

How about converting it to a condominium?

By Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Upon signing the Fiscal 1982 budget he sent to Congress this week, President Reagan commented that if the United States were a business, "this country would be declared bankrupt."

America's assets, he said, "couldn't sell for what the liabilities are."

A good point. At last count, the national debt was topping the trillion-dollar mark and rising. But I'm sure the president was on firm ground when he added assurances that "this country is not going to go bankrupt."

My confidence in the nation's ability to avoid foreclosure stems in part from the support it could draw from the private sector and other governmental entities.

The Chrysler Corp., for example, would not stand idly by and watch America go down the tubes. If need be, Chrysler could be counted on to guarantee loans for enough money to see the government over the hump.

And in a pinch, New York City surely would pitch in to help bail out the country.

One way the city could raise funds to keep the country afloat would be to sell Manhattan island back to the Indians. While it's doubtful present-day Manhattan would fetch as much as the original purchase price, remember that bankruptcy claimants usually have to settle for less than they have coming.

Of this you may be certain: You'll never hear the mayor of New York telling Washington to "drop dead."

Just for the heck of it, however, let's try

to imagine what might happen if the United States did go into receivership.

Undoubtedly there would be a liquidation sale that would include selling back to France the territory America acquired under the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1803, the land was worth \$15 million. That, of course, was before certain improvements, such as the installation of a bar in the Old Absinthe House in New Orleans in 1826.

Today, taking inflation into account, the parcel of real estate that lies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains and stretches from the Gulf of Mexico northward to Canada should bring at least \$15,000,000.27.

Also going on the block would be Alaska.

When the United States purchased what is now our 49th state from Russia for \$7,200,000 in 1876, the transaction was derided as "Seward's folly."

If Russia bought it back, would the resale become known as "Brezhnev's folly?"

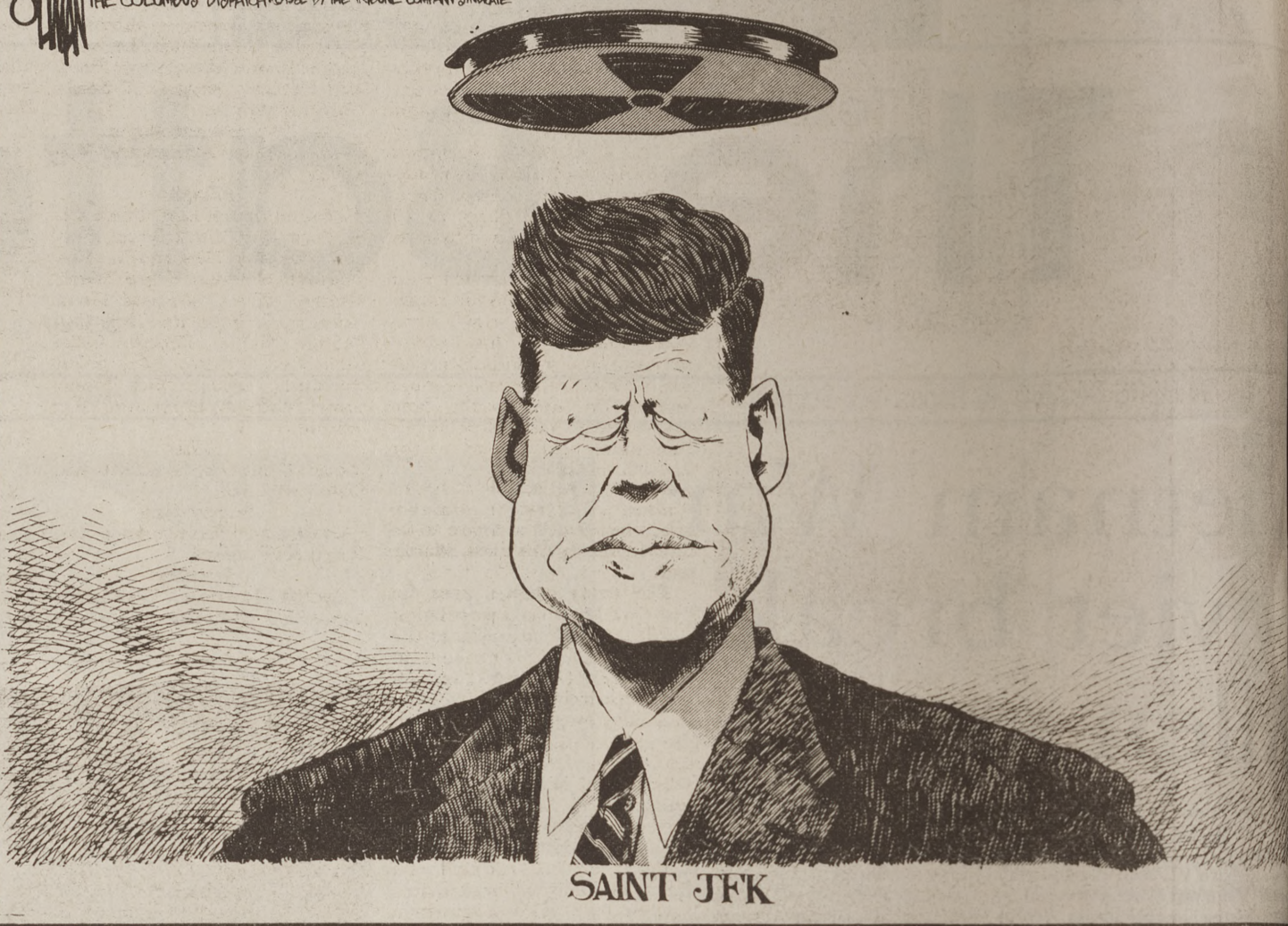
Seems a bit unlikely, but stranger things have happened.

