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MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

Mondale Pushes Arms Race Issue in Presidential Campaign -- Walter Mondale has started to push the arms race issue to the fore in advance of the next debate. Mondale, in his weekly radio broadcast, urged Reagan to offer the Soviet Union a temporary halt in the testing of "Star Wars" space weapons. (Reuter, UPI, Washington Times)

Look for Fewer Statistics, More Respect from Reagan, Say Aides -- Leaders of the President's campaign say things will be different Sunday when he faces Mondale in their next debate: Reagan will have fewer statistics and more respect for his opponent. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rebel Leaders Arrive in El Salvador for Talks -- This country's two most prominent leftist political leaders flew into a nearly deserted airport here today, returning for peace talks after more than four years of self-imposed exile. (Reuter, UPI, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times)

CIA Said to Produce Manual for Anti-Sandinistas -- Intelligence officials say the CIA has produced a psychological warfare manual for Nicaraguan rebels that instructs them to hire professional criminals for "selective jobs." (New York Times)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Sunday Evening)

CAMPAIGN -- Mondale used his weekly radio address to begin arguing the case he will make all week and in next Sunday's debate.

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-2

EL SALVADOR -- Two of El Salvador's top rebel leaders flew back to that country to sit down with Duarte.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS....A-6

LEBANON -- Top aides to PM Peres told ABC that, within a month, Peres will announce plans to withdraw forces from Lebanon's western and central regions.

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

TV TALK SHOWS.....B-4

AUTO WORKERS -- The UAW and Ford reached tentative agreement on a new contract.

This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff. For complete stories or information, please call ext. 2950

NATIONAL NEWS

REAGAN GOES TO DIXIE TO SHORE UP LEAD

President Reagan, said to have bounced back in the polls after a week of setbacks and political missteps, was headed south to turn up the heat on Mondale and shore up his lead in once-Democratic Dixie. As Reagan set out for Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, he was expected to renew the more aggressive style he debuted late last week during a Trumanesque whistle-stop campaign trip through Western Ohio. Richard Wirthlin said the sharper attacks Reagan delivered on the campaign trail and new negative television commercials reflect a decision "to turn up the heat on Mr. Mondale, to make the contrast between his record and the President's and to focus more specifically on what we feel are the weaknesses of his program." (Norman Sandler, UPI)

HARRIS SURVEY

In the wake of his 62-27% victory in the first presidential debate, Walter Mondale has drawn to within 12 points of Ronald Reagan; Mondale trails by 54-42% among likely voters nationwide, according to the Harris survey. In the South, the President leads by 59-39%, the poll indicated. Outside the South, however, Reagan's lead is 53-44%. Among moderate voters, Reagan leads 53-45%, down from a 14-point edge in September. The union vote is going for Mondale, but only 52-44%. The white Catholic vote, which makes up 27% of the electorate, is going 51-46% for Reagan. In the eight key industrial states -- New York, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, New Jersey, Michigan and Massachusetts -- Mondale and Ferraro are behind 52-44%. The vote among those 50 and over gives Reagan a 51-46%. Among those under 50, the Reagan lead soars to 56-41%. The Reagan lead in inspiring confidence among the under-30 voters dropped from 66-29% in late September to 47-39% after the first debate. The black vote is going 90-7% for Mondale. Among Hispanic voters, Reagan seems to be doing extremely well. This vote went against the President in 1980 by 74-17%, but now it is going against him by a closer 55-41%. Men are for Reagan-Bush by 60-38%, while women are for the GOP ticket by 50-46%. (Lou Harris, Gannett)

MONDALE PUSHES ARMS RACE ISSUE IN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Walter Mondale has started to push the arms race issue to the fore in advance of the next debate. Mondale, in his weekly radio broadcast, urged Reagan to offer the Soviet Union a temporary halt in the testing of "Star Wars" space weapons. Reagan, in an interview with U.S. News and World Report, published shortly after Mondale's address, said he would be willing to consider a mutual moratorium on space weapons.

(Michael Battye, Reuter)

Mondale Calls 'Star Wars' Faulty and Expensive Hoax

Walter Mondale, saying that President Reagan's approach is "if there's a crucial fact, don't learn it," charged that the White House proposal for space weaponry is a hoax. In his broadcast, the Democratic nominee contended that the so-called "Star Wars" scheme "would not protect us. It would squander hundreds of millions of dollars." The candidate said he will campaign this week "on the most crucial issue in this election -- war and peace" as he prepares for the last debate amid a tide of reverse expectations. (Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A2)

Mondale Works to Keep Momentum Going

NORTH OAKS -- As super-charged Walter Mondale sought to maintain the burst of momentum he received from his first debate with President Reagan and set the stage for their final showdown. The Democratic nominee urged Americans in his radio address to watch the face off Sunday and to "choose a president who will keep us strong and use that strength for peace." Mondale told listeners that Reagan's defense policy can be described as: "If there's an agreement, oppose it. If there's a dangerous weapon, buy it. If there's a crucial fact, don't learn it." Today, Mondale was to visit a toxic waste dump site outside St. Louis to rip Reagan's environmental policies and to address a public forum at a high school. (Thomas Ferraro, UPI)

LOOK FOR FEWER STATISTICS, MORE RESPECT FROM REAGAN, SAY AIDES

Leaders of the President's campaign say things will be different Sunday when he faces Mondale in their next debate: Reagan will have fewer statistics and more respect for his opponent. For their part, the top officials for the Democratic campaign say Mondale will come out swinging for the encounter and ask "hard questions" of the President. The pre-debate predictions were made as James Johnson and Sen. Laxalt appeared on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley." Discussing the debate on CBS's "Face the Nation" were Robert Beckel and Ed Rollins. Rollins disagreed with Laxalt's assessment that Reagan had been over-prepared for the first debate. "...I think there may have been a little complacency on our part....It's been very hard to take the Mondale campaign very seriously. I think now we're taking him seriously," Rollins said. Rollins said that although Reagan "did an effective job" in the first debate, he "wasn't Ronald Reagan." (David Goeller, AP)

THE PROBLEM WAS REAGAN

To hear the President's advisers talk, the problem is preparation rather than the President. These advisers have more theories about what went wrong than the President does positions on Social Security. The keys to Reagan's character have always been competitiveness and optimism, qualities only occasionally evidenced in the Louisville debate. Can he get off the floor as he did the second time against Sen. Robert Kennedy in 1967? Can he deliver a coherent closing statement? My guess is that he can, but it is up to him rather than his staff. Although Reagan is 17 years older now, he still hates to lose. (Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

JACKSON'S SIGNAL ON MONDALE IS WEAK

The thrust of Jesse Jackson's speech is not an endorsement of Mondale but attacks, funny and sad, on President Reagan as stuttering and choking on the "sleaze rising" around the Administration and as taking away scholarships and school lunch programs even as he tells schools, "Let us pray." His relations with the Mondale campaign have been chilly to cordial, according to both sides. Nonetheless, Jackson is being a good soldier for the party while keeping himself in the national political picture. (Juan Williams, Washington Post, A3)

