

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: News Summary Office, White House:
News Summaries, 1981-1989

SERIES: II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,
1981-1989

Folder Title: 10/22/1984

Box: 376

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

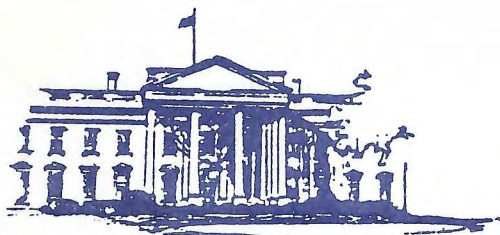
To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

DEBATE HEADLINES

THE K.C. DEBATE: WHO'S FIT TO LEAD? (Kansas City Times)
GIPPER SCORES A KNOCKDOWN ON FRITZ'S AGE (New York Post)
CANDIDATES DUEL OVER FOREIGN POLICY (Newark Star-Ledger)
DEFENSE IS BATTLEFIELD IN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (Atlanta Constitution)
TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG? AGE ISSUE SPARKS FINAL DEBATE (Chicago Sun-Times)
CANDIDATES SWAP JABS (San Diego Union)
DEBATE ELICITS TOUGH SHOTS (The Tennessean)
MONDALE DIDN'T GET THE KNOCKDOWN HE NEEDED (Minneapolis Star & Tribune)
I'M IN CHARGE, REAGAN INSISTS (Des Moines Register)
MONDALE MIXES UP MISSILE ISSUE (United Press International)
MONDALE STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP; REAGAN AIDES CONFIDENT (Associated Press)
REAGAN, MONDALE BOTH SEEM EFFECTIVE IN DEBATE (Reuter)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Sunday Evening)

DEBATE -- What Reagan and Mondale do in Kansas City may have a profound effect on what American voters do at the polls.

MIDDLE EAST -- The consensus view is that a stalemate in Middle East diplomacy awaits whichever man wins the U.S. election -- Reagan or Mondale.

CIA MANUAL -- Robert McFarlane said President Reagan will fire any official who had a part in preparing or approving the suddenly infamous CIA manual on terrorism.

CENTRAL AMERICA -- The images may be similar to Vietnam here, but the reality is different.

DEBATE NEWS.....A-2

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-20

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....A-22

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

DEBATE TV COVERAGE.....C-1

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

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

THE K.C. DEBATE: WHO'S FIT TO LEAD?
Each Uses Sharp Tone In Remarks
(Kansas City Times)

(Robert Unger, lead story) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale repeatedly challenged each other over who is best equipped to give the nation strong leadership. At the second debate...Mondale said a president must "not only be tough, but wise and smart." Reagan countered that Mondale had a "record of weakness...that is second to none" on national defense. The exchange, among the sharpest of the campaign, was triggered by Mondale's persistent assertions that Reagan is too ill-informed to direct American foreign policy....The President, prepared for such criticism, responded "It may come as a surprise to Mr. Mondale but I am in change." (Various photos of debaters, including shots with their wives.)

Messages Tailored To Undecided

(Analysis by Stephen Fehr, page A1) -- More than 80 million people watched the Presidential Debate on TV Sunday, but President Reagan and Walter Mondale were playing mainly to 15 million undecided voters. As election day nears, the debates make little difference in the minds of people who have already decided how they will vote. It is not debating points that count, but ballots, and the undecided voters hold the key to whether Mondale has a chance to unseat the popular president.

Also: The Kansas City Times ran numerous sidebars on the debate.

* * *

REAGAN: "HE HAS RECORD OF WEAKNESS"
MONDALE: "PRESIDENT IS OUT OF TOUCH"
(Boston Globe)

(Curtis Wilkie and David Nyhan) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale differed sharply in last night's debate on whether the United States should hand over Star Wars technology to the Soviet Union in an attempt to forestall a nuclear war. (Photos of each candidate)

Also: News analysis by Robert Healy titled: "No Stumbles, No Knockouts."

* * *

ROUND 2: A DUAL OVER PEACE
Arms Control, Role of CIA and Nicaragua Divide the Candidates
(Miami Herald)

(David Hess and Owen Ullman) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale clashed over nuclear arms, foreign policy and defense spending with Reagan accusing his rival of "a record of weakness second to none" and Mondale insisting the President has presided over an escalation of the arms race that is "madness." (Picture of the President, Walter Mondale and Edwin Newman.)

Also: News analysis titled: "No Rocky, Just Ron and Fritz."

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

DEBATE FOES CLASH OVER POLICY

(Photo of the President and Walter Mondale above reporters, captioned:
"Newsmen gather in Kansas City media center."
(Tampa Tribune)

(Steve Piacente) -- Sunday's second and final debate between President Reagan and Walter Mondale -- viewed by many as a wild card in the 1984 election -- saw Mondale repeatedly trying to convince America it needs new leadership because Reagan has "failed to master essential elements of arms control and foreign policy."

Also: News analysis by Knight-Ridder's Larry Eichel, "Mondale Arrived At His Goal, But It May Not Matter."

* * *

DEBATE FOCUS: LEADERSHIP, DEFENSE

(Photos of the two candidates)
(St. Petersburg Times)

(Michael Putzel, AP) -- Walter Mondale said Sunday night that President Reagan is an out of touch leader whose foreign policy has "humiliated the United States." Reagan retorted in the climactic debate that Mondale has a "record of weakness that is second to none" on national defense.

It Was A Gloves Off Confrontation With No Clear Winner At The Bell

(Analysis by Donald Rothberg, AP) -- The stakes couldn't have been higher almost from the opening question of the climactic debate Sunday night when Walter Mondale and President Reagan went after each other. But if Mondale needed a repeat victory like the one he scored in the debate on domestic issues two weeks ago to overtake the President in the remaining two weeks of the campaign, he didn't get it. This time there was no clear winner.

* * *

VIGOROUS REAGAN FIGHTS BACK

(New York Daily News)

A vigorous President Reagan defended his foreign policy against an earnest Walter Mondale and countered questions about his leadership by asserting, "I'm in charge."

* * *

STRENGTH, LEADERSHIP RECURRING THEME

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

(Wire services) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale staked out their positions on Central America, the Middle East and relations with the Soviet Union in their second and final debate.

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

DEFENSE IS BATTLEFIELD IN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
Leadership Issue Also Predominant
(Atlanta Constitution)

(Andrew Glass) -- The second and final debate of the 1984 presidential campaign Sunday saw President Reagan repeatedly seeking to portray himself as a sincere man of peace while Walter Mondale, the underdog Democratic challenger, persistently questioned Reagan's effectiveness in the White House and called for the nation to "move on" to new leadership. Stung by a widely perceived defeat in Louisville, Reagan sought to recoup by quipping at one point about his 73 years that he promised not to make Mondale's "youth and inexperience" an issue in the campaign. But Reagan seemed to tire toward the end of the 90 minute encounter and ran overtime in a summation that rambled at times.

Reagan Turns His Ship Around

(Analysis By Frederick Allen) -- Fittingly enough the first sea change in Sunday's presidential debate came with a mention of an admiral and it put President Reagan back in the lead. For the first 20 minutes of exchange, President Reagan echoed the tentative style that had plagued him two weeks ago.

* * *

TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG? AGE ISSUE SPARKS FINAL DEBATE
(Chicago Sun-Times)

(Jerome Watson and Basil Talbot) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale sharply questioned each others credentials for the presidency last night in a give-no-quarter debate in which the age issue was directly addressed.

