

**The original documents are located in Box 22, folder “Reagan, Ronald (1)” of the Gerald R. Warren and Margita E. White Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Charles H Crutchfield  
President

One Julian Price Place  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
Telephone 704 374 3500

*file*

January 28, 1976

Jefferson  
Pilot  
Broadcasting

Mr. Richard B. Cheney  
Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Dick:

Here are a couple of incredible reports on Reagan's  
incredible visit yesterday.

I gave this to Margita White by telephone this morn-  
ing, but knew you would also be interested in the  
details -- particularly that statement he made re-  
ferring to how he proposed to cut \$90 billion in  
federal programs: "I never did pay any attention  
to that list. That was just some stuff the economists  
gave me. I didn't even agree with all the things on  
that list". Also, the fact that he only had 100 people  
at a Charlotte cocktail party when at least 1500 were  
expected is indicative of his standing here. I could  
have gotten 1500 people together just to have a drink,  
much less to hear a Presidential candidate.

For your information.

Cordially,

*Charles*

CHC:mm

Enclosures

/cc: Ms. Margita White (w/enclosures)



COPY

# Reagan Less Clear On Plan

By RICHARD BERGHOLZ  
Los Angeles Times

Ronald Reagan said Tuesday he had no intention last September of providing details concerning his plan to shift \$90-billion worth of federal programs to the states.

"I simply announced a broad program last September," the former California governor said in an exclusive interview Tuesday during a campaign stop in Charlotte. "I made no pretense of fleshing it out."

As for a detailed list of federally funded programs he gave to newsmen at the time he unveiled his proposal — a list designed to show the scope of his proposal — Reagan said:

"I never did pay any attention to that list. That was just some stuff the economists gave me. I didn't even agree with all the things on that list."

HE SUGGESTED that newsmen should now discard the September list of prospective targets for the shift of programs from the federal government to the states, and he said he probably would not express his own opinion on which of the programs should be junked rather than, continued by state and local governments.

In September, when he announced the plan, Reagan talked about balancing the federal budget by cutting up to \$90 billion from federal expenditures by transferring programs to the states.

Today, he talks about the shift only in general terms.

He no longer talks about achieving a balanced budget as a direct result of the shift, or of granting an average 23 per cent personal income tax cut or of making a \$5-billion payment on the national debt.

What caused him to change his approach?

"You can't expect a man to have a plan all worked out in detail," he said. There are more than 1,000 separate programs in the social welfare field, he added, and there may be some he would want to continue under Washington's control.

The Charlotte Observer  
Wednesday, January 28, 1976

WHEN HE FIRST unveiled his program, Reagan said, his objective was "to tie spending and taxing functions together wherever feasible, so that those who have the pleasure of giving away tax dollars will also have the pain of raising them."

But today, he refuses to discuss how the states would pay for the programs now funded by Washington, except to suggest that some taxes now levied and collected by the federal government might be used at the state and local level "without making the round trip to Washington and back minus a heavy freight charge."

Last September, Reagan said, "An immediate (federal income) tax cut, some of which might have to be balanced by tax rises in the

states, would only be the beginning of the savings that could be achieved."

Today, Reagan admittedly gets explosively angry when his critics suggest the Reagan plan inevitably would result in higher state and local taxes.

"That's the same kind of crap I heard when I proposed welfare reform when I was in Sacramento," he said. His critics then feared a sharp rise in local general relief costs if the welfare recipients were cut off by the state, he said, and it proved to be a groundless fear.

Reagan became particularly angry when he accused Ford campaigners of preceding him (Reagan) into a state where he is campaigning and feeding local politicians with figures on what the Reagan plan allegedly would mean in each particular state.

(N.C. Gov. Jim Holshouser, who is Ford's Southern campaign chairman, had a study done this month on the potential impact of Reagan's plan in North Carolina. According to the Holshouser study, the cost to the state would be \$1.75 billion a year.)



# Reagan Ridicules Social Programs

By JERRY SHINN  
Observer Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Ronald Reagan heaped indignation and ridicule Tuesday night on federal social programs and the bureaucracies that run them.

At a money-raising dinner of

about 300 people at Gaston Country Club, Reagan repeated his proposal for turning over many federal social programs to state and local governments.

To support that proposal, he described situations such as that of a woman in Chicago who used 80 different names to collect \$150,000 a year in food stamps, veterans' benefits, Social Security and welfare.

He told the women at the \$25-a-plate dinner he was sure they had stood with their hamburger in the supermarket checkout line behind "a strapping young fellow up ahead of you buying T-bone steaks with food stamps."

REAGAN WAS WELCOMED by Gastonia's new black mayor, Theboud Jeffers, as "our distinguished next president." Jeffers was appointed last week after the death of Mayor Roland Bradley.

Jeffers, a Democrat, said later of

See REAGAN'S Page 2B, Col. 1

# Reagan's Rejoinders Satisfy Charlotteans

Continued from Page 1B

Republican Reagan, "I think he's tremendous. I've always been an admirer of his."

Asked if he'd vote for Reagan if Reagan were the Republican nominee, Jeffers said, "I'd want to see who the other party comes up with."

The Gastonia dinner was the third North Carolina stop Tuesday for the former California governor, who is seeking votes in the March 23, N.C. primary against President Gerald Ford.

Earlier in the day, he made a similar speech to an Asheville luncheon crowd estimated at 1,000. Tuesday afternoon he flew to Charlotte, where he met for 15 minutes with about 100 supporters at the Red Carpet Inn.

During the Charlotte meeting, he offered to answer questions instead of making a speech.

The brief question-and-answer session was a sort of catechism of the former California governor's political philosophy.

National health insurance?

"I'm opposed . . . You cannot socialize the doctors without socializing the patients. . ."

Making intelligence activities public?

"We shouldn't know anything about them which if made public would interfere with . . . counterin-

telligence efforts" or endanger the lives of American agents.

Abortion on demand?

