

opinion/editorial

Reagan would bring back America's greatness

Probably more important to voters than it has been for many years, the presidential primary will come to Nebraska May 13.

And as students approach the booths, let's hope they've done their homework on the current status of our national dilemma.

The president from Georgia has seen the inflation rate quadruple, failed to get a heavily Democratic Senate to ratify the SALT II treaty he got by caving into Brezhnev, and seen his foreign policy reduced to almost total disaster.

To exemplify his naivete in national politics, Carter was surprised that the Russians would lie to him when they invaded Afghanistan; and when armed with evidence that the hostages in Tehran were being abused, Carter's policy was to ask the World Court comprised of powerless people to ask terrorists not to be naughty.

So much for naive administrations.

Carter now says that Americans must lower their expectations and prepare to make some sacrifices.

That won't be easy to do since he has lowered the typical family's spendable earnings to 1964 levels, collapsed the bond market and start-

ed sober Wall Street experts talking about a panic.

With the campaign slogan, "Let's make America great again," there is an alternative among the Republican ranks—an alternative with proven leadership ability and whose followers are growing daily.

And with the type of people that may join Ronald Reagan in the presidential bid, his personal appeal should be surpassed only by political appeal.

Not only have names like Howard Baker and Gerald Ford surfaced as possible running mates, but the list of a Republican cabinet is starting to look very capable of getting America back on its feet.

Such noted experts as former Secretary of the Treasury William Simon, Milton Friedman, Thomas Sowell of USC, and Nebraska's own Clayton Yeutter seem like a much stronger lineup than the Carter "hitters" presently in Washington.

And in all fairness, students must evaluate the performances of 69-year-old Reagan while governor of California. In a state that would rank seventh in productivity in the world if it were a nation, Reagan was able to reduce taxes while stimulating the economy—a proposal he is advocat-



ing at the national level much like John Kennedy's tax cut in 1963.

Reagan's forcefulness and speaking ability is sometimes distorted by liberals who would have us believe the politician too old for the job. But his display of politics is an indication of the strong foreign policy approach

that this nation has needed for quite some time.

We think Reagan is the man for the job and are supporting a new national direction from the Republican ranks—for a change.

Harry Allen Strunk

Bandwagon ride to cost moderates their influence

When Sen. Howard H. Baker, Jr. of Tennessee came here last Sunday night to give his endorsement to Ronald Reagan, he joined a growing list of moderate Republicans who have discovered hitherto unnoticed virtues in the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination.

The ability to rationalize the inevitable is one of the attributes a professional politician soon develops. To a good many of that breed, Reagan's nomination was looking increasingly inevitable in the days before the Pennsylvania primary.

So they hastened to board the bandwagon—Govs. James A. Rhodes of Ohio and Pete DuPont of Delaware, 36 members of the House of Representatives, and a half-dozen senators, of whom Minority Leader Baker was the most important.

david broder

There are several considerations—aside from simple bandwagon psychology—that contributed to their decisions.

There is widespread belief among Republicans of all stripes that Jimmy Carter is a beatable President in 1980. With current polls showing Reagan running at least even with the incumbent, many Republicans agree with New Jersey GOP Chairman David Norcross (another of the moderate Republicans to endorse Reagan last week) that "we've got to get going on November, and I don't want to spill blood unnecessarily between now and convention time."

As always with politicians, personal ambition enters into the calculation. Ever since he folded his own presidential campaign, Baker has been talked about as a possible Reagan running mate, and, while saying he would prefer to remain in the Senate, he had the good grace not to pretend indifference to the possibility of being on the ticket.

The third force underlying the wave of endorsements is the belief that those who get aboard now may be able to influence the future content and direction of the Reagan campaign and a possible Reagan administration.

Reagan shrewdly played to that motivation by announcing last week the formation of a "policy council" headed by another vice presidential hopeful, former Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon. In addition to such stalwart conservatives as Simon, the council includes such moderate Republicans as former Secretary of State William P. Rogers, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former Secretary of the Treasury George Schultz.

For the sake of their consciences—or constituencies—the endorsers draw a picture of the bandwagon driver that is consistent with their own conceptions of the qualities their party nominee should have. Thus, the endorsing

congressmen overlook Reagan's lack of Washington experience and find him a man with sensitive understanding of the executive-legislative relationship. In a similar fashion, industrial-state Republican leaders dwell on his "compassion" and his concern for the unemployed.

This is all part of the internal coalition-building process that helps a party prepare for the general-election campaign. Democrats went through a similar exercise four years ago. It was at Pennsylvania primary time that many of the liberal and labor groups that had been fighting Carter's nomination acquiesced in the inevitable and came aboard his bandwagon.

In the first two years of his presidency, Carter worked conscientiously and with occasional success to carry out his commitment to those liberal foreign and economic policy goals.

But in the end, the liberal rationalizations have proved to be just that—rationalizations. The reality was that Carter had defeated the liberal candidates in 1976, and when the crunch came for him, in the third and fourth years of his term, the choices Carter made on his budget, his domestic programs and his foreign policy were choices that were dictated by his own more conservative political tendencies. They were choices that drove many, if not all, of the liberals into political opposition.

Once again, our illustrious student government has shown where its true interests lie. Students had a recent victory regarding free speech at UNL when the regents (who can be receptive and rational, contrary to popular belief) passed a change in the university religion policy. *Where was our student government during all of this?* As Lynn Rogers (April 24) pointed out, "ASUN had not expressed interest in it of any kind," except perhaps, our honorable student court who put four Christian groups on probation on the basis of the former vague policy and is now dragging its feet in lifting the probation under the new policy.

It concerns me that ASUN showed so little interest in such a vital issue. They seemed more concerned with dueling over dual membership in Innocents and Mortar Board (two groups who affect a trifling minority of students, many of whom just happen to be members of student government). Or perhaps they were too busy deciding which side of the fence to fall on regarding the Kruger-rand issue, or worrying about Fund A cuts which would endanger student elections (which wouldn't be a terrible loss, aside from its yearly comic relief) and the Daily Nebraskan (what would ASUN do without its headlines?). Little mention was made of other serious losses resulting

from a Fund A cut, which was outlined by Marie Mahoney (April 25). Just maybe ASUN was too occupied with censoring Prokop to worry about a minor thing such as freedom of speech . . .

The Daily Nebraskan displayed neglect in this issue, too, relegating it to the inner pages of the paper rather than giving it front page coverage where it belonged. They instead made the judicious decision to give such things as Mortar Board-Innocents and TNE scandals front page headlines.

Hundreds of students organized themselves, wrote letters, planned a protest march, and worked long months to get the policy changed. And Wessels had the gall to ask to table the issue by claiming there wasn't enough student input, merely because she hadn't done her own homework and the issue hadn't gone through ASUN channels. (Or maybe ASUN just wanted a chance to belatedly climb on the bandwagon and take some credit for the decision.) It escapes me how delaying the decision could have garnered more input, as we are nearing the semester's end, and most students will be in such cozy environs as Minatare and Primrose, Nebraska, when the next Regents meeting rolls around.

The moderates can rationalize what is happening to their heart's content. The conservatives are too busy celebrating to care.

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letters to the editor

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