

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"It would have been a satisfying victory if we could have beaten t.u., and a win that would have been a credit to the strength and cohesiveness of our team and student body; but besides that, I sure had counted on having Monday off."

Get more peace

by Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's address to the nation Monday was billed in advance as an arms control speech.

His aides attempted to fix a time to beam it live to Europe by satellite, but after looking over the final draft, prepared mainly by the National Security Council hardliners, they decided that home consumption was preferable.

The speech was originally intended to convey that the United States was in the forefront of the disarmament drive, and to blueprint proposals that Reagan first suggested last June for preventing a nuclear accident through surprise or miscalculation.

Instead, events caused Reagan to focus on his decision to go ahead with deployment of the MX ballistic missile and \$1.6 trillion defense budget.

His proposals to the new Kremlin leaders for an expanded "hot line" and a "broad ranging exchange of data" on nuclear forces to clear the air of "some of the mutual ignorance and suspicion between our two countries" were overshadowed by his chalk talk on why the United States had to play catch up with the Soviets.

"You often hear that the United States and the Soviet Union are in an arms race," Reagan said. "The truth is that while the Soviet Union has raced, we have not."

"Today, in virtually every measure of military power of the Soviet Union enjoys a decided advantage," he said.

"Unless we demonstrate the will to rebuild our strength and restore the military balance, the Soviets, since they are so far ahead, have little incentive to negotiate with us," he said. "If we had not begun to modernize, the Soviet negotiators would know we had nothing to bargain with except talk."

Many lawmakers and Reagan himself view the nuclear arsenal more as a bargaining chip than as deadly weapons that can obliterate the world.

The United States has been building nuclear bombs since the 1940s and its own stockpile is nothing to sniff at. Terror on both sides has served as the deterrent to a nuclear holocaust.

But is either side willing to lessen the dangers of an Armageddon? From the angry rhetoric, it may be hard to believe, but in fact the United States and the Soviets have reached negotiated agreements and abided by them, starting with the comprehensive test ban in the early 1960s.

Also, the SALT II treaty initiated by Richard Nixon and the late Leonid Brezhnev and negotiated by Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, while never ratified, is in force by both sides.

Reagan says he wants "deep cuts" in nuclear arms and Brezhnev's successor, Yuri Andropov, has likened the U.S. proposals on the negotiating table as "unilateral disarmament."

"We are not a naive people," Andropov told a meeting of the Communist Party, and promised to maintain Soviet military strength "at the proper level."

But tough as Andropov sounded in American terms, he still stressed the need for negotiation rather than confrontation and said he would seek detente.

So both sides are seeking peace through strength. At the Pentagon and the White House, some of the planners must, and do, concentrate on the nation's ability to survive a first strike. But there appear to be precious few who are focused on possible compromises.

Reagan has expressed his concern that schoolchildren are discussing "the most nightmarish aspects of a nuclear holocaust in their classrooms."

"Their letters are often full of terror," he added, and said: "This should not be so."

And the president said he considers it a "sacred trust" to wipe out those fears.

It's now or never — defense

by Maxwell Glen and Cody Shearer

Congressmen who emerged from elections two weeks ago armed with newfound vendettas against a swollen defense budget have about 30 days to deliver their quarry. Unless they can agree on some cuts by Christmas, they could guarantee severe federal deficits for the duration of the decade.

Cognizant that more than a third of Ronald Reagan's 1983 Pentagon request for \$245 billion is slated for weapons procurement, congressmen realize that a \$5 billion cut today could mean as much as \$80 billion in savings through the 1980s. As Bob DeGrasse of New York's respected Council on Economic Priorities put it, "Without some quick changes, the 1983 budget is going to lock Congress into a significant amount of spending."

Unfortunately, there is little chance that lawmakers will find the political courage needed to bolster words with actions. While many congressmen have harped loudly about Reagan's lopsided commitment to the military, few will speak out — much less vote — against expensive arms projects when the time comes.

Of course, it might appear that the end is near for several controversial weapons systems. South Carolina senator and presidential hopeful Ernest F. Hollings announced last week that he could "guarantee" the votes needed to kill the

\$25 billion MX in the Senate. Meanwhile, on Nov. 15, Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo (D-N.Y.) convened his subcommittee on defense appropriations behind closed doors to hammer out reductions that could axe both the B-1 bomber and at least one nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Nonetheless, lawmakers may simply lack the votes needed to gut the big-ticket items. While the MX survived a House test this spring by a mere three votes, both the B-1 and the Navy's request for two \$3.5 billion carriers subsequently passed muster by 3-1 margins. Moreover, unlike the MX, whose basic plan has stirred the ire of many Western residents, grass-roots opposition to the \$40 billion manned bomber is minimal; meanwhile, contracts on the carriers, according to one study, are held in more than 400 House districts. Said one aide to Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), who opposes the carriers, "There's enough pork for almost everyone on those ships."

