

Reagan vs. Nadar on 'over regulation'

By HELEN THOMAS
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Since he took office, President Reagan has been trying to wipe out what he calls "over regulation" by the federal government and red tape that hamstrings business.

He has placed Vice President George Bush in overall charge of the watchdog operation to rid the government of excess regulations, waste, abuse and fraud.

But consumer advocate Ralph Nader has written Reagan that his administration is displaying "a brand of anti-consumer extremism that would make the people of Nixon and Ford administrations blush with shame."

In his letter to Reagan, Nader said that in the name of "regulatory reform" there will be "more American casualties from dangerous products, more ripoffs, and more anti-competitive price rises for hardpressed American consumers to suffer from."

But Reagan has contended he has a "mandate" to eliminate excessive government regulations. It has been a burning issue with him to free the economy from most governmental restraints to permit a wider play of competitive forces.

Every few weeks, he issues a report on the strides his appointees are making in cutting down the paperwork involved in carrying out the regulations that have become a part of the system for some 40 years.

Assistant White House press secretary Mark Weinberg said, "The president believes that much federal regulation is wasteful and unnecessary and that the consumer's best protection is not a growing federal bureaucracy but a free and competitive economy."

Weinberg said the administration will not hesitate to issue and enforce regulations where there is a real evidence of need.

One case in point, Nader said, is the requirement that American consumers "be exposed to the costs and risks of \$50 billion Alaskan Natural Gas Pipeline, while the corporate owners of the pipeline reap the profits."

"Throughout our country, helpless people, children, the elderly, the disabled and millions of other innocent consumers are being denied the protection of their national government," he said.

"In the name of government intrusion, your administration has launched an unprecedented assault on regulations designed to protect consumers against unsafe automobiles, hazardous consumer products, shoddy merchandise and deceptive or unfair business practices," Nader charged.

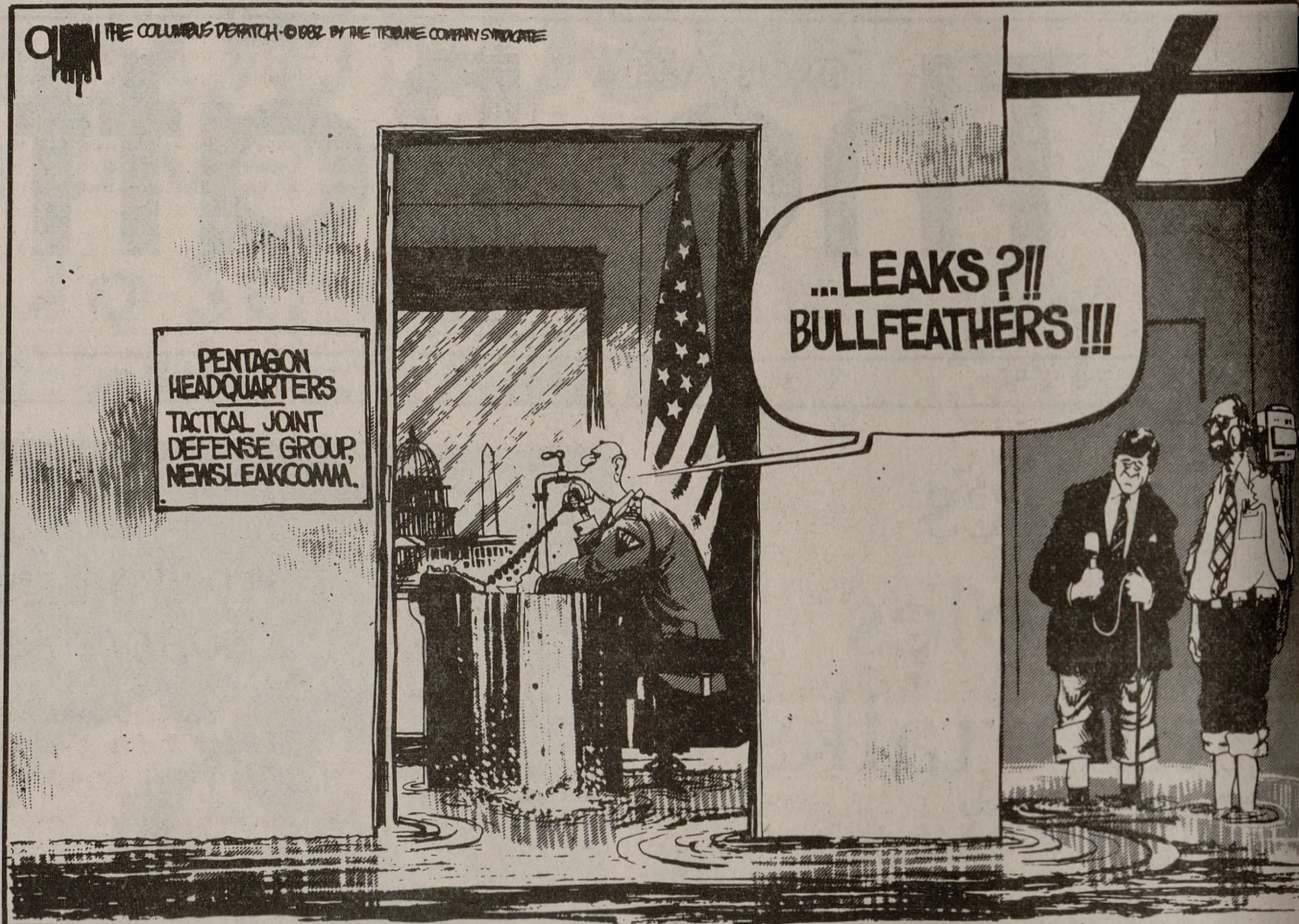
He said that protective regulations in the automobile field have been dropped along with many proposals to increase air safety, including reducing the number of hours pilots can fly from 70 hours a week to 40 hours a week.

