

Editorial

Proposed budget to intensify plight of disadvantaged

President Reagan's plan to reduce the \$222 billion federal deficit without raising taxes is unrealistic and unworkable. Reagan sent Congress a \$974 billion budget for the 1986 fiscal year. The proposal calls for a \$40 billion cut in domestic programs, yet also for a \$32 billion increase in the defense budget.

Reagan's intentions are good, but something must be done to reduce the deficit. After considering the defense increase, Reagan's plan will save only \$8 billion.

Cuts must be made, but they should be made across the board. If \$40 billion is cut from domestic programs, then at least \$40 billion should be cut from defense. The only exception to this is Social Security which many elderly and disabled people rely on for support.

Reagan says the defense increases would continue to fund the MX missile and the B-1 bomber, as well as accelerate research on the "Star Wars" system.

The defense increase belies Reagan's rhetoric about nuclear arms reductions. The proposal increase will jeopardize arms talks with the Soviet Union.

Some of Reagan's cuts are justifiable. For example, money for Amtrak trains can be reduced. The trains have never reached the quality of public trains in Japan and Germany, so few people use them.

But many other cuts, such as reduced aid for students and farmers, are diminishing the quality of our nation.

If college aid is reduced, one million students could be hurt. Reagan wants to eliminate subsidizing loans for families that earn more than \$32,500 a year. He also has proposed a new limit of \$4,000 a year on the amount of aid a student can receive.

Reagan also has proposed several cuts for farmers. For example, farm subsidies would be cut in half and low-cost crop insurance would be eliminated.

But farmers need subsidies. Many spend more money planting and harvesting their crops than they sell them for.

Reagan thinks farm prices would increase in an open market. But farmers have no guarantee that Reagan's theory would work. Farmers could lose their land, homes and equipment if the plan backfires.

Low-cost crop insurance also is a necessity. The insurance protects farmers against losses caused by natural hazards such as floods, hail, drought and tornadoes.

If government insurance is cut, farmers will have to buy private insurance at higher costs. Few could afford to do that.

Reagan's cuts would hurt primarily low- and middle-income families. One example of this is the proposal to charge higher fees for people visiting national parks or forests. Parks are for everyone. Low-income families should have as much access to parks as higher-income families.

Reagan is unfairly making low- and middle-class families bear the program cuts. The deficit is out of control and something must be done to restrain it. But all Americans should help.

If program cuts are used, the reductions should be made in all areas except Social Security, which is vital to many.

Although no one wants to pay more taxes, in the long run the only fair way to solve the deficit may be a tax increase. The burden would be distributed more equally between the rich and the poor.

If taxes are increased and spending is cut across the board, the United States eventually might have a balanced budget.



"THIS COUNTRY AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF US!"

Cookie cover-up investigated Toll House restaurant fire remains a mystery

Official cover-ups are always outrageous. However, they are most intolerable and pernicious when they are used to hide government bungling and ineptitude. In the face of one occurrence during Christmas vacation, only one conclusion is painfully obvious — there exists a national conspiracy and cover-up, extending into the highest reaches of official officialdom in these United States.

The object of the cover-up? The true events leading to the burning and destruction of the Toll House Restaurant on New Year's Eve.

For those few people who have not made the almost required children's pilgrimage to the Toll House Restaurant while on summer vacation, it was the landmark restaurant where the Toll House cookie was discovered by Ruth Wakefield in 1930.

The newswires reported that the Toll House Restaurant burned as a result of a grease fire while "jammed" with 250 New Year's Eve revelers. But through careful and detailed investigative reporting — much of it at the risk of my own life — yours truly has discovered that there is much, much more to the whole unseemingly story than has been published by the media — so far. It's a sobering and twisted tale of mental warpedness and culinary terrorism.

Jim Rogers

On Jan. 3, as I was glancing over the hundreds of letters I receive every day, commending or condemning the substance, tone and style of my columns — granted, all of them are usually from mother — I came across a curious wrapped package in plain brown paper. My inborn journalistic instinct told me that something about the situation didn't smell right. I soon knew what it was as I carefully opened the package and discovered the lunch that I had misplaced several weeks ago. But stuck to the lunch bag was a letter marked "Important and confidential communication for the eyes of occupant alone."

