

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Reagan's policies attacked

Glenn, Mondale in Texas

United Press International AUSTIN — Ohio Sen. John Glenn and former Vice President Walter Mondale, the two leading candidates for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, wooed support in Texas by attacking President Reagan's economic policies as unfair to the poor.

Glenn, a former astronaut who has been a senator since 1974, Wednesday addressed a joint session of the Legislature in Austin. His presidential bid has been endorsed by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, but Gov. Mark White said Wednesday he had not yet decided which Democratic candidate to back.

Mondale, a former senator

from Minnesota, held a news conference in San Antonio Wednesday following a speech at Trinity University.

"I think his (Reagan's) economic policies and social policies are impractical, profoundly unfair and do not in any way prepare this nation for our future," Mondale said.

He said that America was being divided into two separate classes — the wealthy elite and the poor masses — and advocated repealing the 1983 income tax cut for the rich.

Glenn told Texas legislators that Reagan's insistence on retaining his unsuccessful economic policies had turned the nation's economy into a "full-

blown tragedy."

"The state of the economy is really no laughing matter," Glenn said. "In fact, it's a full-blown tragedy, especially since it didn't and doesn't have to be this way. I wanted the president's program to work. The sad thing is that the program has not worked."

The Ohio senator also said Reagan had neglected the poor by cutting funds for higher education aid and failing to seek out new job opportunities for 12 million unemployed Americans.

Both candidates criticized what they said were the president's aimless goals for defense spending. Glenn said economic security and military security

"go hand in hand, and you can't ensure one by sacrificing the other."

"When today's skyrocketing budget deficits are combined with a proposed military buildup that seems to lack any restraint or sense of priorities, many are tempted to take a meat ax to the military," Glenn said.

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Unemployment now, recovery in future

United Press International WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Donald Regan predicts that unemployment, now at 10.8 percent, will average a "distressing" 10.9 percent this year — but the economy will still improve.

The difficulties of Americans has spurred the citizens of Hannover, West Germany, to collect \$6,250 for people in Detroit.

Most of the aid was contributed by German auto workers concerned about the plight of their American counterparts in Detroit, where the slump in the U.S. auto industry has left tens of thousands jobless.

The bad times in Detroit, a huge customer of the steel industry, are reflected in the announcement by Bethlehem Steel of a \$1.14 billion quarterly loss — the largest ever for an American company.

In an appearance before Congress Wednesday, Regan said:

lost \$1.15 billion in the fourth quarter and \$1.47 billion in 1982 — the most red ink the firm has ever recorded and the largest quarterly loss of any company in U.S. history.

The Labor Department reported in Washington that the productivity of the nation's shrinking work force climbed at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 1982, but was up only 0.2 percent for the entire year. Recession layoffs cut the hours worked by 2.6 percent for the year.

For workers, the increase in raises for 1982 was 7.3 percent, compared to a 9.6 percent gain in 1981.

At a Treasury Department briefing, it was announced the government will raise a record \$8.7 billion in new cash in money markets through March, part of \$59.5 billion in anticipated borrowing.

The otherwise routine announcement was highlighted by a note of unaccustomed drama, as Treasury Undersecretary for Monetary Affairs Beryl Sprinkel declared, "I am not intending to resign."

Sprinkel has been embroiled in a dispute with Treasury Secretary Donald Regan which erupted after a Jan. 17 news conference in which Sprinkel told reporters in Paris that American policy was changing from one to control inflation to one that was concerned with growth.

Another Treasury Department source said Sprinkel had been ambushed by the foreign

press who thought he was repeating statements already made by Regan, not contradicting administration policy.

The Commerce Department announced the nation's trade deficit reached a record \$42.7 billion last year and this year will be far worse.

The nation's merchandise trade deficit in December, at \$3.4 billion, was enough to send the year's total over 1978's record \$42.4 billion.

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Prenatal syphilis test proposed

United Press International AUSTIN — Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, proposed Thursday legislation that would require physicians attending pregnant women to administer prenatal blood tests for syphilis.

"There was a 41 percent increase in 1982 in congenital syphilis, which is passed down from the infected mothers to the

fetus," he said. "The key to reducing this trend is to stress prevention and that is what the bill does."

Texas Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Bernstein said when syphilis is diagnosed early in a pregnancy, it can be successfully treated and the baby won't suffer ill effects.

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