

Editorial

Flexibility key to arms talks

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are trading arms proposals like a couple of old card sharks. Each one is trying to make his hand look the best, and his bet the biggest, without actually risking anything.

You can't win in cards unless you're willing to back your hand with cash, and you can't negotiate a successful arms treaty without being willing to give up some of your arms.

Reagan said Saturday he would accept the Soviets' proposed 50 percent reduction in nuclear weapons. Reagan's interpretation of which weapon systems to reduce was different than that of the Soviets, but he agreed in principle to consider the offer.

That's an important step forward for the United States. If the Soviet proposal was a bluff, it was a good time to call it — two weeks before the Nov. 19-20 summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan.

Reagan sent Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow to discuss a new U.S. proposal with the Soviets. Not all the details of the proposal have been released, but it deals with regional conflicts as well as arms control.

Reagan's rhetoric about the plan indicates he is somewhat more flexible about his Strategic Defense Initiative. The New York Times reported Reagan said, "Each of us is pursuing research on such defenses, and we need to be talking to each other about it."

The U.S. proposals of March left no room for negotiations on "Star Wars."

Reagan's U.N. speech last week, however, may cause more tension and complicate negotiations. He seemed to be trying to shift the focus of the summit away from arms, what the Soviets want to concentrate on, to regional conflicts and human rights.

Reagan proposed talks on Soviet expansionism in Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola and Ethiopia. "... We cannot accommodate ourselves to the use of force and subversion to consolidate and expand the reach of totalitarianism," Reagan said in the speech.

Expansionism should not be tolerated, whether it's Soviet or American. If Reagan wants the Soviets out of those countries, he should be willing to end U.S. aggression toward Nicaragua and actions such as the U.S. fiasco in Lebanon.

U.S. officials have said human rights in the Soviet Union will be discussed at the talks. There can be no doubt that pressure should be put on the Soviets to improve human rights, but the United States should focus on arms control now. If successful, this summit could lead to others arranged for specific topics, such as expansionism and human rights.

Progress on arms talks is crucial. The economies of both countries have been damaged by enormous defense budgets. The U.S. defense budget has contributed to the record federal deficit. The Soviet Union's economy is weaker than ours. Neither country can afford the billions of dollars it would take to develop and deploy space-based defense systems.

If the United States persists with development and testing of Star Wars, the Soviets will, too — and to overcome such defense systems, both countries would have to increase nuclear arsenals.

If, however, Reagan and the Soviets concentrate on reducing current stockpiles, allowing observers in both countries for arms-reduction verification and scrapping space-based defense systems, the summit might lead to progress toward peace and healthier economies.

For the next two weeks, Reagan and Gorbachev will continue the bluffing and the betting. The safety and prosperity of the world rests on the way they play their hands.

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Mike
Royko

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Plan for Lied; plan for NU

Last week two members of the Student Alumni Association came to the Daily Nebraskan office and showed the staff a promotional video about the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Various local officials who spoke on the video touted the center's obvious benefits. It was aimed at silencing the center's critics, many of whom are students worried that the money spent on the Lied Center will detract from their education.



Chris
Welsch

The center will have long-term economic benefits for Lincoln, NU and the state, the video said. The center will bring us culture, attract top faculty, *everybody else has one*, and it's such a bargain.

At this point, it wouldn't be smart to turn back.

Most of the money for the center has been collected, and the Lied Center will do a lot of good things. Nobody

likes a good philharmonic more than I.

But something Gov. Bob Kerrey said on that promotional tape stuck in my craw.

He said something like: Fellow Nebraskans, I support the Lied Center for Performing Arts. It's something we can't pass up. I know these are hard times, but the greatest building in the state, the State Capitol, was built during this country's greatest financial crisis, the Great Depression. The people of this great state buckled down and did it, and we've been the benefactors of that sacrifice.

It's a good point — and our current fiscal problems don't hold a candle to the depression, making the point even stronger.

But it has a flaw. Through World War I and II, through the depression, recession, even through Richard Milhous Nixon, Nebraska supported the university and the goal of an educated, adaptable, intelligent population.

Now Kerrey and a passel of short-sighted legislators are planning to cut NU's budget along with those of other state institutions.

That will hurt the quality of education, reduce the number of people who can afford to go to school and chase top scholars and professors out of the

state.

