

# National

Reagan refuses comment so far

## Some say Stockman in hot water

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Budget director David Stockman Thursday won a vote of continued confidence from Republican congressional leaders, but President Reagan called him to the White House for a meeting about his reported lack of faith in administration policy.

GOP leaders emerged from a morning session with Reagan praising Stockman and insisting that he remains an effective spokesman for the administration, despite critical comments about its economic program.

But at least two Republican senators have suggested that Stockman may no longer belong in the administration because of controversial remarks attributed to him in the December issue of the Atlantic Monthly.

In the article, "The Education of David Stockman," based on interviews over a period of months, the budget director describes Reagan's fiscal policies as poorly planned and hastily enacted.

Stockman — architect of the tax

and budget cuts Reagan regards as crucial to economic recovery — described the president's tax cut in the article as a "Trojan Horse" to enact policies favoring the affluent.

The "supply-side" economics embraced by the administration is simply a new name for the "trickle-down" philosophy of stimulating the economy by giving tax breaks to upper-income groups, he said.

At the dedication of a new ABC News bureau the president was asked what he planned to do about Stockman and replied, "When I leave here today, I'm going to have a meeting with him." Pressed further, Reagan declared, "I'm not going to say anything more."

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said the question of Reagan's confidence in his budget director "just hasn't come up. There's just no need to answer the question."

Stockman has remained silent. But as he was leaving his home for the office Thursday morning, he was asked by reporters whether

he had offered his resignation. "No," he replied tersely without stopping.

Asked whether he had discussed the furor with Reagan, he said only, "Yes."

Reagan was expected to assess the possible damage to his program from Stockman's comments during a previously scheduled strategy meeting Thursday with Republican congressional leaders.

Stockman issued a statement saying he believed he was speaking "off the record" when he gave the interviews. He charged that the article "creates an impression that is wrong and grossly misleading," and reaffirmed his support of Reagan's plan.

A pre-publication copy of the article by William Greider, an assistant managing editor of The Washington Post, caught the White House by surprise, Speakes said.

He said the White House was not aware that Stockman had been giving interviews to Greider since before he became head of the Office of Management and Budget.

Asked if Stockman could continue to be an effective spokesman for administration's policies, Speakes replied, "I would think so."

But he refused further comment on the substance of the article.

According to the article, Stockman agreed to meet with Greider on a regular basis shortly before he became OMB director.

Under their agreement, Greider wrote, Stockman would "relate, off the record, his private account of the great political struggle ahead. The particulars of these conversations were not to be reported until later, after the season's battles were over."

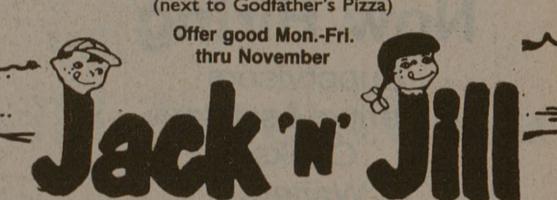
Reached by telephone Wednesday, Greider said he and Stockman discussed the timing of the article in late July, in August and again at their last talk in September when "he agreed now is the time to write the article."

Greider said he let Stockman know the piece was being prepared.

"All I want to say is that I honored the ground rules and I take my ethics as a reporter seriously," Greider said. "I haven't violated any ethical considerations. My reputation will have to stand up on that."

Stockman, according to OMB spokesman Edwin Dale, "feels angry" at Greider.

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## Schweiker screams: return health money!

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker says his department's budget has been slashed so much that the government may lose the services of 200 doctors it put through medical school.

The HHS secretary made his grim prognosis in a letter to budget director David Stockman that was made public Wednesday.

In the letter, Schweiker outlined his 1983 budget requests and cuts in benefit programs, and urged partial restoration of 1982 cutbacks throughout the Public Health Service.

Among Schweiker's requests are \$9 million in salaries for 200 National Health Service Corps doctors who attended medical school on government scholarships in this fiscal year. Last year's scholarships approached \$63 million.

Schweiker said unless the money is found, the doctors will be released from their obligation to work in the corps in areas that are short of doctors. The areas range from city ghettos to sparsely populated rural areas.

"We should not permit the government's prior investment in these individuals to be lost," Schweiker said.

Under the program, doctors are required to work a year for the government for each year they received a federal scholarship. They can work for federal, state or local clinics in a doctor-short area.

Schweiker, asking for \$219 million in additional Public Health Service funds for the current fiscal year, also warned that President Reagan's recently ordered 12 percent across-the-board cut will hit the Food and Drug Administration particularly hard.

Unless \$32 million of the \$40 million to be cut from the FDA is restored, 929 employees will be fired, leaving the FDA barely able to do its job, he warned.

"This would severely restrict their ability to ensure safety in food and drugs," Schweiker wrote. His supplemental request would save 675 agency jobs.

Schweiker's 1983 budget asks for return of funds cut from alcohol and drug programs and the National Institutes of Health,


"because we believe permanent reductions of this magnitude in these areas would be detrimental to the health and safety of the American public."

The secretary also asked an additional \$68 million for Head Start to prevent gradual deterioration of the pre-school program. The extra money would come out of other social programs, most of which would not be increased next year, he said.

Schweiker also seeks \$28 million in 1982 to process Cuban and Haitian refugees, saying the program will run out in late January.

Schweiker wants to cut department employment 3,785 in the current fiscal year and 5,073 in fiscal 1983, for a total 1983 staff of 144,039.

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