

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"Want a money-saving hint? Wait till after Christmas; they're much cheaper then."

## U.S. needs 50, not one, economic plans

By DAVID S. BRODER

NEW ORLEANS — When the Republican governors met here for a couple of days just before Thanksgiving, they gave a classic demonstration of that aphorism, "Where you stand depends on where you sit." In interviews previewing the likely dynamics of the 1982 election, they showed how much their view of President Reagan's economic policy depends on the health — or sickness — of their own state economies.

To Gov. Robert F. List of Nevada, where state gaming revenues are up 14 percent this year and the economy has "helped the recession only in a very limited way," it seems that "Reagan is doing better all the time. He is stronger than ever in the West."

Try telling that to Gov. Victor G. Atiyeh of Oregon. He says it's "getting tougher and tougher" to defend the president. The severe and prolonged nationwide housing slump has brought not a recession, but depression, to Oregon's vital forest products industry. Statewide unemployment, now at 10.6 percent, is projected to jump to 12.5 percent in the next few months.

Atiyeh is no less a conservative or a Republican loyalist than List. "I support the president in trying to cut both taxes and budget," he says. "But it's a question of timing." Where List says there has been "no real grief" on the first round of cuts in federal aid to Nevada, Atiyeh says the impact in Oregon has been "unbelievable. People don't want big spending programs, but when you have the kind of unemployment we have, they expect the government to help."

The debate between the two Westerners has its counterparts all across the country. Energy-rich Sun Belt governors like William P. Clements Jr. of Texas and David C. Treen of Louisiana were cheering the president on, while farm-state governors like Robert D. Ray of Iowa were warning that Reagan's personal popularity does not convince voters that "his policies will help the farm economy."

The reality underlying all of these contrasts is that in this time of tremendous inflation-recession-interest rate pressures, what we have is not one national economy, but 50 different state economies, each going its own direction.

That elementary fact poses a great political challenge to Reagan's economic strategy. The president so far has left no room in his plan for the strains some states face in adjusting to the massive changes his economic policies are generating. Quite the contrary. When he was asked in an interview last week whether he thought it was "at all the responsibility of the federal government to redistribute resources between states that are relatively well off and states that are not," the president said flatly no. "That is up to the states," he said. When someone doesn't like the situation in which he is living, he can "vote with his feet" — move away, Reagan said.

It was not the first time the administration had suggested that the answer to inequality is to move people, not money, around the country. Earlier, at a meeting of Reagan's advisory commission on federalism, the speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Benjamin L. Cardin, asked Norman B. Ture, the undersecretary of treasury, what he would do about financing government services "in a jurisdiction that has one-fourth the fiscal resources of a neighboring jurisdiction."

"You don't do anything," Ture said. "You decide where you want to live."

There are 36 governors' races next year, 16 in states now held by Republicans and 20 now controlled by the Democrats. Reagan pollster Richard B. Wirthlin said here these contests will open "the great hinge" of history to the GOP, by providing "the opportunity for a realignment" that would make it the country's majority party.

If that is true, the Republicans better hope that the Reagan economic plan delivers more Nevadas than Oregon in the autumn of 1982.

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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.*

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 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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## Speaker turns 'informative' discussion into propaganda

Editor:

On November 21 in room 301 Rudder Tower there was a conference on American Policy in Central America. The speaker was Dr. Margarita Melville of the University of Houston. This meeting was sponsored by the International Student's Association here on campus.

Since this is a country where the right to free speech is carefully guarded, Dr. Melville had every right to come here and express her views. To counter or to agree with Dr. Melville's views a representative panel was chosen from the student organizations of Venezuela, Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador and the United States. Each country had one representative, except El Salvador. All these representatives but one were told not to prepare for this meeting. They were merely supposed to be an informative panel. The exception to this was the second representative from El Salvador. This "surprise" representative of El Salvador was Joaquin Samayoa, the underground leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). This front is the

### Reader's

### Forum

spearhead of the communist movement in El Salvador and has been proven responsible for rampant terrorist activity in that country including rocket attacks on the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador.

There are several suspicious circumstances surrounding Samayoa's appearance here at Texas A&M. First, every representative on the panel was told that they had 10 minutes in which to ask questions. Samayoa asked no questions, he professed to agree with Dr. Melville and then began to deliver what sounded like a rehearsed propaganda

speech. It lasted exactly ten minutes, the other members of the panel spoke too long, some didn't speak enough, but nobody else finished in 10 minutes. This has all the makings of a planned speech. Secondly, nobody (the I.S.A.?) knew Samayoa was there. What was supposed to be a neutral panel had become dangerously red. Last panel members had been told not to prepare. This left them at a distinct disadvantage when facing two well-prepared speakers.

Why this imbalance? Why did he keep the appearance of Samayoa a secret? Why weren't the student representatives notified so they could prepare their questions? And why, here at Texas A&M, was a conference so blatantly leaning in the direction of the doctrine that threatens the freedom of every people in the world?

Gloria Shea

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by four other signatures.



### It's your turn

## Bugle stand taken after Texas game

Editor:

At 6:50 a.m., 6:20 p.m. and 11 p.m. every day of the school year, bugle calls are blown by the Corps bugler. Since about 1936, these calls have been blown through a bugle stand that was originally dedicated to Edwin O'Brien Bellinger '36. The original stand stood in front of the Academic Building and was then moved to the Quad where it stands now and is used every bit as much as it used to be. It is almost entirely in its original form because of special care and a new paint and sandblasting job every summer given by the new bugler.

Sometime last Friday night after the t.u. game, the megaphone was stolen. This letter is written to ask for any information as to the whereabouts of the stand. Something this old is of priceless value to A&M and is not a thing to be played around with. We therefore ask for a quick return of this important monument that has become such an integral part of our school.

Jim Williams '84  
Kieth Mays '82  
Paul Brown '83

nuclear weapons and the political power that they have. But, I have also seen the threat of Russia's nuclear strength and dominance they have over smaller countries.

Our only hope of not having a nuclear holocaust is if Russia decides not to throw away their country on our retaliation attack. They might call this some kind of stalemate, but if this will keep my children and their children from seeing world wide annihilation, it will be worth it.

Disarmament would be the next answer, but would either side trust the other in knowing if they had really disarmed all nuclear weapons? Would you really feel safe if the United States had disarmed all nuclear weapons but have Russia just say that they did?

I am not the "John Wayne" type as what most civilians think of Marines, but I am an American. I have been to different countries and I found that even though the United States has its problems, there is still not a better country around.

Also, in the time of trouble, as many millions of fellow Americans, I will stand to defend it.

PFC John Robinette  
USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, USMC  
Howmetown, College Station

— If you live off campus you're in by default, and you can attend any function.

— We will have two bands that will play C&W, jitterbug, rock and roll plus a band sound system.

— A free buffet table of meats, breads, cheeses will be provided. Also drinks will be purchased.

— You can wear anything you want, why it is called semi-formal (sports jacket and tie, etc.).

— Information is available at the Cubicle, 1st floor MSC, and the Rudder Office. Tickets will be sold at the door at the MSC Rudder Box Office.

Paul Bettencourt  
OCA President

### Fundamentalism

Editor:

I tend to agree with Jim Mazzullo's article in the Nov. 20 Battalion; however, was a bit harsh on our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters. There is a minority of Christians who believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible. They obviously feel the "word of God" being attacked whenever true scientific facts and theories are expounded. Although they endanger our learning of the universe and how God operates it, they do have the right to search for evidence for their beliefs. Their attacks on scientific truisms also endanger us on our toes, demanding hard evidence for theories which are taken for granted.

Mark Bauer

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