CAMPAIGN AIDES FEED FOREIGN POLICY DISPUTE

In what may be a preview of the foreign policy debate between President Reagan and Walter Mondale, their top campaign officials fueled the increasingly emotional debate over past U.S. involvement in Lebanon. James Johnson vowed the Democratic nominee will "have it out" with Reagan over Vice President Bush's charge that Mondale believes the servicemen killed in Beirut "died in shame." Appearing on "This Week with David Brinkley," Johnson tried to use the issue of embassy security to accuse Reagan of a "failure of leadership" in Lebanon specifically and in foreign affairs in general. Later in the program, Sen. Laxalt accused the Mondale camp of taking a "cheap shot" at Reagan on the issue of security in Beirut.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A4)

FERRARO SEES A BUSH PUT-DOWN

NEW YORK -- Geraldine Ferraro suggested that the recent string of derogatory comments about her from Vice President Bush, his wife and his press secretary is "a bit of a statement on my candidacy: Who am I to challenge this man?" During the program, Ferraro also said she remains opposed to the American invasion of Grenada and acknowledged that her position differs from that of Mondale. (Rick Atkinson, Washington Post, A4)

SOCIAL SECURITY BECOMES A LEADING ISSUE

The Social Security system has become a leading presidential campaign issue in a curious inverse bidding war as to which candidate will do the least to the program if elected. By pledging not to cut benefits in a program that now represents about one-fifth of the budget, the contestants have taken off the table one of the most important means of trimming the \$170B deficit that both insist they want to reduce.

(David Hoffman, Washington Post, A9)

OLDER AMERICANS' VOTES COURTED BY BOTH SIDES WHO SEE THEIR POWER

President Reagan has a slimmer margin of popularity among those 60 and older than he does among any age group, a worry for his campaign strategists because voting history shows that nearly double the percentage of people aged 55-74 will vote compared with those aged 18-29.

(Rita McWilliams, Washington Times, A1)

'GENDER GAP' TRIPS MONDALE CAMPAIGN

The "gender gap" continues to be the deadliest threat to the prospects of Walter Mondale. Mondale, though not necessarily perceived as effeminate, exacerbates the feminine-vs.-masculine perception by both his speaking style and his espousal of "feminine" issues over a long career as a "welfare Democrat." The President's strategists seem to be exploiting this opening. The Vice President's use of an earthy "Texas football expression" to describe his performance in the debate was surely a deliberate attempt to appeal to a robust, male familiarity with the gritty world of hard work and plain-spoken camaraderie. If so, Mondale's response couldn't have been better scripted by a Reagan strategist. For two days, he has demanded apologies. This Mondale performance, says one irritated Democrat, recalls the performance of Sargent Shriver in 1972, who went into a working man's bar in Cleveland and ordered drinks all around. When the men got their beer and rye and the cheers subsided, Shriver ordered a Dubonnet.

(Wesley Pruden, Washington Times, A1)

FUTURE OF REAGANISM TIED TO GOP ADVANCES ON THE HILL

Republicans view the 98th Congress, which ended a week late with a slapstick finish Friday, as a cantankerous time-out between the first two rosy years of Reaganism and the renewal of Reaganism that they expect to follow the election. "Unless Republicans gain strength in the Congress, the Reagan revolution is over," said Rep. Vander Jagt. House Republicans see this election as an opportunity to recapture the 26 seats they lost in 1982 and to return to the position they held in 1981.

(Thomas Brandt, Washington Times, A1)

Strategists on Both Sides Now See Fewer Gains for GOP in House

The revival of the Democratic presidential campaign after last Sunday's debate has apparently dimmed the prospects for major Republican gains in the House, according to strategists of both parties. By his strong performance in the televised contest, Mondale altered the dynamics of the congressional battle by energizing Democratic activists and forcing President Reagan to concentrate on his own race.

(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A1)

FERRARO HINTS SHE MAY SEEK PRESIDENCY IN '92

AMES, Iowa -- Geraldine Ferraro told those attending the Iowa Jefferson-Jackson Dinner she might see them in eight years for the Iowa State Caucus. She added that Vice President Bush's wholehearted embrace of the Reagan Administration's conservative philosophy may backfire if he seeks the presidency in 1988.

(Stephanie Nall, Washington Times, A2)

JUSTICE SEEKS INVESTIGATORS TO CHECK SITES
FOR POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING

The Justice Department has begun preliminary surveys that may result in dozens of federal teams fanning out to voting precincts to protect minorities from discrimination in the Nov. 6 election. Most of the covered jurisdictions are in the South, but they also are widely scattered. Whenever observers see evidence of racial discrimination, they report it to examiners or Justice Department lawyers, who, in turn, negotiate corrective action with the local election managers, Gerald Jones, chief of the Civil Rights Division's voting section, said.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A3)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jeremiah O'Leary's personal look at the President's whistle stop train tour, "Campaign Train Recalls Days of Yesteryear," appears on page A3 of The Washington Times.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

REBEL LEADERS ARRIVE IN EL SALVADOR FOR TALKS

COMALAPA, El Salvador -- This country's two most prominent leftist political leaders flew into a nearly deserted airport here today, returning for peace talks after more than four years of self-imposed exile. The rebels' arrival constituted a political victory for them, as they achieved their long-desired goal of holding talks with the government. But they had to depend on the good offices of the Red Cross, and on Duarte's guarantee of security, to return safely.

(Robert McCartney, Washington Post, A1)

Rebel Leader Holds Out Hope for Ceasefire in El Salvador

LA PALMA, El Salvador -- A leader of El Salvador's left-wing guerrilla movement has held out hopes of a ceasefire after today's unprecedented talks with Duarte. "We have said that a ceasefire is part of a process of negotiations," Ruben Zamora of the Revolutionary Democratic Front told reporters.

(Mark Baillie, Reuter)

Duarte and Rebels to Talk; Contadoras Meeting in Madrid

SAN SALVADOR -- President Duarte is scheduled to meet with rebel leaders and meanwhile, in Madrid, the foreign ministers of the Contadora countries are meeting in an effort to reconcile differences over the most recent Contadora plan. A subtle shift may occur among the Contadora nations themselves. Mexico and Colombia would like to see U.S. military power withdrawn from Central America, and the two perhaps are more concerned about this than about the Cuban military establishment in Nicaragua. Guatemala, according to diplomatic sources, was ready to accept the new document, which would recall U.S. trainers in El Salvador but do little or nothing about Nicaraguan arms aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas. Venezuela is probably closer to being truly neutral.

(Jay Malin, Washington Times, A5)

Pope Offers Church Official to Witness Talks

SAN SALVADOR -- San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Sanchez told reporters Pope John Paul II offered his representative in El Salvador as a witness at the talks and that he was "praying for the talks's success."

(Paul Belthran, UPI)

Stakes Are High as Duarte Meets with Guerrillas

The immediate question is, What happens after La Palma? Judging from past experience, another meeting may be decided upon, but procedural wrangling could prevent that second meeting from being set up.