Only when a pregnant woman's life is in danger; not "on demand . . . or because it would be an inconvenience, or because you did something you shouldn't have done. . ."

They pitched the questions high and soft and right over the plate and cheered as he knocked them out of the park.

THE MOST RINGING response came when Reagan was asked about capital punishment and said, "I'm in favor."

Reagan beamed as the crowd cheered. Then he added:

"I hate to smile when I say that . . . But I'm convinced it is a deterrent . . ."

The crowd also loved it when WSOC-TV reporter David Hazinsky began a question by calling Reagan "Gov. Ford," and Reagan quickly quipped:

"I didn't stumble when I came in here."

Lawyer Robert Potter, the former county commissioner who heads the Reagan campaign in Mecklenburg County, said the Charlotte visit was arranged mainly because Reagan had to fly into Charlotte for his speech in Gastonia Tuesday night.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



TO:

FROM: Margita E. White  
Assistant Press Secretary  
to the President

*Give my best  
love to  
Reagan*

# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## UNEMPLOYMENT # 1 (:60 Radio)

V.O. MAN: Governor Reagan, it's well known in this country that as unemployment goes up... (Fade under)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: An important part of Ronald Reagan's campaign is the Citizens' Press Conference which gives the people a chance to ask the questions...

V.O. MAN: Do you have any plans for full employment in this country?

REAGAN: Yes, there should be a plan, and I think there should be measures to help those who bear an unfair burden of the recession by being involuntarily unemployed.

But I think the long range solution is an end to the 40 years of the new philosophy of economics that has told us we can spend our way to prosperity and that a deficit doesn't hurt us.

SFX: Applause

REAGAN: The long range answer to the unemployment and recession that beset us is to end deficit spending and balance the budget.

This is the single cause of inflation...and inflation is the cause of the recession.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## GOVERNMENT (:60 Radio)

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Recently, Ronald Reagan gave a group of citizens in Conway his views on the roll of government.

REAGAN: Politicians in Washington are slow in catching on to something that people out in the states feel every day. That's a reawakening of the American spirit of independence and self reliance.

I think the people of this country today want more than anything for government to get off their backs and out of their pockets.

SFX: Applause

REAGAN: And I think they want government closer at hand, not far away in the hands of a self anointed elite in the nation's capitol.

Some jobs only the Federal Government can do. National Defense, for example, is one of them. But domestic programs should be managed at the local level where we can do the job most efficiently.

The closer the program is to the people who pay for it, the more they will take an active interest in it.

Our need is for a government that is confident not of what it can do for the people, but of what the people can do for themselves.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## INFLATION (:60 Radio)

REAGAN:

Today, governments, federal, state and local, are taking more than 44¢ out of every dollar earned by the people of this country, and Washington is getting the lion's share.

No nation in history has ever imposed such a burden on its people and long survived, but even this...(Fade under)

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

Ronald Reagan discusses one of our most serious problems at an upstate Citizens' Press Conference...

REAGAN:

Washington's refusal to operate its affairs as you and I have to operate ours, making income and outgo match, causes the run-away inflation that we've known for these last several years...which is the cruelest tax of all.

It robs you of your savings.

It makes a mockery of the stable-fixed income that has been promised to retired citizens.

It is time for the federal government to adopt a schedule for balancing the budget so that the people know that the dollar next month will buy as much as it did last month and the months before.

SFX:

Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.

1/23/76





# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## SOCIAL SECURITY (:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

At a recent Citizens' Press Conference, Ronald Reagan talked about a problem of concern to retired persons.

REAGAN:

I know that some of you here today paid-in for months and years into the Social Security Program, in the belief that you'd have a monthly benefit check as long as you live.

Now even Washington is admitting that there's a great imbalance in Social Security.

It's been as badly handled as all their other money affairs, but any reform must have as its first priority the guarantee that those who must depend on Social Security for their livelihood will continue to receive their monthly check and that their benefits will not decline in purchasing power but will keep pace with inflation.

It is time for the Federal Government to adopt a schedule for balancing the budget so that the people on a fixed retirement income know that the dollar next month will buy as much as it did last month and the months before.

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.

1/23/76



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

TAXES  
(:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: It happened at one of Ronald Reagan's Citizens' Press Conferences.

A small boy stood up and... (Fade under)

V.O. BOY: I'm from Lancaster, New Hampshire. I think the taxes should be lower because I don't think all that money goes to good use.

SFX: Applause

REAGAN: You've just got your answer right there, son, and I tell you, I wish you were old enough to go to Congress because you're talking sense.

SFX: Laughter

REAGAN: You bet. There is too great a percentage of the people's earnings being taken by governments at all levels in this country.

But I believe that it is time for a study in this country that would set a limit on the percentage of the people's earnings that can be taken by government without the people's consent.

That only in time of emergence would they vote an increase in it.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



1/23/76

# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## UNEMPLOYMENT # 2 (:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Here's another question for Ronald Reagan asked the other day at a Citizen's Press Conference.

V.O. MAN: For quite some time, 8% of the labor force has been without work. The present administration is apparently mistaken in its belief that the economy can correct itself.

If elected President, what steps would you take to cut back the persistent 8% unemployment?

REAGAN: The private sector is the source of jobs and I believe that far more could be done if the Federal Government would explore the possibilities while we're fighting recession, as well as inflation, of where tax incentives could be used to persuade industry to put on more people.

But the only answer of any duration to unemployment, to recessions of the kind we're going in, is going to be the elimination of inflation.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## FOREIGN AID (:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Ronald Reagan was asked this question at a Citizens' Press Conference he held recently in Whitefield.  
(Fade under)

V.O. MAN: Governor, we've been spending a lot of our money: billions and billions of dollars every year on aid to foreign countries. I'd like to know, what are your views on this?

REAGAN: I think that with our foreign aid we've been very foolish. We're a great and a generous country and we've done some pretty wonderful things that we're not getting credit for.

I think that if our foreign aid over the last few decades had been dedicated more to exporting American know-how and telling them how to solve some of their own problems, instead of making them dependent on us...

