

opinion

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Spring, midterm at White House

by Helen Thomas
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Suddenly it's spring at the White House. But instead of enjoying the flowers in bloom, President Reagan is manning the barricades.

The White House has become a battleground as Reagan stakes out his positions and takes on some improbable opponents.

It would have been difficult to predict two years ago that the president would be fighting the bankers, calling them a "selfish" special interest group and chastising them for seeking to block legislation that would require withholding on interest and dividends.

But he has his dander up, and has accused those in banking circles, who have been his supporters, of "obstructionist tactics" and "hostage taking" in trying to tie their amendment first to the jobs bill and then to the Social Security package.

"It would be far better if the bankers would spend less time lobbying and more time lowering interest rates," he said.

It happens to all presidents. At some point in their administration they are bound to collide with old friends and backers, the kingmakers who can no longer call the shots. If that isn't enough, the president also is fighting a rearguard action against the Democratic budget proposal that would repeal the third year tax cut, reduce defense spending and increase some tax levies to bring the deficits down.

Reagan has used his harshest rhetoric against this proposal, calling it a "dagger in the heart" of his economic recovery program, and a "declaration of war."

The fight for his own 1984 spending program has brought out his most intensive lobbying since he put over his tax cut program two years ago.

Somewhere down the line, probably in the Senate controlled by the GOP,

Reagan may get closer to his own terms, although he will have to show some ability to compromise on Pentagon outlays.

On other fronts, the president also has been beleaguered.

His top appointees to the Environmental Protection Agency have either had to resign or be fired, leaving the agency in disarray. With seven congressional committees looking into the EPA operation, Reagan had to move quickly to reassert the credibility of his commitment to the public health and safety.

He did so by calling William Ruckelshaus back to duty as EPA chief, a post Ruckelshaus held 13 years ago when the agency was created in 1970.

Reagan insists the attacks against the EPA operation are "unwarranted" and says he believes it was a "misreading" and a "misunderstanding" on the part of any agency appointees who may have tilted toward business.

But the president says that he wants "common sense" in regulating the environment and still believes some environmentalists are extremists.

If that wasn't enough, Reagan also has been upset of late with those in his administration to leak information to the press.

He has not pinpointed them, but he did sign an order which severely cracks down on so-called leakers, putting their jobs in jeopardy, and subjecting them to lie detector tests.

But a couple of weeks after Reagan cracked down on potential leakers, he declassified some of the nation's top secret photos to make his case for a strong defense buildup.

And so it's spring. And the president says he is "up to his keister" in leakers, bankers and environmental "extremists." But about midterm for any president that is par for the course.

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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 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 and show the address and phone number of the writer.

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Government: From outside

by Maxwell Glen
and Cody Shearer

The embattled arms control chief-designate, Kenneth L. Adelman, ought to take a lesson from his former boss, Ernest W. Lefever: One can be more effective working outside government than in.

Adelman, 36, might appreciate such fatherly advice now that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee may release documents which indicate the Reagan nominee misrepresented himself at a confirmation hearing Jan. 27. Though the committee has already sent the nomination to the Senate floor with an unfavorable recommendation, Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) told reporters last week that Adelman endorsed a hit-list of Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) personnel on Jan. 17 — 10 days before he told the committee that he "had not addressed the personnel situation at all."

Regardless of Adelman's qualifications, which some senators say are insufficient for the ACDA job, the new inconsistency can only further jeopardize his chances for confirmation.

No nominee in recent memory can perhaps understand Adelman's plight better than Ernest Lefever. The controversial 63-year-old author, theologian and foreign policy consultant endured a nearly-five-month confirmation process in 1981, only to withdraw after the Foreign Relations Committee rejected his nomination as assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs. Like Adelman, Lefever was ac-

cused by senators of misrepresenting himself and opposing the office for which he was nominated, charges Lefever denies to this day.

"I'm one of the few people who know the ordeal he's going through," Lefever told our reporter, Michael Duffy, last week. "And he's told me no one understands it better than I."

Almost two years later, Lefever seems to be prospering. He's now back in vogue on a variety of issues and, by any reasonable measure, no less influential than a State Department bureaucrat.

"I feel as though I can be more effective on the outside," Lefever acknowledged.