Another factor is leadership. Against strong presidential support for military procurement, some Democrats complain that House leaders are still unwilling to foreshadow weapons proposals rejected by former president Jimmy Carter. By and large, Democrats continue to support Reagan's military buildup. (Even Sen. Hollings asserted last week that his newborn opposition to the MX was simply a

way to force downsizing of the modernization program.)

When congressmen fail to take MX or the B-1, they'll still be under pressure to cut defense, and they'll where it hurts most: in construction, personnel and maintenance. Rather than assert control over long-term military budget, Congress will make short-term economies in areas already short-changed.

"The basic lay of the land changed," said Warren Nelson, a Pentagon critic Rep. Les Aspin said, "Members don't want to challenge military experts on a particular system."

For Democrats, a standoff on MX would negate whatever spoils they earned in the 1982 elections. A responsible defense spending is almost universal theme among Democratic candidates. Unless they move on their vow now, they'll be vulnerable to charges that their forte is winning elections, not leading the nation.

For the country at large, their resolve would only extend the economic misery caused, in part, by the continuing deficits. Short of that, pressure from constituents, lawmakers will continue to see short-term advantage in funding weapons projects at the expense of the economic health.



I COULDN'T STAND IT... HE KEPT MAKING A FOOL OF ME, DAY AFTER DAY WITH THAT CONSTANT 'BEEP BEEP... BEEP BEEP' AND THEN I HEARD THEY WERE PUTTING MX'S HERE IN WYOMING

Identifying Charlie McCarthy

by Arnold Sawislak

WASHINGTON — There is a theory that many ventriloquists are basically shy people who need a dummy to express their true feelings.

Thus, Edgar Bergen was the reasonable, avuncular nice guy and Charlie McCarthy was the brash, acerbic smart guy. But it was clear always that Charlie McCarthy really was Edgar Bergen.

That may have been what Gov. William Janklow of South Dakota was driving at at a recent meeting of Republican governors in Kansas City. The blunt-talking governor suggested that one problem GOP candidates brought on themselves in 1982 campaigns was their ambivalent, perhaps hypocritical, attitude toward the campaign tactics of groups like the National Conservative Political Action Committee, also known as "Nikpac."

Richard Richards, the soon-to-depart Republican national chairman, came under some fire in 1981 for attacking Nikpac and other "independent" conservative political action groups that specialize in harsh "negative" attacks on candidates, usually Democrats.

The groups are not formally linked with Republican candidates and as a result have no legal limits on how much they can spend on their campaigns. It was Richards' point that such groups are bad news for major parties and their candidates because they are responsible to neither and engage in questionable campaign tactics.

But Richards' comments were contradicted by some friendlier observations about Nikpac by Lyn Nofzinger, at that time the White House political chief, and it was widely assumed that the president's political advisers did not want to read such groups out of the GOP campaign equation.

At the governors' meeting, White House pollster Richard Wirthlin conceded that some of the tactics of Nikpac-type groups had boomeranged against Republican candidates in 1982, and that their won-lost record this year was not good. But he stopped short at any suggestion that the party take a strong

stand against them.

Janklow was not so shy.

"When are we going to just stand up and speak out against these people like Nikpac?" he asked his colleagues.

"We dance around it all the time, but the fact of the matter is that they're not helping any candidates. They're creating nothing but turmoil," said Janklow.

Referring to Nikpac director Terry Dolan, Janklow said, "You only need to listen to Dolan for five minutes . . . to realize that he can't help anyone's campaign. Yet candidate after candidate secretly wants him to come into the

state . . . (even if) they disown him publicly."

Ever since 1978, when Dolan and the other independent conservative political action groups began coming into the political picture in a big way, the targets of their high-speed hobnail-boot campaigns have claimed there was more than an arms-length relationship between those groups and the candidates who benefit from their activities.

Janklow, in effect, confirmed that in politics as well as show business, that the ventriloquist and the dummy are only one person and that eventually, the audience catches on to that fact.

Berry's World



"HEY! C'MON, MAN! I'm 'arrogant, rude and smug' because I got LOW SELF-ESTEEM."

The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M's 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.

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