

## opinion/editorial

# Reagan's political promises blowin' in the wind

Promises. Promises.

Every politician is full of and eagerly spews promises to that all important electoral element of American society: potential voters.

Last fall, presidential candidate Ronald Reagan made several promises to the public. Among those promises were actions he said definitely would be taken in the best interests of this nation and its populace.

By making these firm declarations, last year's presidential candidate said he was proving to U.S. citizens that he had the spine, the fortitude and the leadership experience to be the chief executive of a world power. More so, at any rate, than his opposition.

Now, however, things apparently have changed.

It's not that the proposals, or promises, made by Reagan have been softened. But as president, Reagan obviously no longer intends to back up

the rhetoric of last fall with the actions he had prescribed to cure many of the nation's ailments.

Evidence of this is Reagan's shifting on some of the campaign promises that were purported to be absolutes, such as his vow to make sufficient and immediate tax cuts and his pledge to end the grain embargo with the Soviet Union.

It long has been a given that political strategy involves, perhaps even features, promises a candidate never honestly intends to fulfill; solutions to problems the public office aspirant actually does not plan to confront.

These crowd pleasing proposals add spice to otherwise dreary, predictable verbal offerings repeatedly regurgitated through the lengthy campaign season. It happens all the time, right?

Yes, sadly, it does happen all the time. Unfortunately, some voters actually may fall for the rhetoric. They may believe in a candidate and the

positions and opinions of leadership he or she espouses.

It would be interesting to know if people in the midwest the agricultural heartland of the nation would have given their overwhelming support to Reagan demonstrated last November via the ballot box had they known he would waffle on his promise to end the grain embargo.

Reagan toyed with agriculture interests by assuring them their problem of financial insecurity would at least be partially abated. Now, however, he seemingly does not intend to deliver.

Last year's election was not a single issue contest. Nevertheless, those who stand to suffer from Reagan's obvious slight of their economic plight should make it known they do not appreciate the president's goals changing with the political winds.

## 'Rebel' factions warrant scrutiny

The Scene: a powerful government versus a radical faction of its subjects!

This localized civil uprising has been called a "regional manifestation of world unrest." A growing group of agitators and rebels has been making life rough for a ruling class accustomed to having its orders followed. Thus, the government beefs up its military strength as a show of force to those who would oppose it.

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This spawns overt and covert protest on the part of the radicals. Spokesmen begin printing what they admit is propaganda in hopes of inflaming passions and stirring revolutionary thought. The radicals resent any objective reporting on the events and issues for they believe that is not the way to fight for a cause. One of the leading agitators justified his smear tactics on the gov-

ernment as a technique essential to victory.

An organized campaign of threats and economic coercion is reinforced at times by mob action against publications that are not all-out for the radical cause. The opposing media is nearly all hounded out of business while those who try to be neutral are either forced into the radical camp or into suspension.

It is also a class struggle on the part of the rebels, who resented the decision-making power of the aristocratic government leaders. The radical faction protested the government's support of corporate monopolies by destroying their incoming goods through terrorist actions.

Unpopular laws are met with rioting mobs that stoned the houses of local political leaders and destroyed their vehicles. A publisher who protested the radical's actions is hanged in effigy, attacked on the street and forced to flee the country.

The first real catalyst for violence occurs when a group of rowdy protestors began hurling objects and verbal abuse at military guards protecting the Custom House. When the soldiers became crowded by the mob, they finally fired into them to disperse the protest, killing five.

This becomes a rallying point for the rebels, and propaganda leaders characterized the five deceased as noble martyrs, not as the rough, violently inclined dock workers they were. Social revolt becomes imminent.

The radicals now turn to ambushes, fire-bombings and raids. Mobs in the street destroy anything representative of their oppressors. Anyone on the side of the ruling class is not safe on the streets, and underground armies are springing up everywhere. Eventually, the radical faction wins.

The radical faction is based in such cities as Boston and Philadelphia. The time is the late 18th century. And the rebel leaders, complete with ponytails, carry such names as Sam Adams, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin

and Thomas Jefferson. The aforementioned events are textbook examples from the Revolutionary War, which gave America its independence from Great Britain.

Times and circumstances change, but there still is some real food for thought given this perspective. For one, it is somewhat awkward to consider that romanticized events such as the Boston Tea Party, the burning of the British revenue cutter *Gaspee*, or even the nature of Paul Revere's ride, would probably be called "terrorist actions" today. In 1776, the words "radical" and "patriot" were synonyms.

Another thought that deserves digesting considers the current course of U.S. foreign policy. If the same events of the American Revolution were to take place elsewhere on the globe today, would the administration view the "radicals" demands as legitimate, or condemn their actions as being those of impudent barbarians?

As Benjamin Franklin said on the eve of the revolution: "Passion governs and she never governs wisely."

# Ronnie blasts Commies in Hollywood war epic

No monumental Hollywood epic would be complete without a number of dramatic war scenes. And those for "Mr. Reagan Goes to Washington" have already been filmed.

They open with Ronald Reagan (played by Ronald Reagan), resplendent in his new six-star general's uniform, taking The Girl Who Adores Him (played by Nancy Davis) into his arms.

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Nancy (*tears in her eyes*): Oh, dearest, can't you linger with me for but a few brief precious hours?

Ronald (*grimly*): Don't you know there's a Cold War on? I must get back to my boys at the front. I cannot let General Haig (played by George C. Scott) face the enemy all alone.

Nancy: I'm so proud of you, dear. How heroic you were when you launched that opening attack, calling those Russians lying, cheating criminals. Then when you bravely revoked Ambassador Dobrynin's parking privileges in the State Department garage . . .

Ronald: Yes, there'll be heck to pay for that. Now give me that red pillbox hat with a hole in it that Adolfo designed for you for the inauguration. I want to wear your colors into battle.

Nancy: But won't it look silly on you?

Ronald: Not on my head. On my sleeve. Slip it over my wrist. There. Farewell, sweetheart.

Nancy: But what about inflation, recession, stagnation and getting the government off our backs?

Ronald: That'll have to wait. For I won't be back 'till it's over, over there!

(*Long embrace. Fade to Ronald slogging gamely through the mud, the tattered remnants of the hat still on his sleeve. A barrage of slurs whistles overhead. The whine of a huge incoming malediction can be heard. Ronald dives headfirst into a bombast crater as the malediction explodes behind him. A pale-faced kid lies whimpering beside him.*)

Kid: Forgive me, sir. I'm only a Nit Picker, Third Class. And I just can't take any more jeers and imprecations.

Ronald: Cold War is heck, kid. But on your feet! We'll give them H-E-double-toothpicks together. Remember, all America is behind us.

Kid: You're right, sir! (*He leaps to his feet and charges forward shouting.*) Many Commies have dandruff!

(*Montage of factories turning out insults; Cold War bond rallies; and presses spewing forth newspapers with the headlines reading: "RONNIE BLASTS COMMIES AGAIN!" and, at last, "RUSSIANS SURRENDER!"*)

(*Fade to deck of battleship. Ruby Keeler is tap dancing as Ronald and Nancy watch a Russian in a blue blazer, preppy tie and white bucks signing the surrender documents.*)

Russian: (*shaking Ronald's hand*): Thank you for saving us from Communism and converting us to moderate Republicanism. Down with the ERA.

Nancy (*proudly*): Yes, dearest. Now you can go home and fight inflation, recession, stagnation, and . . .

Ronald: Who's going home?

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