Since he withdrew, Lefever's chief instrument of influence has been his Ethics and Public Policy Center, a seven-year-old think-tank that publishes neo-conservative tracts on a wide range of topics. EPPC recently received a \$190,000 grant from the U.S. Information Agency to conduct three European seminars later this year on the ethics of nuclear weapons (seminars which Lefever insists will present a diversity of views and not simply toe the USIA line).

More recently, EPPC published a book of 31 essays on nuclear arms — ranging from George Kennan to George Will — to quell what Lefever calls "inordinate public fear" about the arms race.

Lefever has also consulted at the State Department since 1981 on, among other things, the public's lax attitude toward international terrorism. Meanwhile, as

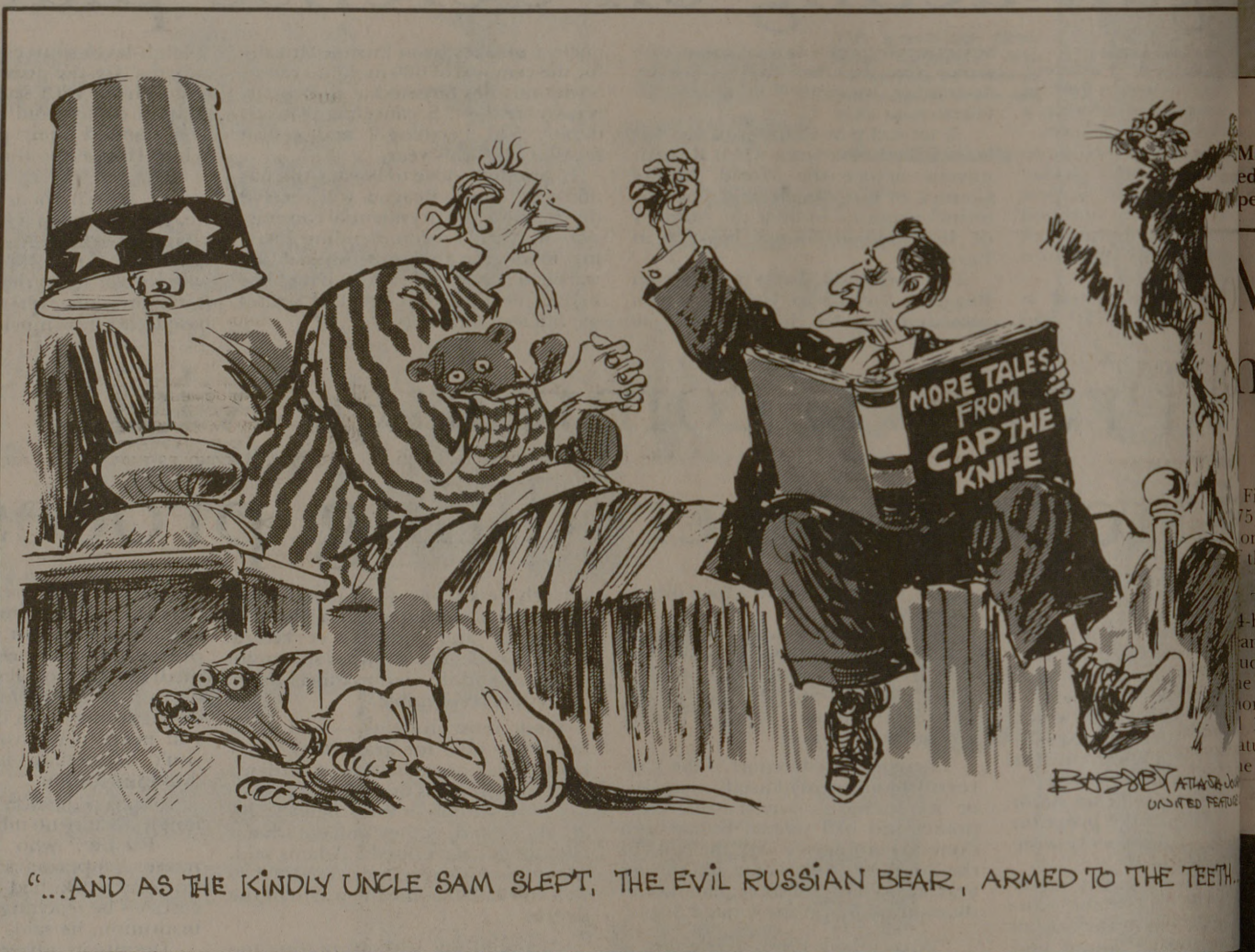
an ethicist, he recently authored of Maryland's new list of "values" for incorporation in public curricula. And sometime soon predicts, the U.S. Council of Bishops will revise some of its nuclear war as a result of lobbying and other theologians.