It's like feeding a deer up in the woods. If you feed him long enough he'll never be able to take care of himself again, and that's what we've done to an awful lot of people in the world.

And I think we need some more common sense in the application of foreign aid.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



1/23/76



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

DEFENSE  
(:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: An important part of Ronald Reagan's campaign are the Citizens' Press Conferences which give the people a chance to ask the questions.

V.O. MAN: As President, how would you deal with the Congressional Democrats who are calling for still further cut-backs in Defense spending?

REAGAN: Well, here again is where I believe a President must take his case to the people. And, the people must be told the facts. I think the people will not make a mistake if they have the facts.

Today there's confusion. None of us are quite sure what the situation is. We hear someone saying, "Oh, they're just saying that to get their budget up" and someone says something else.

But the one thing we must be sure of is the United States must never be second to anyone else in the world in military power.

SFX: Applause

REAGAN: But the purpose of weapons is not to go to war. The purpose of weapons is to convince the other fella that he better not go to war.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.

1/23/76

# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## GUN CONTROL (:60 Radio)

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Here's another question for Ronald Reagan... (Fade under)

V.O. WOMAN: Since New Hampshire is a supporting state what about your gun control?

REAGAN: I am against the kind of gun control that is being talked in the Congress of the United States.

I see it as only something that would make it difficult for an honest citizen to own a gun, but would do nothing at all to impede the criminal in his getting a gun.

I think the type of laws that we had in California that we instituted while I was Governor, and one that we recommended that now has been passed, control the criminal in the use of the gun.

And to do this, we passed a law that anyone convicted of a crime if he had a gun in his possession when he committed the crime, whether he used it or not, you can add five to fifteen years to his sentence.

I think this is the proper approach, but I don't think you're going to serve any good purpose at all in disarming the honest citizens and leaving the other ones armed.

SFX: Applause

V.O. ANNOUNCER: Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.



# Campaign '76

Media Communications, Inc.

1828 L STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-8950

## NUCLEAR POWER (:60 Radio)

V.O. WOMAN:

Mr. Reagan, in light of the recent upsurge of interest in the energy proposals for this country...  
(Fade under)

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

All over our state, Ronald Reagan has been answering your questions like this one...

V.O. WOMAN:

I'd like to know how you feel about nuclear power.

REAGAN:

I think it offers us the greatest opportunity to meet our energy shortage and to get out from under the monopolistic control of the OPEC nations.

SFX:

Applause

REAGAN:

But with regard to the safety factor, the truth is that danger of a nuclear fatality in a nuclear power plant is about one in 75 million.

The one accident involving a nuclear power plant for the surrounding area is one in 5 billion.

I think the case has been made for the safety of nuclear power plants, and I think we absolutely have to have them if we're going to have clean air and if we're going to have to add the energy this country needs.

V.O. ANNOUNCER:

Reagan. He'll provide the strong, new leadership America needs.

Paid for by Citizens For Reagan.

1/23/76



Nov. 17, 1975

Editors:

This is the last of the Ronald Reagan columns. Since the governor is expected to announce his presidential candidacy on Nov. 20, we are releasing this column for immediate publication.

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE





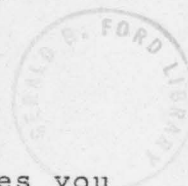
THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Immediate Release)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

It's part of the past now, but there was a time when a lot of teen-agers got after-school, weekend, and summer jobs simply because it was easy for local businessmen to hire them. At the end of the week the boss could dig into his pocket, pay the youngster the agreed wage, and not worry about a blizzard of tax forms to fill out.

No one would argue that the tax deductions and the paper work do result in some benefit for the working teen-agers, but the benefits may not outweigh the disadvantages. When you look at unemployment figures you see that teen-agers make up a large portion of the job-seeking group these days.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

Human nature being what it is, many employers who might put teen-agers on part-time if they didn't have to contend with minimum wage laws and stacks of forms just don't do it.

A new bill in Congress could complicate things further so far as work for teen-agers is concerned.

HR 10130 by Congressman John Dent of Pennsylvania would amend the Fair Labor Practices Act to raise the minimum wage, by degrees, to \$3 per hour in July, 1977. (Present law calls for it to go to \$2.65 by then.) It would tie the minimum wage level at that point to the consumer price index, thus making it contribute to the seemingly endless wage-price spiral. In other words, part of the problem instead of part of the solution.

Overtime would go from time-and-a-half to two-and-a-half times the basic wage rate, if the bill passes.



Organized labor has been pushing for this liberalization of the minimum wage law, but it doesn't seem to want to think about the fact that it will end up costing all consumers -- including those it benefits directly -- more for the things they buy.

It will more directly affect thousands of teen-agers in such businesses as "fast foods." One operator of fast-food franchises in several states says the net effect of the bill would be to shift the composition of his work force from mostly high school-age youngsters who now work a complicated pattern of odd-hour shifts, to fewer workers, adults who will work full-time. His reason: scheduling the teen-agers is time-consuming. If the minimum wage goes up that high, that fast, with promises of more and faster increases, it's simpler to let the teen-agers go and hire full-time employes.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

Now the labor hierarchy may say "just fine" to that, because it will presumably make jobs available for the adult unemployed. Maybe so, but even if it were true, what do they suggest the newly unemployed teen-agers do? Tear around town on two wheels?

The fast-food franchise estimates there are a quarter of a million part-time teen-age workers in this field alone. What of the boys who drive delivery trucks after school for pharmacies, florists and other small businesses, or the kids who sweep out stores and do other odd jobs on weekends? Chances are, the escalating minimum wage will cause many an employer of teen-agers to decide he can do without them and either reduce services or distribute their work to other employes.





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

While Congress is considering these changes in the minimum wage law they might also study the possible effect on teen-age employment in particular and the work force in general of a two-tiered minimum wage system. One would be for full-time workers; the other, lower one, for part-time student workers.

