

Monologue

Donovan investigation reveals incongruities

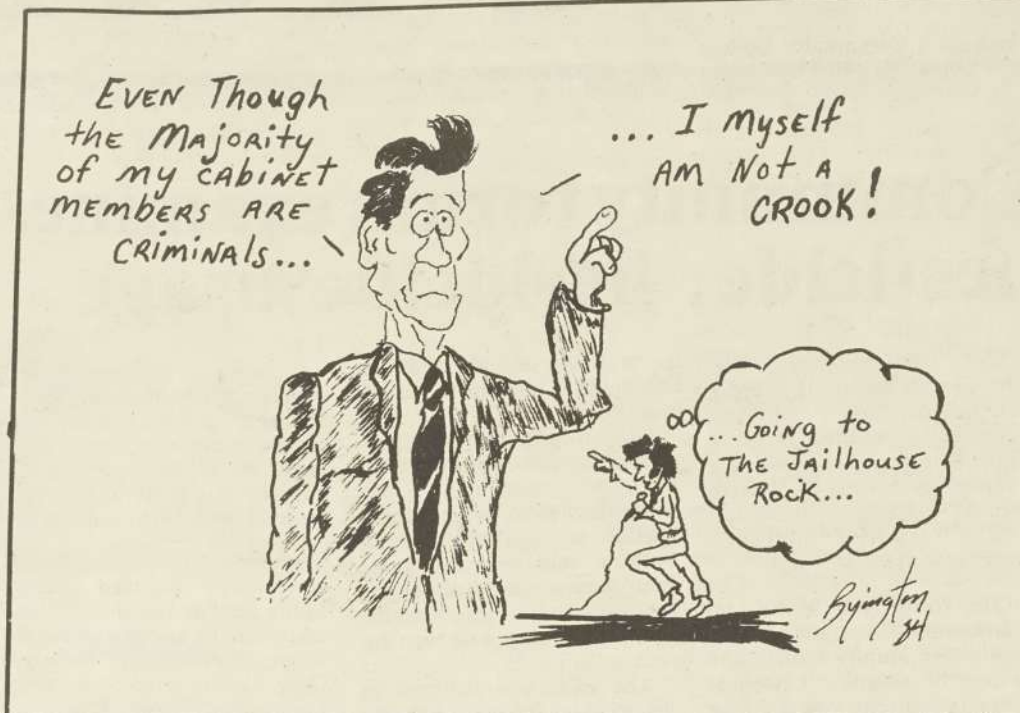
By Joel Miller
Photo Editor

How long has it been since we have had as good a barn burner as Raymond J. Donovan? From what I've read in the *Oregonian* friends have put together a first-rate, class A-1 scandal. His friends include nine former and current construction company officials, two companies, a state senator and an organized crime figure. Your standard lifelong chums.

You would think with two previous investigations under his belt that this would be old hat for him. Well, William P. Masselli seems to have rattled a barrel of monkeys. Things have begun to point to Mr. Donovan again. Masselli is at this time serving a seven-year prison term for hijacking and drug trafficking.

More dust kicked upon the trail stems from a simple loan Donovan gave to a small company. This small minority-based company needed to meet a few requirements to be considered a minority business enterprise. The loan contained a mere \$200,000 and was thoughtfully interest-free. Now someone has to be a minority and work for this small company. Enter Joseph L. Galiber, a state senator who happens to be vice president of said company and is also black.

There is also a trivial \$8,000,000 out of \$18,000,000 in federal loans to the company Donovan worked for that mysteriously seems to have somehow showed up while Mr. Donovan has temporarily resigned from his post.



Mondale cool, Reagan flustered in debate

By Shelley Ball
Editor in Chief

The long-awaited-for political event finally took place last Sunday night.

On Oct. 7 television viewers watched as President Ronald Reagan and former Vice President Walter Mondale stepped into the political boxing arena, shook hands and prepared to come out fighting for the first of their two scheduled debates. The second one is slated for Oct. 21.

The debates are being sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and the first confrontation took place in the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville. The second debate will be held in Kansas City.

Budget deficits, leadership qualities, religion, abortion and poverty were some of the issues raised at the debate. The format was question-and-answer, with three journalists asking each candidate the same questions.

As in all debates, there is the opportunity for participants to resort to mud-slinging tactics. The fact that

Reagan and Mondale differ markedly in their views on how the government should be run makes it easier for each of them to take pot shots at each other.

This debate, however, while far from being boring, was conducted with an overall air of respect for one another. There were a few digs here and there, but Reagan and Mondale appear to be saving their heavier artillery for the Oct. 21 confrontation.

Who won the first debate? Had this question been asked a week earlier, most people probably would have guessed Reagan. After all, he was about to enter the debate with an 18-point lead, 55 percent to 37 percent, over Mondale, according to the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll. Just as Reagan appeared so confident against former President Jimmy Carter in the 1980 debate, so again might one expect him to appear in this confrontation.

But, surprisingly enough, this was not to be the case. When Reagan stepped up to his podium, he looked ready,

willing and able, and he displayed his classic everything-is-right-with-the-world grin. But as the debate wore on, President Reagan found himself on the defensive quite often and his responses were punctuated with noticeable pauses in speech.

These pauses served to fluster the president even more, and his answers were filled with a barrage of facts and figures, so much that it sometimes became difficult to understand just what he was trying to get across.

Mondale, however, carried himself much better in the debate. At first glance, he looked a little pale, and one could easily see the pockets of fatigue under his eyes. But his manner was calm and cool, and his answers were delivered with a clear, direct, to-the-point approach.

He remained this way, literally unruffled, throughout the entire debate, and his appearance improved considerably as he warmed to the confrontation. While he needs to work on being charismatic (so what else is new?), he was also not the boring speaker heretofore found on the campaign trail.

Fighting Fritz presented himself as an intelligent debator, on top of the facts and was said to have "knocked him (Reagan) off his script," by Mondale aides.

Both Reagan and Mondale received support for their replies through applause from the audience, although it appears Mondale received a tad bit more than did the president. Both debaters, though, were reluctant to let

each other get the last word in on particular issues (two examples were social security and the economic situation of farmers), and moderator Barbara Walters had to ask each to stop using valuable time rehashing subjects.

In reviewing the first debate, Mondale clearly dominated the event, but he did not outshine Reagan, either. So what are Mondale's chances of closing the 18-point gap between him and Reagan?

Critics have said Mondale would have to be spectacular in the debates in order to have a fighting change for the presidency. Well, he was close enough to being spectacular that he may be within striking distance of winning votes from those who swore they would vote Reagan, since their Democratic presidential nominee favorite, Colorado Senator Gary Hart, wasn't nominated instead. As for those who support Reagan, their views will undoubtedly remain unchanged.

But don't forget, there's still one debate left between Reagan and Mondale, not to mention the upcoming debate between Vice President George Bush and Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro. The second Reagan/Mondale debate will concern national defense and foreign policy, two issues which will make it easy for Mondale to criticize Reagan.

If Mondale does as well as he did in the first debate, then there's a good chance this year's election won't be the Reagan landslide victory everyone thinks it will be. In any case, Mondale is once again off to a good start.

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