* * *

TOE TO TOE AND FINAL FACE-OFF
REAGAN, MONDALE BOTH SCORE POINT II
(Photos of President and Mrs. Reagan and
Mr. and Mrs. Mondale on the jump page.)
(Chicago Tribune)

(Ray Coffey) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale battled to a draw in their debate Sunday with the President enhancing his re-election chances by seemingly disposing of the "age issue" that emerged after their first debate.

* * *

REAGAN, MONDALE MORE AGGRESSIVE
(Montgomery Advertiser)

(AP) -- Walter Mondale said Sunday night that President Reagan is an out of touch leader and his foreign policy has "humiliated" the United States. Reagan retorted in the climactic campaign debate that Mondale has a "record of weakness second to none" on national defense.

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

REAGAN MONDALE ASSAIL EACH OTHER ON FOREIGN POLICY
President Calls Democratic Rival Weak
Is Attacked On His Ability To Lead
(Los Angeles Times)

(Jack Nelson) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale repeatedly assailed each other on foreign policy issues in a heated debate Sunday night, with the President accusing his Democratic challenger of "weakness" and Mondale challenging Reagan's ability to lead the nation safely in a world threatened by nuclear holocaust.

Result Satisfies Reagan; Mondale Still Combative; Moods Vary in Aftermath

(George Skelton and Sarah Fritz) -- An obviously satisfied President Reagan flashed a broad grin and a thumbs-up victory salute as he left the debate stage Sunday night. But Walter Mondale departed in a combative mood, angrily denouncing the President in harsher terms than ever.

Mondale Scores But Seems To Fall Short
President Appears to Calm Fears About Age, Peace

(Robert Shogan) -- Poised and crisp in Sunday night's climactic presidential debate, Walter Mondale attacked President Reagan's record and his competence much as he did in their first confrontation two weeks ago, when the Democratic challenger sharply enhanced his public image and breathed new life into his faltering campaign.

* * *

CANDIDATES SWAP JABS
Sharp Flurries Dramatize Widely Different Views
(San Diego Union)

(George Condon, Copley News Service) -- The two presidential candidates engaged in foreign policy slugfest last night, with President Reagan portraying his challenger as weak and Walter Mondale insisting that the incumbent is dangerously ignorant on national security.

* * *

CANDIDATES DUAL OVER FOREIGN POLICY
President Cites Rival's "Record of Weakness"
Mondale Says Reagan Lacks "Command Ability"
(New Jersey Star Ledger)

(Combined wires) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale traded tough shots in their debate last night with Mondale questioning Reagan's command ability and the President saying Mondale has "a record of weakness."

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

REAGAN PARRIES MONDALE IN BLUNT SECOND DEBATE
(Arizona Republic)

(Local feature by Charles Thornton and Art Thomason) -- It was President Reagan a clear winner by two pitchers of beer in two Phoenix bars Sunday night, but two Arizona State University Professors who teach debating had different opinions about who won.

Also: Analysis by Knight-Ridder's Larry Eichel.

* * *

DEBATE ELICITS TOUGH SHOTS
(Line drawings of the candidates)
(The Tennessean)

AP story by Michael Putzel.

Main Event Lacks Knockout Punch, Mondale Rated Top In Second Debate, But...

(Analysis by John O'Hara and Ed Cromer) -- In a harder to call presidential debate last night, Ronald Reagan returned to disarming one-liners and broad brush strokes where Walter Mondale tried to nail the President on silly statements. In contrast to the first debate two weeks earlier, Reagan concentrated on offering his vision of America's future -- a vision of peace. And when Mondale painted U.S. policy in Lebanon as a diplomatic failure and questioned the seriousness of the President's tough talk on terrorism in the face of the bombing of U.S. installations, Reagan turned the criticism on its head.

* * *

CANDIDATES BATTLE OVER LEADERSHIP
(Raleigh News-Observer)

(Combined wires) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale battled through a debate Sunday night marked by pointed exchanges on foreign policy and Reagan's competence. (Photographs of candidates shaking hands.)

Also: News analysis by Knight-Ridder and reactions from Geraldine Ferraro, Vice President Bush and congressmen.

* * *

MONDALE DIDN'T GET THE KNOCKOUT HE NEEDED
(Minneapolis Star and Tribune)

(Analysis by Finley Lewis) -- President Reagan may still be heavily favored to win a second term, but if he does, his performance in the two debates with Walter Mondale will probably not be remembered as highpoints in his re-election campaign. (Photo of candidates at podiums)

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

REAGAN, MONDALE TRADE CRITICISM IN FINAL DEBATE
(Indianapolis Star)

(AP) -- Walter Mondale said Sunday night that President Reagan is an out-of-touch leader whose foreign policy has "humiliated" the U.S. Mr. Reagan retorted in the climatic campaign debate that Mondale had "a record of weakness that is second to none" on national defense. (Photographs)

(Analysis by Knight-Ridder's Larry Eichel, page 6) -- For 90 minutes in the final debate, from his first answer to his closing statement, Mondale sought to portray President Reagan as a man not in charge of his government, a politician lacking sufficient knowledge of essential facts to convert ideas into essential policy.

* * *

I'M IN CHARGE, REAGAN INSISTS
But Mondale Asserts He's Out Of Touch
Challenger Says Nation 'Humiliated' By Policies
(Des Moines Register)

Walter Mondale said Sunday night that President Reagan is an out-of-touch leader whose foreign policy has "humiliated" the U.S. Mr. Reagan retorted in the climatic campaign debate that Mondale had "a record of weakness that is second to none" on national defense. (Picture of Reagan/Mondale.)

Reagan Better Than Last Time, Iowans Agree

(David Yepson and James Healey, front page) -- Iowa politicians agree on one thing after Sunday's night debate: Ronald Reagan beat Ronald Reagan. As expected, Democrats said their man was the winner, and Republicans said Reagan was better than Mondale. But all agreed that Reagan was far better than he was in the first debate.

Also: Register reporter John Hyde did an analysis on: "Political Aides Work To Put Their 'Spins' On Debate Story."

* * *

LEADERSHIP AT HEART OF LAST DEBATE
(News Orleans Times-Picayune)

Walter Mondale said Sunday night that President Reagan is an out-of-touch leader whose foreign policy has "humiliated" the U.S. Mr. Reagan retorted in the climatic campaign debate that Mondale had "a record of weakness that is second to none" on national defense.

It All Depended On Your Party

Local reaction to the debate Sunday was predictably partisan with the Republicans rejoicing that President Reagan rebounded from his poor performance in the first debate, and Democrats celebrating Mondale's command of the issues.

Also: The News Orleans Times-Picayune ran a story entitled "Local Experts Rate The Debate," where five local high school debate coaches all said Mondale won on debating points.

* * *

NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE...

WEAKNESS, CHARGES SPARK FINAL DEBATE
(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

(Brent Larkin, lead story) -- In most debates, they count points. In presidential debates, they count votes. Last night, Mondale won the points, but President Reagan probably saved enough votes to maintain a lead over his rival. Still, the Reagan rebound from two weeks ago in Louisville was hardly dramatic. Minutes after the candidates walked off the stage...Mondale backers seized on one of the Presidential statements that will likely produced the most post-debate controversy....Reagan said he might be willing to share such a system with the Soviet Union.