(News Analysis by Roger Fontaine, Washington Times, A5)

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LATIN DIPLOMACY: U.S. INFLUENCE MAY BE LIMITED

A week of unusually intense diplomatic activity is beginning in Central America, and the Reagan Administration finds itself less capable of influencing the outcome than it would like, according to Administration officials and Latin American diplomats. The State Department has made a major effort to insure that a proposed regional peace treaty is revised to protect the perceived U.S. interests. But, with modification of the document beginning this week, some of the national that drafted it, including Mexico and Colombia, are not likely to endorse all the Administration objectives, the officials and diplomats say. In addition, the Administration will be watching with some anxiety as Duarte travels to La Palma for a planned meeting with guerrilla leaders.

(Philip Taubman, New York Times, A6)

LEFTISTS LOSE OPTIMISM ABOUT SOON PREVAILING IN CENTRAL AMERICA

SAN SALVADOR -- The left is slipping in Central America. Five years after the fall of Somoza kindled high expectations of regional revolution, leftists throughout the area are beginning to concede that their once-active advance has been stymied. The once-ascendant rebels now have agreed to sit down and talk with Duarte. Leftist leaders indicate that they increasingly see regional revolution as a distant dream. Part of the reason, says Sandinista comandante Monica Baltodano, is the U.S. response to her country's revolution, which she likens to the U.S. reaction to the Cuban revolution in 1959. Others cite different reasons, but they agree there is an impasse.

(Clifford Krauss, Wall Street Journal, A1)

NEGOTIATIONS ON VOTE COLLAPSE IN NICARAGUA

MANAGUA -- The last remaining hopes for a postponement of Nicaragua's Nov. 4 election and participation of the major opposition coalition in the vote disappeared this weekend as the government, the opposition and the principal outside mediator agreed there was no point in continuing the effort.

(John Lantigua, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. PLAYS CONTADORA CATCH-UP

Secretary Shultz worked hard last week to see the Contadora process will bear some Reagan Administration fingerprints. As Shultz said in a different context, "As soon as the possibilities start emerging, it's sort of the Jimmy Durante story: Everybody wants to get in on the act." Shultz spent much of his recent three-day swing through Central America trying to make sure that any final Contadora pact would contain elements the State Department wants. Among these are stiffer procedures for verifying treaty terms, a detailed timetable for foreign troops and advisers' withdrawal, and tightened requirements for democratic elections.

(News Analysis by Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A17)

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CIA SAID TO PRODUCE MANUAL FOR ANTI-SANDINISTAS

Intelligence officials say the CIA has produced a psychological warfare manual for Nicaraguan rebels that instructs them to hire professional criminals for "selective jobs." The manual also says some Government officials can be "neutralized" with the "selective use of violence." Elsewhere in the 90-page manual, written in Spanish, there are suggestions that the rebels create a "martyr" by arranging a violent demonstration that leads to the death of one of their supporters, and it tells how to coerce Nicaraguans into carrying out assignments against their will. The authenticity of the book and the CIA's role in its preparation were confirmed independently by American intelligence sources. A spokesman for the CIA declined to comment on the manual.

(New York Times, A7)

U.S., CUBA BREAK OFF TALKS ABOUT MARIFLITOS

PANAMA CITY -- The U.S. and Cuba have broken off negotiations on immigration matters, Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon has told The Washington Times. The development appears to have cooled relations again between the two countries after a period during which there were prospects of a slight warming. Alarcon said the talks were broken off because of "the (political) atmosphere...the international scene. We wanted them to continue." (Jay Mallin, Washington Times, A5)

GOVERNMENT HAS PLAN TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS

Federal authorities have drawn up a coordinated plan to help prevent terrorist attacks against U.S. targets in this country and abroad, Attorney General Smith says. Smith did not provide details of the plan, but he said, "The information we develop about terrorist groups within our borders often discloses their international connections. When we discover information that can be useful to authorities in other countries, we are quick to share it with them." Smith said federal authorities have been successful in combatting terrorism in the U.S., but the number of international incidents has grown. In the U.S., there was almost a 40% drop in terrorist incidents in 1983 (31 incidents, down from 51).

(Judi Hasson, UPI)

PERES SAYS CABINET WILL CONSIDER TROOP WITHDRAWAL SOON

TEL AVIV -- PM Peres says that within a month the Israeli cabinet will consider a plan for withdrawing troops from Lebanon. Peres returned amid reports Israel's inflation rate hit a one-month record of 25% in September. Israeli television and newspapers predicted inflation would reach an annual rate of 800% to 1,000%.

(Jeffrey Heller, UPI)

Official Says Progress Made On Israeli Withdrawal Talks

CAIRO -- Egyptian presidential adviser Osama El-Baz says significant progress has been made with U.S. help in talks on an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

(Wadie Kirolds, UPI)

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ISRAEL MAY ASK U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY FOR GREATER COOPERATION

TEL AVIV -- Secretary Weinberger arrives for two days of talks on Middle East problems and may receive a request for more American help in developing Israel's new jet fighter. Weinberger flies in from Cairo after talks with Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders. A senior European official said significant progress was made on a possible agreement between Israel, Syria and Lebanon on withdrawing Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. But a senior U.S. official travelling with Weinberger cautioned against speculation about an early accord. (Robert Gary, Reuter)

EGYPT URGES WARMER U.S. TIES TO JORDAN

CAIRO -- President Mubarak strongly urged Secretary Weinberger to visit Jordan, warning that the U.S. is damaging the chances for Middle East peace by leaving King Hussein out in the cold. Weinberger tentatively decided to visit Amman, partly in response to Mubarak's urging and partly as a sign of U.S. support for the king, according to knowledgeable officials. Mubarak, speaking with Weinberger in a private session with only two or three other officials present, said the U.S. should reconsider its refusal to sell Jordan many of the weapons systems it is seeking, including fighter jets and antiaircraft missiles. Egyptian leaders were not pleased with Weinberger's response that, while he understands the problem, the Administration is constrained by Congress and other factors, the officials said. (Fred Hiatt, Washington Post, A10)

Egypt Asks U.S. to Sell Weaponry to Jordan

CAIRO -- The Egyptians were believed eager to show King Hussein and other Arab leaders that Cairo's unique status as the only Arab country with relations both with Washington and Israel gives it a special role in promoting Arab causes. (Washington Times, A5)

Jordan Said to Seek Soviet Arms

King Hussein has informed U.S. officials that he expects to turn to the Soviet Union for arms later this year following unsuccessful efforts to arrange weapons purchases here. That prospect is said to concern U.S. diplomats who have tried unsuccessfully to help the Jordanians buy air defenses and other armaments from France, Britain or Austria following the collapse of an American deal last spring, according to U.S. officials. (Herbert Denton, Washington Post, A11)

SOVIETS UNLEASH NEW ANTI-U.S. ATTACKS

MOSCOW -- A Western diplomat says a new barrage of anti-U.S. criticism unleashed by Moscow shows the Soviets have no intention of softening their hard-line stance toward the U.S. "The recent offensive indicates that they want to bring home the point that their hard-line position has in no way changed despite some optimistic reports in the Western press," she said. (Louise Branson, UPI)

