

opinion

Reagan's stances revealing, scary

Pres. Reagan may consider himself a great negotiator and compromiser, but more and more his "tactics" turn out to be poor administration.

For instance, consider his tactic of placing loyal appointees who share his views in positions of government leadership. Over the last few months, Reagan has had to replace his appointees in the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others, with officials from previous administrations.

These officials either refused to undermine the agency they were working for or, as in the case of former EPA Director Anne Burford, were discovered in the act of following orders.

Reagan gives lip service to affirmative action and reduction talks. But he then proceeds to choose someone of the caliber of Kenneth Adelman for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), despite Congressional opinion that the man is not prepared for the job or committed to arms control.

Reagan, swept into office on an anti-government stance, is finding out that government agency leaders who do not believe in the mission of their various agencies do not work. Enter Ruckelshaus, Dole, et al.

On the international scene, Reagan's "negotiating" has placed the country in a war of rhetoric with the Soviet Union.

Reagan's newest "defense" plan suggests the build-up of anti-ballistic missiles to protect the homefront. Who's preparing for war? Who overlooks treaties?

The United States signed an agreement with the Soviet Union in 1972 limiting anti-ballistic missiles to two per country — one to protect existing missiles and one to guard the Capitol. This agreement was signed after \$6 billion was spent on research of various ABM systems from 1956 to 1972.

The national climate is ripe for arms reduction talks — only 14 percent of the American public believe the United States is behind in arms negotiations and 60 percent believe the country is stronger in defense than the Soviet Union, according to a recent Harris Poll. Numerous states voted for a nuclear freeze initiative in the mid-term election.

Yet, Reagan releases what cannot be termed anything less than defense department propaganda showing fuzzy pictures of Soviet build-up and scary talk of our military weakness. He does this despite the present U.S. arms build-up to the tune of \$1.7 trillion by 1985.

Reagan also bombed on his handling of the dense-pack MX missiles. After weeks of plugging dense packing, Reagan is going to have to bow to expert advice to put the MX missile in existing silos and to develop smaller mobile missiles with single warheads.

In a classic Reagan "compromise," the president supposedly is prepared to announce an alternative to the zero-option of intermediate range nuclear weapons in Europe this Thursday. This comes after many possible negotiations with the Soviet government have been bypassed.

Reagan is asking for some \$120 million for military aid to El Salvador. The money further commits the United States to support of a government known to be a suppressive militaristic regime.

Reagan's compromising is nothing more than taking an extremist's stance with the foreknowledge that it will be diluted to a stance he can accept.

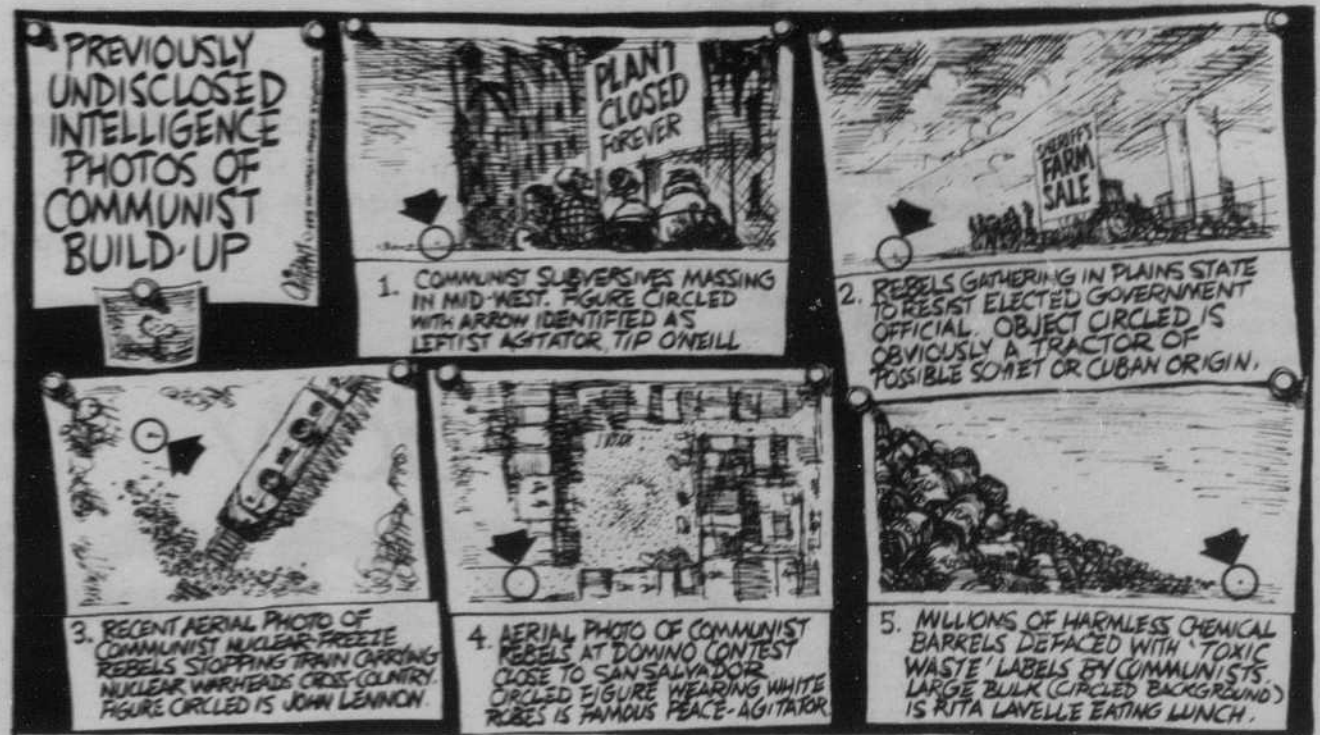
To put it mildly, the Reagan method is risky when used to negotiate European-based missiles, nuclear disarmament and aid to warring countries. His hard-line turns out to be brinkmanship.