After Debate, Some Older People Say Age Is An Issue

(Maxine Lynch, page A10) -- Some older citizens in Greater Cleveland who watched last night's debate said they were concerned about President Reagan's age and physical health. Most of the ten people randomly interviewed said Mondale won the debate because he was more precise and alert with his answers to questions than the President.

* * *

CANDIDATES CLASH ON FOREIGN POLICY AND CIA MANUAL
(New York Times)

(Steven Weisman) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale opened their debate on foreign policy and military issues with a sharp exchange over Central America....By contrast to the first debate, Reagan spoke vigorously and in a firm voice. And the former Vice President said he supported military assistance, economic aid and diplomatic efforts to resolve disputes in Central America. Reagan said the former Vice President seemed to be endorsing his own policies. (Photograph)

* * *

CANDIDATES DEBATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(Baltimore Sun)

(Ernest Furguson) -- The challenger sought from the start to put the President on the defensive. But in their debate, neither candidate showed much of the hesitation and uncertainty that characterized Reagan's first outing and caused many to rate him the loser that time....Before they were through, the two had explored vivid differences on arms control, space weapons, Iran, Lebanon and Central America and nearly every other international issue -- but neither of them mentioned the Grenada intervention. (Photographs of Reagan and Mondale)

President Didn't Stumble

(Analysis by Fred Barnes) -- The second debate had no loser, but it may have had one winner...The President was clearly better; in fact, he was almost as good as when he debated President Carter in 1980. By this measure, Reagan may have locked up the election with his performance as he rarely groped for words and often showed flashes of humor. Also: "Both Sides Claim Victory; Each Finds Others Faults."

* * *

MONDALE MET BY CHEERING SUPPORTERS
CALLS ON REAGAN TO ADMIT MISTAKE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- Walter Mondale told cheering supporters after the presidential debate Sunday night that President Reagan had blamed "somebody else" for American foreign policy setbacks. At a post-debate campaign rally, Mondale also identified the statement which he said during the debate that Reagan had made claiming that missiles launched from submarines could be recalled before hitting their targets. Mondale called on Reagan to admit he had made a mistake. "When a president makes a mistake -- even a serious one like this -- admit it," said Mondale. "Don't ask the American people to believe the unbelievable." During the debate, Reagan denied Mondale's assertion that he had made the statement on submarine-launched missiles, which Mondale said indicates a lack of knowledge by Reagan on a crucial subject.

PRESIDENT GIVES "THUMBS-UP" AFTER DEBATE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI-Helen Thomas) -- President Reagan gave a "thumbs-up" sign after his debate Sunday and White House aides quickly praised Reagan's "solid and effective" performance against Walter Mondale. They said his grasp of foreign affairs was clear and he came across "as a man of peace." Without saying anything, the president gave a "thumbs-up" sign after the debate was over and went directly to his hotel suite for a celebration with his family, leaving it to jubilant aides to proclaim victory. They lost no time in doing so. Reagan campaign manager Edward Rollins proclaimed the president "clearly won" and added, "There's no question that he had the facts and figures at his fingertips. He didn't take any of Mondale's crap."

"We are very pleased with the results," said White House chief of staff James Baker. "I think the president made it even clearer that once again America is prepared for peace."

"The president was on solid ground throughout the night," White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters. "He is clearly in command of the issues and spelled them out clearly and in certain terms." White House pollster Richard Wirthlin said Reagan showed "his humor and his ability to import a vision and strength."

National security adviser Robert McFarlane raved about his bosses' performance and charged Mondale had an "uncertain fundamental grasp on the issue of verification" of arms control agreements.

OPPONENTS SHAKE HANDS SMILING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale shook hands smiling and left the almost barren stage of the Municipal Auditorium following their final debate Sunday night. They will not meet again before one or the other is elected president Nov. 6. At the end, Mondale and Reagan came to the middle again -- Mondale making the first move -- shook hands and talked animatedly. Then they greeted the sponsor and the panelists. At the very end, the families of the two candidates swarmed on the stage. The president, who was met only by his wife Nancy at the first meeting, was engulfed by an expanded family -- son Ron and Ron's wife Doria and his daughter Maureen and her husband Dennis Revell. Similarly, Mondale was engulfed by his wife, Joan, and their children who also were present the first time two weeks ago.

-more-

PARTY LEADERS PLEASED WITH OWN CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON (UPI) Vice President George Bush declared Sunday President Reagan "wiped him up" but Walter Mondale's campaign manager said the Democratic challenger "clearly demonstrated he was in charge."

Republicans, relieved Reagan did not repeat his faltering performance of the Oct. 7 debate with Mondale, said the president proved he was in control. Democrats said Mondale showed himself in the Kansas City, Mo., confrontation as a man of peace and a strong leader.

"I think the world is right side up again," said Wisconsin Reagan-Bush co-chairman Don Taylor. Reagan "had sparkle in his eyes again."

In Santa Monica, Calif., Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said Mondale gave a "compelling presentation. There is no question it is still an uphill battle, but the movement is clearly in his (Mondale's) direction."

Speaking to cheering supporters at a downtown Washington hotel after the debate, Bush called Reagan the unqualified victor.

"Ronald Reagan wiped him up tonight," Bush declared. "He was in charge. The man was in total control."

But James Johnson, Mondale's campaign manager, told CBS Mondale "won because he was strong and effective throughout. ... He clearly demonstrated he was in charge. He raised serious questions about whether the president was in charge."

Other Republican voices agreed. Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said Reagan looked confident and at ease and Mondale looked stiff. Tower said Reagan's "knowledge is as detailed as it needs to be" about foreign affairs and contrasted him to Jimmy Carter, who "got bogged down in detail."

New York's Democratic governor, Mario Cuomo, said: "On the merits and issues, Walter Mondale was a clear winner. ... The most chilling moments in the debate came when President Reagan made it clear he still wants to extend nuclear weapons to the heavens, but Walter Mondale committed himself to reducing the threat of a nuclear holocaust."

MONDALE STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP, REAGAN AIDES CONFIDENT

An ABC poll of 695 people who watched the debate said that a narrow margin thought Reagan was the winner. The network reported that 39% called Reagan the winner, 36% said it was Mondale and 25% said there was no clear victor. The margin of error was 4.5%, which meant that statistically it was a virtual tie. Another poll taken for USA Today had a larger percentage calling Reagan the winner. The newspaper's poll of 850 registered voters had 44% saying Reagan won, 27% saying Mondale won and 21% saying they tied.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

REAGAN AND MONDALE SQUARE OFF IN THEIR SECOND DEBATE, CLASH OVER LEADERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY, ARMS CONTROL

Mr. Reagan stumbled badly in the beginning while replying to a question about Central America, but he rallied in the middle of the debate, only to stumble again in his closing remarks. Mr. Mondale, once again showing a stronger grasp of detail, tried to picture himself as a strong believer in national defense. The immediate reaction was that Mondale had put on another strong performance, but that in this debate Mr. Reagan had given a much better account of himself.

