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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

TRIP NEWS

President Recalls 'Mistakes' of a Democratic Leadership -- President Reagan brought his message of hope to the Farm Belt, but the latest bombing of a U.S. installation forced him to alter his generally upbeat stump speech at every stop to note the "cowardly act."
(Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, UPI)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Terrorists Hit U.S. Embassy in Beirut; 23 Die in Blast -- Zig-zagging through gunfire, a suicide bomber drove his dynamite-loaded van to the entrance of the American Embassy annex where it exploded as he was shot and killed.
(AP, Reuter, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Independent Counsel Clears Meese of All Allegations -- Presidential counselor Edwin Meese was given a clean bill of health by an independent counsel appointed to investigate allegations of wrongdoing.
(Baltimore Sun, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Thursday Evening)

LEBANON -- The tragedy of the bombing is the annex was blown up in exactly the same way a suicide car bomb hit the U.S. Embassy in April 1983 and the U.S. Marine headquarters.
(ALL NETS LEAD)

CANDIDATE REACTIONS/BEIRUT BOMBING -- Just hours after the bombing, President Reagan was on the campaign trail deploring the incident. Walter Mondale was carefully supportive.

DEFENSE BUDGET -- Congressional leaders and President Reagan reached agreement on a new defense budget.

TRIP NEWS.....	A-2
INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....	A-3
NATIONAL NEWS.....	A-7
NETWORK NEWS.....	B-1
EDITORIALS.....	B-10
CAMPAIGN CLIPS.....	C-1

TRIP NEWS

PRESIDENT RECALLS 'MISTAKES' OF A DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- President Reagan appeared with hometown political hero Gerald Ford and warned Americans not to "make the same mistake all over again," referring to the 1976 election of Jimmy Carter as president.
(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A4)

Reagan considered, but rejected, canceling the campaign swing through Iowa and Michigan when he learned the U.S Embassy annex in Beirut had been bombed. He said he realized, "What's the difference whether I'm there (in Washington) or here? You're President wherever you are and I have as fast a communication on these matters wherever I am."
(Ira Allen, UPI)

Reagan Fighting Vote Erosion in Farm Belt

Touching down on the Iowa hustings means a great deal to Ronald Reagan. This is where he started his working career back in the 1930s, when he became a sportscaster for radio station WHO in Des Moines. In 1980 Iowans gave "Dutch" Reagan 53 percent of their presidential vote. This week, the President is back again, and not just to entertain Iowans. He wants their support -- and the support of voters in Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, and other states across the politically important Midwest farm belt.
(Charlotte Saikowski, Christian Science Monitor, 1)

A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT MEANS AN INSTANT HOLIDAY

WATERBURY, Conn. -- The day America's leading man came to town, they shut down public and parochial schools, put an extra 100 police officers on duty, barricaded much of downtown with sand trucks, set up bleachers on West Main Street, ringed the city green with a mile of snow fence, hung banners from buildings and set out 20 portable toilets. It was just part of the biggest show in American politics: a Presidential visit, an awesome display of the power of the incumbency, paid for in part by taxpayers.
(Bill Peterson, Washington Post, A3)

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBOMB KILLS 23 AT U.S. EMBASSY IN LEBANON

BEIRUT -- An explosives-packed van driven through a barrage of gunfire blew up in front of the U.S. Embassy annex northeast of Beirut, killing at least 23 people, two of them Americans, and injuring the U.S. and British ambassadors. (Nora Boustany, Washington Post, A1)

Terrorists Hit U.S. Embassy in Beirut; 23 Die in Blast

Police said 23 people were killed, although the state-run radio put the total at 10. People at the scene said the higher figure seemed more likely to be correct. The U.S. State Department said two Americans were among the dead. (Washington Times, A1)

A Western security official who refused to be named said the death toll could rise to 40 once the rubble had been searched completely. (Alistair Lyon, Reuter)

Blast Rocks Embassy in Beirut

"We haven't found everybody yet, and the death toll could rise as high as 30 or 40," the Western security officer said. (Baltimore Sun, A1)

U.S. Embassy offices were being moved to safer ground -- driven from yet another headquarters by terrorist bombers -- as Reagan Administration officials defended their security measures against criticism they are inadequate. (R. Gregory Nokes, AP)

Terrorists Strike Again in Beirut

President Reagan telephoned U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew to express his "anger and sorrow." Commenting on the bombing before a speech in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the President said, "We can't withdraw in the face of this kind of terrorism."

(Robin Wright, Christian Science Monitor, 1)

23 Die, Including 2 Americans, In Terrorist Car Bomb Attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut

Bartholomew was reported slightly hurt after he was trapped in his office. The British ambassador, David Meirs, who was meeting with Bartholomew at the time of the explosion, was also reported slightly hurt. (John Kifner, New York Times, A1)

REAGAN DECRIES ATTACK, STAYS FIRM ON TERRORISM

President Reagan condemned the bombing attack against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and said that despite continuing threats from "the worldwide terrorist movement," the United States "can't crawl in a hole some place and stop performing" as it seeks peace in the Middle East and other turbulent regions. (John Goshko, Washington Post, A1)

Bush Says We Won't be 'Bullied' Out of Mideast

President Reagan denounced in "anger and sorrow" the terrorist bombing of the American Embassy annex in East Beirut -- news which greeted him when aides awakened him before dawn prior to a long day of Midwest campaigning.

(John McCaslin and Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, C8)

BOMBING CALLS ATTENTION TO MIDDLE EAST FAILURES

The third deadly terrorist bombing of a U.S. installation in Beirut has called attention to President Reagan's policy failure in the Middle East, and Walter Mondale is not likely to allow the voters to forget it. But in campaign speeches that have offered specific proposals in a variety of areas, the Democratic nominee has given little indication of what alternative policies he would follow if he won the November 6 election.

(William Scally, Reuter)

STATE DEPT. TEAM SENT TO LEBANON

A team headed by Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Mideast Affairs, was sent to Lebanon to investigate the suicide bombing of the American Embassy in East Beirut, a State Department spokesman said.

(Miles Cunningham, Washington Times, A1)

Security sources said a U.S. Embassy team was examining the debris and questioning witnesses and security personnel about the truck-bomb, packed with an estimated 330 pounds of TNT and driven by two men.

(Hugh Pope, UPI)

U.S. RETALIATION TO BOMBING UNLIKELY BUT NOT RULED OUT

High Administration officials are refusing to say whether the United States will seek to retaliate against suicide bombers who blasted the U.S. Embassy. But the chances of exacting retribution for the attack appeared remote.