So far the bill's proponents haven't come up with any suggestion to replace the benefits of part-time work for teen-agers who learn from it the value of work, self-reliance and the need to save for the future. Old-fashioned perhaps, but hard values to replace.

-30-  
11/17/75  
mc



RF

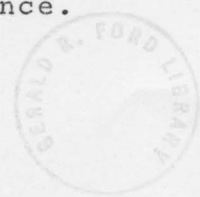
THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Oct. 3, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

America's craze for nostalgia seems even to have swept up some of the politicians. Sens. Hubert Humphrey and Jacob Javits have dusted the cobwebs off that quaint old-timer "National Economic Planning," and have trotted it out in the form of a bill, S 1975, "The Balanced Growth and Economic Planning Act of 1975."

You will have to look across the seas to view the wonders which National Economic Planning has created. You see, it's really another term for piecemeal socialism. The Soviet Union, in its early days, adopted it with one fell swoop, and has had a series of Five-Year Plans ever since.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

They have produced a consumer standard of living so great that we would have to cut our own almost in half to match it. India has demonstrated the wonders of National Economic Planning, too, and even France and Britain have flirted with it, without success.

How does it work? It starts with the assumption that all segments of the economy need to exchange information about their goals and plans in order for everything to work in harmony with beneficial results for all. Unfortunately, their assumption is wrong. Lack of advance information isn't the problem; public policy mismanagement is.

Inflation, recession and shortages are caused by political decisions made by administrations, congresses and federal bureaus. Additional information won't cure that.

In fact, the Humphrey-Javits bill would make things a good deal worse.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 3

It would create a new superagency of the federal government; the Economic Planning Board. The board would come up with a series of national objectives and five-year-type plans. Then they are supposed to employ something called "a consistent set of economic techniques" to get business, labor and the consumer to go along with their plans.

Under the co-chairmanship of Wassily Leontieff of Harvard, who has received more than \$1 million since 1962 to study his pet project of National Economic Planning, the Initiative Committee for National Economic Planning tells us in its brochure how this Economic Planning Board should get everyone to make the decisions it wants. It says, "The means of influencing those decisions are already familiar to us.





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

"Some, such as tax incentives and disincentives, and traditional monetary and fiscal policies, influence individual actions indirectly. Others, such as selective credit controls, guidance of basic capital flows, limits to the use of air, water and land and mandatory resource allocation, affect individual actions directly." And there you have a recipe for complete socialism.

Despite its obvious lack of success elsewhere--not to mention its assault on human freedom--centralized economic planning is being touted by a number of well-known economists, including John Kenneth Galbraith, who is a board member of the initiative committee.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

The planning advocates, with their obsession for controlling everything in sight, believe that they can do so wisely if only they can accurately predict future actions in the economy. But Galbraith, in his latest book, says: "All official predictions in economics are suspect." So much for consistency.

When it comes to job security, though, these economists are a resourceful bunch. Not only has Prof. Leontieff kept the flame of Socialist economics flickering for 15 years with grants of federal dollars, but also several hundred economists would be employed by the new federal agency if the Humphrey-Javits bill ever becomes law. Leontieff and several of his committee members even helped draft it.

Nostalgia is fine, but I think we would all be better off if the economists switched to swallowing goldfish.

9/29/75

-30-

jy



THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN

(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Oct. 31, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

In a classic case of "Washington knows best," Big Government (with a nudge from Big Labor) is telling the independent-minded people of Aroostook County, Maine, what's good for them.

For generations, the citizens of Aroostook, America's largest potato-growing county, have had to work hard and fast each year to harvest their crop before the long winter sets in. Everyone joins in, grown-ups and youngsters alike. In fact, nearly two-thirds of the harvesters are kids of the county. They earn money, of course, but virtually everybody in the county believes that the harvest experience has an even more important aspect:



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

It's a vital part of the process of learning responsibility and the satisfaction and independence that come from working.

Curiously, Washington now wants to do away with the Aroostook tradition on the grounds that work is bad for youngsters.

Child labor in industry was banned by Congress nearly 30 years ago. Few would argue that decision. Agriculture was exempted from the ban, though, until last year when Congress tacked a little-noticed rider to the minimum wage bill, ruling out agricultural work for youngsters.

Aroostook County people were furious. John Moorers, a potato farmer, put it bluntly when he told a reporter, "Whatever happened to the belief that this country was built on hard, honest work? That you work for what you get and that work builds character?"





"These are the values the whole country's losing.

We've kept them here in Maine and now some know-nothings down in Washington are trying to tell us what we've done for generations is wrong."

Congress had good intentions (as it often does), but with uneven results (which it often gets). With urging from the AFL-CIO, Congress was setting out to prevent exploitation of children in the harvesting of some crops. It probably didn't cross anyone's mind to study the situation in Aroostook County or in Washington state, where students traditionally pitch in with the strawberry harvest.

One Washington observer called it a classic example of the application of broad-brush national standards where local differences should be considered instead.



Aroostook citizens have marched and testified against the measure, with no success thus far. The House Agriculture Labor subcommittee voted to waive the ban in the case of both Aroostook and the Washington strawberry pickers. But, Big Labor leaned hard on congressmen in its debt on the full House Labor Committee, and that group turned down the waiver nearly 2 to 1. Thus, Big Labor proved it can be just as insensitive as Big Government when it comes to understanding that Americans weren't all stamped out of cookie cutters.

Rep. William Cohen of Maine, summed it up effectively:

"These people are hardworking, decent, self-sufficient. The family is still a strong unit and the harvest has always been a family effort.



"It's really a shame to start destroying that type of life-style and spirit and philosophy, especially when there's no social advantage to doing it and the use of child labor wasn't abused in the first place."

Those values he's speaking about undergird the whole nation's heritage, of course, and have had a lot to do with the productive genius of the American people. Apparently, though, too many on Capitol Hill these days are marching to a different drummer.