(James Perry and Robert Merry, Wall Street Journal, A64)

-more-

ENCOUNTER LEAVES REAGAN ON COURSE

The turn-around for Reagan in the debate -- and perhaps in the campaign -- came 30 minutes into the encounter when Henry Trewhitt asked the President bluntly if, at his age, he might lack the strength and stamina to see the nation through a lengthy international crisis. Reagan did not flinch. Instead, he did what he has done so often at crucial moments of his political career. He delivered the perfect rejoinder. Dismissing the notion that he could not stay in the White House situation room as long as he was needed, Reagan smiled and said, "I will not make age an issue. I will not exploit my opponent's youth and inexperience." There was a huge laugh, in which Mondale joined. But it may well have been that the biggest barrier to Reagan's reelection had been swept away in that moment.

(David Broder, Washington Post, A1)

PARTY LEADERS PRAISE THEIR MAN'S PERFORMANCE

Republicans claimed victory because President Reagan appeared decisive and had the "sparkle" back in his eyes again. Democrats declared Mondale the winner for his authoritative command of the issues. It was a showdown both sides claimed to win because neither candidate scored a knockout. Jumping on the offensive, Speaker O'Neill said, "Reagan was Reagan. Comfortably amiable but dangerously ignorant. We cannot afford an amiable, ignorant president at the nuclear trigger." Mondale did "exceedingly well," judged Sen. Kennedy, adding, "It would have been hard for Reagan to be as bad as he was in the first debate." Sen. Lugar said, "President Reagan looked sharp, obviously used humor to good effect and created an excellent momentum toward his reelection." Michael Wildasin, 34, a Richmond, Va., high school government and debate teacher, rated Mondale the victor on points but he said, "I guess Reagan won because he didn't fall asleep." Jesse Jackson claimed, "Reagan began to generalize and philosophize and play games with people's minds, and he was ineffective." Sen. Robert Byrd said, "Once again, after this debate, I know whose finger I want on the button -- Walter Mondale." Richard Wirthlin said "Mondale's bigger problem is the clock" because there is a little more than two weeks left.

(Paula Scwed, AP)

Jubilant Republicans said President Reagan scored strongly in the debate, while Democrats acknowledged he improved on his performance of two weeks ago but insisted that underdog Walter Mondale won on the issues. Rep. Ferraro issued a statement saying Mondale "left no doubt that he is the leader this country needs today. He is the leader most capable of guiding the United States into a safer future." John Dolan, who had criticized Reagan's performance two weeks ago, said he thought Reagan "did fairly well." Gov. Cuomo said Mondale was a "clear winner" on the "merits and issues...whenever confronted with a hard problem, President Reagan said he didn't know or wasn't responsible."

(Mike Silverman, AP)

FERRARO STATEMENT

NEW YORK (UPI) -- The statement issued Sunday night by Geraldine Ferraro in reaction to the Reagan-Mondale debate: "Tonight we witnessed in 90 minutes what Mr. Mondale and I have been saying for almost 90 days. This election presents the American people with the clearest choices in decades on the vital issue of arms control, on the conflict in Central America, on the troubled Middle East and on the failure of this administration to promote human rights..."

CHALLENGER FAILED TO WIN THE BIG ONE

Ronald Reagan "won" because he did what he set out to do, and Walter Mondale didn't. The President's chief task was to dispose of the "age" issue. He did it, brilliantly, with his answer to a panelist who asked whether "age" was a legitimate issue. "No," said the 73-year-old President, "I will not make age an issue in this campaign. I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience." Even Mondale joined in the laughter. Mondale's assignment for the evening was more difficult. Having failed to move much voter sentiment his way with a good performance in Louisville -- when the President was having a bad night -- the challenger had to get a knockout last night, or at least a technical knockout. He never found the opening he was looking for and his best retorts and sallies fell harmlessly.
(News Analysis by Wesley Pruden, Washington Times, A1)

REAGAN, BACK IN FORM, COMES OUT SWINGING

It was a different Ronald Reagan who took to the podium for the second debate. Gone was the halting delivery and the stammering attempts to rattle off statistics that made the Louisville debate probably the worst Reagan performance since "Bedtime for Bonzo." Instead, there was the Ronald Reagan of old, jabbing his opponent with quick one-liners and, when the opportunity presented itself, going all out with a right uppercut.
(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

REAGAN, MONDALE BOTH SEEN EFFECTIVE IN DEBATE

Most political analysts rated tonight's debate as a standoff. Most agree that in the long term Reagan could benefit most from a performance they saw as a vast improvement on his lackluster showing in the first debate. Reagan was given credit for what he did not do -- commit a major gaffe -- while Mondale was seen as failing to come up with a knock-out punch to close the gap. Reagan, who delivered a hesitant and rambling closing statement in the first debate, this time gave a more personal and lucid summation, although the moderator had to cut him off for running over time. Analysts noted it was Reagan, a former actor sometimes known as 'the great communicator,' who drew the laughs and seemed ore comfortable this time. Reagan seemed to dispel the issue of whether at 73 he is too old to serve another four-year term. Ironically, many analysts said the cameras had appeared to make the 56-year-old Mondale look old and weary.
(Reuter)

FINAL DEBATE: JUDGES CALL IT FOR MONDALE

Walter Mondale, hammering at the issue of presidential leadership, scored a wide victory over President Reagan in their final debate, a unanimous AP panel of debate experts said. The seven veteran collegiate and scholastic debate judges gave Mondale 187 points to Reagan's 168 out of a possible 210. The judges said that although Reagan improved his delivery over his performance in the first debate, he made a costly gaffe on Nicaragua and closed with a weak, rambling statement. Reagan's lowest marks were in evidence and organization. Mondale scored best in analysis and reasoning. The chairman of the panel, Dr. James Unger, director of the National Forensics Institute in Washington, called it a 26-25 Mondale victory. But Unger said that although Mondale may have won the debate battle, Reagan probably "reassured enough voters with his obvious vigor and competence to win the political war."
(Christopher Connell, AP)

But if Mondale needed a repeat of a victory like the one he scored two weeks ago, he didn't get it. An AP panel of judges scored Mondale the winner by an even more decisive margin than in the first Reagan-Mondale encounter, but people from both political camps agreed Mondale did not overshadow Reagan like he did the first time in ways likely to appeal to voters.
(Donald Rothberg, AP)

REAGAN CALLS MONDALE WEAK ON DEFENSE
MONDALE ASKS: "WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS MESS?"

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- President Reagan accused Walter Mondale in Sunday's final debate of having a record of weakness on defense "second to none," but Mondale slashed back with the question, "Who's in charge of this mess?" Mondale, struggling to overcome Reagan's substantial lead in the polls with just 17 days of campaigning to go, attacked sharply, repeatedly declaring the nation needs a president who is "in command," and asserting that Reagan "has failed to master the elements" needed to lead the nation. Reagan, refusing to back down, said the choice before voters Nov. 6 is whether they want "to return to the policies of weakness" of the Carter administration, when Mondale was vice president. In the first post-debate poll, ABC-TV said 39 percent polled thought Reagan won, 36 percent said Mondale, and 25 percent were undecided.

