

oregon daily emerald

Vol. 82, No. 85

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Friday, January 23, 1981

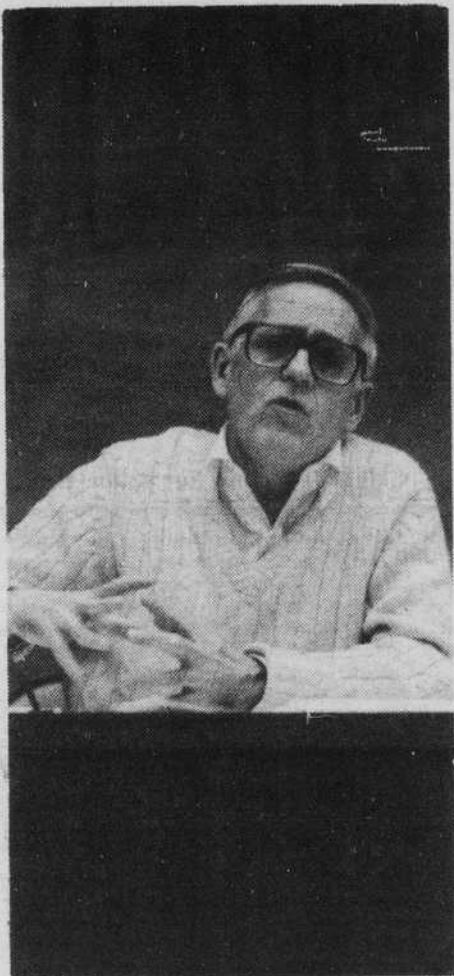
Profs agree: Reagan years bode ill

By DOUG BUTLER
Of the Emerald

Who will play the villain — Reagan or capitalism? University professors James Klonoski and Al Szymanski debated the relative merits of each Wednesday night and concluded the next four years in Washington bode ill.

Klonoski, a political scientist and former head of Oregon's Democratic party, took the liberal viewpoint in warning against Reagan.

"I can't underline enough the dangers of the Reagan mentality and his people. They're the ones that produced Watergate."



Jim Klonoski

Calling Reagan "an extremist" who is threatening to "those things I, hold dear," Klonoski urged the crowd of about 100 to set up a "Reagan Watch" similar to the Nixon Watch of the early 1970s.

Klonoski accused the press of being uncritical of Reagan during and after the campaign.

"A Reagan Watch is absolutely essential in terms of our national commitment to freedom and equality."

Szymanski, a sociologist and former member of Students for a Democratic Society, took the

radical viewpoint and discounted any fears directed specifically at Reagan.

Szymanski contended the corporations set the policy for Democrats and Republicans alike.

"The transition team got rid of most of the crazies. Those that are left are strategically placed," he said.

"Reagan is a fairly middle-of-the-road conserva-

tive. He's not going to make any radical changes."

Szymanski said Carter or Kennedy would react the same way Reagan will because "as long as you stay within the parameters of the capitalist environment, there will be intense pressure to raise profits."

Moreover with his image of civil rights support, Kennedy would have been a more dangerous choice as president, he said.

"It would be easier for him (Kennedy) to get liberal support for repression than a Republican. When Republicans try to be repressive, people holler louder."

Historically, Democratic presidents have been in power during the repression of the left, during increases in militarism and during foreign interventions. Paradoxically, the Republicans have held the office when the United States unwound these policies, Szymanski said.

"The Republicans don't have to prove they're not being soft on communism."

'A Reagan Watch is absolutely essential in terms of our national commitment to freedom and equality.'

Klonoski disagreed. He cited Watergate as proof of the Republican tendency to repress and cited the rights' bills of 1964-65 as proof of the Democrats' commitment to human rights.

The Democrats may offer a valid alternative in 1984, when a Kennedy-Mondale type leadership could win the support of Democrats after Republican non-delivery, Klonoski said.

Kennedy was the only major candidate who addressed the problems of economic concentration in the 1980 campaigns, he said, claiming the concentration of economic power is a greater danger than the concentration of political power.

Redistributing wealth is the challenge of the Democratic Party, Klonoski said.

But Szymanski argued that redistribution makes no sense in a capitalist economy because the system won't allow it. The concentration of capital increases productivity, and redistribution "is like plowing the sea," he said.

The system is geared to profit making, he added.

"Productivity's down, profits are down. Therefore, EPA (the Environmental Protection Agency) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) must be pushed back. It doesn't make any difference who's in office."

Klonoski said he rejects "Reagan's simplistic theme 'Get government off our backs.'" The rules and regulations of OSHA and environmentalism were created on behalf of the American people, he said.

Reagan will push for the reduction of governmental regulations to encourage

American industry and stimulate profits, but that won't work, Klonoski predicted.

And the United States under a Reagan administration is more likely to engage in a war than if Carter had been re-elected, Klonoski said.

Szymanski reiterated that the capitalistic system controls foreign policy. The multinational corporations have tremendous overseas investments, and they must use the American military to protect their investments, he said.

"Russia has no overseas economic stake equivalent to the stake of the multinational corporations."

Szymanski advocated abolition of the multinationals.

The debate, held in the Eugene City Council Chambers, was sponsored by five local groups, including the Mayday Cultural Committee, the University Survival Center and the Lane County Democratic Party.



Al Szymanski

Lobbyists predict abortion ban battle

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Eight years ago Thursday, the United States Supreme Court ruled women have a constitutional right to abortions on demand. To commemorate the event, both sides of the abortion issue invaded the capitol to lobby legislators on an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning all abortions.

Both sides talked as if assured a pro-life amendment will be approved by the 1981 Congress and sent to the states. Both Pres. Ronald Reagan and the head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., have expressed favor of such an amendment.

Linda Harrington, lobbyist for Oregon Pro-life, told about 100 supporters the national elections gave her hope.

"There has been thinking in this country, of course, that what is a constitutionally recognized right is also a constitutionally recognized good," Harrington said. "In their words, what's right is what's good."

"In this case, we're saying that the law made a mistake, that the Supreme Court made a serious mistake, and we intend to change that."

If Harrington's prediction is correct, 38 states would have to agree with Congress for the amendment to be added to the constitution. She contends momentum is mounting nationally and will carry over into the Oregon Legislature.

The 250 pro-choice supporters who gathered later in the day disagreed. The rally, made up of people from every Legislature district but 4, listened to speakers who agreed the abortion fight will be carried to the states.

"The fate of a woman's right to choose," said one speaker, "will be determined right here by the 90 people who make up the state Legislature. We are going to need 13 states to hold strong against ratification, perhaps for years, and Oregon will be one of them."

That forecast was seconded by one of the dozen legislators who attended the rally, Rep. Margie Hendriksen, D-Eugene.

"Although I'm a freshman legislator, I have

worked on women's rights for years and have a good feel for the sentiments of most of the legislators. It wouldn't be approved by this body."

The two rallies were as different as the groups' stands on the issue. The somber pro-lifers were older and quieter than their pro-choice counterparts who often interrupted their speakers with applause and yells of encouragement.

The rallies have become perennial events at the statehouse, and both groups parroted their standard positions. For the pro-lifers, that meant discussion of a concern for life, a concern they feel is violated by the existence of abortion.

When questioned if that concern didn't extend to the women who would die in back-alley abortions, Harrington rejected the notion that such deaths would be a given if abortions were illegal.

"We do have statistics from other countries that had fairly liberalized abortion laws that were followed by restrictive laws, and the abortion rate dropped dramatically."

The pro-life forces held a 7 p.m. rally on the capitol steps.