For that matter, selling Uncle Sam's assets probably would not be the most remunerative means of handling foreclosure. Bigger bucks could be raised by stimulating a take-over battle between Mobil and DuPont.

In the pattern of their struggle over Conoco, the two corporations might jack up the bidding, thereby increasing the country's value.

Or, if the insurance is paid up, maybe we could have a fire sale.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH-DIGEST BY THE TRIBUNE COMPANY SINDOORÉ



Washington Window Reagan rolling up his sleeves

by Helen Thomas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is telling his supporters to "watch out for the horror stories" that his 1983 budget is causing suffering and hardships among the needy.

In sounding his warning, Reagan is also voicing some apprehension that such concerns might thwart his drive to cut federal spending for social programs and to turn them over to the states.

White House spokesman explained to reporters: "You are going to see a lot of stories of people on television and in the newspapers of people being deprived. But we've found a lot of them don't hold up."

The president appears to be at the crossroads in vindicating his philosophy that the states can do the job for the people better than Washington. He is beginning to rail against the federal government as he did so often before he reached the White House.

To critics of his "new federalism" program and high deficit budget, he says "put up or shut up." The Democrats have yet to present an alternative, although Speaker Thomas O'Neill insists other plans of action will be offered.

He also is beginning to take jabs at the press, who he believes will be the bearers

of the bad news. He also has begun to chide reporters for "instant analysis," and "knee jerk reaction" to his programs. He is determined to prove that he is on the right track, and that those of little faith are misguided.

First, he has to whip his Republican supporters into line. While not yet in major rebellion, some members of the GOP are defecting and their ranks could grow.

He has decided the best defense is offense. Hence, his warning to reporters that the Democrats will "probably try to find horror stories . . . that I think all of you ought to be on guard against."

He said that there are those in government "who will, if possible, sabotage and deliberately penalize some individual" who is deserving of benefits "in order to get a story indicating that the programs are not working."

"We have much to do before we will see the light, but I think we are at least approaching the bend in the tunnel," he said.

The president hopes to align state and local legislators to back his "new federalism" and he is telling them, "There are pundits in Washington who consider the statehouse to be the backwater of American politics."

"They do not trust you to run your own affairs," he said in an address to the

Iowa State Legislature. "They do not trust you to show compassion to the needy nor justice to your disadvantaged."

In short, Reagan has found and defined the enemy — Washington.

He says, "Washington has no compassion or wisdom or morality and he pledged, 'If we do nothing else this administration, we're going to convince that city that the power, the moral and the responsibility of this country and end with the people and not some puzzle palace on the Potomac.'"

He believes he has a receptive audience out there, and cited in his St. Moines speech a Gallup Poll that shows Americans trust state governments more than the federal government 2-to-1.

