

Editorial

United States needs a leader, not Mondale

If there is one thing this country doesn't need, it is to have Walter Mondale as its next president.

By all indications, Mondale, the former vice president who served under Jimmy Carter, has become the front-runner for the 1984 Democratic nomination.

Saturday, he was given a resounding endorsement from the leaders of the AFL-CIO. Mondale got 96.5 percent of the ballots cast by 80 AFL-CIO union presidents. That came only one day after Mondale won the endorsement of the National Education Union.

If the Democrats do nominate Mondale next summer, they may end up regretting it when the general election rolls around.

This country's voters are not likely to forget the disastrous leadership of the Carter administration, in which Mondale served.

And they shouldn't.

Mondale, of course, is running for president instead of vice president this time, but he has given every indication that he would lead the United States much the same way Carter did.

We shouldn't be surprised, then, to find Mondale using many of Carter's campaign tactics. He seems to promise everything to everybody, a trick that worked the first time around for Carter but that failed miserably after the voters saw just how many of those promises he kept.

Newsweek reported in its Oct. 3 edition that Mondale has developed a habit of telling interest groups their concerns are "at the very core of my being."

In fact, the magazine reported Mondale used that exact phrase three times in a three-week period to express his commitment to civil rights, quality education and the rights of unions.

Just as Carter blasted Reagan's proposals in the 1980 campaign, Mondale now is busy blasting the Reagan record, without offering any viable solutions of his own.

The Reagan economic program has been a disaster, Mondale says. Since he offers no real program himself, maybe we should look back to his days as vice president, when inflation and interest rates soared to record high levels.

The current level of unemployment is unacceptable, but taken as a whole, the economy appears to be on the mend. We can hope for better economic times and that's more than the Carter administration ever offered us.

Mondale has promised to cut back on military spending, saying it has caused many of our economic problems. But voters should remember the Carter days when so little emphasis was placed on national defense that other nations could invoke whatever penalties they wanted without fear of any real response from Washington.

Many Americans are unhappy with the current administration. But even more were unhappy with the Carter administration and they won't forget that the next time they go to the polls.

Unless Mondale can offer some evidence that his leadership would be much different than that of Jimmy Carter, the Democratic party is not likely to find him a successful candidate for the 1984 general election.

Firing Watt like cutting off diseased finger

Wave goodbye to 'anti-people' administration

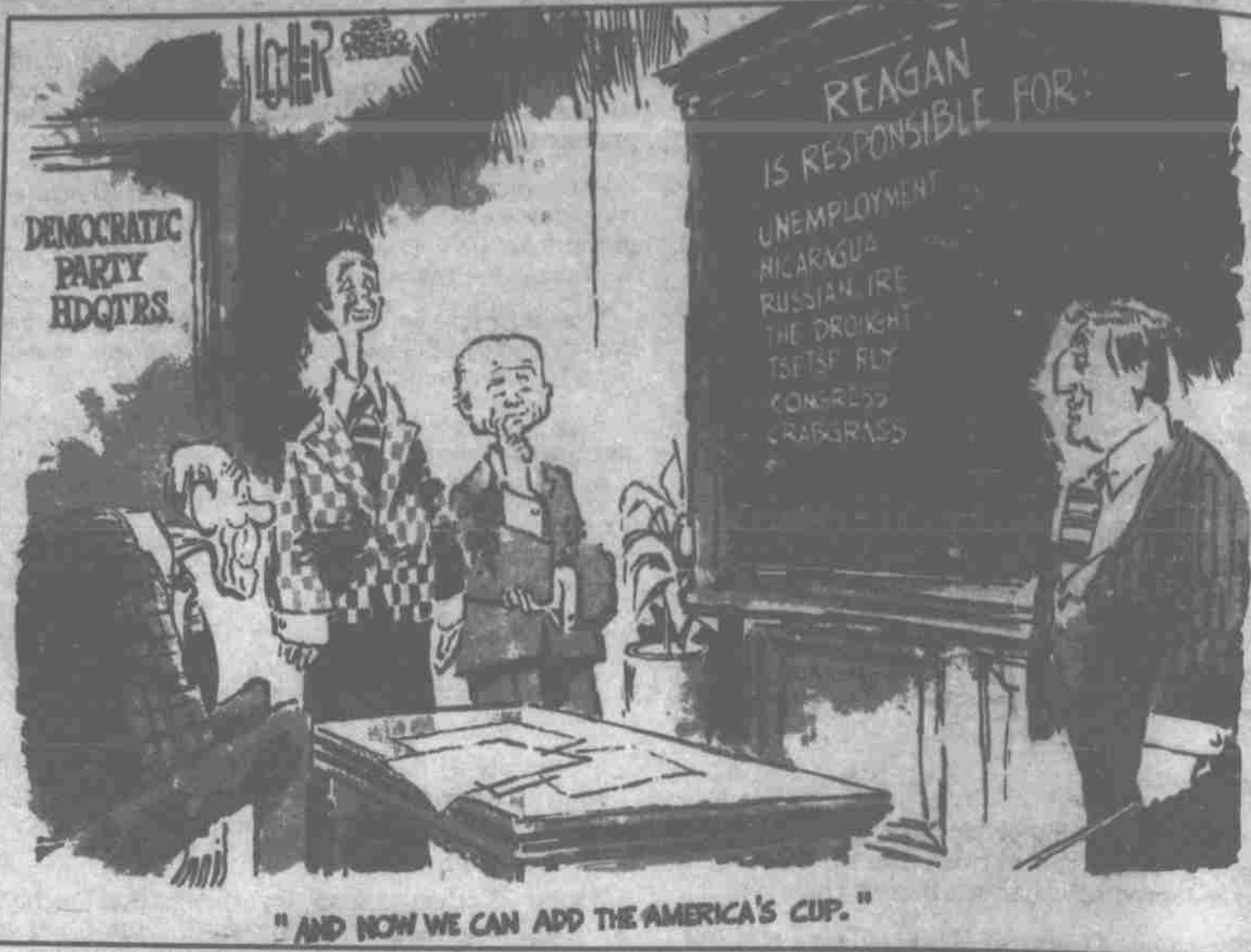
Secretary of the Interior James Watt once again has shocked Americans with his obvious tastelessness and insensitivity. Upon hearing accounts of his political blunders, we are overcome with the desire to demand that Watt be fired and replaced with someone who genuinely cares about people as well as the environment. Firing Watt like cutting off a diseased finger.

