

Reagan: GOP must rescue nation

By Randy Essex
Associate Editor

GRAND ISLAND—Marching into an overflowing convention hall to the Franklin D. Roosevelt theme song, *Happy Days are Here Again*, GOP presidential front-runner Ronald Reagan called on 4,000 Nebraskans to "rid the country of the dogma of the '30s and its string of federal deficits."

Reagan, who was a Democrat in the early days of Roosevelt's New Deal, decried those policies, calling for "the Republican Party to come to the rescue of this nation."

Ridiculing President Carter's proposal to balance the federal budget as a deceptive plan "that will take \$100 billion more from the American people in taxes," and Carter's economic policy as "warmed-over McGovernism," the former California governor said, "There is enough fat in the Federal government that if you could rend it and make soap, there would be enough soap to wash the world."

Bringing his campaign to rural Nebraska, Reagan told an afternoon press conference that farmers have been hurt by inflation, but also said he did not yet know how to maintain agricultural price stability.

Reagan said he has access to many people with knowledge in agriculture, but has not had "thorough meetings" with those experts.

Worst hurt

"But I do know the farmer has been the worst hurt by the cost-price squeeze of inflation."

Reagan's visit here coincided with the selection of target delegates committed to Reagan, whose names will appear on the May 13 Republican primary ballot.

In addition to his press conference and evening speech, Reagan spoke briefly at the delegate caucus.

Introduced by Gov. Charles Thone, who was named a Reagan delegate at the caucus, the candidate told supporters no one deserved less than they to be pinched by inflation.

He vowed to make a stable farm policy a top priority if elected, but did not elaborate.

Concerned about the "nation in this world that has revealed its imperialistic ambition to expand to the ends of the earth," the candidate said there is "no question" that the United States is militarily inferior to the Soviet Union.

Reagan said that the Senate should refuse the SALT II treaty and said it is time that the United States let the world know "that we don't care whether they like us or not, we're going to be respected."

Reagan pointed out that the Carter administration has failed to deploy the neutron bomb, the B-1 bomber, the MX missile system and the cruise missile.

Reservations

He told the press conference that he has not specified his support for those weapons, and, in fact, does not know if the United States should deploy those particular systems.

"But we do need to build up a deterrent force to buy us time to rebuild our military strength," he said.

To achieve that, Reagan said that pay for non-commissioned officers needs to be increased. He estimated that 70 percent of the volunteer army leaves the military after its first term of enlistment, and said the incomes of some members of the armed forces are so low that their families qualify for food stamps.

Concerning President Carter's most recent response to the Iranian crisis, Reagan repeated his contention that any action not taken in the first days of the crisis would prove ineffective.

