

# Time is running out on Reagan's programs

by David S. Broder

WASHINGTON - The clock ticks terribly fast for any president of the United States. The fiscal 1983 budget Ronald Reagan will present to Congress next week is the first he and his associates have had the opportunity to shape from beginning to end. And when that budget year expires, the 1984 presidential campaign will be only three months away.

The breakneck pace of the presidential term is part of the explanation for a wave of unease that has come over the Republicans and the conservative movement, as they await the formal unveiling of what is rightly considered the policy and political centerpiece of any administration — its budget.

The budget will reveal in stark terms what Reagan managed to pass over with only fleeting comments in his State of the Union address: the unhappy fact that this conservative government confronts deficits brushing the \$100 billion-a-year level for the rest of this term and beyond.

What the Wall Street Journal called "the baleful effects of big deficits" are only the symptoms of a greater doubt gnawing at conservatives. That is the fear that runaway government and a sick economy may overpower Reagan's remedies.

Last Friday, as a succession of orators tried to galvanize the members of the Republican National Committee into a show of enthusiasm for the mid-term political campaign, copies of Friday's Wall Street Journal were being passed from hand to hand.

The effect was like being doused in a cold shower. "As they wrestle with a recession that wasn't supposed to happen," the Republicans read in Ralph E. Winter's lead story in their favorite newspaper, "some businessmen are starting to think the unthinkable — that Reaganomics might never bring the promised prosperity."

The fear that deficits and high interest rates will choke off the promised turnaround may prove unfounded. But, as if by coincidence, a number of conservative publications and pundits are giving voice to a feeling of extreme nervousness about where Reaganomics may be taking the Republican Party and conservatism.

Kevin Phillips, who ever since the late 1960s has been periodically proclaiming an "emerging Republican majority," said in the latest issue of his newsletter, "The American Political Report":

"There's a growing feeling in conservative and New Right circles that the

Reagan economic and policy shortfalls shaping up for 1982 threaten an ideological and electoral crisis... Important elements of the Reagan coalition, not least conservatives, are breaking ranks and moving towards a save-yourself politics."

Horace W. Busby, a conservative Democrat and former Lyndon B. Johnson aide, wrote that clients of his Washington consulting firm a stiff, four-page critique of the leadership and policies of the Reagan government. He said it reflected the comments of "men of substance, experience and proved influence," many of them "long friends of Mr. Reagan."

Not long ago, Busby was writing about a long-term Republican "lock" on the electoral college and the presidency. But in his latest memo, he reported widespread fear that the momentum of the conservative thrust, which extended from 1978's Proposition 13 through the 1980 Reagan-Republican sweep and the legislative triumphs of the first eight months of 1981, "began to stall" in the final quarter of last year.

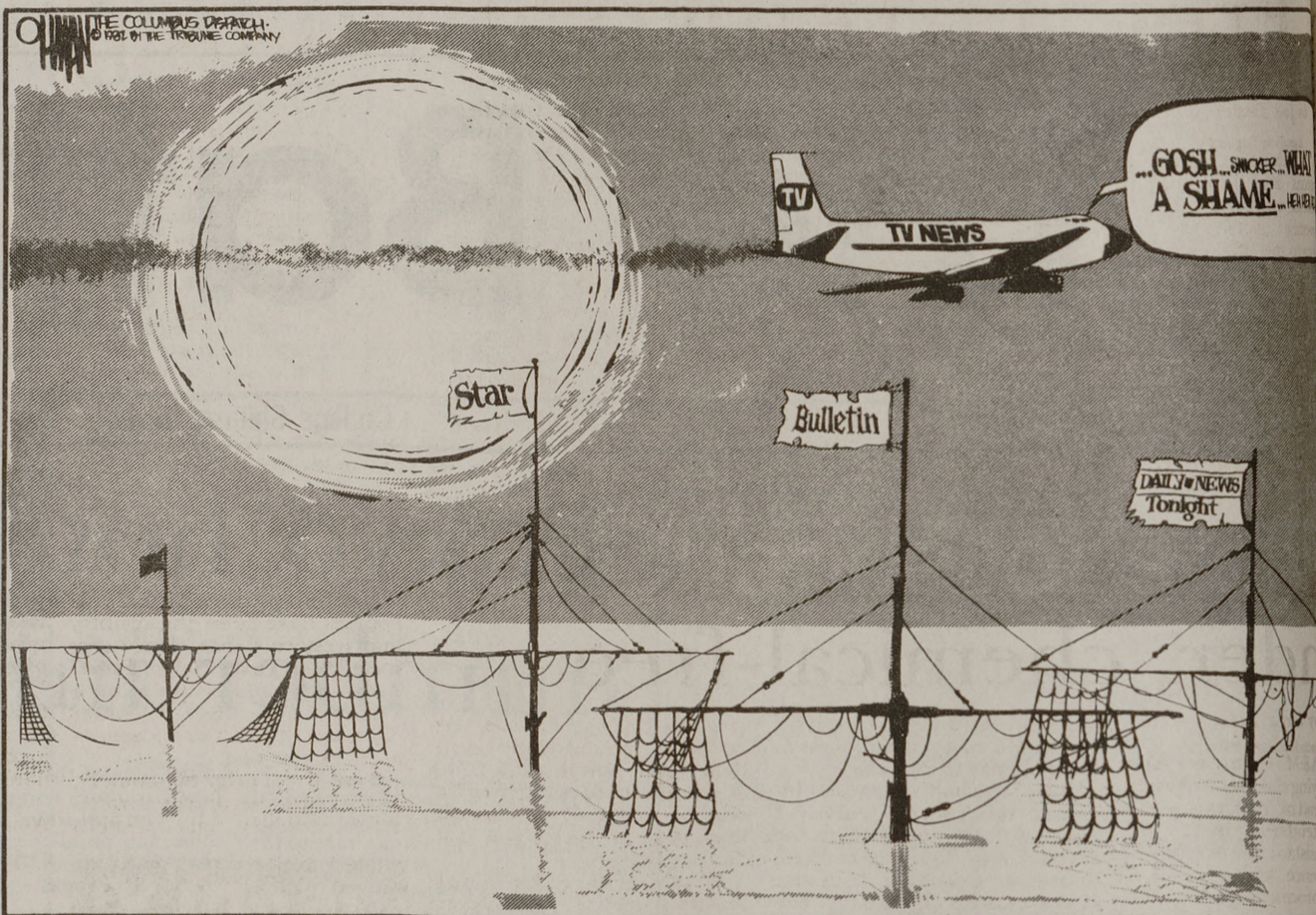
It began to stall, not because of recession and rising unemployment, but because Reagan and his associates seemed uncertain about how to master the forces at work in the economy and the world, he said. Both Busby and Phillips noted that in December, Reagan's standing in the polls reached what Busby called "the lowest level ever recorded for any President in the same year as his inauguration."

