

opinion

John Anderson For Pres.

John Anderson for president? Yes, after taking a long hard look at all three candidates, I feel that the best of them is the one that is least likely to get the job. Why is he the least likely to get the job? Because he does not have the monetary advantage of being supported by a political party. He lost the Republican votes because he was just too liberal for the Republican taste.

After watching the Republican convention, I would dump the party too. The future cannot be solved by the past, which is what the Republican Party asks us to accept.

At the helm of the Republican Party is, of course, Ronald Reagan.

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protects the environment (good), he signed the Panama canal treaty (good), wind-fall profits tax (good), and the Middle-East treaty (very good).

Unfortunately for every good thing done, something bad looms over Carter's Presidency. The biggest, of course, is inflation. When he became President, the unemployment rate was 7.4 percent and the inflation rate was 4.8 percent. Carter added the two to make a "misery index" of 14, which he called "a travesty". In August of 1980, unemployment was at 7.6 percent and inflation was at 12.8 percent. That puts his misery index at more than 20. The dollar of 1976 is now worth 69 cents.

In a nutshell, Jimmy Carter has failed on inflation. He has

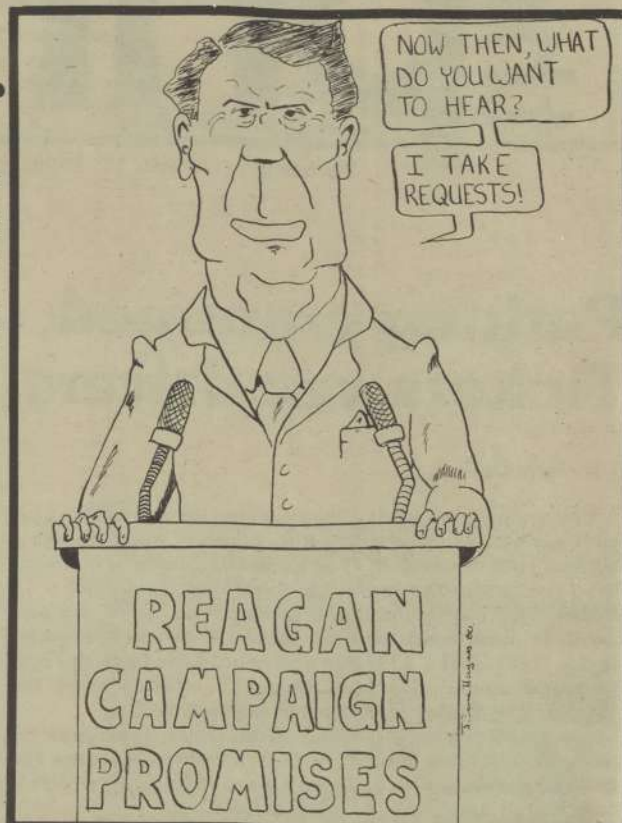
not done one single thing to get OPEC off the country's back. Carter created the "Solar Energy Research Institute, Synthetic Fuels Corporation", a joke and a half. (In 1975, Carter criticized Gerald Ford's proposal to develop synthetic fuels).

On the international front, we are in deeper trouble than when Carter took office. Three major crisis have occurred in a year. He has efficiently exploited all of them for political purposes and has yet to improve them--the take-over of the American Embassy in Iran, the Soviet's invasion of Afghanistan, and the discovery of Russian troops in Cuba.

On the Embassy take-over, the hostages are still there and Carter is trying all diplomatic channels (save an apology). When was the last time he publicly said anything about the hostages? Is he ignoring the crisis so he doesn't look so bad?

"The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan could be the most serious crisis since World War II" our deadly serious President said. Cancelling grain shipments and boycotting the Olympics were the only measures taken. Did boycotting the Olympics stop the Nazis in 1932? It hasn't stopped the Soviets in 1980. The Russians haven't moved an inch out of Afghanistan.

