

Tells Notre Dame grads future is bright

# Reagan recalls 'Gipper' at commencement

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Pres. Ronald Reagan, whose portrayal of a Notre Dame football player made him a movie star 40 years ago, paid a nostalgic return visit to the campus Sunday and told graduating seniors his own story about the "Knute Rockne — All American."

Reagan, who played the tragic supporting role of the "Gipper" in the movie, came to Notre Dame under extraordinarily tight security for his first trip outside the Washington area since he was wounded in an assassination attempt on March 30.

In the text of a commencement address, Reagan returned to the rhetoric of his successful political campaign to assure the seniors they face a bright future with less government and more freedom.

"If I don't watch myself, this could turn out to be less a

commencement than a warm bath in nostalgic memories," he said.

Those memories then burst forth, first about his selection to play the part of George Gipp, the legendary Notre Dame halfback, and then about this history of this nation and how government grew to the point of "fixing things that aren't broken and inventing miracle cures for which there are no known diseases."

He told the students that "virtually every aspect of campus life is now regulated — hiring, firing, promotions, physical plant, construction, record-keeping, fund-raising, and to some extent, curriculum and educational program. . . . If ever the great independent colleges and universities like Notre Dame give way to and are replaced by tax-supported institutions, the struggle to preserve academic freedom will have

been lost."

But his message was one of optimism, especially for the outcome of the West's struggle against the spread of communism.

Reagan shared the stage Sunday with actor Pat O'Brien, who played Knute Rockne in the movie and whom the president credited with helping him get the part of the Gipper.

"'Win one for the Gipper' has

become a line usually spoken now in a humorous vein," Reagan said. "I hear it from members of the Congress who are supportive of the economic program I've submitted. But let's look at the real significance of his story.

"Rockne could have used it anytime just to win a game. But eight years would go by following the death of George Gipp before Rock ever revealed

Gipp's deathbed wish. Then he told the story at halftime to one of the only teams he'd ever coached that was torn by dissension, jealousy and factionalism. . . . None of them had ever known George Gipp. They were children when he played for Notre Dame. Yet it was to this team that Rockne told the story and so inspired them that they rose above their personal animosities."

## Reagan must compromise, Dole says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., predicted Sunday that Pres. Ronald Reagan will be forced to compromise on his proposed changes in Social Security and said the administration unveiled its plan too soon.

"I think you'll see a lot of compromises in the president's proposals," said Dole, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

"The short term, yes, we'll make some changes which will not affect benefits. Long term, I think we'll make changes that may affect

benefits — maybe we'll change the COLA (cost of living adjustment), maybe we'll do other things," he said on the CBS program "Face the Nation."

Dole said he did not believe the Social Security proposals would damage efforts to pass Reagan's program of cuts in taxes and spending.

He said he talked Saturday night with Health and Human Services Secretary Richard Schweiker and that the secretary is "looking for a compromise" on the cuts in Social Security benefits.

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