Walter Mondale said President Reagan is an out-of-touch leader whose foreign policy has "humiliated" the U.S. Reagan retorted in the climactic campaign debate that Mondale has a "record of weakness...that is second to none" on national defense. There was no obvious gaffe by either man. The Democratic challenger made no claim of victory at a campaign rally afterwards, but said the evening demonstrated that he, not Reagan, would be a "real commander in chief who would take charge." Vice President Bush said, "I think we just wrapped up four more years." Sen. Laxalt said, "...I think it was a draw and in that case it was a draw and in that case it was a Ronald Reagan victory. Mondale needed a knockout tonight and it was far from that."
(Michael Putzel, AP)

("Mess" continued)

Walter Mondale said the confrontation demonstrated the President is unwilling to take responsibility for his own policies in Lebanon and Central America. But Mondale stopped short of making any claims of victory. He took no questions from reporters, unlike after the first matchup. (Mike Shanahan, AP)

MONDALE CHALLENGED REAGAN AS LEADER IN NUCLEAR AGE

In their disagreement over the "walk in the woods" taken by Paul Nitze and Soviet negotiator Yuli Kvitsinsky in Geneva in June 1983, the candidates wrestled over who was responsible for the fact it did not produce a breakthrough. Reagan contended Moscow scuttled the idea, but Mondale charged it was withdrawn by the Administration, and that Nitze was reprimanded and Eugene Rostow, the arms control negotiator, fired. He quoted two arms control experts, Strobe Talbott and John Newhouse, to support his claims. But Rostow, reached by telephone, said "the President was entirely correct." Rostow said, "Mondale glibly relied on published accounts and swallowed the whole thing." (Barry Schweid, AP)

PRESIDENT MAKES MISSTEPS ON THE DETAILS OF MISSILES

President Reagan made some missteps about missiles. Responding to a charge by Mondale, Mr. Reagan denied he had ever said submarine-based missiles could be recalled after they have been fired. He explained in May, 1982: "Those that are carried in bombers, those that are carried in ships...can be recalled if there has been a miscalculation." The President may have misspoken himself in 1982, but his seeming assertion at that time that the U.S. can recall missiles isn't true, according to a former U.S. cabinet member who handled national security jobs in several administrations. The U.S. doesn't install certain in-flight guidance systems or self-abort devices for fear that the Soviets might learn how to activate them and cripple our missiles. (Wall Street Journal, A64)

MONDALE MIXES UP MISSILE ISSUE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- Under the pressure of the nationally televised debate Sunday night, Walter Mondale found himself mixed up on the very issue -- submarine-launched missiles -- that he claimed confused the president. During a long response -- his first chance at the microphone Sunday night -- Mondale attempted to repeat the charge contained in many of his campaign speeches and campaign ads, that President Reagan once said he thought nuclear missiles launched from submarines could be recalled. It did not come out that way.

"The bottom line of national strength is that the president must be in command," Mondale said, approaching the crucial words.

"When a president doesn't know that submarine missiles are recallable," Mondale went on, stating the reverse of what he wanted to say, that submarine missiles are not recallable -- exactly the error of which he has accused Reagan. Mondale did not correct himself and Reagan did not call Mondale on his slipup.

MISSILE RECALL

(AP) -- Did President Reagan once say missiles fired from submarines could be recalled, or didn't he?...White House aides made no effort to deny the President used those words, but they made a point of providing reporters in Kansas City with a transcript of what they said was an interview Reagan gave selected reporters at a breakfast last February 15: "We originally in the START talks thought that the most destabilizing weapons, the weapons that cause the most fear among people, are the ones in which you push a button and a half hour later the world blows up, and once the button is pushed, there's no retracting or taking back. We viewed bombs and missiles from submarines as being less destabilizing because they were carried by a conventional weapon, you might say, in which not only could they be called back, but people have a concept from previous wars that those carriers, launchers, planes, submarines, can be intercepted and destroyed."

REAGAN, MONDALE CLASH ON 'STAR WARS'

President Reagan painted Walter Mondale as soft on a strong national defense and Mondale tried to depict Mr. Reagan as having no arms control policy as they clashed in the final debate. Mondale objected strenuously to the President's suggestion that space weaponry could be shared with the Russians and asserted the Administration's plans in this area would lead to a new destabilization of the arms race. There were no major gaffes. (Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A1)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale clashed in their foreign policy debate Sunday night over proposed nuclear weapons in space and arms on earth. Reagan outlined his plan for sharing American "Star Wars" technology with the Soviets, if it was found to be workable, and if the Soviets also would agree to other nuclear arms reductions. Mondale said he would not make such a deal and that the whole "Star Wars" concept was unworkable, expensive and dangerous. Mondale repeatedly attacked the President for lacking the detailed knowledge -- "the smarts" -- to steer arms control negotiations, but Reagan disputed Mondale's contention that he said submarine-launched missiles could be recalled after firing. Reagan said that was "absolutely false," that he had been misquoted and what he really said was that the submarines and bombers could be called back, not the nuclear missiles they carry.

REAGAN'S LATIN POLICY ASSAILED BY MONDALE IN SECOND DEBATE

KANSAS CITY -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale took the gloves off in a battle over foreign policy, with Mondale calling the President's handling of Central American policy an "embarrassment" and Reagan denying he once said nuclear missiles could be recalled after launch. Mondale charged Reagan had allowed the U.S. to be embarrassed by a CIA primer that suggested the use of hired assassins by guerrillas fighting the Sandinista government and that suggested Sandinista officials be "neutralized." Reagan blamed the affair on some pages in the manual that were not excised by the CIA. The President also responded to Mondale's charge that he once thought submarine-launched missiles could be recalled. "I never said any such thing," he said. (David Hoffman, Washington Post, A1)

(Latin America continued)

(UPI) -- Walter Mondale rejected the Reagan administration's covert war against Nicaragua in Sunday night's debate but endorsed a military tactic that could lead to a naval quarantine. Mondale and President Reagan joined in embracing liberal political goals in the Central America during their encounter, but the Democratic challenger said a covert war against Nicaragua was not the way to go.

CIA BOOKLET

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- President Reagan pledged Sunday night to fire whoever in the CIA was responsible for a "how-to" booklet on political assassinations for U.S.-backed rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government. He also insisted during his debate with Democratic challenger Walter Mondale that the booklet discussing how to "neutralize" political figures is not comparable to state-supported terrorism.

SOVIET RELATIONS

Asked about his past harshly worded denunciations of the Soviet Union, Reagan said, "I retract nothing." But he said the U.S. does not seek military superiority. "We simply are going to provide a deterrent," he said. Mondale, who smiled wryly at Reagan's remarks, agreed the Russians were a dangerous adversary, but said the President had produced no progress on arms control. "There will be no unilateral disarmament" under a Mondale administration, he said.
(AP)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(UPI) -- President Reagan Sunday said the national debt "has nothing to do" with illegal immigration, rejecting challenger Walter Mondale's debate claim that the debt raises interest rates and spreads Latin American poverty. Explaining why legislation restricting illegal immigration fell short of the kind of comprehensive solution he felt necessary, Mondale told the national broadcast audience, "a permanent fundamental answer" must be based on changes in "America's economic and trade policies."

(UPI) -- President Reagan and Democratic challenger Walter Mondale clashed Sunday night over a foreign policy with domestic implications -- imposing sanctions on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. Mondale said he opposed one of the most controversial provisions of the so-called Simpson-Mazzoli bill that requires employers to determine citizenship of workers before they are hired. Reagan said he supported the immigration reform bill that included amnesty and employer sanctions, but the House added provisions that weakened the bill.

ISRAEL, GRENADA LEFT OUT OF DEBATE

(UPI) -- Two major topics did not come up in the questioning -- the U.S. relationship with Israel, where Reagan and Mondale have tried to express strong support for the Jewish state, and the invasion of Grenada, which Reagan has trumpeted as a victory for democracy and Mondale has conceded perhaps was necessary to protect American students.