If the people of Nebraska are tough enough, and foresighted enough, to pay for the Lied Center, as Kerrey wants them to be, then I think they're foresighted enough to pay taxes to keep the university in its present mediocre condition.

I voted for Kerrey because of his promises to stress the importance of higher education to the people — and, I thought, get them to pay for it. But that's a politician for you: They change their tunes more often than fat ladies at the opera.

In a couple of years, the Lied Center will be standing. Then Nebraskans will have the Capitol and an opera house that they bought in hard times. And they'll have a crumbly university of sorts. It will keep turning out thousands of graduates, the state's businessmen, farmers, thinkers and leaders, but they won't be as smart as they could be.

The Capitol and the Lied Center, however, will turn out precisely what this state doesn't need more of: politicians and fat ladies who sing.

Welsch is a senior English and journalism major and a Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief.

TV preachers thrive on gullibility

There's no reason why any reasonably intelligent, modestly educated person in this country can't be earning a handsome living. Not as long as there are people like Sadie out there, just waiting to give you money.

I don't know how many Sadies I've talked to during the years. Dozens. Probably hundreds. I've lost count.

They watch the TV preachers or read the ads in the goofy newspapers and magazines sold in the supermarkets, and they believe that Mother Wanda or Father Bobby Joe can drive away their misery, cure their aches and pains, make them lucky in love and persuade their cats to use the litter box.

They are so trusting that they eagerly march down to the S&L and draw out some of their savings to send to a stranger.

Take Sadie, a real person who lives on the North Side of Chicago.

Although Sadie is 70, widowed and a bit addled, she still hopes to find romance. She has a specific man targeted. She wants to marry her doctor.

The doc, however, doesn't seem to share Sadie's amorous feelings. It's not even certain that he's aware of them.

So, a few years ago Sadie decided that if she was ever to drag the doctor to the altar, she would need a miracle.

What better place to look for a miracle than in one of the supermarket publications?

"I read about this minister in one of those magazines," Sadie said. "I don't remember which one, but it wrote about some of the miracles he had

performed."

Such as?

"Well, it said that he once grew real teeth from dentures in a man's mouth." A useful skill.

"Yes. So I called him and told him that I wanted to get married. He said that he was good at that kind of thing, and if I really wanted it and believed in it, he could do it. He would pray, and it would happen.

"But he said that I'd have to send him some money. I asked him how much. He said I should send him as much as I could. He said the money didn't matter



Mike
Royko

to me because I'd be marrying a rich man, and I wouldn't need my own money anyway.

"He said I couldn't get married unless I did it that way. So I jotted down his address and started sending him the money in small bits. About \$25 or \$50. Sometimes \$100."

How much did these small bits amount to?

"I'm not sure. I think it was about \$8,000. All I know is that I don't have much left, and I'm still not married. So, what I'd like to do is get my money back. I don't think it's fair. He said he'd get the doctor to marry me, and he didn't."

You have canceled checks?

"I had them. But I don't have a big place, and when they started piling up I threw them away. I didn't think I'd ever need them. Of course, there's still time for me to get married. I called him (the mail-order preacher) a few weeks ago, and he said he was still praying."

His knees must be calloused by now. "But I don't have much faith left in him. If he didn't get me married by now, I don't think he ever will, do you?"

I would have my doubts. "Can anybody get me my money back? Maybe I could try somebody else."

Without canceled checks as evidence, it's doubtful. But we will try. So I called the preacher at his office or church or pawn shop or whatever it is that he takes his calls in Florida.

"Yes, I have spoken to her," he said, in an oily voice. "But I never called her. She called me."

She says you clipped her for about eight grand, promising that you would get her hitched to the old geezer of her dreams.

"I never told her to send money. I told her we accept donations. And it wasn't anything like \$8,000. That's ridiculous. I'm sure it was no more than \$700 or \$800."

She says she wants it back. "Oh, I can't do that. It's already gone. I travel a great deal in my work to preach from various pulpits, and the donations are used to cover my travel expenses."

Please see ROYKO on 5

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34 Nebraska Union
1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448

EDITOR Vicki Ruhga, 472-1766
NEWS EDITOR Ad Hudler
CAMPUS EDITOR Suzanne Teten
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR Kathleen Green
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR Jonathan Taylor

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