

Editorial

Crooked contracts epitomize wasteful defense spending

President Reagan's enormous defense budget is being scrutinized closely — even by Republicans. Not only will his defense budget contribute to the dreaded deficit, but it also will provide fodder for defense contractors — and defense contractors aren't popular among the people or their representatives in Congress these days.

Popular sentiment is rising against these giants because of allegations of overpayments, waste and fraud.

We think the defense budget is bloated and a grossly wasteful way to spend money that could be put to much more constructive uses. But if the United States is going to sink extra billions into defense, the country should get its money's worth.

Recently, news reports were brimming with \$7,000 coffee makers and \$400 screws. Screams, wistful editorials and embarrassed generals abounded.

The Pentagon is pointing the big guns now — we're talking millions of dollars in waste. And, for a change, the government is taking action.

Normally, the federal government would file a civil suit against a corporation that had wasted funds or overcharged. This week's Time reports that when the government found irregularities in some General Electric contracts, they referred the case to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution.

The Pentagon accused GE of defrauding the Air Force of \$800,000. Time reported that the Pentagon barred GE from further defense contracts and demanded that GE return what it called excess profits on contracts, for Air Force and Navy jet spare parts. The Pentagon wants \$168 million back.

General Dynamics is also under fire. As the nation's biggest defense contractor, General Dynamics has benefitted greatly from Reagan's defense build-up. Probably too greatly.

The Pentagon Defense Audit Agency is questioning about \$64 million of Genreal Dynamics charges to the government.

The company has voluntarily offered to return \$23 million. Some of the charges include, \$14,975 for a party and babysitting costs for a company official, Time said.

General Dynamics is being investigated by a Connecticut federal grand jury, a Congress subcommittee and the Pentagon for a litany of questionable charges and abuses.

The Pentagon's recent crackdown may not be sufficient to turn the tide of waste and corruption. Time quoted George Spanton, a former Defense Department auditor, "I can assure you that the last four years have been the worst that the department has seen. They are going after brush fires."

The Pentagon may have been able to afford lenient policies and closed eyes in past years, but the deficit is growing — almost as fast as the defense department would like to grow. If Congress and the American people think there's waste, the defense department may have to return to Mr. Coffee and Coast to Coast.



Spring break takes bad turn Pregnant pickle causes cumbersome problems

Boy did I have a fun spring break. I almost broke my wrist playing banzai basketball. It turned green and swelled up like a pregnant pickle.

And if it wasn't bad enough having a pregnant pickle for an apendage, people insisted on making it worse by oooing all over me with insightful questions like, "Ooooo, how'd you do that?" "Ooooo, does it hurt?" "Ooooo, can I see it?"



James A. Fussell

Can you see it? Well sure you can, that's why I spent 20 minutes gift wrapping it in these three Ace bandages here, so I can take them all off again and show it to you. Forget it.

I made the mistake of showing it to one person. "Ooooo, that's disgusting," she said. "Wrap it up again."

And you thought you had fun over break? What, compared to me? Malaria! Where'd you go, Ft. Lauderdale? Padre? Carmel? So what'd you do, frolic in the sun, catch a wave and fall in love? Ha. Kid stuff.

Oh, baby. I'm talking F-U-N, fun — the kind of crazy wild-eyed fun you just don't see every day. Try this heavy-duty entertainment sampling on for size:



Hunter says study was misinterpreted

I must respond to the tone of the article describing a study attempting to relate the violent attitude of hunters to that of murderers (Daily Nebraskan, April 2). The basic premise of the study, that the violence of hunting begets violent acts against people, seems to me to be so ludicrous as to defy comprehension.

The results of the study seem grotesquely misinterpreted. I have never felt the need to gun down any animals in a violent fit of bloodthirsty hatred. Most of the hunters I know don't either. Hunting can be a natural, relaxing form of outdoor activity,

● Dribbling salad dressing on your new dress shirt because you haven't quite mastered eating with your left hand.

