention that resulted in the first cuts "a cardinal sin against the traditions of the House."

Foley, D-Wash., said the unorthodox "reconciliation" bill left a bad taste in the mouth of most representatives. He said, "I hope it serves as a kind of antibody to that process."

He speculated the administration would try to package many of its latest round of cuts — minus the benefit reforms and the tax changes — into another single bill. An opportunity for such a bill would arise if Congress doesn't pass its regular appropriations by Nov. 20, when a stopgap funding bill expires and another omnibus measure is required to keep agencies funded.

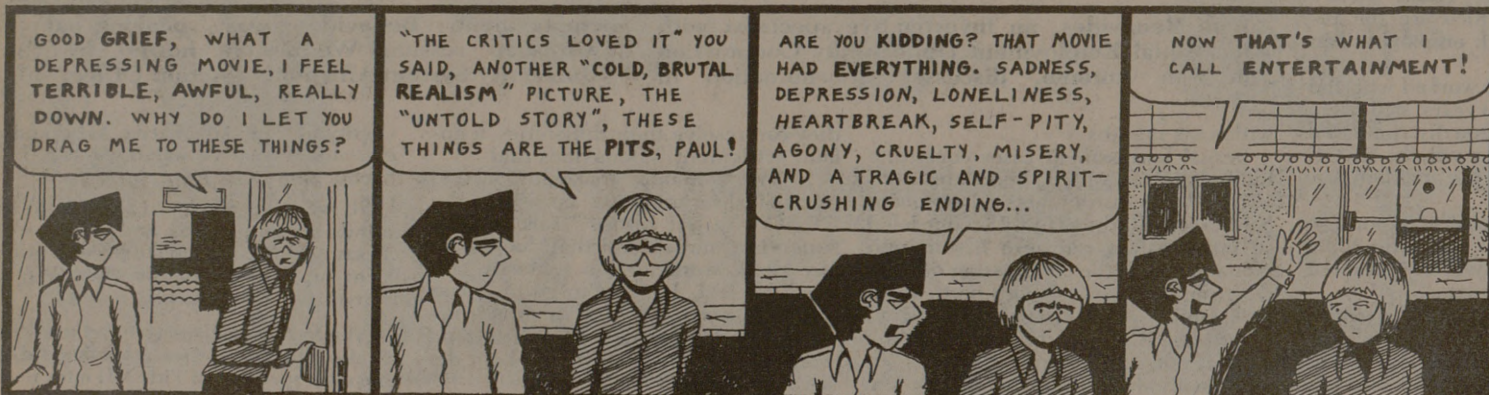
House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., says Republicans can't hope to hold their party together if they propose specific, distasteful cuts in programs and agencies that many support. He said they have a better chance with an up or down vote on a package, which he will no doubt fight.

The Republican strategy is still being formulated by leaders in the House and Senate, in consultation with the administration.

the small society by Brickman



Warped



Students mourn Sadat's death

It's your turn

Editor:

With the assassination of President Sadat the world and particularly Egypt has lost a man who was a giant among statesmen. Only the coming months will tell what is to become of the peace treaty that President Sadat worked so tirelessly on with Israel. Hopefully, the new leaders of Egypt will have the vision of Mr. Sadat worked so tirelessly on with Israel. Hopefully the new leaders of Egypt will have the vision of Mr. Sadat and continue his efforts towards peace. I think it is tragic that President Khadafy of Libya would express elation at this sad event. Sir, your hands are red with the blood of a very noble man ... I know of no soap that will wash it off.

Tom Weirich '77
Murray Moore '80
Karen Sealy '80

Liddy's illusions

Editor:

Monday night I went to hear G. Gordon Liddy give a presentation called "A Retrospect on American Politics."

Throughout Mr. Liddy's talk he continually spoke about Americans and their "illusions."