Nader said that the Consumer Product Safety Commission has been severely affected by a 30 percent reduction in its staff. In terms of regulation, he said, the commission has eased rules governing safety on power lawnmowers, and shelved plans for fire safety regulations on upholstered furniture.

In the nutrition and food safety area, Nader said the administration had derailed proposals that would have improved nutritional labeling, approved a sweetener about which numerous questions remain, slashed the woman-infant-children feeding program for low income pregnant women, and cut back on school lunch programs.

Nader commended the administration for blocking further increases in milk price supports, but criticized the administration for approving sugar price supports which he said will raise sugar prices by 25 percent in the stores.

"Catering to the demands of the drug industry, the administration has proposed to eliminate the patient package insert program which would provide consumers with information about the attributes and potential hazards of frequently prescribed drugs," Nader said.



And that goes for Tippecanoe, too

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — While similarities between the current recession and the Vietnam War may not be readily apparent to the untrained eye, a parallel does exist.

In each case, one must look back into history to find the points of origin.

Richard Nixon, you'll recall, used to assert that he inherited the war from Lyndon Johnson, who claimed he caught it from John Kennedy, whose associates blamed events during the Eisenhower administration. And so it went.

Pursuing that line of reasoning, I once traced the genesis of the war all the way back to Millard Fillmore.

So it is now, to some degree, with the recession.

When it is suggested that his economic policies brought on the slump, President Reagan is quick to affirm that the conditions that produced the downturn already were locked in place when he got here.

On one occasion, Reagan blamed "several decades" of misguided actions for creating the situation he is now trying to correct. On another occasion, he said the ill-advised course had been followed "30-odd years or so."

Thirty years would take us back to the start of the Eisenhower administration. However, it can be argued with sound logic that the seeds of the recession were planted long before that.

Striving to repeat the service I performed so ably during Vietnam, I have been searching the archives to see if I could determine exactly when the recession's antecedents were born.

My research points at least a circumstantial finger of guilt at our 10th president, John Tyler.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that to describe Tyler as "mediocre" was to indulge in "unwarranted flattery." Maybe so, but it was during Tyler's administration (1841-45) that the government separated the fiscal year from the calendar year.

Prior to 1882, the years had run currently. Then, during Tyler's fiscal New Year's Eve was changed June 30.

Although other analysts may disagree, I am convinced this switch precipitated the dissolute practices Reagan carries are responsible for the recession.

To those of us who live by the calendar, Jan. 1 is the time for resolution is when we get a grip on our tendencies and steel ourselves for a year ahead.