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TOP AIDE SAYS SOVIETS READY FOR ARMS TALKS

HELSINKI -- A top Soviet Politburo member said that his country was ready to negotiate with the U.S. on the "cardinal problems of our time" and singled out efforts to prevent the militarization of space as Moscow's first priority. In a speech marking the 40th anniversary of Finland's World War II armistice with the Soviet Union, Grigory Romanov, 61, accused the U.S. of "consciously wrecking" the Geneva talks on strategic and medium-range nuclear arms. Meanwhile, on the eve of his scheduled state visit to West Germany, Romanian President Ceausescu called for a freeze on the deployment of new U.S. and Soviet missiles in Europe and a resumption of arms control talks. (Washington Post, A11)

IRA BOMBING SPREE POSSIBLE, OFFICIAL WARNS

LONDON -- The head of Britain's anti-terrorist police unit warned the IRA could be planning a bomb and murder campaign in Britain following Friday's bombing of a Brighton hotel in which four people were killed and 32 injured. There were reports that Mrs. Thatcher was the primary target of the bombers and that intelligence warnings -- including some from the FBI -- clearly indicated an IRA bombing attack could have been expected. (Peter Arnold, Washington Times, A1)

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, October 14, 1984

AUTO WORKERS

ABC's Joe Spencer reports that the UAW and Ford reached a tentative agreement on a new contract, and UAW workers at GM appear to have voted final ratification of their new contract.

(ABC-Lead)

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Walter Mondale swung hard at President Reagan on defense policy again, and he borrowed a technique from the President's own speechwriters to do it. On Friday, Mr. Reagan had said Mondale's domestic policy could be summed up this way: If it's income, tax it. If it's revenue, spend it. If it's a budget, break it. And if it's a promise, make it. Today Mondale took up the meter and fired it back.

ABC's Brit Hume: Walter Mondale used his weekly radio address to begin arguing the case he will make all week and at next Sunday's foreign policy debate with President Reagan. It is that the world is caught in a deadly arms race, and Mr. Reagan has made it worse. (Mondale, in radio address: "Mr. Reagan's approach could be summarized this way: If there's an arms agreement, oppose it. If there's a dangerous weapon, buy it. If the Pentagon wants a blank check, sign it. If there's a crucial fact, don't learn it.") While today was devoted to looking ahead to next Sunday's debate, this has been a week spent basking in the afterglow of last Sunday's debate, an event that literally had members of the Mondale staff jumping for joy. (TV Coverage: Staff members jumping rope under aircraft wing. Cut to Mondale, in plane's door, peering down, then going inside.) Mondale himself, ever the dignified Norwegian, skipped that little celebration. But he joined right in as his political supporters found symbolic ways at stop after stop this week to commemorate the way they thought he had slugged it out with President Reagan last Sunday. (TV Coverage: Mondale being given boxing gloves at rally.) But it wasn't Mondale's staff or his political allies that gave his campaign such a lift this week, it was the crowd. There was a record turnout on Monday at New York's Columbus Day parade. Mondale said he got a bigger hand than Sofia Loren. In Pittsburgh Wednesday: the biggest crowd, it was said, in the history of Market Square. Another throng Thursday in Columbus, Ohio, and on Friday, in Madison, Wisconsin, joined by his running mate, fresh from her debate with George Bush, Mondale faced an estimated 25,000 people, by far the biggest turnout of the entire campaign. Mondale has responded to all this with his most spirited oratory of the year, perhaps the best of it built on the Will Rogers line he used to such effect on Mr. Reagan in the debate. (Mondale: "And he said, 'It's not what he doesn't know that bothers me. It what he knows for sure that just ain't so.'" (Another location) "He may think he can fool Democrats by riding on Harry Truman's railroad car, but it just ain't so." (Another location) "And, Mr. President, you may think for sure that you're going to win this election, but it just ain't so.") Nobody is calling Mondale a wimp now. But there's a difference between proving you're not a wimp and proving you are a winner, and Mondale now has just 21 days to do it. (ABC-6)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, October 14, 1984

Donaldson: Geraldine Ferraro said today she still doesn't believe the lives of American students on Grenada were in danger, even though Mondale, after receiving classified information on the subject, has said he thinks their lives may have been in danger. Asked whether Mondale had shared that information with her, Ms. Ferraro said she has never bothered to go find out, since the invasion is over and done with. (ABC-7)

Donaldson: It's foreign policy that Mondale and President Reagan will debate next Sunday. Both sides seem eager for the chance.

ABC's Dean Reynolds: It could be called the debate on the debate. Reagan and Mondale strategists on "This Week with David Brinkley" offering a preview of round two. Reagan-Bush general chairman Paul Laxalt said this time around, the President will sound less like a CPA and more like himself. (Laxalt: "I think the greatest thing we can do, and we will do this week believe me, is let Ronald Reagan be Ronald Reagan.") Mondale campaign chairman Jim Johnson said his man will ask the President to explain George Bush's charge that the Democrats think the Marines in Lebanon -- quote -- died in shame -- unquote. (Johnson: "Well, we're going to go into the debate next Sunday night and have it out, discuss it, confront the President with this charge, which is not true, and ask him for his explanation.") But Laxalt countered the Democrats are cheap shot-ing when they claim Presidential negligence invited the Beirut bombing. Not so, said Johnson, who insisted the episode shows Mr. Reagan's mastered the subjects he should have to be an effective leader. On CBS, the debate raged on. (Bob Beckel: "Walter Mondale has had the best week of his candidacy of all the weeks we've had.") But Reagan campaign director Ed Rollins tried to put the last few days in a Republican perspective. (Rollins: "I think this is the first week we really felt we were in a campaign.") So it appears about the only thing both sides agree on right now is who's ahead. (Johnson: "We show our -- running now 12, 13 points behind, but making up ground." Richard Wirthlin: "We're about where we were before the debate. We show about a 16-point lead today.") If the Republicans are correct, and Mr. Reagan lost no ground in spite of his lackluster Louisville performance, that only points up the pivotal nature of next week's encounter in Kansas City, a showdown for Walter Mondale that is impossible to overestimate. (ABC-8)

EL SALVADOR

Donaldson: Two of El Salvador's top rebel leaders flew back to that country today under a guarantee of safe passage, prepared to sit down tomorrow with El Salvador's president in the first such attempt to find a peaceful way out of the four-year-old civil war. It will be a historic meeting, and the Reagan Administration hopes a fruitful one.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, October 14, 1984

ABC's Anne Garrels reports Rueben Zamora and Guillermo Unga flew back to El Salvador from exile. Under the auspices of the International Red Cross, the guerrilla leaders headed for La Palma, where they will spend the night. Two guerrilla field commanders are expected to join them. Representing the government, President Duarte, the Minister of Defense and three other advisers will drive up tomorrow morning in unarmed cars without bodyguards. Officials admit the lack of security could turn this historic meeting into a nightmare. One of the most ruthless of the right-wing death squads has already contacted radio stations here, calling Duarte a traitor and threatening his life. The army hasn't been to La Palma for two months. But after Duarte's surprise invitation, the regional army commander made a big show of retaking La Palma. Not a shot was fired, and once the army left the guerrillas came right back. Both sides have agreed to withdraw seven miles from the meeting point, and by this morning most of the guerrillas had cleared out. The two sides which will meet in La Palma's church are still far apart. The guerrillas demand a coalition government. Duarte rejects this, saying the guerrillas must lay down their arms and take part in elections.