"An all-intrusive Federal government with big taxing and big spending does work, never has worked and never will," he told the Iowa lawmakers.

Those who observed him on the stump in the wintry Midwest decided that Reagan is in a combative mood and ready to take on his opponents. He has rolled up his sleeves, and is confident that he can triumph again as he did last year when he pushed through his budget and tax cuts.

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Isn't it exciting to have this facility where our students can pursue academic excellence, broaden their horizons, develop scholastically, achieve their aspirations, and be stimulated to the highest levels of performance?"

Letter: New Federalism plan is just common sense

Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the mounting opposition that the democrats have built up over President Reagan's proposed New Federalism plan. The way I see it is this: If the deficit spending and increased taxes don't reduce inflation or soaring interest rates (which the democrats have tried for so unsuccessfully in the 20th century) then it is quite obvious that another approach must be administered. This approach is balancing the budget and reducing income taxes. By balancing the budget, the nation will have less money in the marketplace. This is the ideal situation for reducing inflation because when too many dollars are chasing too few goods, the price of goods go up. However, to maintain equilibrium in the economy, a certain amount of spending must take place. This is why taxes must be reduced so that Americans can take more charge of their lives. Without a certain amount of consumer purchasing there would be, as President Reagan put it, "stagflation."

With inflation and interest rates will fall and that will free up the money supply. At the interest rates of today, American business and industry are less likely to make capital investments. However, at lower interest rates, American business will be more eager to invest and productivity will rise therefore reducing the unemployment rate by putting Americans back to work again.

Come on democrats, what's wrong

with a little common sense?

Richard J. Gosselin '85

Coach or get on the bench

Editor:

After reading Mike Stolte and Elaine Dudich's letter concerning the Aggie basketball team and their concern with the Texas A&M football team, I was prompted to write a letter of concern myself.

Growing up, I was always impressed with Texas A&M's Twelfth Man tradition. I had never found a group of students who supported their football team and school as much as the Texas Aggies.

As a freshman I couldn't wait to join that elite crowd on the East side of Kyle Field. Unfortunately, after a couple of games, my image of the Twelfth Man had tarnished. The Twelfth Man was not to be found. What I did find was a bunch of students constantly criticizing the players and coaches. Some even yelled obscenities at them. How can these people say that they represent the Twelfth Man?

If you know so much about football why weren't you sitting with the players on the bench or helping Coach Wilson coach? That's what the Twelfth Man is isn't it?

I believe that Coach Sherrill and the Texas A&M football team are the most knowledgeable on how to coach and play football at Texas A&M today. If you feel you know more, step forward with your

ideas now. Don't wait to yell at them from the upper deck.

David C. Brown '84

'Kermit People' reply

Editor:

This is in response to Roger King's false claim of mistreatment by those "Kermit People." For your information Mr. King, I happened to have had a bird's eye view of this incident from my room in Legett. Being a senior, I would have thought that you had learned some common courtesy during your stay at Texas A&M. Have you not realized that most people step out of the way when the Corps goes running? Is it such an inconvenience to step three feet to the side, to allow them to pass? As for this "dishonorable" incident, don't you think it was "dishonorable" on your part to not attempt to step aside? What if this had been a train "unsubtly" blowing its horn for you to move. Would you have defied its whistle and stood in the tracks anyway? No, Mr. King, I think not.

Fiona McCracken '82
Cindy McDonald '84

Letters policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are sub-

ject 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.

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor Angelique Copeland
- Managing Editor Jane G. Brust
- City Editor Denise Richter
- Assistant City Editor Diana Sulstenfuss
- Sports Editor Frank L. Christlieb
- Focus Editor Cathy Saathoff
- Assistant Focus Editor Nancy Floeck
- News Editors Gary Barker, Phyllis Henderson, Mary Jo Rummel, Nancy Weatherley
- Staff Writers Jennifer Carr, John Bramblett, Gaye Denley, Sandra Gary, Colette Hutchings, Johna Jo Maurer, Daniel Puckett, Bill Robinson, Denise Sechelski, Laura Williams, Rebeca Zimmermann
- Cartoonist Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers Sumanesh Agrawal, David Fisher, Eileen Manton, Eric Mitchell, Peter Rocha, John Ryan, Colin Valentine

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of

Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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, or phone (713) 845-2611.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches received to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.