(William Scally, Reuter)

U.S. Says It Won't Retaliate Now

Senior officials said that, despite the frustration and anger over the third such attack against Americans in Beirut in 18 months, there was no plan for any immediate retaliation.

(Bernard Gwertzman, New York Times, A1)

EMBASSY'S SECURITY WAS INCOMPLETE

The suicide truck bomber was able to drive within 20 feet of the U.S. Embassy annex despite increased concern about terrorism because security improvements had not been completed and the terrorists appear to have used diplomatic license plates, officials said.

(Fred Hiatt and Bob Woodward, Washington Post, A1)

CHRISTIAN MILITIA GUARDED EMBASSY

The area around the United States Embassy that was bombed was guarded by Lebanese Christian militiamen because a contingent of 80 United States marines had been withdrawn seven weeks earlier, American officials said. (Joel Brinkley, New York Times, A1)

STATE DEPARTMENT WARNED OF ATTACK ON U.S. INSTALLATION

The State Department warned its embassies around the world two weeks ago that it feared another terrorist attack on a U.S. installation was being plotted. In light of the suicide bombing, the State Department is sending message to all embassies and mission in the world, with emphasis on the Middle East, warning them to tighten security even further. (Jim Anderson, UPI)

OBSERVERS LINK BEIRUT BLAST TO U.S. VETO OF U.N. RESOLUTION

When the United States cast a U.N. veto Sept. 6 of a Lebanese resolution protesting Israeli occupation there, a Lebanese diplomat in New York told a reporter, "This is going to cause more trouble for the Americans in Beirut....It will be seen in the Shiite community as an anti-Lebanese stand which will provoke more rage." Because of telephone threats and deep emotion about the frustrated U.N. resolution, many officials in Beirut and some in Washington say they assume that the veto played a role in generating the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy annex. (Don Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A27)

ANTI-U.S. VIOLENCE NOW SEEMS REGIONAL

CAIRO -- U.S. diplomats in Beirut have been prime targets of terrorism in Lebanon almost from the onset of the political turmoil there. But the recent attacks against U.S. Embassy personnel in Beirut appear no longer to be an isolated phenomenon, stemming solely from the violent sectarian politics of Lebanon. They seem to be perpetrated by a regional terrorist movement aimed at eliminating American influence, upsetting the established Arab order and spreading Islamic revolution. (David Ottaway, Washington Post, A28)

U.S. ENVOY SAYS SALVADORAN ECONOMY IMPROVING

U.S. Ambassador Pickering has told businessmen in San Salvador that American economic aid to El Salvador -- flowing at a rate of \$1 million a day -- is boosting the country's war-battered economy. (Michael Drudge, UPI)

Editor's Note: A news analysis on the group that claimed responsibility for the bombing, "The Riddle of Islamic Jihad" by Richard Harwood, appears on page A27 of The Washington Post.

DUARTE SAYS AMERICANS CALL THE SHOTS IN SALVADORAN WAR

The strings tied to U.S. military aid mean that Americans, not Salvadorans, decide how El Salvador wages the war against leftist guerrillas, says President Duarte. In a lengthy interview in the November issue of Playboy magazine, Duarte says that questions about "where our priorities should be" are being "decided by the ones who give the money."
(W. Dale Nelson, AP)

DUARTE PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA INITIATIVE

BOGOTA -- President Duarte reiterated his support for the peace initiative of the Contadora Group in Central America.
(Reuter)

CIA SAYS SOVIETS IN 'TERMINAL' PHASE

The Soviet Union is "the world's last empire," which "after 67 years of communism ... has entered its terminal phase," an analysis prepared for the CIA by National Intelligence Council Vice Chairman Herbert Meyer says.
(Michael Bonafield, Washington Times, A1)

NEW ZEALAND PREMIER TO MEET SHULTZ FOR TALKS ON ANZUS PACT

WELLINGTON -- New Zealand Prime Minister Lange leaves for New York this weekend for crucial talks on the ANZUS defense alliance, which is threatened by his government's decision to ban nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships from its ports.
(Reuter)

U.S. SAYS FRIEDA K VIOLATED SOVIET WATERS

The American supply vessel Frieda K was in Soviet waters when it was taken into custody by the Soviets nine days ago but it is still not clear whether Moscow's seizure of the vessel was legal, the State Department says.
(George Gedda, AP)

COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS ATTACK HIGH U.S. INTEREST RATES

TORONTO -- British Commonwealth finance ministers ended a two-day meeting with a sharp attack on high U.S. interest rates and the threat they pose to global economic recovery.
(Peter Torday, Reuter)

NATIONAL NEWS

PROBE RULES OUT PROSECUTION OF MEESE

Independent counsel Jacob Stein, after a six-month investigation of White House counselor Edwin Meese, concluded that "we find no basis ... for the bringing of a prosecution against Mr. Meese for the violation of a federal criminal statute." (Mary Thomas, Washington Post, A1)

Independent Counsel Clears Meese of All Allegations

"We find no basis with respect to any of the 11 allegations for the bringing of a prosecution against Mr. Meese," Stein said in the report. (Edmond Jacoby, Washington Times, A1)

Probe Finds No Crimes by Meese

President Reagan greeted the report as a vindication of his longtime friend and aide, and said at a campaign stop in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that Mr. Meese would make a "distinguished attorney general." (Vernon Guidry, Jr., Baltimore Sun, A1)

Inquiry on Meese Discerns No Basis for Criminal Case

Stein said in the report that his mandate did not permit him to fulfill "numerous requests" to evaluate the "propriety" or "ethics" of Meese's conduct or his "fitness for the post of Attorney General." (Leslie Maitland Werner, New York Times, A1)

HECKLERS GREET BUSH IN VERMONT

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. -- Vice President Bush brought President Reagan's message of peace and prosperity to the New England woodlands and ran into the diametrically opposed visions of America held by the two parties -- both in the same tree-shaded commons of this placid town. (Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A5)

Bush Draws Hecklers at Vermont School

Mr. Bush was booed in Brattleboro when he tried to claim President Reagan's toughness will bring "a lasting world peace." He was met by chanting pickets when he arrived for a student forum at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., and outside his hotel in Burlington. (Don McLeod, Washington Times, A3)

THE POLITICS OF HECKLING

Long a political staple, hecklers are showing up in force at rallies this year and Walter Mondale's campaign says some taunters and chanters at his gatherings are getting encouragement from the Reagan camp. Reagan, saying hecklers who have plagued Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro are rude, denied that his campaign was helping them. (Anne Saker, UPI)