PHILIPPINES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- President Reagan said Sunday the overthrow of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos probably would result in a new government that is hostile to the United States. Reagan said U.S. policy should be to remain friends with the Philippine government "and help them right the wrongs we see, rather than throwing them to the wolves and then facing a communist power in the Pacific."

VOTERS SAY THEY'RE NOT SWAYED

(UPI)The second debate between President Reagan and Walter Mondale appeared to do little to sway the opinions of voters who watched the broadcast. For the most part, Mondale supporters stayed with Mondale and Reagan boosters remained with Reagan. An unscientific sample of voter reaction, taken in United Press International interviews around the country just after the debate Sunday night, showed voters viewed the contest mostly as a tie, with a slight edge to Mondale.

Margel Kaufman, a Democrat, and her Republican husband, Stephen, watched the debate together in their San Francisco home. Both concluded Mondale won. Mrs. Kaufman said the verdict shored up her intention to vote for Mondale, but Mr. Kaufman said he is still undecided, as he was before the debate, although he is "surprised Reagan still cannot clearly articulate what he is going to do about things in the future."

Mark Battiste, 33, Indianapolis, predicted Reagan would win the debate and stuck with that assessment afterward. "I think he's a lot wittier," Battiste said of the president. "He's a much better speaker. He definitely did not lose on many of the issues they were talking about."

Esther Gillman, a 30-year-old commercial photographer from St. Paul, Minn., who said she "leaned" toward Mondale before the debate, was still undecided. The confrontation, which she called "a draw," did not help her make up her mind. She added, however, that Reagan, "compared to the last debate, came off much better."

Josephine Doyle, 46, of Arlington Heights, Ill., a Reagan supporter before the debate, said "Mondale showed more strength than I always thought (he had) before, But it didn't change my mind."

Scott Reagan, of Trenton, N.J., is no relation to the president, but was a Reagan supporter before the debate and said he still is. Reagan, 29, said the president was "sharper" in the second debate than the first.

Paul Kirk, 22, a senior at Temple University is a registered Republican, but he planned to vote for Mondale in November before the debate and the dialogue reinforced that decision.

BEIRUT/LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale clashed Sunday over presidential responsibility in the terrorist bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut a year ago and Reagan posed the possibility of a retaliatory strike against terrorists. The Democratic candidate charged in a nationally televised debate with Reagan that "none of the steps that should have been taken were taken" in safeguarding the building from a terrorist strike although the Joint Chiefs of Staff urged the president five days before the attack to get U.S. troops out of the barracks.

(Beirut/Responsibility continued)

ATLANTIC, Iowa -- Six years ago, Letha Kimm, a 67-year-old widow, lost her son Clarence in Vietnam. Last year, she lost another son, Edward; he was among the 241 Marines killed in the October 1983 Beirut bombing. But most of those interviewed after the debate generally supported President Reagan, downplaying Mondale's attempts to blame him for the Marines' deaths. Kimm said Mondale didn't prove the President's lack of leadership, even with charges that Reagan failed to act when intelligence showed the barracks in which her son was killed would be the likely target of a terrorist bombing. "Reagan has been a pretty good leader," she said. But agreement with Reagan wasn't unanimous. James Such Sr. of Lompoc, Calif., father of Navy Lt. James Such Jr., a 29-year-old Annapolis graduate killed in Beirut, said Reagan "still didn't explain why he didn't accept and act upon the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff" that the Marines in Beirut were in an indefensible position. (Gannett)

KANSAS CITY OUTSHINED BY LOUISVILLE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale exchanged a lot of sharp punches in their final debate Sunday, but it was not the grand championship bout of the 1984 presidential race. Instead, the voters were treated to an often dull, wandering event that probably left many television viewers wishing the start of the Dallas-New Orleans football game had not been delayed until the debate was over.

"ARMAGEDDON THEOLOGY"

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan acknowledged Sunday he is philosophically interested in "Armageddon theology" but said that does not include applying such theories to U.S. military planning. Asked during Sunday night's debate with Walter Mondale to explain his stance on the highly controversial theology, Reagan said he has had "just some philosophical discussions with people who are interested in the same thing." But Reagan, in the debate, said: "But no one knows whether Armageddon, those prophecies, mean that Armageddon is a thousand years away or the day after tomorrow. So I have never seriously warned and said we must plan according to Armageddon."

MONDALE QUOTES GROUCHO MARX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) -- Walter Mondale brought up the name Marx during Sunday night's foreign policy debate with President Reagan, but he wasn't talking about Karl -- he quoted Groucho. Reagan had answered a question about the terrorist bombings against U.S. targets in Lebanon, saying the United States would retaliate against terrorists "only if we can put our finger on the people responsible and not endanger the lives of innocent civilians." In his rebuttal, Mondale paused and, quoting the comedian, said: "Groucho Marx said, 'Who do you believe? Me or your own eyes?' What we have in Lebanon is something that the American people have seen."

THE AGE ISSUE

(UPI) -- President Reagan jokingly turned the age issue to his advantage during his debate with Walter Mondale Sunday night, promising he would not exploit Mondale's "youth and inexperience" in the campaign. "And I want you to know that also I will not make age an issue in this campaign," he said. "I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience," Reagan said to great laughter in the debate hall.

SUN CITY CENTER, Florida -- Ronald Reagan overcame the age issue in Sunday's debate, concluded a group of eight retirees in this community of neat houses, condominiums and palm-lined streets, as they watched the debate in the home of Julian and Ethel Grubbs. "He came across much better this time and he gained back what he had lost last time," said Ricky Martin, 66, who retired to Florida 18 years ago. But she said she still plans to vote for Mondale. Ethel Grubbs said she hoped Reagan's performance was good enough to eliminate the age question from the campaign. "I don't think it would be an issue," she said.
(Tom Schafer, Gannett)

PRINCETON, N.J. -- Students at Princeton University think Ronald Reagan put the issue of presidential age to sleep with his debate performance. Despite a closing statement slip-up that drew a burst of laughter when Reagan urged voters not to go for the policies "of the last four years," his youthful audience gave the President high marks for awareness and style. "It was certainly an important slip, and it'll probably be played to full hilt," said William Aron, a 22-year-old senior from Stamford, Conn. "But I think Reagan was much more on top of things than the last time. I think he really managed to turn it around."
(Lee Seglem, Gannett)

PRESIDENT RUNS OUT OF TIME ON CLOSING STATEMENT

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan ran out of time and was cut off during his closing statement just as he was about to launch an appeal to young Americans in Sunday's debate with Walter Mondale. "George Bush and I have criss-crossed the country and we've had in these past few months a wonderful experience," Reagan said as his time wound down. "We have met young America, we have met your sons and daughters." "Mr. President," interrupted moderator Edwin Newman, "I'm obliged to cut you off there, under the rules of the debate. I'm sorry."

"All right," Reagan responded.

There was a scattering of boos in the Kansas City debate hall, then Newman explained both sides had agreed to limit their summations to four minutes.