-30-

10/27/75

pg



THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN

(For Release in Papers of Friday Nov. 14 or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Maybe it's time for all Americans to examine detente more closely to understand what it means to us and to the Soviet Union.

A very fine writer and historian, James Burnham, recently did this in National Review magazine. He pointed out that our leaders "think of detente as a diplomatic equivalent of a business deal." Each side has its own special interests but they agree to function within the rules of the marketplace -- something for something. Each will receive some of what it wants, but each will in turn give something.





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

In the case of detente, the plus for both sides is believed to be some assurance against that horror of horrors -- nuclear war. With that agreed upon, we hope for eventual trade, cultural exchange and, in time, legitimate friendship as we get to know each other better.

That is the way we see detente. Not so with the Communists. For them, detente is not a "step toward peace." Nor is it, Mr. Burnham says, "an effort to achieve an evenly balanced equation." It is a way for them to carry on the revolutionary struggle with the advantage for them increased by detente. Indeed, they see the whole arrangement as the result of our weakness. Gus Hall, leader of the Communist Party, U.S.A., has written that detente represents a new "qualitative change in international relations, a deterioration of our strategic situation."



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 3

It is explained that we have been forced to accept detente on Communist terms and they don't lack for evidence to support that claim.

There is our retreat from Indochina, retreat of the West from such important strategic areas as Mozambique and Angola. Then there is the Marxist push in Portugal, the Greek-Turkish trouble in NATO, the oil squeeze on the West, increased Communist influence in Italy, France and Britain. We could add the increase in Soviet naval strength, the terrorist activities we seem unable to halt and the Soviet Union's arrogant violations of the SALT agreements on arms limitation. They arm and we limit.

We are blind to reality if we refuse to recognize that detente's usefulness to the Soviet Union is only a cover for their traditional and basic strategy for aggression.



It would appear that our situation is worse than just not recognizing facts.

Not seeing the facts is useful for those who can turn a profit from dealing with the Soviets, even though such trade increases our danger. And, according to Burnham, free world diplomats can use it to cover up their mistakes and hide their "lack of a cohesive policy." In other words, politicians can hide their lack of willingness to be real leaders, their lack of courage and their governing by public opinion polls.

Detente is for the Soviet Union a no-can-lose proposition. It fits their Communist dialectic. According to this dialectic, "opposites clash and become ultimately fused into a synthesis on a higher plane."



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

In Soviet eyes, the primary clash today is between imperialist capitalists and revolutionary workers; the synthesis is the proletarian dictatorship led by the Communists.

All Communist strategy is conceived against that doctrine or background -- and that most assuredly includes detente.

-30-  
11/10/75  
lm





THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday Oct. 10 Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro is anxious to normalize trade and diplomatic relations with us, we are told, but he picked a funny way to prove it when he staged an international conference in Havana in September to promote the "liberation" of Puerto Rico from the United States.

Back in March, the World Peace Council, an organization controlled by the Soviet Union, called for a preliminary meeting of Marxist representatives in Cuba to discuss the matter of Puerto Rico.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

The delegates to that meeting issued a call for the larger September gathering, all of which was designed to promote one Juan Mari Bras' tiny Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

The "call" was the usual Marxist harangue: "The people of the world must redouble their efforts to defeat in Puerto Rico the promoters of crime in Vietnam, Chile, Palestine and other places, so that the liberation of the Puerto Rican people will signify a new victory in the cause of freedom..."

It is always ironic to see representatives of the Soviet Union joining in denunciations of "imperialism" by the United States, since the USSR holds the world championship for imperialism.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 3

All this led to the September "international conference on solidarity with Puerto Rico's independence" in Havana. Some 300 delegates attended, including a smattering of U.S. Communist Party functionaries.

The object of their affection, and of the superheated rhetoric that flowed from the three-day conference, is an "open" movement for Puerto Rican independence that is about as popular there as ants at a picnic. The issue of independence versus continuation of the commonwealth status of the island was put to a vote of its people just eight years ago. Out of more than 700,000 votes cast, fewer than 1 per cent voted for independence.

This, of course, hasn't deterred Mari Bras or the terrorists of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN).



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

The FALN has claimed it bombed New York's historic Fraunces tavern last January. Five people died in that bombing. According to the FBI, the FALN leadership got its training in sabotage in Cuba. Sounds like the "old" Castro Cuba which routinely exported guerrilla warfare and violence all over the hemisphere.

The fine hand of the Soviet Union in all this mischief isn't hard to see. A Russian actually served as a vice chairman of the Havana conference, and the Soviets' puppet World Peace Council appears to have provided the over-all strategy for the propaganda service. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger took a properly dim view of the proceedings. He said the "meeting in Havana can only be considered by us as an unfriendly act."





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

Castro's best-known U.S. fan recently has been Sen. George McGovern. His wife, Eleanor, who visited Cuba with him a few months ago, said of the bearded dictator: "The most impressive thing about Fidel is his mind. The breadth, depth and width of his knowledge is enormous. Fidel knows the specifics of everything."

If that's so, perhaps he can grasp the idea that he can't have things both ways. He can't have normal trade and relations with the United States and, at the same time, be the Western distributor for Soviet Marxism. Indeed, if he wants the former, one of the points we must insist on is that he deny the Soviets base and landing rights on Cuba and that he guarantee in writing that he'll stop training guerrillas for revolutionary export around the Western Hemisphere.



THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Oct. 17, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

In the 1950s Russian physicist Andrei Sakharov was known as the "father" of the Soviet Union's hydrogen bomb. Today, he is known as the winner of the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize.

It's been a long, difficult and courageous road for the man who now ranks alongside Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn as a champion for human rights in the Soviet Union.

Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the USSR early last year, but Sakharov continues to speak out for amnesty for Soviet political prisoners with a courage which soon may earn him the same fate.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

As early as 1958, Sakharov's misgivings about the awesome consequences of nuclear warfare led him to circulate "Samizdat" (literally, "self-publishing"), calling for a ban on nuclear testing.