They fear an economic-political unraveling. If investors lose faith in Reaganomics because of soaring deficits, the job-producing recovery may never come or be quickly aborted. By November, disillusioned voters may snatch away the provisional mandate they gave Reagan and the Republicans in 1980 by electing waves of Democrats to governorships and congressional seats.

None of that is certain, of course. But the very fact that these fears are being voiced in these places at this time shows how thin the surface of patience, confidence and consensus supporting the Reagan program may be.

The credibility of that program will be tested in the reaction to the Reagan budget. The President, budget director David A. Stockman and the rest will be judged on their candor — and there is little time for the recouping if that credibility is lost.

This is a fateful fortnight for Reagan — and the country.



## Reader's Forum Preacher faces jeering crowd

Editor:

I saw two shows of bravery yesterday; one unquestionably authentic, and the other in need of some more proof. However, the authentic show of bravery was not half so stunning and epic as was the show of bravery that needed some more proof. The authentic bravery was bravery in the face of man; the epic bravery was bravery in the face of God. A sidewalk preacher, by squaring off against a jeering, leering crowd, showed that he was not afraid of man. The jeering, leering crowd, as if to tap him, claimed little fear of God.

To face a jeering, leering crowd for hours and say nothing but what is closest and dearest to your heart is bravery. There is no denying it. And it happened. It was authentic. A sidewalk preacher did it.

But the jeering leering crowd made its claim to courage also.

The sidewalk preacher told the jeering, leering crowd that the Bible had been written over a period of 1,500 years

by about 40 authors. He said that not only did these authors agree with one another, but they predicted occurrences that have become major historical events.

Now juxtapose this attestation to the Bible's truthfulness with the following: The sidewalk preacher also asked anyone who could confess Christ to raise his hand. He then informed the rest, with a clear-cut passage from the Bible — the book that multitudes over the centuries have taken to be the very Word of God — that they were going to hell. Not a tincture of panic from the jeering, leering crowd. Only a vehement uproar of protests because it had been offended.

Could this bravery, i.e. lack of panic, be real? Each individual in that jeering, leering crowd will one day plunge into darkness. All alone he will face finality. And yet, although much anxiety was shown about winning an argument with a sidewalk preacher, none whatsoever was shown about death, judgement, or burning hell. The jeering, leering crowd fulminated that the sidewalk preacher couldn't prove such things as judgement

or hell. Isn't it fantastic that those who claim hell are asked to prove it to those that are betting no hell state by? Does not this apparent smugness elude the imagination's grasp?

As the meeting broke up, I thought about the strong, powerful voice of the sidewalk preacher, which the jeering crowd could only strain to hear. I remembered how his eloquence, line of fire dwarfed the members' jeering, leering crowd and made them look like children. And then I recalled a passage from Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. It comes after a heathen giant defeated in a dispute with Christian. Hopeful:

"If these men cannot stand before the sentence of men, what will they do before the sentence of God? And if the mute when dealt with by vessels of wrath will they do when they shall be rebuked by the flames of a devouring fire?"