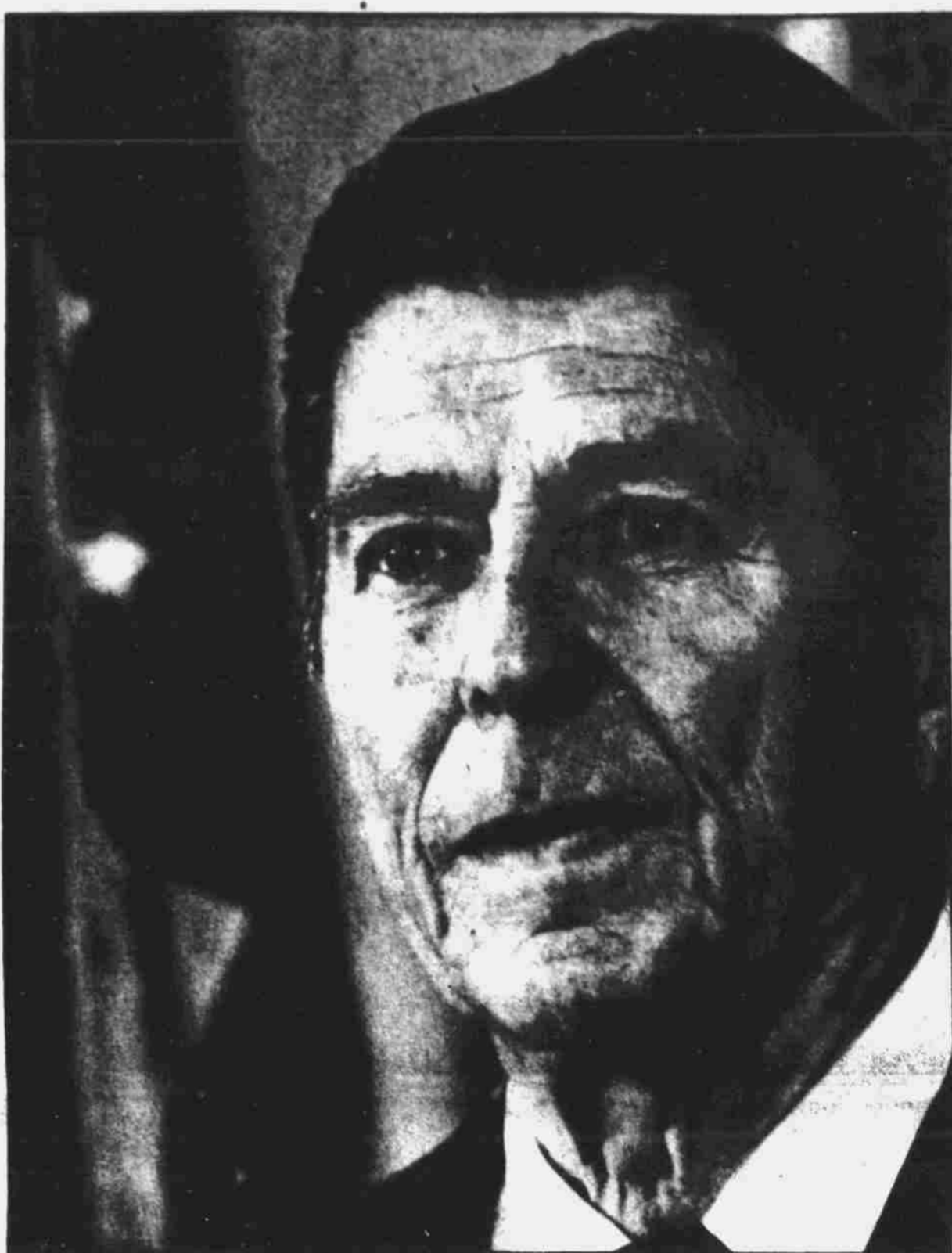


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan.

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Eight candidates to compete for Simmons' spot

By Diane Andersen

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on candidates for the NU Board of Regents.

Nebraska's 6th district has spawned eight candidates this year for the NU Board of Regents, including incumbent Robert Simmons. Three of the new candidates said they chose to run partly because many people are dissatisfied with Simmons.

Richard Register, a UNL student, is running for the post. He has been criticized because he is from Fremont, which is not part of the 6th district.

Register said he filed to run because he wanted "to encourage other qualified candidates in the district to run."

"The regents should sell education to Nebraska," Register, 20, said. "Evidently people don't believe that is being done anymore."

Simmons favors a closed admissions system, which Register said would cause NU to lose money. He said Simmons would realize this if he read studies made available by the administration, but said Simmons ignores such evidence.

Dissatisfaction

D. Neal Smith, an insurance agent from Gering, said he is running for the NU Board of Regents because he has a wide range of experience that would make him effective. Smith received business and teaching degrees from UNL in 1969 and said he has business and teaching experience.

"Also, many people have expressed dissatisfaction with Robert Simmons," Smith said, adding that he disagrees with Simmons on the open admissions issue.

Smith, 33, said he feels attitude as well as aptitude are important to achievement, and both need to be tested if admissions are to be limited. He said no money will be saved by limiting the numbers of freshmen and sophomores, who have a high student-teacher ratio.

Dell L. Rosenberry, 33, is a Scottsbluff lawyer who said he filed for regent from the 6th district because of his "general concern with education."

"I felt that Bob Simmons wasn't doing a good job of protecting educational interests," Rosenberry said. Rosenberry earned his law degree at Creighton University.

Robert Simmons, 61, the incumbent, is a Scottsbluff lawyer. He earned a bachelor's degree from NU and a law degree from the NU College of Law. Many members of his family have attended UNL and won numerous honors, he said.

"We have all felt we should put back some of what we got out of the university," Simmons said, explaining why he wants to serve in the non-paying regent position.

Simmons said he has had much experience in education, including being a member of the State Board of Education.

Register said the important issues facing NU are open admissions, which he said he supports, and the necessity of evaluating the NU Central Administration. He said the administration is "under a lot of fire and a lot of it is justified."

Smith said the issues he is concerned with are compensation of the faculty and the cost of the university to taxpayers. He said NU faculty are compensated for their services 18 percent less than other faculty members at comparable institutions.

Cost to taxpayers

Tuition increases are not as important right now as is the cost of education to Nebraska taxpayers, Smith said.

Rosenberry said he is most concerned with inflation and the realization that the university "must live within a budget." He said better efforts are needed to obtain funding from private sources.

Simmons said the biggest issue right now is the "probability of big changes" because of an expected decline in enrollment and more older students.

"Now we're going to have to retrench," he said, while still maintaining quality education.

Register said NU's top spending priority should be faculty salaries, followed by support systems such as the library.

"Students don't come here because of the administration, but because of good teachers," he said.

Smith said his first priority would be to maintain good faculty members and recruit new faculty. Rosenberry said "quality education" is the first priority, but that research in areas such as agriculture and water

resources also is important to the people of the 32-county district in western Nebraska.

Fewer faculty

Simmons said faculty salaries need to be increased, but "we cannot keep improving the buildings and keep hiring more faculty at the same time." Simmons said fewer faculty members would mean salary increases, and that the faculty members would mean salary increases, and that the faculty could produce more if they had clerical help at a lower rate of pay.

With help from student assistants, faculty members could handle more classes and do what they were hired for, Simmons said.

Register said he would "love to see a voting student regent, but that would take a constitutional amendment." He said the regents needs to listen more closely to the voice of the students.

Rosenberry, Smith and Simmons all said they think the current role of the student regent is adequate, and that student input is important.

Concerning faculty administration relations, Register said he wouldn't like to see the faculty unionize under the American Association of University Professors as UNO has done because it would create "an adversary relationship."

More faculty voice

If a reasonable move isn't made to give faculty more voice in university decisions, Register said, "Unionization may be the only answer."

Smith said the administration and faculty need to work together for a "common goal." He said he sees no major problems between the two groups in the future.

Rosenberry said acceptance or rejection of AAUP is "the faculty's choice" and he wouldn't object to what they do "as long as they're moving legally." Rosenberry said he understands the viewpoint of the faculty.

Simmons said "Historically, faculties have governed universities." He said there is a kind of "armed truce" between faculty and administrators because the line between their prerogatives is not clear.

"The way to improve the financial condition of the faculty is to reduce their numbers," Simmons said.