ERRORS

Style points aside, President Reagan stumbled into more factual errors than Mondale during Sunday's debate, according to two foreign policy experts. Viewing the debate with Gannett were Robert Pranger, Director of International Programs at the American Enterprise Institute, and Simon Serfaty, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.
(Richard Whitmark, Gannett)

-more-

NOT MUCH OF A DEBATE

(UPI-Arnold Swasilak) -- President Reagan and Walter Mondale came to the last debate with different intentions. Both accomplished their goals, but in the process did not have much of a debate. They clashed, it is true, over what Reagan said about submarine-based missiles, about who rejected a proposed intermediate range missile control agreement and over the potential value or dangers of "Star Wars" weapons. But for the most part they did not actually argue any central issue.

NATIONAL NEWS

HAS REAGAN LOST THE OLD FIRE?

The concern whispered by Reagan intimates is not that Reagan is richly endowed with secret plans but that he might not have any plans. In this view, the shadowy and unfocused character of the Reagan campaign is perfectly synchronized with the prospects for Reagan's governance during the next four years. Oh sure, Reagan still believes in he bromides and would push for tax simplification, a bipartisan idea whose time has come. He would submit a big defense budget, which even a Republican-controlled Senate is likely to trim, and he would call for domestic spending cuts and such marginal irrelevancies as the line-item veto. But those near the President find no sign he has the old fire in the belly that for the past two decades made him the most formidable figure in national politics.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

TWO MAJOR PAPERS PUBLISH FERRARO BACKGROUND PROBES

Geraldine Ferraro's campaign, already stung by a story about her parents' 1944 arrests, grappled with the impact of two new articles about past campaign funding and her husband's real estate dealings. Newsday reported that a man officially listed as an organized crime figure had raised nearly \$49,000 for the candidate's first congressional campaign six years ago. Newsday also said that John Zaccaro's family real estate firm had financed more than 90% of a business complex owned by a man who served eight months in jail in a labor racketeering case. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that Zaccaro had represented a reputed organized crime figure in the sale of two buildings in New York City's Little Italy. "We're confident that we can answer every point in those stories satisfactorily," Ferraro's chief spokesman, Francis O'Brien told Reuters.

(John Cotter, Reuter)

BELL-STOCKMAN SQUARE OFF ON SIGNING OF SCHOOL BILL

Secretary Bell has publicly declared war against any efforts by Budget Director Stockman to cut federal education spending in a second Reagan Administration. The first major battle of the war -- over a five-year \$6.3B omnibus education spending bill that President Reagan must decide to sign or veto by today -- is already under way, according to several senior Administration officials.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A2)

-more-

EQUAL ACCESS DEALS DILEMMA TO REAGAN

When Congress voted earlier this month to extend the Equal Access to Justice Act, it handed President Reagan a bit of a dilemma. If the President signs the measure, it could undermine efforts by OMB to limit the size of attorney fee awards when plaintiffs sue the government under certain laws. But a veto could be interpreted as a blow to the "little guy;" in particular, it would upset the small business community, which sees the law as a much-needed protection against overzealous government agencies. Frank Swain, chief advocacy counsel of the Small Business Administration, said he would recommend the bill be signed. "There are some people in the Administration who are not pleased by some of the changes," he said, "but it's a good bill for small business, and the inconvenience to the government is minor, at best."
(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A19)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CIA WORK ON MANUAL DISCOUNTED

NSC Adviser Robert McFarlane said that any Reagan Administration official found to be involved with a CIA primer on guerrilla warfare in Nicaragua would be fired. But McFarlane, appearing on "This Week with David Brinkley," also said that no Reagan Administration official had been linked with the document,. He said the evidence now suggests it was solely the work of Nicaraguan rebels and a CIA contract employee without the knowledge of American officials.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A1)

DESPITE PROBLEMS, MANY SUPPORT SANDINISTAS

MANAGUA -- Although popular support for the Sandinistas has dropped markedly during the past year, a core of Sandinista militants and thousands of Nicaraguans participating in and benefiting from the revolution have remained committed to transformation of the country whatever the price. The Reagan Administration has characterized this as a classic march into Cuban-style Marxist-Lenninist dictatorship. Viewed on the scene, however, "the process," as the Sandinistas call it, has resembled more a kaleidoscopic mixture of Marxism, nationalism, Latin bravura, youthful zest and social reform, with shifting social patterns depending on which faction of the nine-member Directorate has prevailed on the problem in view.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A1)

NICARAGUAN ELECTION LOSES SOME OF SHEEN

MANAGUA -- Sandinista officials and foreign diplomats have concluded that much of the democratic sheen Nicaragua hoped to beam to its supporters abroad has been lost during the bickering with would-be presidential candidate Arturo Cruz and his backers.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A16)

WITH ECONOMIC WOES DEEPENING, MANAGUA SEES
YEARS OF SHORTAGES

MANAGUA -- Nicaragua's troubles are continuing to mount, and government leaders are saying shortages and other hardships will continue for at least several more years. The Sandinistas charge the U.S. has played a major role in creating these economic difficulties by cutting off foreign aid, restricting purchases of Nicaraguan goods and opposing Nicaragua's loan applications at international lending agencies.

(Stephen Kinzer, New York Times, A1)

EL SALVADOR'S CONSERVATIVES CAUTIOUS IN REACTION TO TALKS WITH REBELS

SAN SALVADOR -- El Salvador's leading conservatives have reacted to Duarte's unprecedented meeting with rebel leaders with uncharacteristic moderation. To the surprise of even Duarte, the conservatives have not so much criticized the meeting as the fact they were not represented in the talks in La Palma. D'Aubuisson said he did not oppose national dialogue but did object to the fact that the La Palma talks were behind closed doors and involved only what he considered a "narrow" segment of the political spectrum.

(Loren Jenkins, Washington Post, A17)

'STAR WARS' PLAN LOST IN SPACE

Eighteen months after President Reagan announced his "Star Wars" initiative, the Administration remains so divided on its strategy and scope that the agency set up to run it plans to pay for outside help to define the program. One dispute is whether a first step should be to protect U.S. and allied nuclear missiles before moving toward the more difficult task of protecting civilian populations. Critics are arguing that protecting missiles first "forgets the President's goal," as one Pentagon consultant put it, because it makes missiles more important than people.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A8)

PROGRAM CALLED 'CORNUCOPIA' FOR CONTRACTORS

President Reagan's "Star Wars" program, with its \$24B research budget over the next five years, will be a "state-of-the-art cornucopia" for defense contractors, according to a brochure put out by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The society is planning to hold a one-day conference next month for contractors. "This conference will help both companies and engineering professionals learn how to get in on the ground floor," an invitation to the conference says.

(Walter Pincus, Washington Post, A8)

NUCLEAR SURVIVAL REPORT ASSAILED AS 'LUDICROUS'

A government study contends that factory workers might escape a nuclear holocaust by diving into a large pool of water while wearing "a much clothing as possible." The Federal Emergency Management Agency has rejected that contention as "ludicrous" and moved to cancel a \$174,000 study grant to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif.

(Washington Post, A5)

26 U.S. EMPLOYEES FLY FROM BEIRUT

BEIRUT -- Twenty-six American employees of the U.S. Embassy have left the country in the last two days in the face of continuing security threats, diplomatic sources said.

(John Kifner, New York Times, A1)

HANGING ON IN BEIRUT

BEIRUT -- Despite the bomb attacks, the kidnappings, the difficulties of everyday living, a hard core of Americans refuses to quit this beleaguered country. Their reasons for staying vary. Some remain out of a sense of commitment to projects under way, some for career opportunities, others out of habit or inertia.

