

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"His light hasn't been on since he decided he was going to graduate."

Business must remain behind Reagan's plan

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — About a year ago, when President Reagan's budget and tax programs were awaiting congressional action, John E. Swearingen, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, wrote stockholders that management "wholeheartedly endorses the President's program (and) urges our stockholders to express their support for it."

"The package President Reagan has proposed," he said, "must be enacted, in its entirety, in order to ... restore confidence in our economy and in our country."

Well, a year has passed, and Swearingen — unlike some other business executives — is sticking to his bet, at least rhetorically.

In his latest message to stockholders, Swearingen says that the "tax cuts of 1981 were too little and too late," but still predicts "beneficial results" when Reagan's full program for economic recovery is put in place. "Retrenchment and the recession currently under way are very unpalatable to many Americans," he concedes, "but the most effective medicine is frequently the bitterest. Even the bitterest aftertaste will fade as economic activity revives, new jobs are created and inflation is reduced."

Swearingen, like many other defenders of the Reagan program, argues that it is too soon to judge its effects, since it began only last October. He conveniently overlooks the fact that the accelerated depreciation provisions, which were the biggest of many boons to business, were retroactive to the start of 1981.

Nor does he dwell on the fact that his own company is stalling on the capital investment that the Reagan program was designed to stimulate. While Standard of Indiana increased its capital and exploration expenditures by \$1 billion or 25 percent from 1980 to 1981, it is not budgeting a nickel's increase in the first full year of the Reagan era. Swearingen falls in the

middle of the business spectrum. He is not as much of a cheerleader as Richard L. Leshner, the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

But neither has Swearingen joined the leaders of the Business Roundtable, or the bankers, the realtors, the homebuilder, the savings and loan executives or even the officials at Mobil Oil, all of whom have called on the President for a "mid-course correction" to boost revenues, slow the defense buildup and reduce the deficit.

Swearingen is telling his stockholders to stick with the President, while delaying what a Standard spokesman says would normally have been about a 10 percent increase in capital spending.

Is that good enough? The best answer may come from Secretary of the Treasury Donald T. Regan in a speech last month called "Responsibility and Capitalism."

"The first responsibility of any capitalist is to himself," Regan said, "to make a good product and earn a fair profit."

"We have given you the tools," Regan continued. "Now we ask you to put them to work. We did not confuse Oct. 1, 1981, with the millennium ... At a time when inventories were high and plant utilization relatively low, it would have been unrealistic to anticipate an immediate surge of visible investment."

But Regan said that "verbal assurances of long-range investment are not enough." Voters who watched business move with lightning speed to take advantage of the tax-credit-leasing provisions of the 1981 tax bill will measure that speed, he said, against the caution with which business is making its long-term investment commitments.

The fact is that business bought in on the Reagan program in 1981, and business cannot bail out in 1982 without getting hurt.

Either this program works or the Swearingens and Leshners of this world are going to have some difficult letters and speeches to write.

Book censorship is frightening

Results of surveys about book censoring frighten me, and they should frighten you, too.

In the past few years, book censoring has grown explosively. Three times as many incidents of school censorship have been documented between 1975 and 1979 as in the preceding ten years — and since the beginning of 1980, the rate has tripled again. In 1980, there were 1,000 reported attempts to ban or restrict books in public schools.

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "Crime and Punishment," "Catch-22," "Diary of Anne Franke," "Grapes of Wrath," "Of Mice and Men," "Lord of the Flies," "Leaves of Grass," "Farewell to Arms," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and such magazines as "Life," "Time," "Look" and "Photography" are among the many, many publications that have been banned or censored in public high school libraries across the nation.

But that's not all. Schools have rejected "The Catcher in the Rye" because it contains a few four-letter words, Shaw's "Androcles and the Lion" because Shaw was an atheist, "Gone With the Wind" because Scarlett O'Hara was immoral, "Fail Safe" because it arouses fear in the adequacy of our defense system, and Today's Health because one of the issues dealt with the birth of a baby.

Five dictionaries were banned because they contained "offensive language" and "Robin Hood" was banned because it "condoned stealing."

Many schools have no formal procedure for reviewing reading matter. In too many cases, an individual has only to voice a complaint in order to have a book censored or banned.

And everything is done quietly. Few



sandra gary

people realize how widespread banning is. They seldom hear about the parent who threatens to burn a book that discusses sexual intercourse if it isn't taken off the library shelf. They seldom hear about the groups who go before members of the school board and threaten campaigns against them in the next election if all books that deal with war aren't removed from the library. Few people know about the teachers who steal books they charge are immoral to keep them from circulating among high school students.

When I found out, I became more frightened and more concerned. It's my business to get scared. When someone thinks he can decide for me or my children — without consulting me — what is too explicitly sexual, too violent or immoral, I worry. And I especially worry when one individual or one small group is the basis for that decision.

