

Tower Commission fingers key players

The Tower Commission report released Thursday chronicles a string of presidential aide cover-ups and various governmental improprieties concerning the full story of the Reagan administration's arms-to-Iran deal. While most of the report's revelations come as no surprise, other aspects of the whole sordid "Iran-scam" affair have come to light, which does little to help Reagan regain lost ground.

The commission found that it was probable Lt. Col. Oliver North, a dismissed National Security Council aide, did destroy pertinent evidence; that former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane did offer inaccurate accounts of events and the president's involvement in the scandal; and that William Casey, former director of Central Intelligence, did know about diverted aid going to the Nicaraguan Contras almost a month before the story was released but failed to notify the president.

The report also criticized John Poindexter, another former National Security Adviser, saying he played a role in regard to missing documents—the first time this charge has been leveled against him. He was the NSC's official note-taker during numerous key council meetings, and apparently many of the notes from these meetings are missing.

Donald Regan, White House chief of staff, also was criticized in the commission's report. He has been accused of issuing a false series of events to the media and government inquiry boards in an effort to shield the president. Regan has maintained that the president did not know about the first shipment of arms to the Iranians. This contradicts McFarlane's testimony that the president knew before the arms were sent.

At the risk of sounding obvious, all of this does not reflect well on the president. People close to Reagan had urged the president to keep a low profile until the commission's report came out. It was their hope the report would clear the president of any wrongdoing and distance him from those who had.

Unfortunately for the president, the release of the Tower report will serve to heighten his "Iran-scam" woes. North and Poindexter may have acted illegally in several instances and could face criminal proceedings. Regan, from all indications, soon will resign—adding to a list of dozens who have resigned from Reagan's administration. The inevitable exodus of Regan will be hailed by many who wish him gone. But even with a new chief of staff, it is unlikely the administration will be able to regain the vigor it had before the arms-to-Iran story broke.

Regardless of what the president does in the near future—be it continue to keep a low profile or step back into the limelight—he is destined to spend the remainder of his term attempting to live down the biggest foreign policy blunder of his presidency. No "Great Communicator" speech will heal the wound this scandal has made in his administration, and no wave of his magic wand will bring back his teflon coating.



Letters

Equal pay

We have been fighting for approximately five years to achieve pay equity in the state of Oregon; we are now very close to that goal.

SB288 which will come before the state Legislature very shortly, will release the money for funding the raises to bring the underpaid classifications up to parity.

It is a shame that a full-time state worker is paid so little that they qualify for state assistance. That is why it is so important that we let our legislators know we support SB288. We urge everyone to write or telephone their legislator and let him or her know you support SB288, and how vital you think it is for them to pass this bill.

OPEU Clerical Committee
University of Oregon

Your senate

Your Feb. 18 article on the Student Senate brushes over one of the most striking improvements in the Senate this

year — our assertiveness in pushing student issues into University policy.

This assertiveness is demonstrated by our victory in extending the drop deadline from 10 to 15 days after classes begin — an issue for which the students demonstrated their overwhelming support in last spring's elections.

Now we have introduced a motion to the University Senate to revoke the Athletic Department's drug testing policy and replace it with an effective educational and counseling program. We think that by doing so the Athletic Department can more effectively prevent drug abuse by athletes, without subjecting the student-athletes to the invasion of privacy that now occurs.

This kind of student empowerment is a cornerstone of the philosophy which put Students for a Progressive Agenda (SPA) candidates in office last spring, and it is the philosophy under which we have operated this year.

Dan Thoma
Student Senator

Fair trial

Both supporters and detractors seem determined to try Silas Bissell in the press. He has been described as a soft-spoken gentleman by friends and compared to Hitler by the ubiquitous Dan Goulet.

Activists in Eugene seem to have an odd perspective on "civil disobedience." Civil disobedience involves an activity known to be illegal with full acceptance of the consequences. To perform such an act and then complain about being caught reduces it from a social statement to a delinquent prank.

On the other hand, Mr. Bissell has currently only been

accused of a crime, not convicted. The law of the land in this country is "innocent until proven guilty" (something Mr. Goulet seems to have missed in his political science studies...).

Silas Bissell deserves neither more nor less than a fair trial on the charges against him. If he is found guilty, it is for a judge and jury to consider the exemplary life he has led since the time of the alleged crime, and decide whether this is sufficient atonement for any alleged damages.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

Competent

I realize Willy Bils and the Emerald editorial writers are charging the ASUO with mismanaging the student insurance program. This judgment is based primarily on a number of students not receiving their one dollar or so interest payment.

I administered a workers' compensation program of two years and also sat on the board of directors of a nationally known health insurance company. I have no illusions about how easy it is to administer an insurance program.

I am also recovering from a back operation. The bills, so far, amount to \$5,800. I am covered by the ASUO/Keystone insurance plan. It has been my pleasure to deal with the ASUO insurance administrator, Shirley Chase, during this time. She has been friendly, supportive and thoroughly professional.

I suspect Bils' motives concerning this issue. I wholeheartedly recommend the ASUO insurance plan to any student at the University.

Roscoe Caron
Education

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