If you read Solzhenitsyn's monumental "Gulag Archipelago," you know that a Soviet citizen does not do such things lightly, for it can easily lead to a 10-year sentence in a concentration camp, followed by years of exile.

Sakharov continued, however, and made a personal appeal to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1961. It was ignored. Five years later, he took a further step. He participated publicly in a one-minute vigil for human rights. He was fired from his high post in the Soviet nuclear program.



But the fact he wasn't arrested showed that the Kremlin was concerned that harsher reprisals against such an outspoken public figure might trigger even more protests against repression.

In 1968 his book, "Progress, Peace, Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom," was published in the West, but circulated only in "Samizdat" form inside the USSR.

Now, the Nobel Prize Committee has cited him for his "fearless effort in the cause of peace among mankind," for his warning "against the dangers connected with the bogus detente, based on wishful thinking and illusions," and for his fight "not only against the abuse of power and violations of human dignity in all its forms, but...for the ideal of a state founded on a principle of justice for all."





All that Sakharov stands for contradicts the Soviet system, with its denial of human rights, punishment for dissenters, intimidation and the use of fear.

Despite its love of propaganda as a weapon to advance the Marxist cause, the USSR has a clumsy track record in handling its most famous citizens who dissent. When Boris Pasternak won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958, the Soviets pressured him into turning it down, an act which simply underscored their heavy-handedness. Solzhenitsyn won it in 1970 but couldn't go to Oslo to receive it for fear of being unable to return home.

Following their expulsion of Solzhenitsyn last year, the Soviets launched a continuous propaganda barrage to discredit him. It has had the opposite effect.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

His own compelling testimony on Soviet repression and his profound moral stand about human freedom simply have been verified by the shrill propaganda.

The betting in Oslo is that Sakharov won't be allowed to pick up his prize, since the very awarding of it by the committee will appear to the thin-skinned Soviet regime to be a criticism of its repressive nature. And it is.

(Note: The courageous writings of Soviet dissenters in "Samizdat" form are collected and published in English several times a year by the Samizdat Bulletin, P.O. Box 6128, San Mateo, Calif. 94403. If you ever had any doubt about the way the Soviets treat their defenders, subscribe to this publication.)

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN

(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Nov. 7, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Everything from chicken manure to windmills is being touted as America's great energy hope. Most of the talk is just that. All the exotic energy sources put together won't provide more than a fraction of U.S. energy needs in the next several decades.

Solar power is the most talked about exotic source. It is being used today to heat a few buildings and swimming pools. Its advocates conjure up visions of heating the whole country with it. They ignore its limitations, which are great.

The sun's power is very diluted when it reaches us. It takes about 10 square feet to gather enough energy for a single kilowatt of power.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

While a building's roof may be large enough to hold solar "collectors" for a nearby swimming pool, the size requirements for the collectors are staggering when you begin talking about power plants.

A nuclear power plant with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts needs a 25-acre site. A solar power plant with the same capacity would need 50 square miles of collectors, and to equal the nation's projected nuclear capacity by the mid-1980s (200,000 megawatts), you'd need an area larger than the state of New York to hold all the collectors!

Like other exotic energy sources, solar power has some useful limited applications, mostly in warm weather areas. In fact, any discussion of its merits and risks should include a calculation of the number of people in heavy winter areas who would fall off their roofs trying to scrape snow from their solar collectors.





Some power companies are considering limited efforts to extract methane gas from manure, but it would be hard to find a scientist who would bet that this "source" ever will amount to more than a small percentage of our needs.

Windmills are in the same category. They can be useful where strong winds prevail, but their cost per kilowatt is high and it's hard to imagine Americans covering their landscapes with them.

Harnessing the tides, though feasible, would provide for only a small amount of the nation's energy needs, even if a massive, expensive development program were undertaken.

Tapping the heat of the earth's core is many years away, although use of steam near the surface is today providing a small percentage of our energy.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

While talks go on about "alternative sources" to fossil fuels, the United States has the largest proved reserve (not total reserve) of oil it's ever had--enough for 11 years' supply. On the continental shelf alone, there are an estimated 98 billion barrels of oil, plus natural gas. The bulk of it has been tied up, not by lack of technology but by bureaucratic red tape and the political maneuvering of so-called environmentalists.

Dr. P. Beckman, a quiet but plain-speaking University of Colorado professor who specializes in the study of energy, says this about solving our short-range needs:

"Use all the oil you can get till other sources come in." He's referring, of course, to domestic oil. Those "other sources" are coal and nuclear power.

But why not use conservation to combat energy scarcity?

Because politically inspired scarcity, which we've been wrestling with for two years, cannot be solved by legislated conservation, such as rationing and price controls. They only rearrange the problem.

The forces of a free marketplace are the best means of achieving conservation, Dr. Beckman observes.

"There is no rule that says you can't throw diamonds out the window, but people just don't do it," he says. "If gasoline costs more, people will conserve it and economize in other areas."

Coal, of which we have a huge reserve, may offer the best alternative to gasoline for powering our automobiles not too many years from now, if political roadblocks can be cleared away.



Pilot projects have shown that by drilling down into a coal field, exploding the coal and reducing it to rubble, injecting water and oxygen, you produce methane gas. Piped out, it can be refined into methanol, which can power an internal-combustion engine. Its heating value is only that of gasoline, so cars would need larger tanks, but this is outweighed by its potential abundance and the fact that it is nearly pollution-free. We could do away with costly gadgets such as catalytic converters, which replace one type of pollution with another.

The methanol-from-coal program suffers primarily from investment anemia at present.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 7

And, should serious talks begin on developing such a fuel to replace gasoline, it probably would trigger a major campaign by the environmental extremists, who seem intent on reducing the mobility and freedom of choice of the workingman in order to recapture for themselves a bucolic past that never was.

-30-  
11/3/75  
mc

MEW

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Sept. 5, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Earlier this summer, in a western state, a young man approached me and asked if I would sign the Declaration of Independence.

