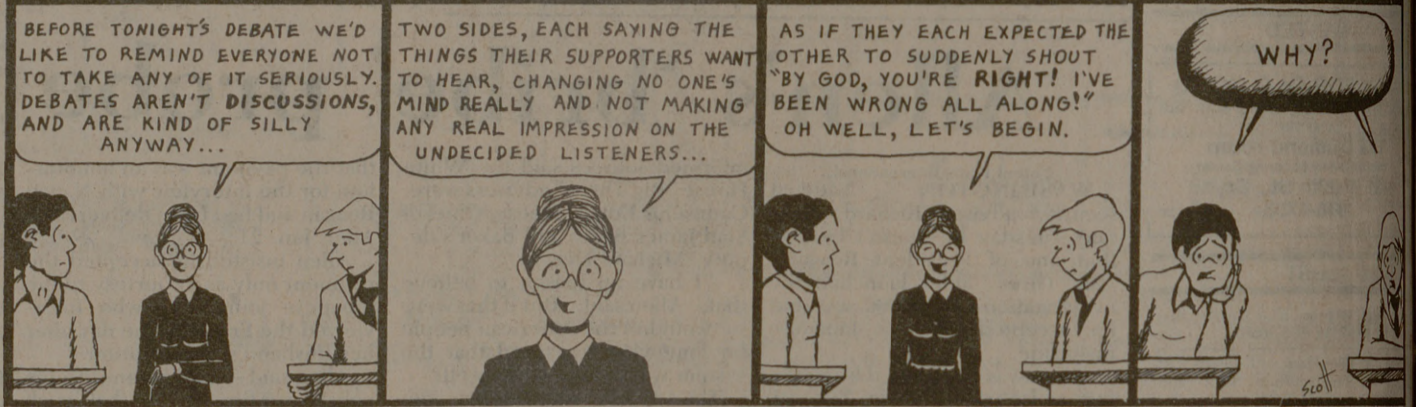


National

Warped

By Scott McCullar



O'Neill blasts Reagonomics during AFL-CIO convention

United Press International
NEW YORK — House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill told union leaders Tuesday that President Reagan is no friend of working men and women and placed blame for the current recession on

Reagan's shoulders. Speaking at the AFL-CIO's biennial convention observing the centennial of the labor movement, O'Neill continued an assault against administration social and economic policies begun Monday

by former Vice President Walter Mondale and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland. "Reagonomics is crumbling," O'Neill told 900 delegates representing 15 million AFL-CIO members.

"This recession is the direct result of Reagan administration policies," he said, noting that the economy's growth rate had been increasing when Reagan took office in January.

In a calm, deliberate speech, O'Neill assailed Reagan's economic program and efforts by the Labor Department to weaken programs such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act aimed at

protecting workers. Before O'Neill spoke, Kirkland announced the Polish trade union Solidarity to be the first recipient of the George Meany Human Rights Award issued by the union.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa had been invited to personally accept the award, a trophy of Steuben glassware, but remained in Poland to continue negotiations with the Polish government.

On Monday, the attacks by Kirkland and Mondale were offset somewhat by invitations from Reagan to AFL-CIO leaders to meet at the White House in December.

