

Policy hit hard

Judging by the results of the recent North Carolina presidential primary, Ronald Reagan's campaign issues have struck a responsive chord with the American people. Reagan has been hitting hard at what he claims is a decline in America's military and political power in the world.

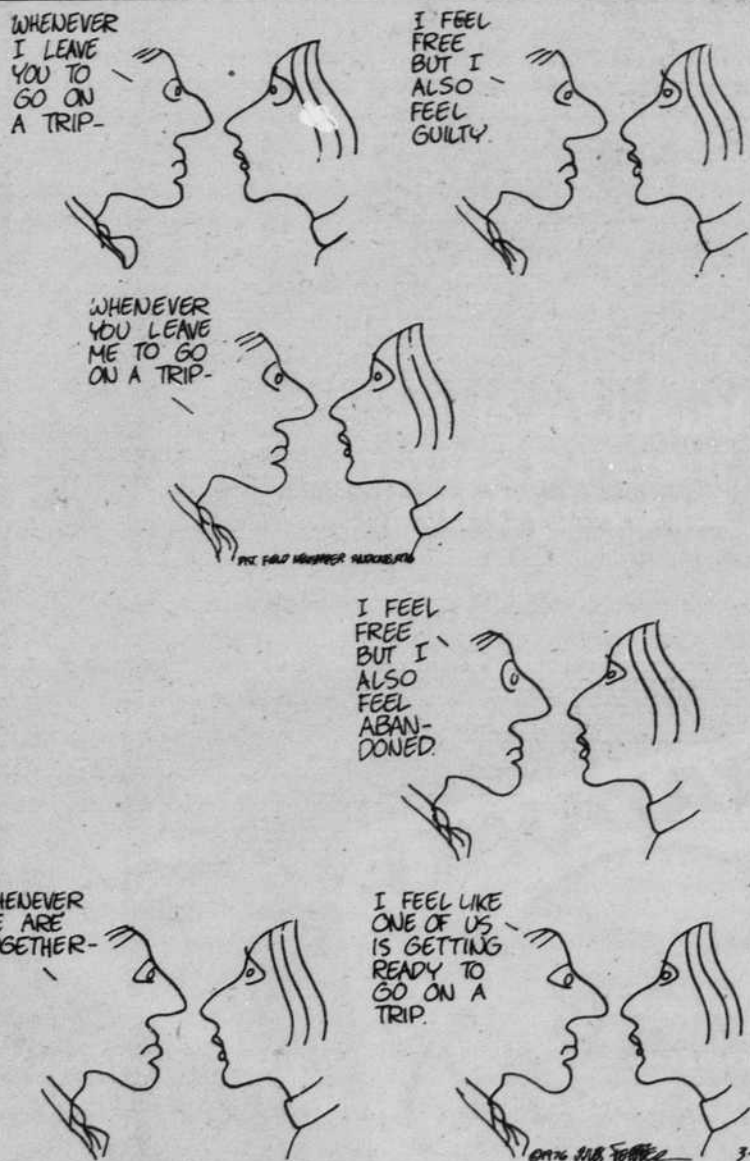
Following the Florida primary, Ford's campaign chiefs and other assorted political analysts were ready to write off Reagan's challenge for the GOP nomination. Reagan, however, continued his attack on Ford's foreign policy and its chief architect Henry Kissinger. The keystone of the policy, detente, came under the heaviest fire. With Reagan's win in North Carolina, this tactic appears to have paid off.

Ford has thus been forced to defend his foreign policy and re-explain detente. Sensing that domestic frustrations over inflation and unemployment could find an outlet in a rejection of his foreign policy, Ford is practicing his sabre-rattling technique.

Both the State Department and Department of Defense have been investigating various diplomatic and military sanctions against Cuba because of Cuba's involvement in the Rhodesian conflict. Washington fears that Cuba may use combat troops to support the rebel Rhodesian factions much as they used troops in Angola. The list of sanctions considered even goes so far as to include a military blockade of Cuba.

In light of Reagan's increased pressure on Ford for the nomination, Ford may be looking around for a new "get tough" foreign policy. Ford has scored political points before by initiating drastic, unilateral military action. Following the Mayaguez incident, polls showed Ford's popularity increased noticeably.

The temptation to out tough Reagan on foreign policy is there. The political consequences, however, of initiating a military blockade of Cuba could backfire on Ford. Aside from the fact that such a move would probably put us eyeball to eyeball with the Russians, there is no guarantee that such a course of action would prevent Cuba from intervening in Rhodesian affairs anyway. The President would do well to remember that tough is not synonymous with reckless.



Letters—

Who served?

Mark Hatfield, Bob Packwood and Robert Duncan with 121 other Congressmen have pledged to sign the new Declaration of INTERdependence on the 4th of

July in Philadelphia. (National Spotlight, 2-16-76).

