

Editorial

Congress and president must stop mortgaging U.S. future

It must be election time again.

The politicians in Washington have once again decided that the ever-growing federal deficit is a serious problem and now they're busy trying to decide who's at fault. To no one's surprise, the Democrats in Congress have decided that the White House is to blame for the uncontrollable debt and President Reagan has placed the blame on Congress.

Meanwhile, the deficit continues to grow. It has been estimated at about \$180 billion for next year and has accumulated to more than \$1 trillion during the past 40 years. As deficits grow, so do interest payments. They now make up about 13 percent of the federal budget and threaten to become unmanageable.

Considering how unsuccessful past attempts at reducing the deficit have been, it would seem unlikely that any progress could be made in an election year. But now, there appears to be hope.

President Reagan and several senior GOP senators have proposed a \$150 billion deficit-reduction plan that includes large cuts in social spending as well as some reductions in planned military spending increases and a \$48

billion tax increase.

The Democrats have proposed a \$185 billion three-year reduction plan. It calls for a \$49 billion tax increase and large cuts in planned military spending increases. Under the GOP proposal, military spending would increase 7.8 percent, but under the Democrats' plan, it would increase only 3.5 percent. The Democrats also are proposing small cuts in domestic programs.

No one can deny that both plans have political overtones, but it is refreshing just to see some renewed concern about the deficit. The real challenge is yet to come, however. Senators and congressmen can continue to toss the issue around like a political football or they can get serious about it and try to work out a reasonable compromise. We'd all be better off if they chose the latter.

Reagan, in many of his campaign speeches, told us that government, like the common man, cannot continue to live beyond its means without disastrous consequences. He was correct. This nation cannot afford to continue mortgaging away its future.

It's about time the politicians — Republicans and Democrats alike — realized that and accept the responsibility to change things.



El Salvador's elections bogus and predictable

Do Sunday's elections in El Salvador signal the coming of democracy to that nation?

Let us examine the arguments of those who answer yes.

The first argument is that a high voter turnout will mean that the Salvadoran people accept the legitimacy and fairness of the elections.

a list once it got into the hands of those in the government who have contacts with the death squads.

The third argument is that whoever wins on Sunday will be the real choice of the people.

To respond to this, it is necessary to look at the experience of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

In the 1970s that country was in a situation similar to El Salvador today; an increasingly successful and popular guerilla war threatened an oppressive government.

The main difference is that poverty and oppression were associated with race in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe.

In an effort to sap the support of the guerillas, the white government extended the vote to blacks and put up a black-bishop named Muzorewa as its front man.

The white government offered to let the guerillas participate in the elections but the latter, of course, refused.

In the election, Muzorewa won by a huge landslide. This was seen by the people in the West as a victory for democracy and a defeat for the guerillas.

However, the blacks who voted for Muzorewa had merely voted for the lesser of two evils.

Finally, under the supervision of Britain (the colonial power), real elections were held two years later. The guerillas won this by a huge landslide.

The lesson of this is clear. Forced to vote in bogus elections, the people will vote for the lesser of evils.

Given a real election, they will vote for those who really represent them — the guerillas.



Newspaper 'dumb'

I never thought I'd see the day when a group of neo-fascists would seize control of the Daily Nebraskan and print such a bad editorial (Daily Nebraskan, March 21).

The editorial betrays the editor's total ignorance of how politics work and have worked for 200 years in the United States. In 1860 Abe Lincoln did the same thing Mondale and Hart are doing, i.e., criticizing the incumbent and not offering solid answers as alternatives. It wasn't a shame he got elected, or maybe in your view, it was. JFK, FDR, Ike, everyone did this. That's how it works because people hate the truth. Goldwater in 1964 and McGovern in 1972 were honest, decent and straightforward and got stomped by the bad guys.

In addition to ignorance, the DN also showed hypocrisy in criticizing the candidates without offering a viable alternative or any alternative, something it criticized the candidates for doing. If you are implying Reagan as the alternative, then you're dumber than I thought, or at least seriously deranged.