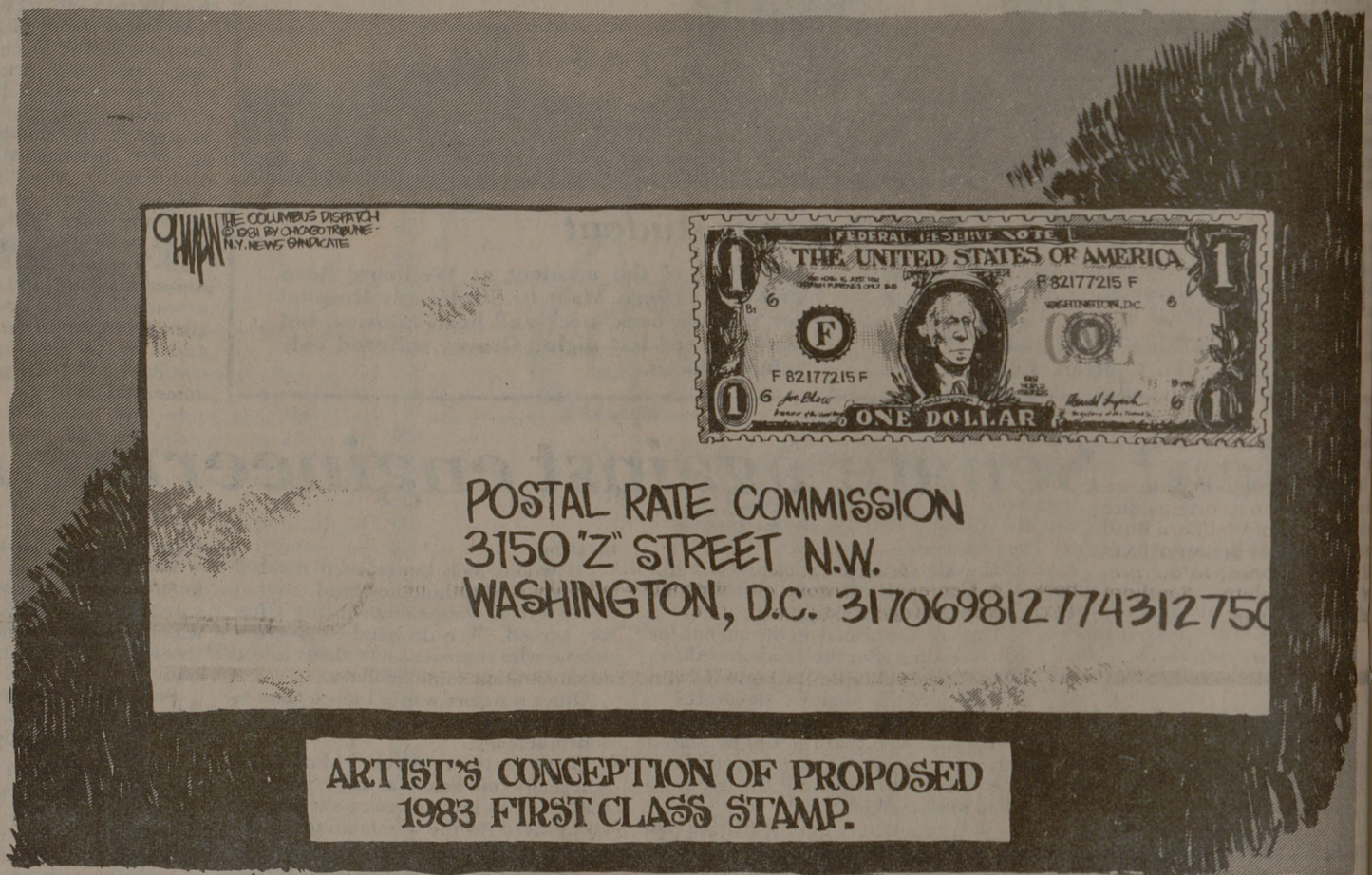
"Illusions," he said, "we must rid ourselves of illusions" in our view of the world and politics.

I thought about this for a minute but something wasn't making sense. This was G. Gordon Liddy, right? A man who spent four years in prison because of his involvement in an effort to hold up a crumbling illusion of what the president was and how his executive personnel operated. An

illusion so carefully constructed and firmly held together that even the creator started to believe in it. An illusion shrouded over a belief by the executive branch that at least they knew what was best for the country if their constituents didn't and with this they justified all criminal activities that constituted Watergate.

If we are to prevent self-deception the Mr. Liddy repeatedly advocated, must remember the fact that he was caught virtually red-handed in a criminal breach which he never denies. But judging by the applause last night, most of the audience was under the illusion that he was some kind of folk hero who was justified in trampling over the constitution for his and his colleagues personal beliefs.

Robert W. Jones
Luther St., C



Next, Mother-in-law Goose rhymes

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Reps. Jonathan Bingham, D-N.Y., and Edward Derwinski, R-Ill., are co-sponsoring a congressional resolution to designate each fourth Sunday in October as national Mother-in-Law's Day.

This is a fine, bipartisan gesture on their part, but one wonders if it does enough to elevate the group it honors to first class citizenship.

As Bingham noted in a recent letter to his colleagues, "mothers-in-law have been unfairly maligned" for years. The relentless barrage of what Bingham called "unfair stereotyping" will not be easily reversed — if you can imagine a stereotyping barrage.

In conjunction with whatever action Congress might take, I would like to urge voluntary efforts by individual citizens to remove the stigma associated with mother-in-lawship. Poets and songwriters in particular are needed.

Over the centuries, countless songs and poems extolling the virtues of motherhood have spread a reverential aura about female parents. But mothers-in-lawhood has inspired virtually no lyrical outpouring.

We need a few song titles like "Mother-in-law McCree," some sentimental lines like "she is a wonderful mother-in-law, dear old mother-in-law of mine."

By Scott McCullar

Artists likewise could play a big role in the campaign. How about a major museum paying several million dollars for a painting called "Whistler's Mother-in-law?"

And all those thousands of madonna paintings could have their counterparts in canvases depicting adoring mothers-in-law giving the spouses of their offspring dutiful pecks on the cheek.

Another group that should be brought into the campaign are the patriots. They could speak fervently of "the mother-in-law country" and call for defense of the "mother-in-lawland."

Other possibilities: Miners hitting the "mother-in-law lode," Immigrants speaking their "mother-in-law tongue," Navy vessels hovering around the "mother-in-law ship," Babies born "mother-in-law naked," Astronauts returning to "mother-

in-law Earth." Religious backsliders returning to the "mother-in-law church," Societies being derided by schoolmates as "mother-in-law's boys."

Any trend worthy of the name also must have commercial tie-ins. This one abounds with possibilities.

I can see a cake mix company advertising that its product guarantees pastry "like your mother-in-law used to make." And I can hear a spaghetti sauce commercial in which the actors roll their eyes, rub their stomachs, smack their lips and exclaim "Suocera mia! That's Italian!"

In the beginning, some pastalovers might not be aware that "suocera" is the Italian word for mother-in-law. And in the beginning, "suocera mia!" might not sound as spicy as "mamma mia!"

But give it time.

THE BATTALION

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