

# Editorial

## Mondale budget deserves chance

While most Americans had yet to figure out what Walter Mondale's budget reduction plan would mean to them, columnists and commentators across the country were telling them the plan wouldn't work.

"The Federal Reserve board won't stand to have the president tell them what to do."

"Why, he's going to restore spending programs Reagan cut out of the budget. And his plan will cost the average family more than \$1,000 a year."

Thank you, commentators and columnists.

Reagan aides invented the \$1,000 figure for average families. Where they came up with the figure is obviously their little secret.

Mondale's campaign insists that a family of four earning between \$25,000 and \$35,000 per year will pay no more than an additional \$96 in taxes in the plan's final year — 1989.

A family earning between \$35,000 and \$45,000 would pay about \$200 more. The balance of the \$85 million tax increase would be taken from wealthy individuals and corporations.

We can't necessarily take the Mondale camp's figures as gospel truth, but at least it is based on a plan. Reagan's best effort at budget reduction must still be a file labeled "Top Secret."

Mondale said he will decrease the current budget by \$54 million, with \$25 billion from the defense budget being the

largest reduction. The MX missile and the B-1 bomber would be history.

This large reduction will be offset, however, by \$30 million in increased spending. Analysts critical of Mondale somehow try to paint the picture that he tries to hide this \$30 million. On the contrary, Mondale, ever the party's man, is quite proud of the \$30 million increase in spending.

The money is earmarked for the traditional babies of the Democratic Party: social programs, including school lunches, educational and environmental programs.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, Mondale's reduction program rests on the cooperation of the Federal Reserve Board to lower interest rates if the deficit

indeed begins to thin.

The fed presumably will not let Mondale tell it what to do. The reason? Why, their traditional independence from the executive branch, of course.

You can't beat the system if the system won't let you play with it.

Jimmy Carter, ever a fine man despite his political weaknesses, failed miserably as governor of Georgia and as president of the United States because he tried to provide basic justice outside the present, corrupt institutions.

Again it seems a democrat will be beaten by the system and the press before he even takes the field.

Jeff Browne  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

## Communication proves vital in mixed-up world

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fouoyk nahT... Sorry, computer went nuts. It does that from time to time. Computers are like that.

No matter. After the computer finished digesting my copy and burping out this gibberish, I got



to thinking about how important communication is in this mixed-up, nutty world.

From our first good cry to our last gasping sigh, communication is our only way to survive. If it gets messed up, we're in big trouble. Remember when you were 3 months old and you were just dying for some nice warm milk? You told 'em, too, nice and loud. But what did your mom do? Slapped a new diaper on ya and went out and talked to the neighbors. Trouble. No communication.

My father has a nice way of communicating. When I was a boy, I remember marveling at my father's suggestion that I could write as well as any of the famous writers that I loved. "Naaa," I said. "Not me."

"Sure you can," he said in his best Ward Cleaver voice. "With this book." And he led me over to the dictionary stand where the mammoth Webster's Second International stood guard over the hallway. "It's got all the words in it already," he said. "All you have to do is recombine them." Subtle,

yet powerful.

Open your eyes, communication abounds. It's going on even as you read — important communication. If it wasn't important, you wouldn't be reading this column, now would you?

Let me tell ya, I've got my eyes open all the time. Communication isn't just another buzzword to me — it's my life. Permit me to share with you a few examples of communication I stumbled onto recently.

- From the Federal Register, I kid you not, comes a federal regulation written by a federal employee of the federal government. The findings and determinations hereinafter set forth are supplementary and in addition to the findings and determinations

previously made in connection with the issuance of the aforesaid order and of the previously issued amendments thereto; and all of the said previous findings and determinations are hereby ratified and affirmed except, insofar as such findings and determinations may be in conflict with the findings and determinations set forth herein.

Well, Amen. I don't know about the rest of you, but that'll sure keep me in line.