Having the resources to learn about all aspects of an issue is much more important than having someone decide for me. If someone objects to a certain book, they should have the right not to read it. But just because they have objections to it doesn't mean they should have the right to say my children or I can't have access to it. Since history began, people have been

trying to impose their beliefs — legal, moral and political — around them in an effort to "save the world." But today no one church or belief exists; sins are committed. No perfect legal system. No absolute set of moral standards. No absolute system is still spoken and mate babies are still born. No political system exists; wars are waged and scandals are still stated. There probably will be no day is no different from yesterday.

The censors seem completely aware of the sophistication of contemporary youngsters and the realities of social changes in values. The attitude censors seem to revert back to a mythical period when teenagers were like Wally Cleaver on "Leave It to Beaver."

If groups and individuals across their goals and restrict the literature that young people are exposed to, those calls for no violence, no prejudice, no indecency, no and no explicit details, when the parents get out of school, they're in for a big surprise. They're going to find that the real world isn't the mythical period when teenagers were like Wally Cleaver on "Leave It to Beaver."

And then you tell me what mess our world will be in. You tell me how these youths are going to be adults of tomorrow without drawing the honest experiences and beliefs without learning lessons from generations. And you tell me you're afraid when groups and individuals succeeded in banning the Billings high school libraries.

Care topic

by Amy Polk
Battalion Reporter
The Texas A&M University Emergency Care Center is sponsoring an all-day symposium Saturday called "First Hour pre-Hospital Traumatized Patients." TAMECT is a non-profit volunteer organization based chiefly of Texas.

Emergency real rim

by Beverly Hamill
Battalion Reporter
The emergency number called from 40 to 60 days, but only about one of those calls are for emergency. Capt. Dave Giordano, Chief of the College Station Fire Department, says that Maj. Ed Feldman, Chief of the College Station Police Department, agrees.

Children set for

Children in the College Station area will have the chance to use Texas A&M University facilities in a summer camp this summer. Camp Adventure, sponsored by the Department of Physical Education, offers area camps have continued this summer. Instruction in adventure experiences. "What we offer is so



Life is a song — off-key and all wet

I've always wanted my life to be a Hollywood musical, but I'd prefer "Camelot" instead of "Singing in the Rain," especially when "Singing in the Rain" makes my life nothing but "Hair."

Unlike Gene Kelly, I do more wading than tapdancing down the sidewalks as I drip my way to class. Milwewing in a steamy classroom is not my favorite pastime. In fact, going to class is not my favorite pastime — but that's another column.

Like Gene Kelly, I sometimes feel like bursting into song, but my life doesn't rate a Hollywood musical. I'd be lucky to get a Prudential commercial. I'd settle for a Prudential commercial.

Since Barry Manilow hasn't answered my letter requesting a song about my life story, I'm forced to steal one that's already been written. Luckily, most of the songwriters today are as miserable as I am, so I had a lot of songs to choose from.

I've decided Barbra Streisand and Donna Summer must have been thinking of me when they got together to sing "Enough is Enough" because with just a few minor adjustments, it's the one song that says everything about how I feel. Hum along with me now, as I sing my



phyllis henderson

life story. (Eat your heart out Barry.)

It's raining, it's pouring, my school life is boring me to tears — after all these years. (One day of this rain is enough.)

No grade points, no night life, no friendships, no second dance, I don't stand a chance. (I'm always drenched.)

I always dreamed I'd find the perfect semester, but it turned out to be like every other one I tried ... I tried! (I failed ... I failed!)

Raining! Pouring! There's nothing left for me here, and I won't waste another tear. (The puddles are deep enough already.)

If you've had enough, don't put up

with this stuff. Don't you do it! (Try Crisis Hotline.) Now if you've had your fill, write the check, pay the bill (for those parking tickets). You can do it. (If your parents send the money.)

Tell the prof that you're through, then laugh and turn about, pack your raincoat and walk on out. (Into a downpour without your umbrella, of course.) Just look him in the eye and simply shout:

"Enough is enough. I can't go on. I can't face it anymore. Enough is enough. I want out. I want out that door right now." (Or maybe out the window.)

If you've reached the end, don't pretend that it's right when it's not. (It's the drugs.) If the feeling is gone, don't think twice, just move on. (To the pre-registration line.) Get it over. Tell him to let you out. Say it clearly. Spell it out. (Make sure you spell it right — two points off for each misspelled word.)

Enough is enough. It's raining, it's pouring, there's nothing left for me here, (except a rain-soaked notebook) and I won't waste another tear. (The puddles are deeper now.)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory resource 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 too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to preserve the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, and the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-1.

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