

Editorial

Reagan to blame for Lebanon deaths

From President Reagan we've learned that Jimmy Carter and the Democrats were responsible for the huge federal deficits, the ailing farm economy and the Iranian hostage crisis.

We never hear about the 260 Americans who died in Lebanon, or whose fault that might be.

The fact is, last week's attack was the third such truck bombing of U.S. installations in Lebanon. There is no excuse for the lax security that allowed another attack — or for the policies behind our presence there.

Our numbers in Lebanon have never been enough to be a successful deterrent to fighting. We had just enough to be a sitting target for terrorist attacks.

The United States has identified itself with the Christian phalangists — one of the many splintered groups fighting for dominance in Lebanon. The U.S. embassy was moved to Aukar after the attacks on the embassies there, according to Gary Wills in the Sunday Journal-Star.

The embassy personnel were being protected by Christian phalangists, Wills said, and the Moslems hate the Christian phalangists. In a country where Moslems comprise a large segment of the population, association with one group invites hostility.

We were in hostile territory, and we had not finished the gates that would have stopped the truck-bomb that

killed people last week. The TV scanners were not working, and a contingent of Marines had been moved out of the area.

The situation has been compared with that in Iran during the Carter administration. We sided with the Shah, incurring the wrath of the Moslems there, causing a hostage situation. The fact that we didn't get the hostages back before the election probably had a lot to do with why Carter lost the election.

More than 300 lives were lost in Lebanon. The hostages were all recovered alive. Funny how times change.

Mondale needs 'leadership lessons' from Reagan

By Fritz
From: Richard Cohen
Re: Your Message

As you know, there's much criticism here in Washington about your failure to enunciate a message. You are perceived as weak, bland, boring and lacking in leadership qualities. What people are saying, in essence, is that you're not Ronald Reagan. Therefore, I recommend the following:

Call a staff meeting and fall asleep.

Forget the name of a close associate.

During a "press availability" pretend you don't hear a question, allow Joan to stage whisper the answer and then repeat it word for word. Don't ask me why, Americans seem to love this sort of stuff.

Make up some facts. Use anecdotes that are more apocryphal than true. Say you filmed the liberation camps and attribute the desegregation of the armed forces to a black galley hand who showed heroism at Pearl Harbor. Ignore history and concentrate on myth.

Stop saying you have a plan for reducing the deficit. Instead, say you have no plan but that the deficit will somehow reduce itself. Then everyone will give you credit for being an optimist and feel good just by seeing your face. Boundless, cock-eyed optimism is better than a plan any day.

Show you're decisive. Promise if elected to invade a small Caribbean island. Barbados would be a good choice. Say you are rescuing Claudette Colbert from the peril of the rising dollar.



Soviets. Most Americans are, too, and they will admire you all the more for it.

Be unreasonable. Say you'll never raise taxes even though you must; call on Congress to cut the budget even though it can't; ignore statistics showing you used the veto less than even Jerry Ford. Lambast the Federal Reserve Board for the tight-money policy that wrung inflation from the economy, insult the Soviets and then suggest a summit meeting; and talk of banishing God from the classroom — as if He has been banished to the hallway for chewing gum. Take no questions on any of this.

Slow down. Take naps. Watch lots of afternoon television. Chop wood. Ride a horse. Cut out reading. Use films for briefing. Show no intellectual curiosity. Appoint a Middle East negotiator every month or two.

Train Joan to gaze at you as if she had never seen you before. Dilate her eyes if necessary.

"... AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE PERCEPTION THAT I'M DULL?"

Identify yourself with heroism instead of, say, the AFL-CIO. Find a hero and say what he has done is typical of all Americans. Forget that what made him a hero in the first place is that he is untypical and instead talk about a return to traditional values. Mention them a lot and ignore that they sometimes meant sexual repression, discrimination against women, child brutality and religious coercion. These are mere details and we are striving for the big picture.

stead, talk of equal opportunity. That means if you have a lot you get to keep what you have and have the chance to get more. Also make sheer dumb luck look like it was earned or deserved. We all know that being born American, white and middle class is the best luck of all and that after that you have to really work at being poor. Forget about that, though. No one wants to hear it.

Pose on a battlefield. Most of the European ones have already been used by Reagan, so choose an American one — maybe Tren-

ton. That way you could identify yourself with George Washington, point out that the battle took place on Christmas Eve and hit the religious angle as well. Also don't forget that Trenton is in New Jersey, a swing state with 17 electoral votes.

Crack a joke about bombing the Soviets but be sure to do it off the record. That way, the press will look sneaky and unethical for reporting it, you will appear victimized, and you still will be able to make the point that you're unequivocally hostile to the

When talking to ethnic groups, mention movie stars you have known. Reagan cited "the beautiful Dolores Del Rio" to a group of Hispanics. Say you knew her, too. Take no questions on this one, either.

In short, if you always do what Reagan does, after a while saying "what you see is what you get" won't sound like a threat. You might not win. But you won't be tired, either.

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Stop talking about fairness. In-

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Love for football may mean death as writers, players ignore injuries

"You have to admire the courage of that man; he ignores the pain and just keeps plugging away." Someone not from Nebraska might think those were the words of a newscaster or magazine writer speaking about an arthritic old monk ministering to lepers or an embattled public servant striving to right political injustice.



But we Nebraskans know that was the voice of a sports commentator speaking about a football player.

Two players' cases which have received much attention in the football-crazed Lincoln newspapers over the past week-

end show how utterly ridiculous such talk is. The players are Trevor Pavich, a Lincoln Southeast High School senior, and Ed Reinhardt of the University of Colorado.

Pavich suffered a ruptured spleen two years ago that could have killed him, and Reinhardt could be dying as you read this because of a head injury he received in a game last week.

A story in the Friday's Journal-Star Extra Point praised Pavich for the valor he displayed while continuing to play football, against the advice of doctors. Pavich is quoted in the story as saying medical personnel yelled at him when, during a checkup for another injury, they found out about his old battle scar. Those silly doctors — they just don't understand the love of the game.

The love of the game was the operational phrase in a sports column in Sunday's Journal-Star. "It's incredible," the columnist wrote, "the lengths some individuals will go for the love of a game."

He meant incredibly wonderful (or awesome, in sports terminology), not incredibly stupid, as many of sound mind might infer.

The columnist suggested that football is more than just a game, that, "The game is competition. The game is life."

Such an attitude may well be at the root of the problem. Fans, coaches, sports journalists and players themselves have made football into something more than recreation or sport. They've made it, in every sense of the phrase, a life and death matter.

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