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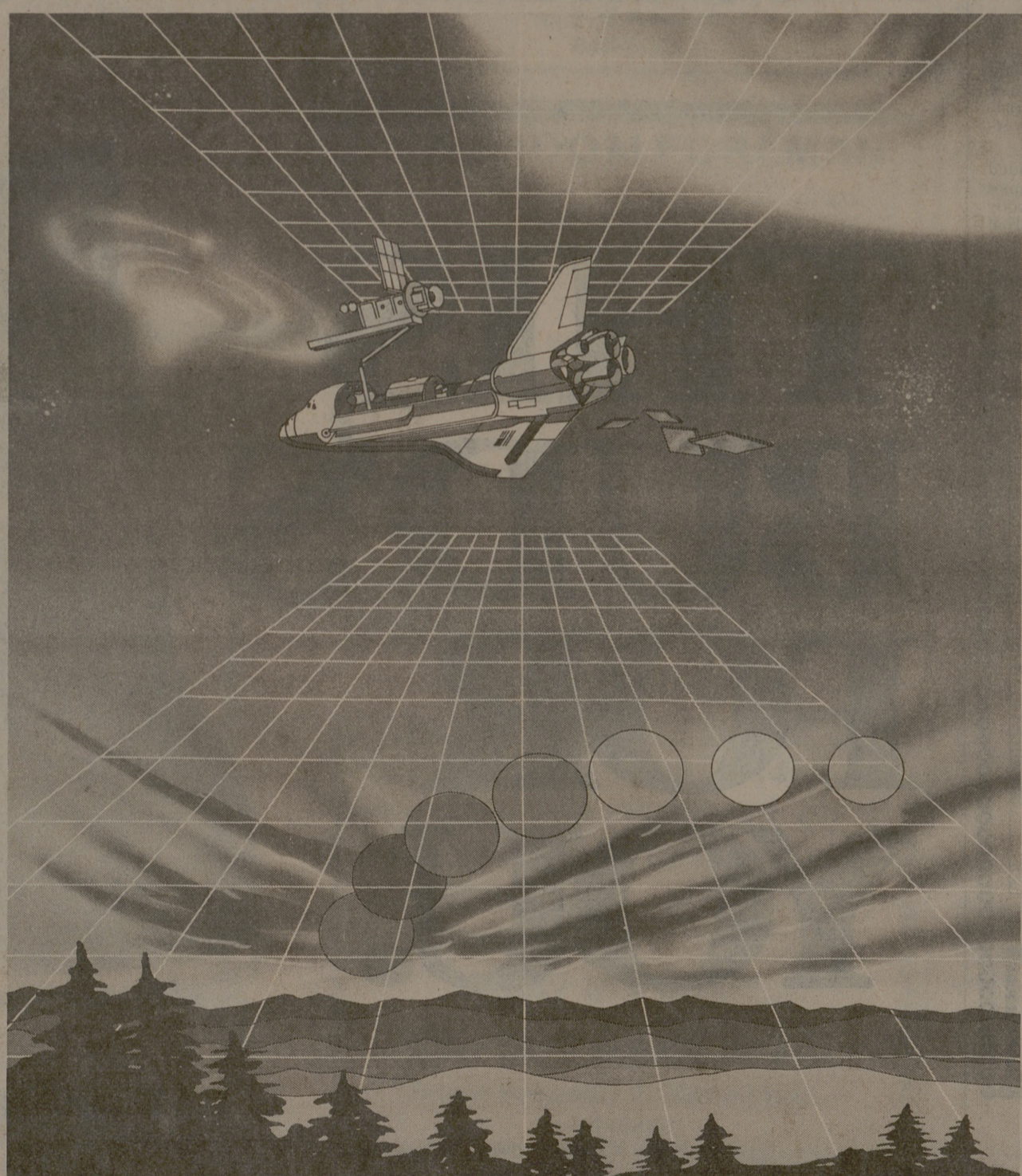
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Prayer may start Senate filibuster

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate is on record in favor of voluntary school prayers, but a leading liberal says he will filibuster until the largely symbolic measure is dropped.

The fight over one of the New Right's pet issues provoked an uproar Monday when Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., an advocate of school prayer, referred to opponent Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, a Jew, as "the senator from B'nai B'rith."

Metzenbaum said he was filled with sadness and embarrassment at the "bad taste" remark. Hollings quickly apologized, saying he meant no slur and was speaking only in fun and in the heat of a debate.

B'nai B'rith is a U.S.-based Jewish social service organization.

Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., said he would filibuster to prevent passage of an \$8.6 billion appropriation bill for the Department of Justice and other agencies, which carries the pro-prayer amendment.

If he is successful, the appropriation will have to be put into the continuing resolution that must be passed by Friday night to keep the government operating.

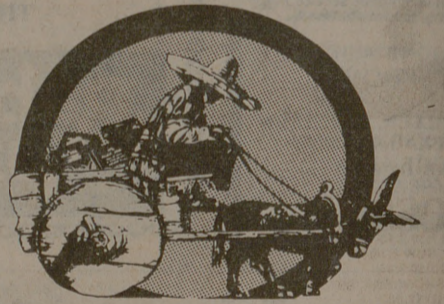
The Senate first voted 70 to 26 to repudiate its appropriations committee and restore House-passed language barring the Justice Department from entering cases opposing voluntary school prayers that states might allow. The department has never entered any such cases and has no plans to do so.

In the key vote of the day, the Senate rejected a substitute by Weicker 51 to 34 that would have limited the provision to constitutional programs of prayer and meditation — in effect leaving the current status unchanged.

After the defeat, Weicker said "I will not have this bill become a vehicle for outrageous unconstitutional action. This bill will not go off the floor of the United States Senate."

Prayer in public schools was outlawed in 1962 by the Supreme Court, which found it violated constitutional provisions for separation of church and state.

Although much of the controversy surrounding the issue has been muted in recent years, school prayer remained a top priority with the New Right — ranking with antiabortion legislation and an end to school busing.



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