WEINBERGER SEEKS SUPPORT OF HISPANICS

For the third time in a week, Secretary Weinberger spoke with an Hispanic group -- a main target in the upcoming election -- on the need for support of the Reagan Administration's defense build-up. In his prepared speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Weinberger said that since the Administration took office in 1980, the military has been made more modern and ready for combat, and better able to sustain itself in a long battle. (Walter Andrews, Washington Times, A4)

REAGAN SUPPORTERS CITED BY MONDALE FOR HECKLING

SEATTLE -- Walter Mondale, who has been the target of hecklers at recent campaign events, said that he is angry about the demonstrations and suggested that supporters of President Reagan are responsible. (Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A3)

MONDALE ASKS REAGAN TO AIR DEFICIT PLAN

SEATTLE -- Walter Mondale, resurrecting a line from his successful Democratic primary campaign, led unionists in chants of "Where's the plan?" as he chided President Reagan for not offering specific proposals to lower the federal budget deficit. (Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A4)

Union Members in Seattle Cheer Tough Mondale Attack on Deficit

Speaking to an enthusiastic reception by the annual meeting of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the candidate accused Mr. Reagan of campaigning in a "question-free cocoon." (Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A3)

Mondale Presses Strategy of Attacking Reagan's Posture but Hews to High Road

Mondale is doing what the political scientists say a presidential candidate ought to do: from the smoky skies of Cleveland to the foggy fringes of Puget Sound, he has been talking about issues. He is doing it, his aides say, because he has some ideas about the problems that face the country. But he is doing it also as a means of drawing a contrast with President Reagan, who has spent the campaign season making leisurely and somewhat antiseptic political trips and, against a backdrop of flags and bunting, delivering anthems to country and community. (David Shribman, Wall Street Journal, A64)

MONDALE COUNSEL RECANTS RADIO HANOI BROADCASTS

The chief counsel of Walter Mondale's presidential campaign, David Ifshin, recanted on views he held in 1970, when he visited North Vietnam and made two Radio Hanoi propaganda broadcasts urging American troops in South Vietnam to join "anti-war" forces protesting U.S. activities in Southeast Asia. (Bill Kling, Washington Times, A1)

ETHICS PANFL GRANTS DELAY TO REP. FERRARO

The House ethics committee granted a request from Rep. Geraldine Ferraro's attorneys for a 10-day delay of a meeting scheduled for today where the congresswoman or her representatives were about to appear to answer questions about her financial affairs.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

COURT REJECTS DONOVAN REQUEST

Bronx Supreme Court Judge Harold Enten rejected requests by Secretary Donovan and his New Jersey construction company to curtail a Bronx grand jury investigation of possible fraud involving the company.

(George Lardner, Washington Post, A5)

BUDGET DIRECTOR DENIES CUTBACKS IN PROGRAMS ADDED TO RANKS OF POOR

OMB Director Stockman told skeptical House Democrats that the years of inflation and recession that have plagued the economy since 1976, not Reagan Administration budget cuts, are to blame for the increased number of Americans living below the poverty level.

(Felicity Barringer, Washington Post, A12)

House Panel Says Poverty Up

Mr. Stockman said that poverty among the groups of people eligible for welfare has not increased during the Reagan Administration.

(Stephanie Nall, Washington Times, A2)

BUDGET LAW SEEN AS REAGAN PLOY

It is obvious to Rep. Jacobs -- author of a balanced budget amendment -- that the Republicans had their own plan for a balanced-budget constitutional amendment and it was intended more for political campaigns than as any bipartisan legislative vehicle. And the President has grabbed the proposal to use as a fig leaf for the most embarrassing part of his economic policy -- the huge budget deficits.

(Robert Merry, Wall Street Journal, A64)

REAGAN TELLS HOW TO FIX U.S. SCHOOLS

President Reagan says children should not only be allowed to pray in public schools but also be taught respect for "the basic moral values on which America was built." Reagan, in the opening chapter of a book outlining conservative views on how to reform U.S. schools, wrote: "The traditional values of this nation must not be censored from our public schools."

(Washington Post, A12)

President's School Article Urges Increased Discipline

In his "Overview of Education Reform Issues," written for the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation's "A Blueprint for Education Reform," the President said too many teachers lack the authority "to make students take tests, hand in homework, or even quiet the class."

(Washington Times, A2)

ACCORD ENDS HILL LOGJAM ON DEFENSE FUNDS

Speaker O'Neill and Majority Leader Baker broke Congress' logjam on defense spending with an agreement that O'Neill characterized as a death knell for the MX missile. (Helen Dewar, Washington Post, A1)

Defense Budget Agreement Puts Future of MX in Peril

The deadlock was broken with agreement on a compromise \$292.9 billion defense budget that also puts the new MX missile in high jeopardy by allowing either chamber to kill it off in votes after next April. (Washington Times, A4)

Accord Is Reached on a Military Bill

According to Democrats, the compromise would allow for the production of 15 new missiles, if supporters were to win next year's vote. (Jonathan Fuerbringer, New York Times, A1)

REPORT HITS ARMY PROCUREMENT

The Army could pay substantially more for weapons systems in the future unless it corrects the sloppy management displayed in a new trouble-prone anti-aircraft gun for defending armored divisions, according to a report of the Pentagon Inspector General's office. (Washington Times, A2)

Army Overpaid Millions to Ford for Antiaircraft Gun, Audit Says

A report from the Defense Department's Inspector General, dated Sept. 10 and released by Rep. Denny Smith, said the Army's current \$1.5 billion contract for 276 guns was at least \$84 million too high. The auditor's study is the latest evidence of overpricing and contract abuse in major weapons programs. (Wayne Biddle, New York Times, A1)

ECONOMY SLOWS SUBSTANTIALY IN CURRENT QUARTER

The speed of the economic recovery has slowed substantially in the current quarter, with the gross national product increasing at a 3.6 percent annual rate, only half as fast as in the April-June period, the Commerce Department reported. (John Berry, Washington Post, A1)

GNP Growth in Quarter Slower, U.S. Estimates

That rate, which confirmed numerous other reports showing a considerable economic slowdown, amounts to about half the revised 7.1 percent growth during the second quarter and is even further below the fast pace of growth of 10.1 percent in the first three months of 1984. (Stephen Nordlinger, Baltimore Sun, A1)

ENERGY PRICES FIRING

Inflation remains moderate but energy prices, one of the biggest boons for consumers this year, have begun to stabilize and stop falling, private analysts say. The Labor Department releases its estimate of changes in August consumer prices today with the consensus among leading analysts for little change from July's 0.3 percent increases. (Denis Gulino, UPI)

CANDIDATES SCHEDULES

(UPI) -- Schedules for the presidential and vice presidential candidates for Friday, Sept. 21, and tentative schedules for the week ahead.

