

Reagan policies stop progress, official says

United Press International
HOUSTON — A former Treasury official who says the country's economic problems go back at least two decades contends the Reagan administration's

current policies are setting progress back even further. C. Fred Bergsten, a former assistant secretary of treasury under President Carter, Wednesday called for the annul-

ment of President Reagan's tax cuts and the implementation of a tax increase that would reduce the deficit and "put the country back on the road to economic stability."

"We cannot blame the current administration," Bergsten told members of the Center for International Business, "but the current policy is setting back our progress, both at the domestic and global levels," he said. "It looks rather grim. It is more serious than people realize."

The former government official's statements were a direct contradiction of predictions by the Reagan administration.

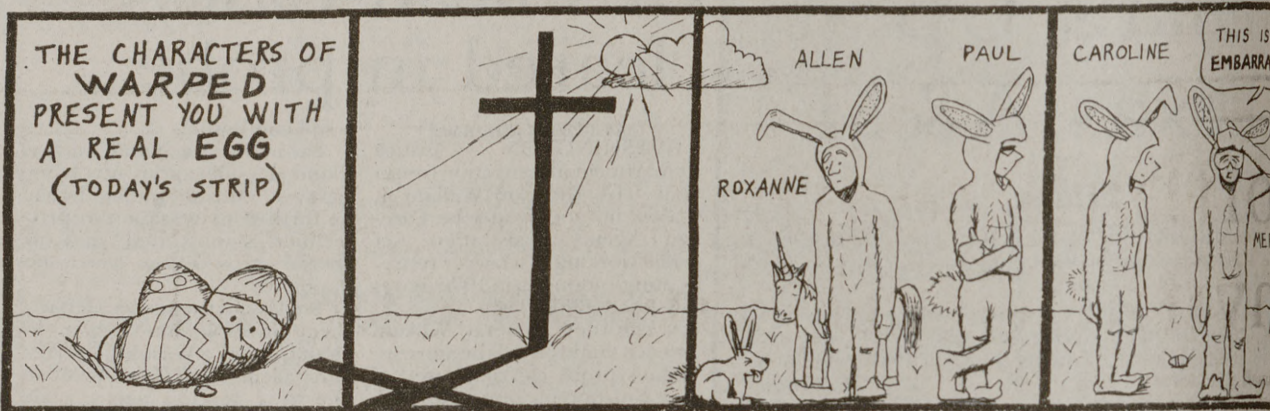
Under-Secretary of the Treasury Beryl W. Sprinkel, who spoke Tuesday to the group of international businessmen attending the conference, said the recession is coming to an end and will be over by mid-June.

"We'll look back on the second quarter (of 1982) as the beginning of recovery," Sprinkel said.

Bergsten said he agrees with some points made by Sprinkel, such as a noted decrease in inflation and a decline in farm and energy prices. But, he said, the United States must get its own domestic economy in shape before it attempts to tackle the problems of the world economy.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



No drugs needed after 4 years

Epilepsy relapse unlikely

United Press International
BOSTON — Epileptic children who remain free of seizures during four years of treatment probably can stop taking drugs without suffering relapses, unless they fall into one of four high-risk categories, a 25-year study shows.

"There's no such thing as 100 percent proof they can (outgrow epilepsy)," said Dr. Jean Holowach Thurston of Washington University in St. Louis, principal author of the study, which was published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine. "But I think the evidence is very

good. I think it's very encouraging to parents, the data as they stand."

The study said patients were likely to suffer seizures again if they'd had epilepsy for a long time before treatment was started, if they had mental retardation or physical disability caused by neurological disturbances, or if they had a certain type of seizure or a combination of seizures.

The Washington University researchers studied 148 children who stopped treatment after four years without a seizure. They reported that up to 23 years after treatment began, only 41, or 28 percent, had relapses.

The 41 fell into at least one of the four risk categories.

Epilepsy, a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain that causes convulsions, occurs in two to eight children per thousand, says Dr. Bruce O. Berg of the University of California at San Francisco.

The American Epilepsy Foundation says at least 2 per-

cent of the U.S. population, at least 4 million people, have some form of convulsive disorder.

The St. Louis team found a relation between increased relapse and age when therapy began, age when therapy stopped, race, sex or family history of epilepsy.

There also was no apparent relation of relapse to the number of seizures children suffered before treatment, but prognosis appeared quite poor for those who had seizures for more than six years' study said.

Type of convulsions were important. Those with high risk are Jacksonian, a subtle form that begins in a hand or foot and spreads to the rest of the body.

Combinations of some such as those involving hallucinations, convulsions in whole body, or quick blackouts also indicated high risk.

The study also said 46 percent of the children with neurological problems relapsed as compared to 22 percent of others.

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