He handed me what looked like the center spread of a newspaper. On one half was a reproduction of the Declaration of Independence backed by spaces for signatures. I tore it off, signed it and handed it back to him. The other half was something else again.

It was an ad for something called Peoples' Bicentennial Commission.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

Despite its mild name and easy confusion with the official American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the PBC doesn't represent the people, isn't interested in celebrating the Bicentennial and is not a federal commission.

Instead, it is a self-appointed band of political radicals intent on twisting the nation's 200th birthday to its own purposes.

Its leader is a self-proclaimed Socialist revolutionary, Jeremy Riskin, whose understanding of American history is hazy but whose zeal is not.

He says, "It makes no sense for the New Left to allow defenders of the system the advantage of presenting themselves as true heirs and defenders of the American Revolutionary tradition.

"Instead, the revolutionary heritage must be used as a tactical weapon to isolate the existing institutions and those in power by constantly focusing public attention on their inability to translate our revolutionary dream into reality."

Riskin's idea of translating "revolutionary dream into reality" is to organize a crowd of about 20,000 demonstrators (many of them apparently fugitives from the anti-Vietnam War movement, looking for a new cause) and have them try to break up official Bicentennial events.

That's what they tried to do in April, heckling President Ford as he spoke at Concord Bridge in commemoration of "the shot heard round the world."



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

Never mind the fact that the American Revolution was a war of independence from foreign domination and not an ideological class war of the type Riskin supports, the PBC hasn't the slightest hesitation gulling government bureaucrats into giving it some of your tax money to support its radical rhetoric and activities.

Stating as its purpose, "to research, assemble and disseminate to workers and students historical information on the lives and roles of working people during the Revolutionary War period, with an emphasis on the ideas and events that shaped the formation of the early Republic," the PBC sought--and got--a grant of \$7,210 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Once the federal dollar faucet was turned on, it didn't stop. Last year, the NEH approved a grant of \$394,000 for some of the PBC people to lecture throughout 13 western states.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 5

Presumably, Riskin and his followers could have sold the NEH the Brooklyn Bridge if they'd wanted to, for, while submitting innocuous-sounding grant applications, Riskin was declaring to all who cared to pay attention that the PBC's real aim was to show that "...a genuine understanding of revolutionary ideals links Thomas Paine, Sam Adams and Benjamin Rush and the American people with Lenin, Mao, Che Guevara and the struggle of all oppressed people..."

So much for U.S. history.

-30-  
8/29/75  
pg



*file*

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Aug. 15, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

The price of hot air is going up! Congress has just given itself a pay raise.

With the nation facing the prospects of "double-digit" unemployment and several public officials setting an example for austerity (one new governor rides the bus to work; another a bicycle), the House of Representatives has voted to fatten its members' paychecks by nearly \$4,000 a year, going from \$42,500 to \$46,112.

To the credit of a good many congressmen, the vote was close. It passed by a single vote, 214 to 213.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

In fact, had it not been for some last-minute histrionics on the part of Democratic Caucus Chairman Philip Burton, the electronic voting device in the House would have recorded it the other way around.

In the final seconds of voting, with the tally at 214 "against" and 213 "for," Burton hollered: "The machine's broken! The machine's broken!"

He later told reporters that this was a ruse. The machine wasn't broken at all, but Burton's theatrics had given him the time he needed to get the machine turned back on to record some switch votes he was arm-twisting. Speaker Carl Albert helped Burton by using some stalling techniques at the podium.

So much for congressional "leadership" at a time when public opinion polls show the average American ranks Congress at its lowest point in history in terms of confidence.





By tacking their pay raise measure to a post office bill, which also raised salaries of federal judges and upper-level bureaucrats, Burton & Co. hoped to make their move inconspicuous. Their plan to rush it through without a roll call vote (thus avoiding embarrassing questions from voters at election time) was thwarted, but it's a safe bet that those voting "aye" aren't going to shout from the rooftops about it back home.

Burton and his allies were luckier a few weeks ago when the House Administration Committee granted the entire House a juicy \$10 million package of perquisites. These benefits will come automatically to each member--the committee's decision didn't even require ratification by the full House.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

It was rammed through in express-train fashion by Committee Chairman Wayne Hays, who said he would deal with opponents of the measure by simply eliminating their staffs. That silenced the opposition.

The "perks" include extra money to put out those puff-piece newsletters to constituents twice a year (previously they were paid for from each congressman's office budget) and nearly twice as many paid-for trips back home to their districts. As many as 12 of the total of 64 trips can now be assigned to staff members.

If you're upset about all this boom-time generosity in the middle of a recession, don't bother writing your congressman about it this month. He's off on vacation.

-30-

8/11/75

pg

File

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, Aug. 8, Or Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN.

Copley News Service

Congress left for a month's vacation without breaking the impasse which has left our relations with Turkey in a shambles and has seriously weakened NATO's southern flank.

Despite efforts in the Senate to rescind the embargo of arms to Turkey, a handful of House members refused to budge and that body rejected a move to allow Turkey to take possession of some \$185 million worth of material which it had purchased and paid for before the ban went into effect.





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

Humiliated and angry the Turks swiftly retaliated by seizing 26 U.S. bases in their country including communications and intelligence-gathering stations vital to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's defense network.

Defense Secretary James Schlesinger said the loss of the military bases "has the makings of an American tragedy," and he may well be right.

The House's intransigence represents a defeat for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who, in his belief that foreign policy must be shaped far from the battlefield of domestic politics, seriously underestimated Congress' ability to interfere.

The problem first arose over Turkey's use of U.S. arms in its invasion of Cyprus last July. Feelings ran deep among U.S. citizens of Greek descent over the situation in the divided Mediterranean island nation.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 3

They lobbied hard--and effectively--for Congress to ban further arms shipments to the Turks.