Tim Howard
Lincoln

Letters

Old ideas don't work

Your editorial "Slim Pickins From the Field of Democratic Candidates" (Daily Nebraskan, March 21) was disappointing. The editor should read more than the Daily Nebraskan and watch a little television before forming his viewpoints.

Gary Hart has explained several of his new ideas, and his positions on issues have been published in national magazines and newspapers. It may be difficult to understand his ideas because they are impossible to reduce to a few words of emotional rhetoric. Hart seems to understand that the world is rapidly changing and we can no longer rely on old ideas of the past to solve the new situations that we will encounter.

I suggest that the editor do more research on this topic before writing any more opinions.

Finally, the damage that Ronald Reagan has done in civil rights, environment and military spending have made life worse for millions of Americans. It will be a sad event in history if he is re-elected.

Arnold Grinvalds
junior
english

Daily Nebraskan

EDITOR Larry Sparks, 472-1788
GENERAL MANAGER Daniel Shattell
PRODUCTION MANAGER Kitty Pollock
ADVERTISING MANAGER Tracy L. Beavers
ASSISTANT Kelly Grossschmide
CIRCULATION MANAGER Steve Meyer
NEWS EDITOR Ward W. Triplett III
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS Lauri Hopple
Jann Nyffeler
Victor Ruhnke
Jeff Brown
SPORTS EDITOR Mike Frost
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Pat Clark
COPY DESK SUPERVISOR Patty Pryor
NIGHT NEWS EDITOR Jeff Goodwin
WIRE EDITOR Chris Welch
ART DIRECTOR Lori Monger
PHOTO CHIEF Craig Anderson
ASSISTANT PHOTO CHIEF Dave Troube
PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSON Carla Johnson, 477-5703
PROFESSIONAL ADVISER Don Walton, 473-7301

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.
Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Carla Johnson, 477-5703.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0440.
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Constitutional amendments found in Platte

In an amazing development that has confounded American political scientists, an additional 10 articles to the United States Constitution have just been unearthed. "The Dead Sea Amendments," they've been dubbed, are expected to change the entire complexion of American politics.



Mike Frost

The documents were discovered not in Philadelphia, but nestled away in a motor boat moored along the Platte River. "I was out trying to find my 8-track tape player," said Fern Gosddin, "when what do you think I found but the missing 10 articles of the Constitution!"

Gosddin quickly responded to charges that the artifacts were falsified. "Look, it's signed Geo. Washington, just like Washington used to go by.

And Alexander Hamilton's name is spelled correctly too."

We must assume the articles are real. Gosddin has granted this column exclusive publication rights, in an exchange for an 8-track player.

PREAMBLE: We the people of the United States are having a swell time here in Philadelphia. Sure is humid, though. Oops, that crazy Ben Franklin just put a whoopie cushion under Richard Bassett of Delaware's seat. Poor Richard. Anyway, we have some ideas we think are real important.

ARTICLE 1: Eat all your vegetables. And clean up your room for gosh sakes.

ARTICLE 2: No justice appointed to the Supreme Court shall be nicknamed "Big Al."

ARTICLE 3: Cereal manufacturers have to give free prizes in each box they sell. And none of that cheap stuff, either, like a whistle or a plastic ring. It has to be something useful like a novel or an 8-track tape player.

ARTICLE 4: If you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all.

ARTICLE 5: The National League shall be divided into two divisions, the East and the West.

ARTICLE 6: Officials elected to serve in the House of Representatives should avoid using the word "gosh." It just doesn't sound good, you know?

ARTICLE 7: Where's the beef?

ARTICLE 8: Anybody who really wants to work can find a job easily. Why, just look in this year's *Poor Richard's Almanac* — there must be 10 pages of help wanted ads.

ARTICLE 9: Fotomats shall never be larger than 10 feet by 10 feet. Additionally, they must always be located in grocery store parking lots.

ARTICLE 10: Great Americans should have monuments in their honor. This includes things like government buildings named after them, their faces carved in the sides of mountains, and their names etched in metallic belt buckles.