Inside the envelope I found a letter from the Chocolate Chip Liberation Army claiming responsibility for the fire and demanding that a statement of belief, contained in the letter, be published in my column — the one place where they knew the entire nation would read their claims. I knew I was onto a hot story. I ran into my editor's office and exclaimed "Hey,

Chief! Chief! Wake up, chief." As he slowly came around from his drunken stupor, I told him, "No time to explain, but I've got a lead that will blow the roof off the culinary community. Give me an unlimited expense account and a first-class ticket to Whitman, Mass.

His response was as usual: "Jim, you know the rules. If you make any more of these silly demands we'll raise the price we charge you for printing your columns." After tears began to swell in my eyes he finally broke down and gave me permission to use the Daily Nebraskan On-the-Spot-News unicycle. I groveled at his feet for a short while, and then was on my way.

As I was pedaling to Massachusetts and had several weeks on my hands to do with what I willed, I pursued the statement, that the CCLA had sent. Some extracts are as follow:

"Not since Katherine Hepburn poured burning salt onto the innocent, giant swamp leeches attached to Humphrey Bogart's body in 'African Queen' has there been more of an affront to the earth's rich bounty than there is occurring in ovens all across America.

"Millions upon millions of chocolate chips are sacrificed each year merely to enhance the taste of what, without the chips, are known as 'Butter Drop Do' cookies. This is a moral outrage.

"As a statement of opposition and protest, we have attacked the institution which gave America the hideous reality of chocolate chip abuse on a scale never before realized — or even imagined — in the history of mankind."

I also know from the cursory background investigation that I had done before I left, that the same group was responsible for breaking in and vandalizing research laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania at Hershey. They claimed then that the university-sponsored experimentation, aimed at creating a butter-scotch-chocolate hybrid chip was a crime against nature and needlessly cruel to the chips involved.

I arrived at Whitman and immediately secured an interview with the man arrested for the arson. The janitor on duty at the jail leaked to me the fact that the accused man (Dale Janizen) was reputed to be a "big cheese" in the CCLA.

As I sat across from Dale in his dimly-lit, yet comfortable cell, decorated in the early colonial style which is almost required fair for New England interiors, his eyes told me one thing: He was asleep. After I woke Dale up, we began the interview.

Dale started by telling me that his conversion to chip-rights activity occurred after he read a study by a scientist published in "Popular Pseudo-Science," in which the scientist claimed to have discovered brain waves being emitted from chocolate chips and subsequently concluded that they are a form of intelligent life.

I then asked him if the scientist he meant was Dr. Austin York, the same guy who was committed to an insane asylum two years later after becoming violently insane because of untreated venereal disease.

Dale's retort was that many brilliant people lead productive lives after leaving a syphilitic condition untreated for decades upon decades. "Look at Friedrich Nietzsche after all," he said, sneering.

A quizzical frown came over his face when I asked him whether he really believed the case of Nietzsche was the most powerful of counter examples to my earlier questioning.

Dale abruptly cut off the interview in order to prepare for a "60 Minutes" interview — but not before I had learned that he had repeatedly sent threats of imminent bombings to the Toll House Restaurant, some of which were forwarded to the Bureau of Firearms, Alcohol, and Tobacco along with desperate pleas for protection from the then owners of the Toll House Restaurant. Tragically, the pleas went unanswered by the bureau.

Even when pleas of help were sent to the FBI, no help was to arrive. The reason? The FBI's belief that by definition, culinary terrorism is not a form of terrorism with which they can deal. The words rang hollow in the ears of all who loved the landmark cafe.

After the burning, the government attempted to cover up their own incompetence by suggesting that Dale's confession was that of a madman desiring only the attention of the media. But I knew better.

As I cycled back to Nebraska I reflected on the events I had experienced — and on how much they had changed me and my ideas, and ideals, of the government. I just felt very, very old.

So that's the expose. The information is now in the hands of you, the public. May your righteous indignation accomplish much. Since I came back from Massachusetts, there is only one new development. "60 Minutes" will air Dale's story on June 6.

It is entitled, appropriately enough, "The Chip and Dale."

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