Walter Mondale:

Friday, Sept. 21: Morning Departs National Airport for Birmingham, Ala. Noon EDT Greets supporters Woodrow Wilson Park, Jefferson County Court House, Birmingham, Ala. Departs for Tuscumbia, Ala. 4:30 p.m. Attends citizens forum, Tuscumbia Multi-purpose Center. Returns D.C.

Saturday, Sept. 22: Morning Private time, Washington residence. Evening Private fund-raiser, Washington.

Sunday, Sept. 23: 11 a.m. EDT Attends services, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington. Noon Departs church for WKYS radio station, Washington. 12:40 p.m. Gives weekly radio address. 12:45 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 24: Departs National airport for Texarkana, Texas. Noon CDT Event, Texarkana. Event in Houston. Returns to D.C. for overnight.

Tuesday, Sept. 25: Washington.

Wednesday, Sept. 26: Evening Attends 1984 Democratic Victory Gala, International Ballroom, Washington Hilton. Overnights.

Thursday, Sept. 27: Meets with Soviet FM Andrei Gromyko, New York.

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Geraldine Ferraro:

Friday, Sept. 21: 8:45 a.m. PDT Departs Westin Hotel for event, Los Angeles. 9:45 a.m. event, no specifics, L.A. 11 a.m. Departs event for L.A. International Airport. 12:25 p.m. Departs L.A. for New York. 9:35 p.m. Arrives LaGuardia, Delta Airlines terminal. Overnights Queens, N.Y.

Saturday, Sept. 22: Private time, Queens. Evening Attends private fund-raiser in New York.

Sunday, Sept. 23: Morning Attends church in Queens, N.Y. Balance of day is private time, Queens.

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President Reagan:

Friday, Sept. 21: White House.

Saturday, Sept. 22: Washington. Prepares address to United Nations.

Sunday, Sept. 23: Reception for U.N. delegates and diplomats, NYC

Monday, Sept. 24: Addresses United Nations.

Tuesday, Sept. 25: Meets with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney at WH.

Friday, Sept. 28: Meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the White House.

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Vice President George Bush:

Friday, Sept. 21: 9:05 a.m. EDT Departs Burlington, Vt., for Bangor, Maine. 10:10 a.m. Arrives Bangor. 10:35 a.m. Press availability, Airport Hilton Hotel, Bangor. 11:45-12:15 p.m. Visits Bangor House senior citizens home, Bangor. 12:45 p.m. Addresses Husson College Businessman's Breakfast Group, Dickerman Dining Commons, Husson College, Bangor. 2 p.m. Departs Bangor for Portland, Maine. 3 p.m. Arrives Portland. 3:30 p.m. Tours S.D. Warren Paper Plant. 4:45 p.m. Press availability at the Holiday Inn. 6:30 p.m. Motorcades to vacation home, Kennebunkport, Maine.

Saturday, Sept. 22, and Sunday, Sept. 23: Private time, Kennebunkport.

Monday, Sept. 24 and Tuesday, Sept. 25: Campaigns in Chicago area.

Wednesday, Sept. 26: Morning Campaigns in Springfield, Ill. Afternoon Campaigns in Indianapolis and overnights there.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

LEBANON

CBS's Dan Rather: It happened again, another terrorist bomb attack against an American target in Beirut. The toll is at least 23 and the number of dead possibly could be as many as 40. Two American military men were among those killed. Sixty people were wounded, 21 of them Americans. The target was the U.S. Embassy Annex. Claiming responsibility was Islamic Jihad.

CBS's Larry Pintak reports from Beirut: There was no heavy barricade that had to be raised or lowered, no steel gate. Metal tank barriers lined the road instead of blocking it. Trenches were dug along the road instead of across it.

CBS's David Martin: CBS has learned that earlier this month U.S. intelligence obtained hard evidence that a terrorist attack like this was being planned and that it was being done with the help of the Iranian government. According to informed sources, U.S. intelligence found out that Iran was shipping hundreds of pounds of explosives through Syria to Iranian terrorists in Lebanon. One source said the U.S. did not try to stop the shipment for fear of endangering the lives of these three Americans including U.S. diplomat William Buckley, kidnapped earlier this year. A second source said the U.S. could not have acted in any event because the intelligence did not specify how or when the explosives were being shipped. Both sources agree the intelligence was picked up at about the same time the terrorists were publicly threatening to attack Americans. (State Department spokesman Hughes: "The news agency received a telephone message on September 8. The caller claimed to be a representative of the Islamic Jihad organization, threatened that the organization would strike very shortly at a key American interest in the Middle East.") The American veto of a UN resolution demanding that Israel ease its occupation of Lebanon triggered the September 8 threat. The State Department sent out a special advisory to be on the lookout for a terrorist attack. Sources say the Beirut embassy responded with a cable agreeing that the terrorist threat was very high. Nevertheless, the explosives-laden van got within 20 feet of the embassy annex. U.S. officials claim the security precautions at least prevented a death toll like those from earlier terrorist attacks in Beirut. (Secretary Shultz: "In this case, our measures at least did not have that car penetrate the building the way it did before.") But some members of Congress still said security was lax. (Speaker O'Neill: "It looks as though it's a repeat of what happened to our 261 marines and we should have been prepared.") U.S. officials are not giving any hint of whether they intend to strike back this time. Secretary Weinberger said only, "All appropriate measures are under consideration.") Late today, Pentagon officials said the helicopter carrier Shreveport is now on its way to Beirut. (CBS-Lead)

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

LEBANON (continued)

CBS's Tom Fenton looks at Islamic Jihad: None of its members have ever been identified. No one is sure it even exists. Ninety minutes after the bombing, an anonymous caller repeated the threat that it will not stop until the last American leaves Lebanon. (CBS-3)

NBC's Robert Hagar also reports Islamic Jihad is shrouded in mystery.

ABC's Charles Glass: The tragedy of today's bombing is the annex was blown up in exactly the same way a suicide car bomb hit the U.S. Embassy in April 1983 and the U.S. Marine headquarters. Even here in the relative safety of the Christian side of Beirut, the embassy seemed unprepared for another car bomb.