Meanwhile, one of Lefever's projects — exposing the World Council of Churches' financial support groups — was recently picked up by "60 Minutes," creating a stir. Among the key sources for the "Amsterdam to Nairobi: The Council of Churches and the World," a 1979 book written by Lefever but roughed out in a first draft would you believe — Kenneth ("He's a fine writer ... and he works at the time," Lefever told

Indeed, Adelman has done almost as many different areas himself. While for the most part a specialist, Adelman has written on foreign policy and in such areas as the role of the Voice of America (radio network) in the 1980s.

Rather than force the Senate between full rejection and nomination, Adelman might stand more from following Lefever's lead. Withdraw gracefully, form a think-tank, and consult as needed. Rehabilitation comes quickly. Friends in government will be there to help.

As Lefever will attest, it's a lot better thing to do, and less hassle.



"...AND AS THE KINDLY UNCLE SAM SLEPT, THE EVIL RUSSIAN BEAR, ARMED TO THE TEETH"

Letters: Dorms vs. Chancellor's house

Editor:

I am writing in reference to the front page article in the Monday Battalion concerning the dorm fee hikes. I agree with our President Vandiver that the rates seem to go up every year including this years 10 percent hike.

Lower down in the article we are informed that the planning and building committee is considering a proposed \$1.2 million, 7,291 square foot house for one of our chancellors. The article goes on to "brag" about the 13 acre site with its ponds and creeks running through the land. The house contains among other things, a caterer's kitchen and a 3 car garage.

Now to me, it seems ridiculous that such a lavish \$1.2 million house is being built in light of the dorm hikes. Here we have the university getting ready to shell out \$1.2 million on the housing of one man and his family, while making some 10,000 odd dorm students pay ten percent more for their dorm rooms. Believe me you will see no creeks and ponds running through our back yards.

The comparison of A&M, U.T. and University of Houston showed that A&M had lower rates. I am not consoled by this fact. I would like to see a comparison with all the Southwest Conference schools taking the relative luxury of the dorms into account.

In the future I hope that the responsible parties, including the Board of Regents, will act more responsibly in the handling of our university's money and take into consideration who and how many people the money is benefiting.

Steven Pearson,
Dunn Hall

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by 21 other signatures.

Calculator missing

Editor:

This letter is to the person who borrowed my HP-15C calculator Wednesday March 9th in Zachry 102 after Deans' Forum. You are probably just keeping it safe from the elements. Thanks for setting me back one hundred clams. I'm willing to shell out 20 more to get it back. Call it a reward or a ransom payment. I'd really appreciate it being returned. No questions asked and the 20 dollars are yours tax free. Either that or I'll sell you the owners manual for one hundred.

Ted Meseck
260-3579

Yell leaders

Editor:

I read with interest the article by Donn Friedman about Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro when he was a civilian yell leader in 1968. I was in that group of freshmen who "attacked" Mr. Mauro at that first yell practice. A couple of comments regarding that incident. First of all, the freshmen were from the First Battalion, not just Spider D. Secondly, we were put up to this by a group of First Battalion juniors who took exception to the fact that Mr. Mauro wore a junior Corps belt buckle. Our intent that day was to relieve him of that buckle. What we thought was "good bull" actually turned into a rather ugly incident. Fortunately, no permanent damage was done.

To make a long story short, Garry Mauro was a good yell leader, was and is a

true Aggie, and is obviously a business and Texas politics. I wish him the best of luck.

Gig 'em and God bless 'em.

Tommy Ho

Lost bracelet

Editor:

Hey Ags,
On Monday morning I lost a bracelet, probably while walking Harrington to the MSC. If you find it, please call me at 696-6912/6023. It has a great deal of sentimental value to me.

Suzie N

Berry's World



"My predecessors were right. You cause all the problems!"