

Reagan has 'foot in door' of 1980 presidential race

By L. Kent Wolgamott

Omaha—Former California Governor Ronald Reagan has "not closed the door" on running for president in 1980, but said it is too early to make a decision about the race.

Reagan, appearing at an Omaha press conference before a fund-raising dinner, said any announcement of a 1980 candidacy would have to come after the November election, probably in 1979.

He said he expected several candidates to compete for the GOP nomination but refused to comment on who he felt would be the strongest opponent.

Reagan said he is not changing his positions on issues in order to present a more moderate image. "The middle of the road is where people get run over," he said.

"Politics is a world of image building," Reagan said. "I have an image of almost eating my young."

Progressive gains

But Reagan said that once people find out more about his record as governor they don't feel that way and pointed to the elimination of income tax on incomes of

less than \$8,000 a year, conjugal prison visits, mental retardation programs and minority hiring as progressive gains made while he was governor.

Reagan said Republicans should be realistic and not expect large Congressional gains in this year's election.

He also said Democrats have been using the traditional Republican issue of a tax cut to their advantage this year.

"I'm well aware that Democrats have a great gift for stealing the other party's rhetoric," Reagan said. "But it doesn't make any difference in policies."

For example, he said the tax cut bill, supported by President Carter and passed by Congress does not really provide a tax cut but "only reduces a little" the tax increases for next year.

Republicans, on the other hand, "keep on foolishly saying what we mean," Reagan said.

Balancing the budget

Reagan said he did not think Democrats are doing what is necessary to combat inflation, which he said is "caused by government spending more than it takes in" and "will go away" when the budget is



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Ronald Reagan

balanced."

He said inflation is caused by government deficit spending of borrowed money from the private sector of the economy

and printing money, because as the "money supply is increased by greenbacks (the term used for inflated, useless dollars in the Civil War era)" the value of the money already in the economy decreases.

Voluntary guidelines to control inflation will not work, Reagan said, because high wages and high prices are the result of inflation, not the causes.

He said inflation could be stopped by balancing the budget immediately and to say that the budget cannot be balanced "just isn't honest."

He said the federal budget deficit is around \$40 billion which is less than 10 percent of the total budget, and said he did not know of any major corporation which could not tighten its budget by 10 percent.

Cut waste

The government could cut down on fraud, waste administrative overhead and fat and put a freeze on government hiring in order to balance the budget, Reagan said.

Reagan's trip to Nebraska, which included stops in Scottsbluff and Omaha, was paid for by Citizens for the Republic, a group he heads which assists Republican candidates across the country.

He said CFR contributed to almost the entire slate of Republican candidates in Nebraska.

But Reagan said the emergence of a strong Democratic party in Nebraska is a good thing as "the two party system is what we are trying to preserve," and said Democratic gains in traditionally Republican states like Nebraska are being offset by GOP gains in the traditionally Democratic south.

Reagan's campaign tour will take him to New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio before he returns to California.



Daily Nebraskan photo

This barn was raised last year after it fell and crushed Dorothy and Toto too. Ruby slippers were found in the loft.

Society simulation game practiced in class

By Denice Smee

There is a class on campus which a student can start a dictatorial regime, own an industry or get on welfare.

Actually, the class simulates the situations. It is the Political Science 100H class taught by Richard Weissman.

In this class, Weissman said he uses a simulated society game where the class is divided into four groups. Each group has allocated resources except one, the red group, which becomes the welfare class.

Weissman said the rules of the game are vague so the students have to make up many of the rules as they play.

This is because "in society we have to make our own," he explained.

"I take as little part as possible," he said.

"You have to make it clear you have to play the game seriously or it won't be a fruitful exercise."

Organize themselves

The students organize themselves in the society the way they want to, he said. This may mean the rise of a dictator or a democracy.

In any case, the students of the three groups with resources soon learn that they have to do something about the red group or the society will not last, Weissman said.

But, the students do not just play games all semester, he said. The game only lasts for three or four sessions or until the

students decide what to do with the red group and learn how to handle their own positions, or the society falls apart, whichever comes first.

Then, Weissman said, he gives an exercise at the end of the game which helps to tie it with real life.

The rest of the semester is spent looking at society, he said.

Often students can relate something that happened in the game to a problem in society, helping them to reach a better understanding.

Other advantages of the simulation include showing students how leadership develops since natural leaders form in each of the groups and why voters become apathetic, especially in the red group, he said.

Breaks down tension

Finally, the simulation game helps to break down tensions between students which make future class discussions more relaxed, Weissman said.

Twenty-two students participated in this semester's game, he said, although it works better with 35 or 40 students. Weissman said he has used this game last spring on his Political Science 100 class and once at the University of Georgia.

Weissman, who is visiting UNL from the University of Georgia, will offer the simulation game again next spring in his class. He said students who are interested should read the course descriptions put out by the

political science department.

He said the honors students who played the game this semester tended to get into the game quicker and were "more aggressive and more confident."

Two students in the class both said they enjoyed the game, and thought they learned a lot from it, but wished it would last longer.

Back-stabbing

Glen Thomas, a freshman pre-law business economics major, said, at first, the game was characterized by back-stabbing among players and high competition.

Chris Thompson, a freshman broadcasting major, was described by Thomas as "probably the richest guy in the class."

Thompson said he did not know how he made so much money. He just "fell into it."

Another simulation course on international terrorism will be offered next spring by several cross-referenced courses including history, political science and economics, said Les Duly, professor of history.

It will be offered in conjunction with classes from Wayne State, Kearney State and the University of South Dakota, Duly said.

The class still is in the planning stages, so the actual type of simulation to be used is not known, he said.

"There is a lot of literature coming out about terrorism," he said, "so we'll be introducing students to the future."

Technician hurt in fall from pole

A high voltage technician at the UNL power plant is reported in fair condition at Bryan Memorial Hospital with possible back injuries and compound fractures after he tumbled 30 feet from a power pole when the pole broke Monday afternoon.

Darrell Adams, 51, Rural Route Davey, had climbed the pole to dismantle the power lines, because a crew intended to bury the wires underground.

According to Norman Kreps, a co-worker, the pole had rotted just underground where the crew could not see it. Kreps said when the pole snapped, Adams landed on his back, and the pole fell on top of him. Adams is reportedly suffering multiple fractures above his left knee, and possibly a crushed or broken back, although doctors have not yet determined the extent of his back injuries.

The incident occurred on the north side of the poultry complex on east campus, and Adams fell in a grassy area, according to Kreps. Adams became an employee of the university power plant less than a year ago.

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