In the most recent vote to uphold the ban several conservative Republicans even joined those voting to sustain it. Apparently they were angered by Kissinger's handling of detente with the Soviet Union and his recent critical remarks about Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

When Congress returns in September a good deal of oil is going to have to be poured on troubled waters by the administration if the embargo problem isn't solved. Even then, Congress may insist that a resumption of arms shipment carry a quid pro quo that the material not be used on Cyprus. Whether the Turks will be in a mood to accept any "strings" is a matter of conjecture, and whether the Greeks will trust them is also a matter of conjecture.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

The Cyprus issue is one where there is "so much good on either side," that very skillful diplomacy and a dose of good faith will be needed to reduce the voltage level of the issue.

Meanwhile, the Soviets aren't wasting any time in exploiting our troubles. The Russians have signed an economic agreement with Turkey worth about \$600 million to the Turks, and Soviet technicians are preparing to demonstrate their troop-carrying attack helicopter, the MI-8.

Along with nature, it seems the Soviets abhor a vacuum and are prepared to replace us as Turkey's arms supplier. Let us hope Kissinger and Congress can bury the hatchet in time to prevent this.

-30-  
8/4/75  
mc

JUN 30 1975

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, June 27, And Thereafter)

By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

On June 30, the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), our dispenser of foreign aid, will fold its tent and silently steal away from Laos, leaving the tent (and all its other property) to the new Pathet Lao Communist government which wants U.S. aid money to continue flowing, but with no strings attached.

Although opposition to the Pathet Lao collapsed more swiftly--after a decade of tug-of-war--than even the Pathet Lao expected, the new regime hasn't wasted any time consolidating its position.





The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

For years the Laotian cabinet had been a delicately balanced coalition of leftists, rightists and "neutralists," kept glued together by neutralist Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma.

Shortly after Saigon fell, though, Pathet Lao "rent-a-crowds" (as one European diplomat describes them) began demonstrating in Vientiane for the removal of rightist members of the cabinet. Most of them got the message very quickly and took off for Thailand.

Since the emigres were mostly generals and represented whatever military leadership the right wing had, the Pathet Lao rushed in to fill the vacuum. Its army, with North Vietnamese well-integrated into it (right down to the company level), made a show of strength to intimidate hitherto rightist towns in southern Laos and the bloodless takeover was, indeed, over.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 3

The street demonstrators, meanwhile, stormed the AID offices in Vientiane, occupying them and taking hostages. To end the occupation and win the release of the hostages, U.S. officials had to agree to pull AID out of Laos entirely, along with its 200 American employes (it also employs 2,500 Laotians).

The Pathet Lao wants to not quite kill the goose, for they like those golden eggs it produces. Now, they want U.S. aid (\$32 million this fiscal year) "direct and unconditional." In other words, a blank check. It's no wonder they want the money: the United States is Laos' largest donor by far and this aid keeps the local currency afloat. Without it, the Laotian economy will be in real trouble.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

Those arguing for continuation of our aid on Pathet Lao terms contend it will help maintain a tiny U.S. toehold in Indochina, but close observers of the scene believe the "toehold" will produce no tangible benefits and no leverage over the Pathet Lao.

Removal of AID would probably result in the Laotians breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States, but in the wake of the fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam, that would scarcely be a catastrophe.

As long as we're dispensing foreign aid, we'd better turn our attention to allies who need it, such as South Korea, and forget Laos. Perhaps the Pathet Lao can float a loan with their allies, the North Vietnamese.

-30-  
6/23/75  
pm

JUN 23 1975

1

THE RONALD REAGAN COLUMN  
(For Release In Papers Of Friday, June 20, And Thereafter)

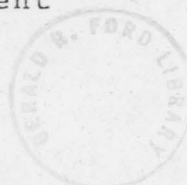
By RONALD REAGAN

Copley News Service

Although parity in strategic arms has been the announced goal of the United States and Russia in their SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty) negotiations, the results of SALT II may turn out to be about as equal as horse-and-rabbit stew: one horse and one rabbit--with the United States on the short end of the recipe.

Indications are that the negotiators are under pressure to come up with an agreement in time for President Ford and Soviet party boss Leonid Brezhnev to sign when the latter visits the United States in early fall.

Placing a premium on speed suggests that a poor agreement is believed to be better than no agreement.



The Ronald Reagan Column -- 2

This could prove disastrous for U.S. security in the long run. And it isn't necessary.

The speed with which Congress passed the defense bill after its recent recess suggests, instead, that plenty of congressmen found the folks at home won't sit still for a weakened U.S. defense system. Against this background, the U.S. negotiating posture should be a tough one. The worry is that it won't be.

The major drawback of the proposed SALT agreement announced by Messrs. Ford and Brezhnev at Vladivostok last fall is its failure to provide for parity in missile payloads ("throw weight").

In 1972, the United States already was at a 4 to 1 disadvantage on this score.



The Soviets have since engaged in an aggressive research and development program involving five new ICBMs and a new submarine missile. If they replace their existing land-based missiles with the new models and we don't deploy a new ICBM to replace our Minuteman, the payload gap will widen to 10 to 1 in the 1980s.

The grim significance of this disparity is underscored by former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Nitze in a recent article in "Foreign Policy." He postulates that if the Soviets wish to destroy 1,200 fixed targets (such as our missile silos), "blanket 400 squares miles of aircraft escape area, and barrage 100 aim points at sea," they would have enough throw weight available to still keep half in reserve. In other words, first-strike capability with plenty left over.

The Ronald Reagan Column -- 4

Another threat to our military forces and our cities is posed by the Soviets' new supersonic bomber. They don't want this counted in the USSR weapons total. The U.S. negotiators seem willing to go along with this idea, despite the dangers. There may be a quid pro quo in the works, but virtually nothing is being said publicly.

Though the Vladivostok proposal calls for limiting the number of strategic weapons, it doesn't prevent them from being fitted with multiple warheads (MIRVs). This makes it all the more essential that we negotiate an agreement which provides for accurate MIRV verification and, at the same time, calls for equality of throw weight.

-30-  
6/16/75  
pm