(ABC-3)

LEBANON

ABC's Bob Zelnick: A delighted Shimon Peres told an airport press conference that a week in which America demonstrated the seriousness and sincerity of its friendship included an understanding on Lebanon. (Peres: "I think we see eye-to-eye on how really to implement the necessary measures so to secure the northern part of Israel and enable our boys to come back home.") Top Peres aides told ABC News that, within about a month, the Prime Minister will announce plans to withdraw Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon's heavily populated western and central regions. But in the east, where Syrian forces control the Bekaa Valley, Israel will sit tight until Damascus agrees to let United Nations troops take up positions now held by Israel. Tomorrow, Secretary Weinberger arrives with what Israeli officials expect will be further good news, including more direct U.S. military aid, more American purchases of Israeli-made weapons, more opportunities for Israel to sell goods and services to U.S. troops based abroad, and permission for Israel to resell obsolete U.S. weapons to Third World customers. Help too, on this trip, for Israel's economy with President Reagan's announced safety net ensuring Israel will not run out of foreign currency needed to buy imports like oil, and a commitment of long-run help from Washington pointing Israel's economy toward the high-tech industry of the computer age. All along, Shimon Peres has said the timing of his trip reflected the urgency of Israel's economic needs rather than America's approaching presidential election. But when Israel does need help from Washington, campaign periods are not a bad time to shop for it.

(ABC-4)

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ABC -- THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY

Richard Wirthlin is interviewed by David Brinkley, Sam Donaldson and George Will, after a background report by John Martin, who says that at first the Reagan-Mondale debate seemed about even. But within three days, in all but the President's poll, more Americans believed Mr. Mondale had won than believed Mr. Reagan had. Magnified by newspapers and television, there it was. Mondale the winner. Right after the debate, an ABC News poll: Mondale by 39 to 38 percent. Three days later, an ABC News-Washington Post poll: Mondale 55 to 18 percent. More important: Mr. Mondale's favorable rating shot up 19 points. The spectacle of the Great Communicator losing a debate has created tension inside his camp. This morning, the President's men face a pressing issue: Win the second debate to make sure they preserve the Reagan Presidency for a second term.

On the age issue:

Wirthlin: I don't think age is going to be any more a factor in this election than it was in 1980. And it wasn't really much of a factor then. We feel that the campaign and the election is going to turn on leadership and on the judgment that most people hold as to which candidate can best deal with the problems facing the economy and the challenge of peace....Today, we're about where we were before the debate both in terms of the way the President's running and very close to where we were on the perceptions that people held before going into the debate....

Will: ...What do your polls show about the effect of the two vice presidential candidates, with specific reference to the gender issue?...

Wirthlin: Our polls show that George Bush won the debate. But I don't think it matters a great deal. A lot was written and said about the so-called gender gap earlier. (If men couldn't vote), Reagan would win and win by a margin, as a matter of fact, somewhat larger than he won by in 1980....

On New York:

Wirthlin: Our polls show that in the state of New York there has been some slippage. But our polls also show that in, for instance, states that Walter Mondale has to run well in, such as Massachusetts, that we're doing better today than we did just before the debate....We show about a 16-point lead today....

Brinkley: ...Suppose Mr. Reagan did -- shall I say -- poorly in the next debate....How would you assess the result of that?...

Wirthlin: I think the media makes more of debates in terms of their political impact than in fact the impact that's wielded....

On changes in advertising:

Wirthlin: There is a change in our advertising strategy, but that change was made before the debate. We did intend before the debate to turn up the heat on Mr. Mondale, to make the contrast between his record and the President's and to focus more specifically on what we feel are the weaknesses of his program. But those changes were made well before the debate ever occurred.

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (cont.)

Jim Johnson, Mondale-Ferraro campaign chairman, then talks with the panel.

On age:

Johnson: I don't think that's going to be an issue. We have so many other issues of great importance....We've got a lot of other issues on the table. I don't expect that age will emerge as the most significant one.

Will: ...Do you think that from your side that you ought to apologize for saying that Mr. Falwell says he will get to pick Supreme Court justices? I can't find where he said that and no one else can either.

Johnson: He has said repeatedly that they want to have an impact on the kind of justices -- and in one case said, "If Reagan wins, we will get two justices."...I think what they want is a litmus test for justices so that they accept the narrow views of the Republican Party. They take a litmus test on abortion and other questions and I don't think that's appropriate....

On Beirut:

Johnson: ...The point here is that Ronald Reagan had three opportunities in Beirut to do the job that's his and that is to provide adequate security for American personnel....That's a legitimate issue in this campaign. But that does not, in any way, suggest that those American men serving in Lebanon died in shame. They didn't....We're going to go into the debate next Sunday night and have it out. This is the kind of issue where I think implicitly they're challenging Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro on a basis that is not appropriate....What we want to do in this campaign is hold Ronald Reagan accountable for his failures of leadership in foreign policy, whether it's in arms control, in Central America or the Middle East. The fact of the matter is that he hasn't mastered this subject matter, he hasn't gotten personally involved and he hasn't made a difference for peace. Those are the issues in this campaign.

Donaldson: Would you release Mr. Mondale's complete physical examination along with the data that goes with it?

Johnson: We feel that it's the right of the American people to have full information on this kind of issue and if we have not provided everything that would be of interest and appropriate, we'll see that that's done.

Donaldson: Dick Wirthlin just said that his polls show that the President is back up to a 16-point gap....Do your polls dispute that?

Johnson: Yes, they do dispute that... We show our -- running now 12 to 13 points behind, but making up ground and I think we'll continue to make up ground.

Will: Well, 12 to 13 points then is well within the margin of error in most polling, so you're basically in agreement then with Mr. Wirthlin, are you not?

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (cont.)

Johnson: Nine is also within the margin of error of 12 or 13....

Sen. Paul Laxalt is interviewed.

Brinkley: Do you feel (Vice President Bush) was patronizing to (Ferraro)?

Laxalt: No, I don't think so, not any more than she patronized him from time to time in making pointed references to contradictions and misstatements that she felt that he made.