Carter gave the discovery of the 2,500 Russian troops in Cuba a crisis treatment. "It was unacceptable," he said. After two weeks, it disappeared from



Reagan likes to use one-liners to describe his policies.

He is against everything I stand for, and he is for everything I am against. I am for progression, and he is for regression. I want a clean environment--he doesn't, the list goes on, and on, and on.

Carter is better, but not by much. He prefers diplomacy to military action (good), he is progressive (good), he is a human rights activist (good), he supports ERA (good), he

To the editor--

Speaking of "...just telling the people what they want to hear." In reference to the Oct. 8 issue's editorial opposing Reagan's campaign tactics, how about Carter's woos to voters?

In his '76 campaign he had promised to make coal the nation's number one energy source--yet since then, one finds that nuclear power efforts have increased even more than hydro or solar energy, much less coal. This leads one to

suspect Carter's biased towards nuclear power. Perhaps because he is an educated nuclear-physicist and during his early '76 campaign was noted for his favor of nuclear power; that is, until his campaign reached the industrial Northeast, where he changed his stand in favor of the coal industry.

In this year's campaign, Carter has been running around like Santa Claus, distributing gifts of developmental grants, transportation grants, and various other federal funding while on his campaign stops.

A not-so-subtle 'sweetening of the pot' to gain voter support from the area? Don't mis-read my intentions, I don't mean to downgrade Carter in favor of Reagan. To quote a phrase, "To choose between them is like choosing between Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee." (Which expresses my feelings perfectly). But since the issue was brought up, I just thought I'd add my two cents worth, for arguments sake.

--KAREN PROUTY

the headlines. The troops are still there.

What does this leave us with? John Anderson. Is he an alternative to Carter and Reagan? Yes, he is. He refuses to promise the voters tax cuts until he gets the government in shape. Anderson refuses to support the missile and the B-1 bomber, both multi-million dollar nuclear-revitalize-the-military-in-a-snap--"boondoggles". His plan to revise the military, is to start with the personnel rather than shoveling out millions of dollars on machinery. This is a realistic attitude of 'start with the most important'. It is a realistic view as to how we will fight the future wars.

One of his most controversial proposals is his 50 cent-a-gallon gas tax. The tax would be used to reduce the social security tax which means more take-home pay. This would dramatically reduce oil consumption. With the increased take-home pay people could spend money on other things--plus make people more energy conscious through the need for carpooling and mass transit. With more expensive gas, people would have to form car-pools and take buses. This is a realistic way to approach the energy shortage. Reagan's approach is to rip apart the environment by letting the oil companies loose throughout the continental states. There goes the environment.

Anderson has had 20 years congressional experience, voting on every major issue this country has faced in the last two decades. He strongly supports ERA. He is favoring abortion (count the number of teenage pregnancies last year). He favors gun control. The most important reason I am supporting him is this: during

the debate the two candidates were asked, if they were President, what decision would they make that would be unpopular with the public. Reagan said, in essence, that he would not make any decision unpopular to the public. Anderson pointed out his 50 cents gas tax and the fact that he would not support the enormous tax cuts proposed by both party candidates until the government is in shape.

Carter is seeing and raising every tax proposal the Republicans offer, and is making decisions according to the recent polls (note the tragic rescue attempt, the tax cuts, and military spending). At first (before the '76 election) he supported a decrease of the military spending. Now that people want an increase in spending, Carter announces a \$100 million increase in the military budget. A poll-man if there ever was one.

John Anderson has the ability to go in front of people and say just what they don't want to hear. Going in front of McDonald-Douglas (designers and builders of the MX missile) and telling them the MX is an incredible waste of money took guts. Unlike Reagan's complete turn around in his speech to the auto workers. Supporting the Chrysler bailout was something he was against strongly until his little chat with Lee Iacocca (president of Chrysler). He is a yes-man for big business.

John Anderson has the leadership we need. Open, honest, straight-forward, and most important, realistic of the problems we are currently facing and the ones we will be facing in the years to come. That is why I am voting for John Anderson for President.

THOMAS A. RHODES

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the print

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