ABC's John McWethy: The State Department says the embassy should have been expecting trouble. Could security have been better? (Former Ambassador L. Dean Brown: "They're confronted with too big a job. They don't have the right kind of buildings and they always have too many people to protect and so they sort of improvise.") (John Hughes: "I think one thing you have to remember is that this is an embassy. This is not a military compound or a military barracks or a fort.") And at an embassy, says Hughes, people must be allowed to come and go. Secretary Weinberger, after calling the terrorists roving bands of criminals, was asked if the U.S. could best stop the attacks by simply getting out of Lebanon. (Weinberger: "No, I don't think so at all. That would give the terrorists precisely what they want and that is exactly what we are not going to do.") Ronald Reagan has promised that U.S. policy towards terrorists will be one of "swift and effective retribution." Though the Reagan Administration would like nothing better than striking back at the terrorist group that hit the embassy, officials admit a major problem: No one knows who to hit. (ABC-Lead)

In Q-and-A between Jennings and Secretary Shultz, the Secretary says he thinks security prevented the truck from reaching its probable destination, underneath the building. In response to a question about whether security should have been even tighter, he also says embassies are there to perform a function and people must be allowed to come and go, but he says more can be done and we are doing more. Secretary Shultz says knowledge of Islamic Jihad is "very vague" and refuses to speculate about which government backs Islamic Jihad. He also mentions the possibility of a more active defense against terrorism. (ABC-4)

NBC's Marvin Kalb: President Reagan, awakened early with the news, placed the blame on international terrorists. (President: "We're aware that this threatens our people wherever they are in the world because these terrorist groups in many instances or most instances are opposed to everything that we stand for.") Secretary Shultz stressed the U.S. would not knuckle under to terrorism, nor would the U.S. shut down its embassy in Beirut.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

LEBANON (continued)

Kalb continues: But on Capitol Hill, there were questions about the obvious: inadequate security. (Speaker O'Neill: "Why they were able to get in there is something I can't understand. It looks as though it's a repeat of what happened to our 261 marines and we should have been prepared.") (Sen. Pressler: "Based on the information I have, it was a lapse in security.") An Arab spokesman described the attack as patriotic. (Dr. M.D. Medhi: "The violent reaction was a legitimate reaction against America's support of Israeli violence.") And all day the question reverberated, would the U.S. finally retaliate? All day, officials ducked a direct response. (Secretary Weinberger: "There are always available possible options, but I wouldn't be able to discuss any of that now.") The signs are that the Administration is leaning against military retaliation even though senior officials say once again the U.S. looks helpless against terrorism and its policy in Lebanon looks pathetic.

In a Q-and-A with Brokaw, Secretary Shultz refuses to comment on whether he will recommend retaliation but says we are determined to protect ourselves on an international scale. (NBC-Lead)

CANDIDATE REACTIONS/BEIRUT BOMBING

CBS's Bill Plante: Just hours after the bombing, President Reagan was on the campaign trail deploring the incident. (President: "It's another painful reminder of the persistent threat of terrorism in the world. I'm proud, as all Americans should be proud, of the brave Americans who are serving our nation throughout the world. We can't just withdraw in the face of this kind of terrorism.") Walter Mondale, who's had plenty of criticism of Mr. Reagan's Lebanon policy in the past, was carefully supportive today. (Mondale: "We stand behind the President in taking appropriate acts to punish those that are responsible for these wholly inexcusable acts of violence.") Mr. Reagan, who talked about the bombing standing at the edge of an Iowa soybean field, would not discuss possible retaliation, but he did say he was satisfied there had been enough security at the embassy annex. (President: "The only defense you have against terrorist activities is if you can infiltrate and intercept and know in advance where they're going to strike.") Despite the tragedy, President Reagan made scheduled campaign appearances in Iowa and Michigan after he had considered cancelling. (President: "What's the difference whether I'm there or here? You're president wherever you are and I have as fast a communication on these matters wherever I am.") Vice President Bush, who normally chairs the White House crisis management team, was also on the campaign trail. President Reagan made five campaign speeches today and he took care to deplore the terrorism in Lebanon in each one of them. But as aides say, retaliation is no more likely in this case than it was following the bombing of the marine barracks. What is crucial, in their view, is that Mr. Reagan maintain an image of leadership. (CBS-2)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

CANDIDATES REACTIONS/BEIRUT BOMBING (continued)

ABC's Peter Jennings: Walter Mondale called it a bloody act of inhumanity and said he would stand behind the President in punishing those responsible. President Reagan had a full day of campaigning planned, and after being told of the situation in Beirut, those in charge decided the President's schedule need not be changed.

(ABC-2)

ABC's Sam Donaldson: The President flew first to the Iowa farm country around Cedar Rapids, but before beginning his prepared speech on agriculture, Mr. Reagan took note of the Beirut bombing. (President: "Let me say a few words about the cowardly act of terrorism that we learned of early this morning. In this moment of anger and sorrow, our prayers are with those who are bereaved, while our commitment to the cause of peace remains firm.") At every campaign stop, the President repeated that opening paragraph, and while inspecting a soybean field, he answered questions on the incident. (Donaldson: "Do you think you have any responsibility for what happened today, Mr. President? Your policies?" President: "No. I don't see how anyone in this country -- we have a program in which, in cooperation with our allies, we're trying our best to find an answer to the international terrorist problem." Donaldson: "Did you consider cancelling today's trip at any point?" President: "We talked about that but realized that, what's the difference whether I'm there or here? You're president wherever you are and I have as fast a communication on these matters wherever I am.") Next stop for Mr. Reagan: Grand Rapids, Mich. for some campaigning with former President Ford. That one of today's dead was from Grand Rapids was not known at the time, so the President made no mention of it. Mr. Reagan refused to discuss the possibility of U.S. retaliation, but in fact one of the reasons his aides wanted him to carry on with today's trip was the fear that to stay in Washington would raise the expectation of U.S. action, action Mr. Reagan is not now in a position to deliver.

(ABC-3)

NBC's Chris Wallace: The President told reporters he considered cancelling today's trip, but decided he could deal with Lebanon as well from the road as in the White House. Officials added that with U.S. options limited there was no point in adding to the crisis. Still, Mr. Reagan began each campaign stop condemning what he called a cowardly act of terrorism. (President: "In this moment of anger and sorrow, our prayers are with those who are bereaved while our commitment to the cause of peace remains firm.") The President then stuck to a busy schedule, reminding farmers of the Carter embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union, and of his new credit to bail them out. But reporters kept asking about Beirut. Standing in a soybean field, Mr. Reagan said his policies were not responsible for the attack and he was satisfied with security at the complex. (President: "Well, as much as I know about it, yes, it seems to -- I think if someone is determined to do what they did, it's pretty difficult to prevent it." Wallace: "Will you retaliate for this act, sir?" President: "I can't discuss that.") Reagan advisers kept in touch with Washington, assessing the situation.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

CANDIDATE REACTIONS/BEIRUT BOMBING (continued)