On the President's debate briefing:

Laxalt: ...Let me straighten the record out. I didn't intend to make the brutalization statement to in turn brutalize the White House staff. The fact is that I signed off on that procedure. I think, as it developed, the procedure was much too onerous and I must say also that Jim Baker and Dick Darman and Dave Stockman all worked within the guidelines of that process. Never did I intend that they be criticized. It was simply a process....The fact of the matter is it was much too intense, much too statistical and I think posed too much of a burden on the President, so that when he went into that debate in Louisville, his circuits were literally overloaded....I think the fact of the matter is -- and when you get into a debate of this kind, on the one hand you have Walter Mondale, who has been engaged in debates during most of the year. On the other hand, you have Ronald Reagan, who has not been in the debate mode....

Will: But there is an inference that's now been encouraged which is that the President has to be protected because he either doesn't have facts or you can easily overload his circuits with facts....

Laxalt: I know the inference is out there, I don't think it's fair. I think the greatest thing we can do, and we will do this week, believe me, is let Ronald Reagan be Ronald Reagan....

On the Bush comments:

Laxalt: I don't think anybody intended really to use that kind of language, but we all tend to get overly descriptive on the inside. I suspect that if you were privy to the councils on the other side that some of the observations concerning us wouldn't be all that charitable either.

On the next debate:

Laxalt: I would think that in foreign policy issues that he can deal in concepts in terms of what our policy should be with the alliance, arms control, Central America, Mideast -- he can deal with that conceptually. He's going to have to develop, if it arises, I think some statistical knowledge in terms of Prshing, cruise and all the other statistical elements that are involved in things like zero option....

Brinkley: Can we expect anything new in this field of foreign policy from the President on Sunday?

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (cont.)

Laxalt: I don't think so, no....

Donaldson: ...Walter Mondale (will be) challenging the President on this phrase about suggesting the Marines had died in shame....How will the President respond to that?

Laxalt: I don't know how it's going to arise. I would hope he would respond, and I'm speaking for Paul Laxalt now. I think the charges that have been leveled against the President have been cheap shots in connection with that whole Beirut security situation....I have no idea (how he'll respond). But he'll respond appropriately if it arises, I'm sure.

Roundtable discussion with Tom Wicker:

Will: ...It seems to me that Yale was the big loser in that debate because George Bush --

Brinkley: Talking about the ungrammatical sentences?

Will: Well, I'm talking about the fact that George Bush particularly has been in national life at fairly high levels for 15 or 20 years now, and his sentences don't parse. He hears all these questions for the 50th time, and he can't say anything memorably or well....(The debates) do not test the skills of governance.

Donaldson: But it tests the candidate's mind. Is there one there? Does it work?...I sort of agree with Paul Laxalt. I mean the fact that someone can or cannot spew out all the government numbers is not a test of leadership. But whether a person can reason. Whether a person has something to mind that's not just a 3 by 5 card, that's leadership.

Wicker: If you look back to all the presidential-level debates -- right back to Kennedy and Nixon in 1960 -- you'll find that nothing in those episodes has spread more misinformation, more false claims and more just outright mischaracterization of things than those debates have. Yet they're supposed to be for the information of the public.

###

CBS -- FACE THE NATION

Host Leslie Stahl reports that, since the Louisville debate, Mondale's crowds have gotten bigger and more enthusiastic, while Mr. Reagan has been thrown on the defensive about his age and his policy on Social Security.

Ed Rollins and Mondale campaign manager Bob Beckel join Stahl.

Beckel: ...Walter Mondale has had the best week of his candidacy of all the weeks we've had. He moved historical numbers in the polls, in fact....I don't think there's any question in this year, when you've seen the kind of volatile electorate we've seen, that yes, indeed, we can beat (the President).

Stahl: ...I was very surprised to see how defensive you all were this week....Why did you come off appearing as though you were so much on the ropes?

Rollins: I think this was the first week we really felt we were in a campaign. I think what Mr. Mondale did in the debate is he became a credible candidate....

Stahl: But why did you all come off almost as if you were panicking? It really did seem that way some of those days, with everybody backstabbing, excuses as to why the President hadn't done so well, blaming each other.

Rollins: I think anytime you don't do a first-rate performance, people start to question what may have happened in the course of the campaign. I think the President very clearly did an effective job, but wasn't Ronald Reagan....

Beckel: ...What happened to Ronald Reagan on Sunday night was that Ronald Reagan got off script, and him off script is like Babe Ruth without a bat....I think what you say Sunday night was the Ronald Reagan of 1984. He got off script, he got out of command, and he didn't do a very good job at all....

Rollins: Well, Bob, I'd expect you to say that, because you certainly hope it's off one night. Ronald Reagan has performed effectively for 45 months. The American public is not going to forget Walter Mondale....

On the briefing process:

Rollins: I don't really think that was the problem....As far as the briefing, we will do whatever the President needs to get himself briefed. You have to remember that Walter Mondale had 11 or 12 debates prior to this particular debate....

Stahl: Are you sorry you haven't let him have more press conferences?...

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FACE THE NATION (cont.)

Rollins: I think that's kind of a difficult story to tell. The President has done a lot of press interviews and a lot of things in the course of the year, so I --

Stahl: Ed, not so many. C'mon, Ed.

Rollins: One of the things I think you have to realize: When you look back over history, the incumbent president has never done as well as the challenger....The President may have got caught off -- a little bit off guard by Mondale's performance. But I think that there's no question the President himself will perform extremely well next time.

Stahl: ...Is Ronald Reagan too old? Is that his problem?

Beckel: Oh, I don't -- I'm not one to say whether RONald Reagan is too old or not too old. The question is whether you know what you're doing and whether you know where you want to take the country.

Stahl: Why don't you people want to address the age issue?...

Beckel: I don't think it's incumbent upon a campaign manager to talk about the opponent's age. I never worry about that. I want to talk about what the opponent has to say, and in Ronald Reagan's case, it's not much....He failed the other night and he failed miserably in the eyes of the American people. Now we want to see, what's this guy made of? That's the question. Has this guy got it together enough to take us four more years, and I think the American people are ready to say no to that.

Rollins: ...I think if you attempt to take one night and say that's leadership on the part of Mondale, you're kidding yourself. THis President has led this country effectively for 45 months. The American public has watched him do that, and that's why he has such high marks in the ratings.

Stahl: In the second debate, will Mondale turn the heat up...?

Beckel: I think Mondale's going to be Mondale, the Mondale you saw Sunday night....This one is a question that concerns the most fundamental issue of this campaign, and that's the question of nuclear weapons and war and peace, Ronald Reagan's greatest failing so far....

Rollins: ...I think the President himself were perform extremely well. We're certainly happy to respond to that question. I think what's going to happen in the next three weeks of the campaign, though, is Mr. Mondale, we're now going to basically step up our tactics. He's going to have to respond to why he's going to taxes \$84 billion, and why he's going to basically go back to the old policies.

On the Vice President's comments:

Rollins: Someone shoving a mike into a private conversation and picking up his comment the other day I don't think is necessarily reflective of George Bush or sexist comments....It's a sporting-type expression and I clearly don't think that it was meant as a sexist remark.

FACE THE NATION (cont.)