Danny Ennis  
Math Graduate Student

# Letter: Big shoes left to fill in the Chancellor's office

Editor:

In this time of upheaval at Texas A&M, it is sad to see one of the most effective and highly respected administrators retire from the Texas A&M University System. Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert has served A&M in different capacities for 23 years, and in all that time, his actions have only improved or enhanced our great University.

Because of its broad administrative nature, most of the students at Texas A&M are not really aware of all the duties that the chancellor's post encompasses. In general terms, the chancellor acts as the chief executive of the four academic institutions as well as all of the services and agencies. Some of these include Texas A&M, Texas A&M at Galveston, Prairie View A&M, Tarleton, The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service, the Engineering Experiment Station, the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, along with many others.

Dr. Hubert's contributions are far too numerous to go unnoticed. He initiated the Quality and Teaching Conference held among all of the System parts to improve and exchange educational ideas. When the federal government began legal proceedings against Texas A&M under Title VI (an anti-segregation law), Hubert not only prevented the suit from coming to trial but instituted a plan that was adopted by many other Texas schools.

Texas A&M has received a lot of criticism and negative publicity in recent times and I think, in the interest of fair practice, some of the more positive aspects of our University should be pointed out from time to time. Dr. Hubert is certainly a credit to the Texas A&M University System. Not only is he a capable administrator, but he is a truly fine man. I have had occasion to meet and talk with Dr. Hubert. Along with being warm and gracious, he is also an extremely intelligent

and judicious man. Whoever is selected to fill the chancellor's position has some very big shoes to fill. Dr. Hubert will be sorely missed.

Janie Koester '84

## Write your senators

Editor:

I am writing as a concerned young woman in reference to the Hatch Amendment that could be on the floor of the Senate as early as next week. This amendment allows states to pass legislation concerning abortion and also forces the most restrictive laws to be applied. It is the forerunner of Sen. Jesse Helms Life Begins at Conception Bill. Should they succeed, both of these measures will result in the proposal of legislation that could outlaw all abortions, including those in which the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother and also pregnancy as a result of rape. In addition, the outlawing of contraceptives is the target of future legislation. Does this bother you? The idea of a powerful minority fraction of pro-lifers attempting to legislate their opinions of morality bothers me.

This is obviously an issue which transcends school rivalries and affects each one of us directly. Please write our U.S. Senators as soon as possible to express your disapproval of the Hatch Amendment and similar bills:

John Tower, 142 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510; Lloyd Bentsen, 240 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

Kala Jo Philo  
Finance/Pre-Law  
U.T., Austin

## Democracy in Arab states

Editor:

Although Marc Rogers went off the subject of the letter Nabil Al-Kolwiter wrote, I do appreciate his sharing our concern for the absence of democracy in some Arab states. I also would like to inform him of some facts which he does not seem to know. We do have oppressive governments and we recognize it as a problem that we are trying to change.

On the other hand, oppression in Israel is systematic, not only against Arabs in the occupied territories, but also against East European Jews and those who disagree with the Israeli policies (Israel Shahak, Felicia Langer, etc.). Regarding the freedom of expression, I happen to have studied at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia and the University of Jordan, where we had open debates almost daily on the campus grounds. I have to admit that we were cautioned not to organize or we would end up in jail.

But in Democratic Israel, two out of the only three universities on the occupied West bank are closed. Even schools are closed every now and then. If you happen to oppose the government you will end up in jail and prominent leaders are exiled or booby-trapped. Sometimes, the democratic government of Israel extends its rights to blow up Arab homes. Mr. Begin brags that his government did not demolish as many Arab homes as the Labor Party government did. It is also worthwhile to draw your attention to the thousands of Palestinian youths in the Israeli prisons or in exile. We do experience all the above mentioned in Democratic Israel, something we have yet to experience in the oppressive Arab states.

A closing note to Marc Rogers: It is not too late. You need to learn more about democracy in Israel. If you still believe that I am wrong, I am open to an intellec-

tual debate under a non-partisan sponsorship on the subject matter.

Oussama Qawsmi  
Graduate Student

## Foreign policy hypocrisy

Editor:

I cannot believe the hypocrisy of the Reagan Administration. Less than a week after airing its Hollywood proganda "Let Poland be Poland" the administration proposes the same crimes it accuses the

Soviet Union of by sending military aid to El Salvador. The last thing El Salvador needs is help at killing its own people.

Why do you look at the speck of dust in your brother's eye and pay attention to the plank in your own eye? "Brother let me take the speck out of your eye," when you yourself fail to take the plank in your own eye? You better, first take the plank out of your eye and then you will see clearly to take the speck from your brother's eye. (6:41-42)

Let El Salvador be El Salvador.

Jack Seifer

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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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 retain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and include the address and phone number of the writer.

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