But throwing Watt out of Washington would be

Janet Ward

like chopping off a diseased finger rather than attempting to find a cure.

Watt merely is a symptom of a sick administration. Dismissing Watt wouldn't change the administration's attitudes or policies. Chances are he



Heigh-ho 'Mandate' and away... Reagan despotism thinly disguised

Ronald Reagan's first two years as president of the United States were marked by unprecedented coincidence between the desires of the Oval Office and Congress' actions. Atop his trusty steed, Mandate, and surrounded by a bevy of Republican congressional members, Reagan ran roughshod over the legislative process, destroying social programs, sating Pentagon gluttons and vetoing every Congressional attempt at moderation.

Christopher Burbach

He remilitarized American foreign policy with defense spending and abandoned discussion in favor of bellicose babbling in international dialogue.

All this, Reagan claimed, was justified, nay, demanded by the Americans who voted for him. In a manner that brought to mind John Belushi and Dan Akroyd's "We're on a mission from God," the president invoked again and again his "mandate from the people."

Substantial Democratic gains in 1983 House of Representatives elections weakened that mandate somewhat; now Reagan has to wheedle, bargain and sometimes even compromise to get what he wants.

Public opinion has changed drastically since 1980, perhaps because of concern over the increasing U.S. military role in Central America and the Middle East combined with heightened worries

about nuclear arms buildup from a public which is increasingly better informed by the nuclear freeze movement.

According to a Harris Survey published in Monday's Lincoln Star, a majority of Americans favor moderation and reason in dealing with the Soviets. Seventy-six percent of those polled said President Reagan has shown admirable restraint in not cutting off all contact with the Soviets after they shot down the Korean plane. A majority of those polled also praised the president for not calling off arms talks or canceling recent U.S.-Soviet grain deals.

Sixty-two percent opposed increased defense spending, while 63 percent said they did not believe the U.S. military is weaker than the Soviet Union's.

The most startling and probably the most important result of that Harris Survey was an overwhelming response in favor of a congressional resolution calling for a freeze, 77-20 percent.

We will now have the opportunity to find out whether our president truly adheres to mandate of the people. The American public is fed up with the lack of progress in arms reduction talks and is frightened by the increasing peril of nuclear war.

Outrageous military spending has been a major impetus in a ballooning federal deficit, while domestic spending cuts have not reduced that deficit at all. If President Reagan and his cohorts ignore American public opinion on these issues, especially nuclear arms control, their next mandate from the people will be "Get out of Washington."

Who benefited when the administration abandoned the automatic seat belt and airbag requirement? Never mind the evidence that many lives would be saved with these devices. The people of the United States didn't benefit, but Chrysler, General Motors and Ford certainly were pleased with the decision.

Who was hurt when the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission announced at his inaugural press conference that his agency should stop protecting consumers from false advertising and defective products?

The problem in Washington extends much further beyond just one secretary. Watt stands out because he is publically offensive. Obviously, though, his actions are condoned by Reagan. If they weren't, it is doubtful that Watt would still be a public official. Getting rid of Watt, as so many would like to do, will not solve the problem of an unsearing administration. The solution is not to get rid of Watt, but the person he represents — Ronald Reagan.