Wallace continues: Aides said any Democratic effort to use the tragedy would backfire badly, but acknowledged it may remind voters of the President's worst foreign policy failure, the loss of so many Americans in Lebanon. But in Michigan, the President learned Mondale said he would back Mr. Reagan in an appropriate response. The President was appreciative. Reagan advisers doubt today's tragedy will have much political impact. Their hope, at least in the short run, is that voters will rally around the President. (NBC-2)

NBC's Steve Delaney: Mondale was told of the bombing before dawn and he talked about it a short time later. (Mondale: "We all condemn these outrageous and bloody acts of inhumanity and I believe I speak for all Americans when I say if it can be determined who is responsible, we stand behind the President in taking appropriate acts to punish those who are responsible for these wholly inexcusable acts of violence.") Mondale was careful and supportive in his statement. It is unseemly to turn tragedy into a political issue when rescuers are still digging through the rubble. But he's long been on record in opposition to the Reagan policy in Lebanon and has struck hard and often in this campaign at the continuing confusion over what the U.S. ought to be doing there. Perhaps his sharpest attack came Monday of this week in Washington. (Mondale: "We lost nearly 300 brave Americans who were placed in a vulnerable position over the objections of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Reagan blamed the Syrians for the attacks on our marines, he promised retribution, but nothing happened. So much for standing tall.") Mondale will continue to challenge the Administration's Lebanon policy, but it's unlikely that he'll refer directly to the latest bombing. He believes the incident itself is reminder enough. (NBC-3)

COMMENTARY -- BEIRUT BOMBING

NBC's John Chancellor: In 1983, a terrorist was able to drive a truck bomb into the American Embassy lobby in Beirut. In 1984, a terrorist got almost as far as the front door. That's not much progress in security. As of now, President Reagan's peace plan is dead in the water. Until there is progress on that front, the terrorism is likely to continue. In the meantime, all the American people have is a roster of the dead; in the last 17 months, more than 270 Americans have died. The question is: why? (NBC-10)

DEFENSE BUDGET

Rather: Congressional leaders and President Reagan reached agreement on a new defense budget. A key feature of the compromise: a major victory for MX opponents. They are now assured of another crack at killing MX money in a vote after next April. Total price tag for this compromise, \$292B, an after-inflation increase of 5% over this year. Other features: a compromise over testing of antisatellite weapons, and a compromise over the President's authority to wage war in Central America. (CBS-5)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

MEESE

Rather: The special prosecutor's conclusion: Meese committed no prosecutable offense, but the special prosecutor noted his report did not address "Meese's ethics, the propriety of his conduct or an evaluation of his fitness for office."

CBS's Rita Braver: A happy Edwin Meese talked about the end of a long ordeal. (Meese: "It's been, obviously, a difficult experience, but we think it's been worthwhile and certainly necessary, because now that that investigation is completed, it has cleared the air and has clearly established that there is no basis to any of these allegations or rumors.") The report found no evidence linking Edwin Thomas's White House job to the \$15,000 loan, and it accepted Meese's explanation that he simply forgot to report the loan in required financial statements. In a written comment, President Reagan said it was a happy moment and repeated his intention, if reelected, to send Meese's nomination for attorney general to a new session of Congress. (Sen. Thurmond: "If he feels this is the man he needs to help him, unless there's some reason not to confirm him, I think he ought to be confirmed.") However, Sen. Metzenbaum says the report raises new questions about Meese's fitness to become attorney general. In a separate written statement, Meese acknowledged he's now learned a lot about official life in Washington and a need for constant vigilance not only with regard to actual conduct but also to how conduct may be perceived. (CBS-4)

AEC's Jack Smith: (Meese: "...We're glad it's over and we're glad it turned out so well. I want to again reiterate my gratitude to the President for his support and confidence during this entire period and for the future. And so I look forward to the Senate confirmation proceedings when they resume.") Although the report clears Meese totally, the picture that emerges, say critics, is nonetheless of an often-careless administrator who tended to overlook appearances of impropriety. The report could therefore still provide ammunition for old Senate opponents of Meese's nomination as attorney general. But none of them would talk today and senators who were more neutral saw the report as favorable. (Sen. Specter: "I do believe that, as a whole, it is very, very helpful for his case for confirmation.") (AEC-5)

NBC's James Polk: President Reagan issued a statement saying, "It's always gratifying when the honor of a just man is vindicated." One Democratic critic in the Senate said Meese still should withdraw his name, but Republicans said his chances for confirmation are excellent. (NBC-4)

PERSIAN GULF

Brokaw: Iraq said its forces attacked Iran's main oil terminal on Kharg Island and said the attack was in retaliation for Iran's bombing of two Iraqi ports. (NBC-4)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

CAMPAIGN HECKLERS

CBS's Bob Schieffer: Republican protesters have been showing up with increasing frequency at Mondale rallies, as they did today in Seattle. Arriving in Seattle, Mondale said he didn't know who was behind it all but the President ought to stop it. (Mondale: "I have not done this to Mr. Reagan, and if I thought anybody was doing this to him on my behalf, I'd stop it.") The Los Angeles Times quoted a USC student as saying the Reagan campaign encouraged the heckling, but that was later denied by a student organizer. In Sacramento, however, a Reagan campaign official conceded they had organized a pro-Reagan demonstration. (Jim Dutra: "I think it's entirely appropriate to have our supporters there to let the people know that we are supporting Ronald Reagan.") By mid-morning, the controversy had reached Air Force One. (Reporter: "You're people aren't organizing this then, are they?") (President: "Sam, good Lord, no. I wish the people wouldn't do it.") Even so, there seemed no end to it. Both Bush and Ferraro were getting heckled. Ferraro got hers in Arlington, Texas; Vice President Bush found his in Brattleboro, Vt. (Vice President: "Heckling, there's a kind of tradition for that and I don't think anybody should be all uptight about it.") Ironically, some people traveling with him think the hecklers are the best thing that ever happened to Mondale. His speaking style can sometimes be as colorless as this gray Seattle day, but the hecklers seem to energize him and give his speeches a spark that his audiences really like. (CBS-8)

ABC's Carol Simpson: For the first time since the campaign began, Vice President Bush was jeered and booed by several hundred anti-Reagan protesters at a rally in Brattleboro, Vt. (Vice President: "You have a handful of people who are out of step...but America's turned around, America's going strong..." Cheering mixed with heckling.) Being stopped so bad, Bush scrapped his foreign policy speech. Meanwhile, Ferraro was getting even worse treatment from pro-Reagan supporters in Dallas. (Ferraro interrupted by chants of "Four more years.") But Vice President Bush doesn't seem to mind the political heckling one bit. He said it's simply the American way. (ABC-6)