His absurd comments on the Soviet backing of the freeze and studies such as the defense department's strategically timed released report on Soviet "build-up" try, or at least should try, the intelligence of the electorate.

Much is being forgiven of Reagan's folly because inflation is going down and some economic indicators are showing signs of a recovery. The long-term results of his mismanagement and defense build-up, however, cannot be overlooked.

As Sen. Mark Hatfield said in an address Saturday regarding the arms race, "It means a depleted amount of resources that will be required to build such armaments. It will mean increased poverty in this country. It will mean more unemployment in this country, and it will mean higher inflation in this country. And this course should not be taken lightly by any of us."

Nor should the rest of his policies.



letters

Addendum

In the March 14 Emerald I published a letter pointing out the unfair and discriminatory character of the federal government's new rule that students not registered for the draft would be ineligible for scholarship or other student financial assistance.

In addition to drawing attention to the grossly unfair and sexist character of this dictum, which targets only a small special minority of male students, I should also have pointed out that within this group of unregistered students, in typical Reagan fashion, the new rule hurts only the poor, who need some assistance in order to attend college, and does not touch those with sufficient means to come, anyway.

In any case, I believe that for the federal government to deny the opportunity to get an education to selected groups of young people who happen to disagree with some of a current administration's policies, is self-defeating and damaging to the country in the long run.

Bayard McConaughy
professor, biology

Haughty

The recent letter entitled "fashion" is so contradictory and haughty I feel forced to respond. The author criticized the conservatism of Oregon dress, he then reprimanded an individual for "flaunting a mohawk." The author stated

an employer would "hesitate" before hiring such a person.

Yes, I agree, this individual would not be the ideal stockbroker just as your Wall Street businessman would not be the ideal act to hire for WOW Hall or BJ Kelley's.

I consider fashion a matter of comfort and mood and although I occasionally put on a pair of slacks for a night at the Hult Center or a dinner date, I can not wait to get home and slip into those gray sweats you find so detestable. I live for my Levi 501's and cut-off T-shirts. I resent the clone implication, I mean how many people on campus wear black leather coats and Iron Maiden T-shirts? I don't own an umbrella, either.

I have lived on the other side of the fence; I worked in the nine-to-five suit-and-tie world for two years. Perhaps after such personal experience you, too, will realize how nice it is to be able to wear loose shirts, sneakers, and 501's.

The comments on dresses were appreciated, but how would you like to walk to an 8:30 a.m. class winter term in a dress?

Lighten up, fella, the clones are on Wall Street, not on campus.

Tim McClosky
journalism

Oppressive

A student at this university has been misrepresented by quotation out of context in a Soviet newspaper.

Rather than going out on

the streets and demonstrating rather than hurling intimate insult or incendiary device in expression of frustration at a non-responsive government, Eric Stillwell did what every legislator and teacher ever told him to do: Write your Congressman.

Unfortunately, for this conservative young man, his remarks were made to appear sympathetic to the government policies of the Soviet Union, our great rival in contest of the idiocy we call the nuclear war race. Now Eric has to be afraid that he will be listed with the CIA. Maybe he thinks that our government will soon indict him for conspiracy.

Here in the United States we are allowed by Constitutional right to vocalize our opinions no matter what these are, without fear of reprisal or censure by government agency. The fact that we have a right-wing president and a reactionary body politic does not change the meaning of the First Amendment. It's too bad Eric's remarks were misinterpreted by Pravda (a known propagandist newspaper).

What's worse is that the insidious oppressive instincts of our government, particularly the present administration, has produced a climate of fear which threatens to limit expression to accepted versions of the truth (i.e. those which favor the military/industrial capitalist).

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oregon daily emerald

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