- From Love Library's East basement wall, south corner. (In heavy brown pencil) "Kilroy was here!" (In blue pen) "So was I, so what?" (In pencil, again) "Kilroy isn't a specific person, he's a symbol." (In lighter blue pen) Actually Kilroy was a specific

person, but his real name was not Kilroy. (No one knows the true identity of Kilroy.) Kilroy worked in a packing plant during World War II. He became famous for stamping his personal trade mark (Kilroy was here) on crates. He started putting his trademark on crates when his boss accused him of being lazy. His trademark was his way of showing his boss that he was working. Furthermore, the Kilroy trademark became an inspiration to American soldiers who were in battle overseas. Kilroy was truly one of America's greatest heroes. Long live Kilroy.

I don't know if this is true, but if it isn't, it should be. True or not, this guy is eloquent. And what's worse, he's sitting in a basement

being eloquent. Meanwhile, we're stuck with some \$40,000 a year federal yutz who can't even write home to mother without tossing in a few thereto's and hereinafter's. Maybe we should start writing federal regulations on basement walls.

- From the speech communications department. Thumbtacked to the department door, on fourth-floor Oldfather, is a plastic playtime clock with movable red hands. It reads "Will return." I like that. Good communication. (Nevermind that it was 3:30 p.m. and the hands were set for 1 o'clock.)

- From a local paper. I recently saw an article that defined Nancy Hoch as "the long shot Senatorial candidate." Yecchh. Bad communication. Bad and misleading. No matter how you feel about Nancy Hoch, she doesn't deserve that albatross.

- From the mouth of former president Gerald Ford. "To you and to the people you represent, the great people of the government of Israel." He was toasting Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt, at a White House dinner in 1975. (Not a real good icebreaker.)

- And finally, from the esteemed William Randolph Hearst Foundation, in a December 1983 collection of editorial winners. First page, seventh word of a second paragraph, the word is — "administrastion"? Why, Mr. Hearst. Tsk, tsk, tsk. Corekt speling iz esenchall 4 gud comunikashun.

By the way, the first sentence of this column is spelled correctly. It's just backwards and creatively spaced.

# CORRECT COMMUNICATION

Billy Shaffer/Daily Nebraskan

## Farm lender criticized for building cost

Whenever we gore a bureaucratic ox, we're not surprised when it kicks up a lot of dust and tries to cover up the mess. But false charges are a little unusual for the generally cautious swivel-chair set.

### Jack Anderson and Joseph Spear

That's what resulted, however, when our reporter Joel Bernstein began investigating the Farm Credit System's multi-million-dollar extravagance in building luxurious, new, regional, office buildings, when more American farmers are going broke than at any time since the Great Depression.

The total cost of the farmer-financed lending agency's regional paper-processing palaces comes to nearly \$220 million.

Evidently afraid that the facts would outrage the nation's hard-pressed farmers, a Farm Credit system public relations official, Jeffrey D. Oates, tried to discredit

our reporter as a deadbeat. In a memo sent to all regional public-relations people, "senior communications specialist" Oates wrote:

"Joel Bernstein, an investigative reporter for Anderson (and a delinquent Farm Credit borrower), recently contacted banks that have recently moved or are planning to.

Those banks we talked to did a good job of responding to and, in some cases, frustrating Mr. Bernstein with sound answers and objective reasoning for their new buildings."

As it happens, Bernstein is a life-long city person. The closest he's ever been to a farm, let alone a farm loan, was when he got a guided tour of the elegant new headquarters of the Farm Credit Administration — the government agency that oversees the Farm Credit System — in suburban McLean, Va. (There's a reconstructed colonial farm-restaurant just across the road.)

When our associate John Dillon questioned Oates on his defamatory denunciation, the erring official admitted that it

was based on "third-hand information" that he "didn't check out." By way of apology, Oates said his memo "wasn't intended for the public." He promised a written retraction of the false charge, but it has yet to arrive.

Here are some of the embarrassing details Bernstein dug up on the FCA's construction spree:

- The Central Bank for Cooperatives completed its new headquarters in Denver last year for \$21 million. Apparently to reflect the bank's mission of providing short-term loans for such improvements as irrigation systems, the Denver office features a spectacular indoor waterfall.

- In St. Louis, the \$18.7 million expansion of the system's regional headquarters includes two levels of underground parking and a central atrium, and costs roughly \$75 a square foot.

- In Austin, Texas, farmers and ranchers are fighting plans to build a new \$32 million Farm Credit building on what one disgusted rancher described as "the most prime piece of real estate in Austin."

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