ECONOMY

Rather: The Commerce Department's "flash estimate" showed the GNP slowing to an annual growth rate of 3.6% in the third quarter, well below the measure in the first two quarters of this year. But the slowdown was not as sharp as some analysts feared, and they say the current level can support the expansion of the past 22 months. (ABC-7, CBS-6)

Brokaw: The Reagan Administration hailed the report as good news and said the slowdown will make the recovery more sustainable. (NBC-6)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY, September 20, 1984

ENVIRONMENT

Rather: Critics of an EPA review process won an out-of-court settlement. The process is being scrapped. EPA reviews of pesticide ingredients will be conducted in the open, independent of industry. And at least 13 pesticide chemicals will be reviewed again. (CBS-10)

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

Rather: Edwin Meese's finances, EPA meetings behind closed doors to set regulations with the pesticide makers being regulated, heckling politicians. Just tonight, several of our reports touched on issues of ethics and government. Bob Simon has been looking into the ethics of having the nation's candidates run not just under a spotlight, but under a microscope, and how this is changing the nation's politics.

CBS's Bob Simon: How does Vice President Bush feel about the new scrutiny? (Vice President: "I feel that's an invasion of my privacy, but that, I guess, just goes with the territory.") Politicians have become celebrities and celebrities have no private life; the audience wants it all. Many talented people are saying, "I don't need this; count me out." (Rep. Quayle: "People today are so concerned about what you're put through that they're just concerned that there is something that they may have done that they don't know anything about.") When the Republicans in Seattle asked John Jamison to run for mayor, he said no, twice, while insisting he had nothing to hide. (Jamison: "I did not want to be pursued by the press. I did not want to be picked at and annoyed by the petty inquiries.") (Sen. Weicker: "Never mind discouraging people from getting in and running, discouraging the voter where he says, 'Ah, they're all the same, they're all crooks, they're all inept, they're all sex maniacs, they're all ripping off the government, so why bother to vote?' And the result of that is you get all these kooks being elected around here on a one-issue basis, and then you can't run the government...") Otis Pike got tired of trying. After 18 years in Congress, he retired, partly out of disgust over scrutiny. (Pike: "We tend to breed a whole class of wimps who are qualified for political office.") (CBS-11)

OVERPRICED GUN

NBC's Lee McCarthy says a Pentagon audit charges the DEVAD gun may have cost tens of millions of dollars more than necessary, and also charges the prices of some spare parts for the DEVAD escalated by more than 1,800% in a year and a half. A spokesman for Ford Aerospace told NBC the contract is very advantageous to the government and is saving the taxpayers millions. But critics say that regardless of cost the DEVAD doesn't do the job, that recent tests of the vehicle have not done well. Congressional pressure to cut back or cancel the program is building. (NBC-7)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR THURSDAY EVENING, September 20, 1984

REWALD/CIA PLOTTING

ABC's Gary Shepard continues ABC's reporting on connections between accused swindler Ronald Rewald and the CIA: Did the CIA try to have Ronald Rewald killed to keep him from talking? He claims he was a covert agent for the CIA and his firm, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Billingham and Wong, was a front for a major CIA intelligence operation. CIA agent Scott Barnes claims that he was told by another CIA agent last November, "We've got to take him out...you know, kill him" in prison because he was a problem and he obviously knew some things about national security. Barnes says he quit the assignment. The CIA denies it ever tried to kill Rewald and refuses to say whether it has tried to buy off any of the 400 investors in Rewald's company. Ted Friegard, who lost \$287,000 says the government offered him a payoff of \$350,000 if he would drop his lawsuit against the CIA. He also claims a CIA agent told him if he became "too big of a pain in the arse, they will shoot you through the heart, they will report it as a heart attack, your body will be cremated by mistake and all that will be left will be the coroner's report that you had a heart attack." ABC has learned that Rewald's company provide the cover for some of the CIA's most sensitive and potentially embarrassing operations. Rewald's trial is scheduled to begin November 7. (ABC-8)

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EDITORIALS ON STEEL IMPORTS

Trade Tempered by Politics -- "...No matter how skillfully packaged, however, these (voluntary) import restraints will aggravate the nation's economic problem. They will cost consumers billions and reduce the competitiveness of American manufacturers dependent on steel. And they will do little to halt the decline of America's big, integrated steel makers...." (New York Times, 9/20)

The Man of Steel -- "...By resisting the ITC's recommendation, Mr. Reagan was seen to rise above politics. By pledging his Administration to further quotas, the President helped the steel industry sustain its artificially high prices. They're just not as high as under a President Mondale, who -- Mr. Brock was correct to point out -- would probably throw two people out of work for every steelworker saved. Government is such an art...." (Washington Times, 9/20)

The Steel Cartel Progresses -- "...In principle there's not much difference between Mr. Mondale's quota and Mr. Reagan's voluntary restraint agreements. But in practice, Mr. Reagan's will be more harmful to the extent that they are more durable....Reducing American imports will aggravate the overvaluation of the dollar. That will make all American products harder to sell against foreign competition. To protect some jobs and profits in one industry, Mr. Reagan is jeopardizing more jobs and larger profits in all the others." (Washington Post, 9/20)

Campaigning in the Steel Mills -- "...Given the fact domestic steelmakers justly need some relief from damaging foreign competition, Mr. Reagan made a reasoned attack upon the problem to enable domestic steelmakers to begin aiding themselves. In a perfect world, absent steel-dumping nations whose low-cost exports undermine domestic steel, such help would be unnecessary. But this is an imperfect world and, reluctantly, we can go along with modest, non-protective government aid to our steel industry...." (Baltimore Sun, 9/20)

Open Up, Japan -- "...Part of the reason for its economic success is its paltry expenditures on defense -- about one percent of its gross national product, compared with more than six percent by the U.S. No one expects or wants Japan to take sole responsibility for its defense. But if the United States is going to continue ensuring Japan's security against its aggressive neighbor to the east, it has a right to expect greater Japanese help...." (Chicago Tribune, 9/20)

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CAMPAIGN CLIPS -- Thursday, September 20Philadelphia Inquirer, front page, lead story

REAGAN, IN SOUTH JERSEY, PURSUES BLUE-COLLAR VOTERS

HAMMONTON, N.J. -- On a day that began with a rally in Waterbury, Conn., Reagan saved his toughest jab at his Democratic opponent for a campaign rally on the streets of Hammonton. The subject was Mondale's proposal to reduce the federal budget deficit....In both Hammonton and Waterbury, Reagan appealed directly for support from Democrats. (Photo of the President, captioned: "Reagan, on a one-day campaign swing, moves through a crowd of 15,000 in Hammonton, N.J." Story continues on page 4A with photo of President, captioned: "Reagan addresses the outdoor rally in Hammonton; the town was virtually closed for the day because of the rally and motorcade.") ###

Hartford Courant, front page

WATERBURY RALLIES ROUND THE PRESIDENT

WATERBURY -- President Reagan, at a fervently patriotic rally, urged Democrats to abandon their party and join him "down the new path of hope and opportunity"...The Reagan-Bush campaign has decided to woo working class ethnic Democrats in the Northeast aggressively this year, expecting to beat Mondale on traditionally Democratic turf.