This world government declaration, according to Congresswoman Marjorie Holt, proposes surrendering our sovereignty, redistributing the wealth of Americans, and allowing "international authorities" to control our productions and monetary affairs.

The declaration states, "Two

centuries ago our forefathers brought forth a new nation. Now we must join with others to bring forth a new world order."

Our Declaration of Independence says, "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." The new declaration advances no such idea.

In National Spotlight, 2-2-76,

we saw the new declaration as well as information that the National Education Association said it "is studying how best to utilize the new declaration in its biennial programs."

And Rexford Guy Tugwell has now completely readied the new constitution for America. The states that formed our federal government will be grouped into

"republics." Senators will be chosen to "serve" for life as in Russia.

Will Hatfield, Packwood and Duncan be chosen to "serve" for life? And who will they serve? Surely not the people of America.

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more from Les

By Leslie Zaitz

Planning body four letter word

Aromas of controversy concerning the state's land-use planning body, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), are beginning to waft over the land.

In some parts of the state, mentioning those four letters starts an obscenity-loaded derision against "those planning SOB's in Salem."

So far, the rage has publicly been limited to people who live in rural areas and who, before LCDC came along, didn't much have to bother with planners telling them what they could and could not do with their land.

Now the cry for return to local control is shaking the walls in city halls, county courthouses and, in some instances, planning departments.

The issue of whom should have control over land-use planning has provided cocktail talk at political gatherings, but has not yet erupted into a highly publicized for-and-against topic of debate.

There's an effort afoot to get a ballot measure before the people Nov. 2 which, if approved, would abolish the LCDC. The measure seeks repeal of Senate Bill 100, the one that started Oregon on the way to a quiltwork of local land-use plans made to fit state designs.

The formal effort, though, isn't receiving much more than cursory attention. For one thing, such a political undertaking is being carried on by political unknowns. The leader is Cliff Everett, a geologist and cynic towards government control who lives east of Springfield.

Everett simply wants to give state voters a chance to decide whether they want to give up the right of local control to the state. Everett doesn't think the LCDC has a very good idea of what it's supposed to be going.

While his effort has merit, his style can be compared to that of a biologist describing the joys of sex. Everett's technical approach doesn't interest people.

Other factors are making opponents of LCDC remain quiet. For one thing, Gov. Bob Straub has come out squarely against the idea of abolishing Senate Bill 100. He has gone so far as to say anyone opposing that land-use bill is an enemy of the state.

To a big corporation with vast landholdings (like Georgia-Pacific) or big industry organizations (like Associated Oregon Industries), that veiled warning is reason enough to stay out of the debate. They don't need trouble with the man at the top.

Fear of the commission's chairman, L. B. Day, mutes a lot of opponents. The bullying, tough, tell-it-like-it-is Day doesn't like anyone saying the LCDC is full of it. And when Day is in charge, you don't cross him up, as some industries found out when Day was head of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Some LCDC opponents just don't like the idea of a verbal beating from Day.

City officials are a little more outspoken than business and industry. Mayors and city managers don't like the dictatorial mannerism of the commission. Used to handling planning matters on their own ground, they don't like having the stage moved to Salem.

At its big convention in November, members of the League of Oregon Cities spent many a cocktail hour deriding the LCDC. City managers, particularly, are especially touchy about anyone taking away part of their domain. Privately, they blast the LCDC for trying to control local events from an ivory tower.

People you would suspect to be strong LCDC backers — the local planning people — also complain about the commission. The commission is dangling money in front of the planners to bait them towards the 1977 deadlines for development of those long-range land-use plans.

One planner in Portland noted acidly, "If they'll pay to double our staff, I guess we could do it." The hitch is, the LCDC has only so much bait.

Privately, the planners make jokes about how the LCDC takes a perfectly clear plan, scrambles it up and hands it back to the cities, complaining it doesn't understand the plan.

A vote on the issue would please the planners. They think local people have a better idea of local needs than a group of headstrong bureaucrats in Salem. But they won't, as yet, say that publicly.

The only real outcries come from people who respond in only an emotional manner to the issue. They won't listen to reasonable arguments. All they know is "that damn LCDC" is telling them they can't subdivide their mountain acreage or coastal property. The rural areas are electrified over the LCDC issue. No compromise for these people, get that commission out.

Yet the areas with the masses of people — and voters — have been used to land-use planning for years. To them the LCDC is basically just another level of government. City folk just can't get too excited about the whole issue. Local control isn't much of an issue for these people where the LCDC is involved.

For example, the urban-oriented League of Women Voters has gone on record opposing the effort to put the matter on the ballot.

Candidates haven't yet been eager to make planning a big issue. In political caucuses, they talk about the land-use issue and how it seems ready to burst forth onto the political scene. And when it does, they'll be trapped between arguments for local control and arguments for environmental protection.

For now, the candidates are safe. If Everett and company can't get the issue on the ballot, the complaints will remain unofficial and off-the-record. And for industry and big landholders, it will mean a relief that allows them to stay on the fence.