

Civil rights suffers another big setback

"Shame on this body." That's what Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., said to his colleagues supporting the conservative effort to defeat civil rights legislation on the Senate floor Tuesday. The conservatives won the battle and in the process dealt another serious blow to civil rights advocates.

Throughout the heated debate within the Republican-controlled Senate, not a single word was heard from Pres. Reagan in support of the civil rights legislation. As Kennedy put it, "If Reagan should wink, this bill would fly through the Senate."

The bill was designed to apply civil rights laws to all institutions, organizations, and government agencies receiving federal aid, whether only a portion of the institution or the entire institution received the aid. The new law would deny federal money to any group, school, or agency that openly discriminates against minorities.

Currently, if a department within an agency refuses to employ handicapped people, or program within a school doesn't admit women, the department and the school can still receive federal funding. This has enabled some schools that discriminate against blacks and other minorities to continue receiving government aid.

Civil rights groups were particularly upset when Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood, who in the beginning strongly supported the civil rights bill, reversed his position and joined conservatives voting against it. Packwood said he gave in under repeated attempts by conservatives to water down the bill's original goals.

Kennedy, shocked at the senate vote, said these were anti-discrimination battles he thought were fought in the 1960s and 70s. He is right.

Since Reagan entered the White House, civil rights legislation has suffered repeated setbacks, losing many of the hard-won gains made in earlier years. In order to change this, eligible voters must take to the ballot box Nov. 6 and put a stop to an administration that fights against civil rights progress.



letters

Do something!

Dear Senator Packwood, I urge you to do everything in your power to stop United States funding of the "covert" war against the Nicaraguan government. Nicaragua will be having elections in November which from all outward appearances seem to be much more just and legal than recent elections held in El Salvador and Guatemala.

We must stop trying to abort the Sandanista government. They have already done a great deal to improve the situation for the majority of Nicaraguans. Everyone that I have spoken with that has visited Nicaragua comes back with a similar impression; the people there believe in the Sandanistas and are determined to maintain the freedom from oppression that they fought for and won only five years ago.

The Sandinista government has agreed to sign the proposal advanced by the Contadora nations. Why does the Reagan administration all of a sudden back off from its support of the Contadora process? The Contadora treaty would provide for reductions in arms, troops and foreign advisors in the region.

The nations of Central America are desperately seeking peace through negotiations. Ronald Reagan and American foreign policy is a major obstacle to that process. I urge you to support the Contadora peace initiatives in Central America and to stop United States aggression against Nicaragua. **Randall Harbour Eugene**

Reagan reality

As I read the article promoting "Students for Reagan-Bush" (ODE 10-2-84), I was disturbed by a dangerous inability to distinguish image from reality in regard to Ronald Reagan.

Image: "He's brought a kind of leadership that's been absent since John F. Kennedy." *Reality:* Kennedy was a Harvard-educated foreign policy expert who spent hours in head-to-head negotiations with Khrushchev. Reagan couldn't hold a private conversation with Gromyko for eight minutes. His "leadership" is a cleverly contrived montage of made-for-media posturings. Far from being another JFK, Reagan is in fact the most isolated president since Richard Nixon, or perhaps Calvin Coolidge!

Image: "He's an American just like the rest of us." *Reality:* Reagan is a wealthy former actor and the political puppet of a pack of plutocrats including industrialists Justin Dart, Holmes Tuttle, and William Wilson, who brought Reagan into the political ring in 1965 and who continue to mold his world view.

An American public which cannot clearly differentiate living reality from media imagery is in peril of succumbing to the manipulations of the highest PR bidder. Reagan's media snow job would replace real economic fairness with deficit prosperity, the real security of arms control with the maniacal pseudo-security of nuclear buildup, real freedom and global self-determination with a world economic order "free" for unrestricted exploitation by multinational corporations. That's the reality of Reagan and is admen are betting you don't want to think about it.

Larry Taylor Linguistics

Flight 007

It is regrettable that a report in The Nation (August 18) was summarily dismissed by the media. David Pearson's incisive article documents the events which led to the shooting down of KAL 007 over the Soviet Union just a year ago, and clearly demonstrates the U.S. government's complicity in the loss of 269 lives.

Pearson also reveals how the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. regularly violate one another's airspace, ostensibly to evaluate each other's radar defenses. Soviet violations of U.S. airspace have been erratic. American intrusions into Soviet airspace, however, have consistently occurred at sensitive times, either preceding or during arms control negotiations.

Such intrusions appear to be planned in advance and are not, as often claimed, the result of "navigational difficulties." Consequent Soviet interception of the intruder thus helps perpetuate the Western myth that the Soviets are fanatical about protecting their borders, and such fanatics could never be trusted to respect an arms agreement. Indeed, Soviet intervention has usually resulted in disruption of negotiations by the United States.

A nation that uses such reprehensible tactics as these, and routinely dismisses Soviet-sponsored proposals for arms reductions, cannot be very sincere in its purported desire for world peace. In America, the outrageous profits of influential defense contractors are, it seems, more important than peace despite the threat of annihilation posed by our ludicrously overstocked nuclear arsenals. Judging by the 269 who died aboard KAL 007, it's a risk that the U.S. government is apparently willing to take.

Dennis Lueck University Staff

Ballot measure 2 offers very little that is positive

It's a ballot measure that sounds good on the surface, but underneath it lies the potential for great harm to local government and low-income Oregonians.

Ballot Measure 2 is a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would place limits on property taxes and restrict the authority of state and local government to increase non-property taxes, license and user fees, and service charges.

While proponents claim it's time to end skyrocketing property taxes in Oregon and to cut the fat out of government, Ballot Measure 2 is not the way to do it. If passed, the measure will cripple one of the most important areas of local government: social services.

By limiting property tax revenues, which local government now depends upon for social services, Oregonians will find themselves with fewer patrol cars on the streets, fewer firefighters to assist in emergencies and fewer funds for almost every other area of social service. That includes higher education.

Furthermore, the limit on property tax increases would not benefit those who need help the most: the low-income taxpayers. Instead, the benefits will go primarily to those people who have large real estate holdings and businesses.

To learn more about Ballot Measure 2, attend an information program today at noon in the EMU Ballroom.

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