Beckel: If you're going to make tough comments like that, you ought to do it to somebody's face. George Bush reminded me the other day of the guy in the schoolyard who used to talk tough, but when the fight started, he'd be in the men's room, you know, someplace....It reminded exactly of Spiro Agnew. You know, when Nixon was failing in Vietnam, he sent Agnew out to take the heat and to throw the misstatements out. That's exactly what Bush did the other night. He went out and he misstated the Democratic policies, as usual for Republicans. And Ronald Reagan couldn't stand up to them himself, so he sent his Vice President out, and he did it in a mean and vicious way.

Rollins: You know, if you want to talk about distorting the record, you have been the ones that have distorted the record from day one. So, we're happy to let the American public make the decision on November 6.

Pollster Daniel Yankalovich is interviewed by Leslie Stahl.

Stahl: What is it about (the President) particularly that (the youth) are attracted to?

Yankalovich: A couple of things. One is, unlike young people of the earlier generation, these young people aren't so sure about jobs, about economic security. They don't take it for granted. And they see that economy is doing well, and they give him credit for that performance of the economy. So that's a big plus for him. There is an enormous concern I would say above all about the nuclear threat....

Stahl: Well, then, why are they in Ronald Reagan's camp?...

Yankalovich: Both of the candidates express concern about the nuclear. I think that the nuclear freeze is a way of not talking about the nuclear issue. I think it's become rather stale. It's not really a position. I think it's one of the things that doesn't work for Walter Mondale....

Stahl: ...You did say they are liberals (on the social issues)....

Yankalovich: On all the women's issues, help to poor, that full range of fairly traditional kind of social issues. Not on the new social issues of prayer in the school, that type of thing, or pornography, that doesn't really speak to them.

Stahl: What about older Americans?...They seem to be the group least in favor of Ronald Reagan.

Yankalovich: ...Old people are the least volatile. That's where you get the most traditional party allegiances -- 2 to 1 Democrat to Republican. So, for one thing, there are disproportionate numbers of Democrats among older people. That's where Walter Mondale's strength is greatest....

Stahl: Do senior citizens think that Ronald Reagan has hurt them?...

FACE THE NATION (cont.)

Yankalovich: ...Young people think that they're better off, older people don't think that they're better off to the same degree. So there you have the economic issue working in a very direct way....There isn't a prejudice against Ronald Reagan. They're simply somewhat more Democrat strength among older people....

Stahl: Does the gender gap apply among the young and among the old as it does in the population as a whole?

Yankalovich: It does. In fact, one of the reasons that Ronald Reagan is strong among young people is that young people, for some democratic reason, have more young men than young women....

Stahl: What about the age issue as it relates to RONald Reagan...?

Yankalovich: I think it depends critically on what happens in the foreign ~~policy debate~~. If he doesn't appear young and vigorous, it could be real trouble for him, because it has now opened up....His great strength is that sense that Americans have that he is in control. Now, to be in control, you have to be vigorous, you have to be with it. And if there's a sense a feeble, old man, then of course people would get very anxious and very nervous. They haven't yet, but of course it could hurt him.

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NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

Correspondents: Marvin Kalb, Roger Mudd

Guest: Geraldine Ferraro

On the age issue:

Ferraro: I think that's up to the American people to decide....I think what they want to know is whether or not the President really does grasp the subjects, and whether or not he is leading this nation in the right direction with his policies. I think those are the issues....I mean, whether or not he grasps what arms control is and what it means to this nation and our security, that's the question that I have.

Mudd: ...America saw a Ronald Reagan (in the debate that) they weren't prepared for. Now, my question is, do you think that age is now or his competence is now a legitimate issue that you can talk about?

Ferraro: You're not going to push me to answer that, Roger. What I'm saying is that quite frankly I think that if you take a look at where he's been on the issues, and take a look at how he has dealt with them, you can determine that for yourself -- whether or not a person has a grasp of the issues....

Mudd: ...You said you thought the stakes for George Bush would be higher Thursday night, and you said that because you thought it might affect his chances and his prospects in 1988. What effect do you think the debate had on George Bush for 1988?

Ferraro: I think his total support of the President is going to be a bothersome thing for him in 1988. He embraced wholeheartedly the whole right wing philosophy that has driven this Administration over the past four years, and that is part of their platform. I think he's going to have a problem with that in 1988....

On Israel:

Ferraro: I would support whatever Israel needed in order to make sure that it was able to defend itself and continue its ability to maintain its security....I think the Israelis and the United States should push for -- along with their Arab neighbors there -- for the completion of the Camp David process with reference to the West Bank, the Gaza. I think what the Reagan Administration did when they came out with the Reagan Plan, was attempt to push Israel into making a determination on the West Bank, and actually removing one of its negotiating tools. I don't think that was right....What the primary concern is is how do we get peace in that area, how do we get the Arab neighbors to recognize that Israel has a right to exist. I think that's our first focus.

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MEET THE PRESS (cont.)

On Northern Ireland:

Ferraro: I think what the Mondale-Ferraro administration would do is seek to work within the Irish forum with their -- right now they're attempting to negotiate a peaceful solution to that region, again, of the world....That's another place where a special envoy could be important. Again, this Administration has done absolutely nothing. It's walked away. In fact, if you take a look --

Kalb: You are proposing a special envoy for Ireland?

Ferraro: Let me suggest this -- Yeah, I think it's a good idea, someone to go in there and attempt to assist in negotiations. What's happened is -- currently is we have throughout the world 13 hotspots....This Administration has done virtually nothing to exert a little bit of influence in any of these regions....We've done nothing as a superpower to ward off the problems that are being faced throughout the world. I think we have to move in and start. Pick our places....

Mudd: Are you prepared, Ms. Ferraro, to accept as fact that the American college students on the island of Grenada were in danger, and that was justification for the invasion or rescue operation?

Ferraro: Well, Fritz Mondale and I do not agree about this. He is ready to because he has some information with reference to those students' lives that I do not have.

Mudd: He didn't share that with you?

Ferraro: Well, I never bothered to go and find out, because it is a fact that is completed. Let me suggest here --

Mudd: If they were in danger shouldn't you have found out?

Ferraro: Well, if they were in danger I would have, you know, and if it were a place where I would be making a decision I assume that I would have been privy to the information, as president or vice president. I was not privy to that information as a member of Congress. I came out against the invasion when it occurred. I have not gone further and pursued with --

Mudd: But he's left you hanging, hasn't he, Ms. Ferraro?

Ferraro: No, no, no, no, not at all, and that's not a fact. Let me say this, that for two years this Administration had had the government of Grenada attempting to come in and speak with our Administration. They were looking for help. They were looking for assistance. The Administration turned around and did nothing. All of a sudden in and invade....That's my problem with what went on. This Administration moves militarily first and then says, well, we were justified in doing it....The invasion is over. It's a fait accompli....Would I have done the same thing? No. I would have moved ahead and tried to speak with the government during those two years to see what could have been done, instead of moving in with force first. That should be our last resort, and Fritz and I both agree on that.

MEET THE PRESS (cont.)

Kalb: Why did you vote for the MX, which you say you don't like, in 1980, then voted against it in '81?

