

# Reagan: hangover's over

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Ronald Reagan said Wednesday night that despite a "pounding economic hangover" that has left 11 million Americans unemployed, the nation is "recovery-bound and the world knows it."

He had billed his televised speech as a non-partisan report on the economy, then concluded it with the 1982 Republican campaign theme, urging: "We can do it, my fellow Americans, by staying the course."

Reagan said his economic programs will bring a resurgence "built to last" because it will create new jobs without rekindling inflation.

"This time we are going to keep inflation,

interest rates and government spending, taxing and borrowing down — and get Americans back on the job," Reagan said.

In the Democratic response, Sen. Donald Riegle of Michigan said, "The truth is that this administration has created two courses... one of them a very fast economic track for a few, the other filled with potholes and roadblocks for the rest of us."

The Democrats had protested the decision by two networks to grant Reagan free airtime just three weeks before the Nov. 2 elections, insisting that Reagan was merely using television to campaign for GOP candidates blistered by the unemployment issue.

The speech was added to Reagan's schedule after unemployment rose to 10.1 percent in September. NBC and CBS carried it live; ABC did not, saying it could adequately cover Reagan's speech and the Democratic response in its regular news shows.

"Unemployment is the problem uppermost on many people's minds," Reagan said. "Getting Americans back to work is an urgent priority for all of us, and especially for this administration."

"The pounding economic hangover America is suffering from didn't come about overnight and there is no single, instant cure," Reagan said. He said "there's plenty of blame to go around," for the economic morass, but claimed none for himself or his economic program.

In his response, Riegle — whose state suffers from a 16 percent jobless rate — said, "The course needs to be changed," and the Democrats know how.

He said Democrats would seek legislation to protect American industries from unfair competition from abroad, change the credit system to reduce interest rates, reduce defense spending and restore cuts in Social Security benefits.

Reagan stuck to his Reaganomics. He said his economic program — battling inflation, interest rates, the growth in government spending and taxation — was a necessary prelude to bringing down unemployment, despite pressure to apply a "quick fix" to temporarily ease joblessness.

"Let's forget about party politics and take a look at how our country got into this fix and what we can do to get her out of it," Reagan said.

There were no new programs or surprise announcements in his speech, which was primarily intended — as are his campaign speeches for Republican candidates this month — to provide the White House assessment of the economy.

"Bringing down inflation and interest rates is creating a positive reaction that will boost employment," Reagan said. "I wish there were a quicker, easier way, some magic short cut, but unemployment is always one of the last things to turn around as an economy heads into recovery."

## Reagan will sleep as Demos dispute

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moments before he began a televised address to the nation Wednesday evening, Pres. Ronald Reagan asked an aide what time the Democrats' response would be broadcast.

Told that it would be at 11:30 p.m. EDT, he said, "I won't be up for that one."

He was also told that one response on one network would be only five minutes long.

"Five minutes. You've got to use strong language," he said.

His comments were heard through the audio system piping his remarks into the White House press room.

In the Democrats' response, Sen. Donald Riegle, chided Reagan on behalf of Democratic candidates, telling voters they were "paying the price" for administration policies that have forced millions of Americans onto unemployment, welfare and bread lines.

The Michigan senator said the nation must reject GOP broadcast commercials asking voters to "stay the course."

The ads argue that Republican candidates must be chosen in the Nov. 2 congressional elections so the president's policies have more time to take effect.

Instead, said Riegle, voters must "change course" and vote Democrat because "they know what to do."

"The truth is that this administration has created two courses... one of them a very fast economic track for a few, the other filled with potholes and roadblocks for the rest of us," said Riegle.

"That's why staying the course makes sense for them — they're not paying the price. You are," Riegle said.



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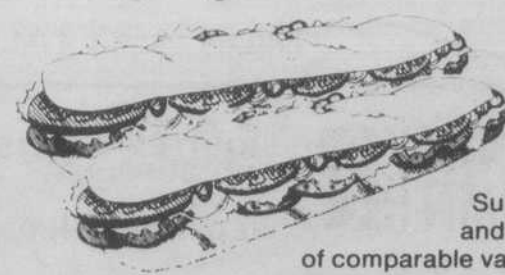
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