Bands, Balloons Greet Reagan

All the trappings of a vibrant political campaign were present as President Reagan received a royal welcome from the residents of this industrial, largely Democratic city. The evidence was everywhere: marching bands, balloons by the hundreds, flags by the thousands -- and an overflowing, enthusiastic crowd. "Reagan stands for America the same as apple pie and motherhood," said Joan Bergen of Wallingford. "I didn't vote for him the last time, but he's turned out to be one of the most fantastic presidents ever." (Photo of the President covers 1/4 of front page, captioned: "President Reagan smiles above a sea of American flags on Waterbury Green Wednesday. The President is holding a jacket given to him by two students who were rescued from Grenada." Story continues on page A13, with two photos of event covering 1/4 page.)

Pep Talk Cheers Leaders (page 12)

A serenely confident President Reagan told Connecticut Republican leaders that he hopes the GOP will control both houses of Congress during his second term. In a private meeting with about three dozen campaign workers and party leaders Reagan did not, as some expected, urge campaign workers to redouble their efforts in the closing weeks of the presidential race. (2/3 page of photos, captioned: "President Reagan takes to the podium to deliver remarks to a crowd in Waterbury Wednesday flanked by former U.S. Rep. Lawrence J. DeNardis and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, both of Connecticut. After the President finished speaking on the town's Green, a giant American flag was raised.")

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CAMPAIGN CLIPS (continued)

New York Post, pages 4-5

PREZ URGES BLUE-COLLAR DEMS TO JUMP FRITZ SHIP

WATERBURY -- President Reagan, continuing his campaign to woo traditionally Democratic blue-collar and ethnic voters, drew a crowd of more than 20,000 at a rally on the Village Green in the center of working-class Waterbury. (Photo of the President, captioned: "Republican congressional candidates Roberta Koontz and Larry DeNardis applaud as President Reagan wows the crowd in Waterbury, Conn., yesterday.")

Mondale's Mixed Reviews on Jeers

SAN FRANCISCO -- A debate is raging in political circles over whether Mondale's campaign was helped or hampered by his confrontation with hundreds of jeering college students in California this week. Reaction among Democrats ranges from "terrific" to cautious, while President Reagan's strategists insisted Mondale looked "weak."

Teddy Red on Reagan Use of JFK -- Sen. Edward Kennedy had a tart response to President Reagan's use of his assassinated brother's image....: "Only in 1984 could anyone who was part of Democrats for Nixon in 1960 go around parading himself as the new JFK," he said.

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Los Angeles Times, page 18

CONFIDENT REAGAN STUMPS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

**President Holds Out Promise of Lower Taxes
if He Wins Second Term in White House**

WATERBURY -- Brimming with confidence about his own reelection campaign, President Reagan urged cheering crowds to elect Republicans to Congress and held out the promise of even lower taxes in a second term. ...During rallies here and in New Jersey, he called out the names of GOP congressional candidates and said that they "will not vote for tax increases, but vote for growth and economic progress." While the President campaigned in the Northeast without mentioning Mondale by name, Vice President Bush told the Ohio Republican convention in Columbus that Mondale was making "kamikaze attacks" and described the Democratic tactics as "the politics of desperation of a campaign down in flames."

(Jack Nelson and Marlene Cimon)

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Atlanta Constitution, page 7A

MONDALE SAYS REAGAN IS 'IN A COCOON'

Walter Mondale accused President Reagan of "traveling around this nation in a cocoon," while the President told thousands of voters in the Northeast that Mondale has abandoned the tradition of "good and decent" Democrats such as John Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt. Reagan, confident of Republican votes, stepped up his campaign to woo Democrats to his side.

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CAMPAIGN CLIPS (continued)USA Today, page 8A

REAGAN ACCENTUATES POSITIVE

HAMMONTON, N.J. -- More than 25,000 people -- twice the town's population -- jammed the streets to hear President Reagan describe his optimistic vision of America and denounce Democrats as doomsayers. At a joyous rally capped by a display of fireworks that released a rain of tiny American flags suspended from tiny parachutes, Reagan said the Democrats "see America divided by envy.... We see America inspired by opportunity. ... We believe in knowing when opportunity knocks. They go out of their way to knock opportunity." (Photo of the President, captioned: "About 20,000 people came to a noon rally in Waterbury, Conn., Thursday where President Reagan evoked the memory of John Kennedy in an attempt to attract Democratic voters.") (Ann Devroy)

page 3, ELECTION LINE, USA Today's Special Campaign Reports:
Reagan Takes Farm Plan to Struggling Corn Belt: President Reagan flies to Iowa today -- a Corn Belt battleground that both sides say is still up for grabs. Reagan, leading by only 7 to 10 points in the last statewide polls, delayed today's trip until he had time to announce a four-point program to help farmers pay their debts. ###

New York Daily News, page C5

RON'S MOST HAPPY FELLA

WATERBURY -- Unfazed by Walter Mondale's charge he is running an empty, "happy talk" campaign, President Reagan stuck to his feel-good theme of an upbeat "new mood" in the nation and evoked nostalgic memories of John F. Kennedy's visit here 24 years ago. Reagan told thousands of supporters on the town green that a vote for Mondale was a vote to "go back to the old days of misery, misfortune and malaise." He called the Carter-Mondale days a "Reign of Error." (Bruce Drake)

Fritz Feels the Steam Coming Up in Campaign

STOCKTON, CALIF. -- Insisting that his campaign was "beginning to pick up steam," Walter Mondale wrapped up a two-day campaign swing through California, defending the social programs that President Reagan has tried to cut. Blasting Reagan Administration attempts to cut domestic programs including student loans, Mondale (told a friendly college audience) he would refuse to weaken "the fundamental concept of hope and opportunity in this good country of ours." (Frank van Riper)

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Chicago Tribune, page 4

REAGAN INVOKES MEMORY OF KENNEDY

WATERBURY -- Denouncing his Democratic opponents for abandoning the traditions of their great party leaders, President Reagan invoked the memory of John Kennedy's emotional 1960 campaign here and made a strong pitch to woo centrist Democrats in the Northeast.

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