Who among us has any will power on July 1? By that time, we have momentum and are flowing with the tide. Thus there is little or no pressure on the government to straighten up or right.

If Reagan wants maximum public support for tough budgetary policies, he should move the fiscal New Year to coincide with the calendar.

So much for you, John Tyler. If it isn't for you, we wouldn't be in this

Letter: It's time to top criticizing, start supporting

Editor:

I've been an Aggie fan since I was old enough to know what an Aggie was and I've never seen the turmoil stirred quite the way it has this year. I've sat back and listened to Angelique Copeland strike out against the "flight of the great Pumpkin," thrust for the throat of Mr. Bright, and finally, her merciless stab at Mr. Hood and the Corps of Cadets.

Do you even smile on Christmas morning? Were you shut away as a child only to become a critic comparable to none. As for myself, I'm tired of your sarcastic attacks on anything that walks. Even though you are entitled to an opinion, I really feel you need a lesson on objectiveness.

Your last attack on Mr. Bright was the last straw. There's two things at Texas A&M that you just don't mess with: The Board of Regents, and the Corps of Cadets. This school has always been the Corps, and even though many non-regs are fanatic people, the question of their place here is not for me to say. I've seen women invade the quad, and many coaches come and go.

Whether or not I support their existence here, change must take place for advancement. Bingo, there's the vein. In order to move on, changes must be underwent, and it's time this unique university found a really great coach, and I wish him the best of luck, but his record does not compare to Mr. Sherrill's. Over five seasons, Sherrill led the Panthers to a 50-9-1 record and two bowl games.

Tom Wilson may have been mistreated in his dismissal, but the fact is, he is gone and Sherrill is the new AD and head coach. It's time we quit causing waves and show him what that "Aggie 12th Man" is all about. Why spoil a talented team's chance to prove it. The team will play for who is coach, whether Wilson or Sherrill.

Angelique, sometimes I honestly think you belong in Austin, you have the perfect attitude for that little institution down north. Quick to criticize, but short to apologize. Fans, alumni, and faculty I call for you to stop criticizing and begin supporting the team has a job to do, don't put a halter on them before they start!

Let it ride Miss Copeland and for God's sake, if you want to criticize the

Corps, become a waggie and see what really happens inside these arches.

Paul Vaughan
Company C-1

Early job offer

Editor:

I would like to announce well in advance my willingness to accept the position of athletic director and head football coach at Texas A&M effective Jan. 1983 in the event that Mr. Sherrill fails to produce a national championship football team in the upcoming season. Admittedly, I know very little about football or the goings on within the University's administration, so I therefore promise to offer my resignation at the first sign of trouble or dissention. Perhaps I am better qualified to be considered for the presidency of the University. In whichever position my talents are suited, I will act on my own accord with total disregard for the personal feelings of others, the wishes of the students and alumni and the accepted etiquette and policies of the University. Come to think of it, my true calling may be the Chairmanship of the Board of Regents.

William H. Bassett, III
3905B Olive St.

Good luck, Wilson

Editor:

I submit this as an open letter to Coach Tom Wilson:
Dear Coach Wilson,

I would sincerely like to thank you for all of your hard work and effort that you put forth here at Texas A&M as head football coach. You have done a terrific job. I think you are a fine man, as well as coach. I, as an Aggie, feel very embarrassed by the actions of Texas A&M's Board of Regents. Their actions reflect an attitude of ignorance and inconsistency. I hope you will overlook this deplorable

situation and remember your years at Texas A&M as being enjoyable amidst the Spirit of Aggieland. I wish you well and hope that God will richly bless you and your family.

Shelly Greenberg '84

RHA supports Vandiver

Editor:

At the first meeting of the semester Thursday night, the Residence Hall Association voted unanimously to commend University President Frank Vandiver for his contributions to the University in the following letter:

Dear Dr. Vandiver,
As the events of the past week begin to settle, the Residence Hall Association, representing 10,000 on-campus Aggies, would like to express confidence in and appreciation for your leadership at Texas A&M University.

Although you have only been with us a short while (but long enough to receive the nickname, "The Oldest Fish on Campus"), you have demonstrated qualities that every Aggie would be proud to possess.

We look forward to knowing you better.

Tim Ryan
President,
Residence Hall Association

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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

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