● Getting up a half-hour earlier each morning just to say you tied your shoes all by yourself.

● Not recognizing yourself in the mirror because you've combed your hair backward.

This is a true story. I told you before, these things just happen to me during spring break.

My wrist is better now, save for a few tender tendons, but it was touch and go there for a while. For me, surviving for a week without the use of a right wrist when I was supposed to be on vacation was a miracle that made the parting of the Red Sea look like a parlor trick.

You never know how you use a certain part of your body until you mash it up good in a basketball game. Then it seems like you do everything with it.

That's the way it was with me. First of all, I do everything with my right wrist: I sit with my right wrist, I eat with my right wrist, I write with my right wrist. I even talk and think with my right wrist. I am nothing without a right wrist.

Ordinary tasks become holy missions. There are some things you just don't want someone else to do for you. Just zipping my fly was about as easy as threading a needle with an oven mit on.

It was embarrassing. My wife wanted to know what I was doing so long in the

bathroom. "Mind your own business," I grumbled. "A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do." And I did — in about five minutes.

And eating. I wanted to do that by myself too. One day last week I found myself at a fancy restaurant. Oh, joy.

There I was, awash in ambrosia — crusty French bread, thin-sliced roast beef, melted Swiss cheese, crispy salad, juicy fruit cup... and a pregnant pickle.

Lord, Lord, I was in a bad way, friends. My mouth was salivating and the French bread was oo-la-laing for butter. And I had to eat with my left hand. Heck, I can hardly wave with my left hand. Let alone butter bread or balance food on a sharp, narrow fork and get it into my mouth without drawing blood.

I would've given my left arm for a right wrist. As it turned out, I ate the French bread dry. But, good news, I buttered my Ace Bandage something dandy. You should have seen it.

Halfway through the meal, the bandages just got too tight and began to cut off my circulation. Reluctantly, I took them off. As luck would have it, the waitress happened by as I was removing the last of the wrappings.

"Ooooo, what's that green thing on your arm?" she asked brightly.

"It's a Jell-O mold," I said flatly. "What does it look like?"

"Gee, that's funny," she said. "It looks like a pregnant pickle."

Daily Nebraskan

EDITOR: Chris Welch, 472-1768
 GENERAL MANAGER: Daniel Shattil
 PRODUCTION MANAGER: Katherine Policky
 ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tom Byrne
 ASSISTANT: Kelly Mangan
 ADVERTISING MANAGER: Steve Meyer
 CIRCULATION MANAGER: Michelle Thuman
 NEWS EDITOR: Lauri Hopple
 CAMPUS EDITOR: Judi Nygren
 WIRE EDITOR: Vicki Ruhge
 COPY DESK CHIEF: Christopher Burbach
 EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR: Ward W. Triplett III
 SPORTS EDITOR: Steacie Thomas
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Julie Jordan Hendricks
 NIGHT NEWS EDITORS: Ad Hudler, Gah Y. Huey, Steve Hill

GRAPHICS EDITOR ASSISTANT: Tony Scheppeugh
 GRAPHICS EDITOR: Joel Sartore
 PHOTO CHIEF: Mark Davis
 ASSISTANT PHOTO CHIEF: Chris Choate 472-8788
 PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSON: Don Walton, 473-7301
 PROFESSIONAL ADVISER:

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 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Chris Choate 472-8788.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second class postage paid at Lincoln, NE 68510.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1985 DAILY NEBRASKAN

Letter

also would be the last to call them hunters. People who kill animals in this fashion probably are more prone to violence against other people.

Most hunters learn a great deal of respect for nature and the responsibility that handling a firearm demands. They work to provide a better natural habitat for all animals. They hunt safely, and they hunt only game that is plentiful enough to warrant a legal season after careful study by the State Game and Parks Commission. In my opinion, the interpretation of the study is narrow-minded and incorrect.

Louis Schulte
graduate student
chemistry