Ferraro: Because in 1980 there was a different basing mode for it. It was a basing mode that was survivable -- at least more survivable than the basing mode that President Reagan has suggested....

Kalb: So it's just the basing mode? You don't object to the missile itself?

Ferraro: ...The basing mode particularly bothers me because it is vulnerable....If it's vulnerable, why build it instead of something like that -- you know, the Midgetman is a much more survivable missile. And that's what we support.

Mudd: ...What do you think the effect has been on the Bush campaign of the repeated comments about you, most of which rhyme with witch?

Ferraro: Oh, I don't know....

Mudd: What's your opinion?

Ferraro: ...My reaction is that perhaps they're beginning to get a little worried when they see the polls moving. That's the type of thing that is occurring out of the Bush campaign or out of the Reagan campaign whenever we start seeing the movement in the polls which you referred to. The other thing I think it might be is a bit of a statement on, you know, my candidacy. Who am I to challenge this man?

###

AGRONSKY & CO.

Host: Martin Agronsky

Panelists: Carl Rowan, Maryann Means, Lawrence Barrett, Lou Cannon

Means: What happened in that debate is that the public saw a Ronald Reagan they had never seen before, and this will take some time to digest. At a minimum, what it did is shake out the sense that this is all pre-ordained and all settled in advance.

Barrett: ...I think Reagan has several things going for him that weren't changed by this debate and probably couldn't be changed. He's got peace. He's got prosperity. He's got a likeable personality....

Cannon: I think it raised not so much doubt about the outcome of the campaign as a doubt about Reagan. What is remarkable to me is that his approval rating has stayed where it was after a performance that was clearly so bad....

Barrett: He put aside the normal Reagan self-confidence. He was too defensive. He was in a disaster-avoidance mode. He wanted to rebut more than take initiative.

Cannon: ...It is going to sink between now and the 21st that he really lost that debate. One thing about Reagan -- the essential thing about him that's got him where he is -- he is a competitor. And I would make a fairly healthy bet, if I bet on politics, that you're going to see a very different Reagan no matter what the staff does....You're going to see a Reagan who is very combative and very much in control of his faculties....It's brought out into the open this undercurrent that isn't just age. It's the question: Is he up to the job? If he demonstrates that he is in the second debate, which I think he will, then I don't think this is going to matter very much....I've always felt that the question about Reagan was that -- does he know enough? I don't think he knows as much as an American president should know, particularly in the areas of arms control and foreign affairs. But ... I don't think that something has happened that makes this Reagan different....

Rowan: We have heard for years from people who know what the average American doesn't understand. This is a man who doesn't work very hard....

Barrett: ...What I think happened in there, whatever (Laxalt's) point was, was something different than the time or the homework. Stockman really did a heck of a good job of impersonating what they thought would be the mean Mondale that they never saw. He beat up on Reagan....He was down when he went into that debate. It's his fault that he was down....

Cannon: I think that he doesn't know enough to be able to solve the disputes between his arms control advisers, which is what worries me. He certainly knows enough about what he stands for, the principles that he believes in, to go in and do OK in the debate with Mondale.

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AGRONSKY & CO. (cont.)

On the vice presidential debate:

Rowan: ...But it was close enough to a standoff that I don't think it changed 100 votes.

Barrett: ...I think (Ferraro) came out somewhat ahead politically because she had to go further to establish her credentials.

Means: ...If something had gone terribly wrong, they had the potential to hurt their tickets, I think. But since they both did well, I think it's a wash and we go on from there.

Cannon: ...I think it meant more for Bush and the Republicans because -- one -- there was a definite loss of momentum after that Louisville debacle and I think Bush did break that. And the other thing was the expectations were very, very low for George Bush on the basis of Nashua....

###

McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Host: John McLaughlin

Panelists: Fred Barnes, Robert Novak, Jack Germond, Morton Kondracke

Barnes: I think Bush won. He was more animated. Ferraro was a little brittle. She was a little weak on foreign policy, and the fallout is that, whereas the Reagan campaign could be hemorrhaging, now it's just bleeding a little bit.

Novak: ...Bush was probably a marginal winner, but the effect of the debate is to carry on to the next presidential debate. It's meaningless otherwise.

Germond: I don't think the debate has any importance at all....I think this thing will be quickly forgotten....

Kondracke: ...Ferraro I thought was calm and controlled and steady, and Bush was rambling and frenetic and he overstated points and he accused her of saying that the Marines had died in shame in Beirut....I mean, he was out of control....That was no leadership performance....

McLaughlin: Who won the Ferraro-Bush debate?

Barnes, Novak, Germond, McLaughlin: Bush. Kondracke: Ferraro.

On the presidential debate:

Germond: ...There is no question that, beginning the morning after the Louisville debate, talking to people all around the country, Republican and Democrat alike, you were getting strong feedback on the question of the President's age. Whether the hesitations and the falterings were the sign of some kind of fatigue or slippage on his part....The immediate impact of this is to make the debate in Kansas City extremely important and to put Reagan under a great deal pressure....

Barnes: I thought his performance -- the President's -- was a disaster! Mondale was better than I've ever seen him at any time, anyplace, anywhere....

McLaughlin: What we see evidenced is a pack mentality at work. David Broder, on the day after the debate ..., said, unlike Nixon (in 1960)...., Reagan remained in command of himself and the situation throughout the evening. The next day, Broder reversed himself somewhat. He said that Reagan did very poorly with a pastiche, a compilation of useless facts in his conclusion.

Novak: I called it a debacle from the very beginning, which it was. Fred Barnes called it a disaster, which it was. Let me tell you something. The villain in this thing is not David Broder, it's David Stockman....Stockman is somebody who is interested in crunching Social Security instead of cutting taxes, and when the President comes out with that pain and deep root canal economics, he looks bad.

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McLAUGHLIN GROUP (cont.)

McLaughlin: ...How much is the age issue going to cost Ronald Reagan in percentage points in the November election?

Barnes, McLaughlin: Zero.

Novak: Maybe one or two points.

Kondracke: Four or five points.

Predictions:

Barnes: Walter Mondale will have another very strong performance in the second debate. But it won't be enough because Ronald Reagan will show up, speak well, appear a little bit younger than 73, wipe out the age factor and lock up the election.

Novak: Everybody on both sides agree the Republicans will keep the Senate in '84. The worry is '86, and the Republicans are already trying to find some good candidates. And, holy Moses, they have got Charlton Heston coming up in California to run against Sen. Alan Cranston.

Germond: The Republicans may give up on a seat in Connecticut next time that wasn't anticipated. Lowell Weicker is talking about running for governor of Connecticut.

Kondracke: As a means of trying to get the Soviet back to the negotiating table, the Reagan Administration will reverse course on the issue of selling oil and gas drilling equipment to the Soviets.

McLaughlin: The Republicans will lose two Senate seats, and the Republicans will not lose the Senate. But there are signs of some deterioration in some of these races. This has nothing, however, to do with the debate in which Ronald Reagan was involved.

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