(Bradley Graham, Washington Post, A1)

OPEC MINISTERS MEET TODAY ON PRICE CUTS

GENEVA, Switzerland (UPI) -- A group of OPEC oil ministers meeting today will focus on staving off a global price war -- a possibility because of price cuts last week by several oil producers, including cartel member Nigeria. The ministers' plan will be put to a full emergency conference of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries scheduled for Oct. 29.

DELLUMS ADVISER ON GRENADA TIED TO MARXIST RULER

Documents seized in the U.S. operation in Grenada reveal that an aide to Rep. Dellums was having a personal relationship with Grenada's Marxist prime minister in 1982 when she visited Grenada with Dellums and helped him write a glowing official report on his trip for the House Armed Services Committee.

(Lee Roderick, Washington Times, A1)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, October 21, 1984

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Round two of this year's great presidential debate is almost upon us. President Reagan and Walter Mondale tonight will stand behind the podiums here on the stage of the Music Hall in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium and answer questions on foreign policy and national defense. The principles arrived in Kansas City this afternoon professing to be ready.

ABC's Rita Flynn: (TV Coverage: The President departing from the White House) With a pep rally sendoff on the South Lawn, Ronald Reagan was on his way to a second debate that, if he doesn't win outright, he probably cannot afford to lose. Even though Walter Mondale emerged the victor last time, the President gave the clasp of hands as if he were the defending champ. (TV Coverage: The Reagans climbing off of Air Force One) By the time the Presidential party arrived in Kansas City, they'd already struck up the band and cued the crowd to welcome Mr. Reagan to town. (President: "Thank you. This is awful hard to leave. I don't think I can top it. I could just go back to Washington now. (Cheers) Okay, I won't. We'll be here.") Many of Mr. Reagan's campaign operatives began humming a familiar tune too. They said their guy is up for it tonight, confident and raring to go. But what if the President should take another dive? On that, most refused to speculate. (Lyn Nofzinger: "That's hypothetical. What if Walter Mondale falls over? You know, what if? What if the world comes to an end tomorrow. So, we assume the President is going to do very well, and we'll let it go at that.") The view was also advanced that tonight's event could have an impact on what's left of Mr. Reagan's re-election drive, but not a big impact. (Jim Lake: "Ronald Reagan will continue to enjoy the support of the American people after the debate tonight that he enjoys today.") At the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium, Mr. Reagan stopped briefly to size up the place where he is to face his Democratic challenger once again. This time the President's aides seem to be taking no chances on how their man might react in the event of another poor performance. They've scheduled tonight's Reagan victory rally before, instead of after, the debate. (ABC-Lead)

CBS's Morton Dean: What Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale do in Kansas City tonight may have a profound affect on what Americans voters do at the polls in November. For 90 minutes tonight, Reagan and Mondale will answer questions, defend their policies, and attack each other on foreign policy issues including national defense.

CBS's Susan Spencer: The signs are all over. Everyone's up for debate in Kansas City. The comics, certainly, have gone about as far as they can go. (Mark Russell: "Can you imagine a choice like that: Voodoo economics versus Norwegian charisma?") But as he pulled into Kansas City today, it was clear that Mondale has tried to replace Norwegian charisma with a new image, with his good showing in Louisville. Debate II gives him a chance to build on gains from the first debate, and he must if he's to start any long haul to an upset. The President, meanwhile, needs to erase doubts caused by his unexpected Louisville fumbles. (TV coverage: Mondale arriving in Kansas City; the Presidential departure

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING (continued)

Spencer (continued): from the South Lawn waving from Marine One.) (Tony Schwartz, media specialist: "This time, I think people expect more from Mondale than they expected last time, and if he doesn't deliver, he may come out the loser. I think he has more to lose this time, and Reagan has more to win.") The stage at Kansas City's art deco Municipal Auditorium is almost set. After days of wrangling, the White House finally dropped most of its request for changes in lighting and podium division, and Round 2 will be fought in virtually the same set as Round 1. If that thought unnerved Mr. Reagan, he certainly didn't show it when the crowds met him at the airport today. (President: "Thank you. This is awful hard to leave, and I don't think I can top it. Might as well just go back to Washington now." Crowd shouts. "Okay, I won't. We'll be here.") Debate-watchers expect Mondale to be more hard-hitting than he was in the last debate, specifically on Lebanon and Central America. The President's expected to be more thematic, emphasizing new American strength. Mondale was asked how he would deal with that. (Mondale: "Tonight is the night dedicated to discussing the most important issue of our time; that is, how do we have a foreign policy and a leader who leads us to a safer world.") That probably will mean that Mondale will try to call the President on specifics should Mr. Reagan start talking in generalities. But not everybody here in Kansas City will be listening. In the same auditorium, in a different part of the hall but at the same time the debate is going on, Merle Haggard will be in concert, and that's almost sold out.

Dean: The President's stamina is a not-so-hidden issue tonight, isn't it?

Spencer: Exactly. This is the same arrangement as it was in Louisville. There are no chairs. This is still a 90-minute debate, and as you may recall in Louisville, the President began having some of the problems he had toward the end of that time, so very definitely the endurance is something that people will be watching, certainly as much as substance.

Dean: Have some people in either camp been treating this event as if it were the election itself?

Spencer: Realistically, for Walter Mondale, it could very well be the election. On the other side, the President's men have sort of been putting out the word that this debate really doesn't matter -- but they've not been acting like that, though. (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Betsy Aaron: The self-proclaimed, but undisputed winner of the first presidential debate in Louisville arrived in Kansas City for the second and final round, having already declared, in typical Mondale understatement: I'm ready. The anything-but-normal Sunday began early in Washington with a sendoff from neighborhood well-wishers. Outside church, a description of tonight's debate. (Mondale: "It's not tactics, it's substance." Reporter: "What are you going to hit hardest on tonight?" Mondale: "Why don't you tune in?") At the airport in Washington, just one more chance to pose the foreign policy question he's been raising throughout the campaign. (Mondale: "The question is: Who's in charge? That's a point I've made for some time now. To be strong, you begin with a commander-in-chief who has mastered what he must know to lead and

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING (continued)

Aaron (continued): command, and I'm sure that'll be discussed tonight.") Candidate Mondale has surveyed the convention hall, tested the microphones, checked the camera angles -- all the preparations now behind him. During the past week, Mondale went through two mock one-hour debates, both videotaped. And he screened one other tape, a 1982 Ronald Reagan news conference in which the President declared that missiles, once fired, can be recalled. That's a statement Walter Mondale most probably will recall in some way at some time later this evening. (ABC-2)

Donaldson: Going into tonight's debate, a new ABC News poll indicates the race continues to narrow. Mr. Reagan leads Walter Mondale by 10 points, down from 12 points five days ago and 15 points immediately after their first debate. The narrowing seems to be primarily a result of changing sentiments among women voters, who are shifting toward Mondale. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3-and-a-half points. Whatever the exact numbers, tonight's debate is clearly of major importance to both men. Our senior political correspondent, Sander Vanocur, is down on the floor of this hall. Sandy, how will people look at this debate and decide who's won and who's lost? Which one can give us the most facts about arms control?

Vanocur: No, Sam, I don't think so. I think that the audience out there tonight will be looking at Ronald Reagan in a new way. I think, in Louisville, the myth or the mystique of the Great COMMunicator was dented, perhaps irreparably. So he's going to be judged on a different standard than he was there. He can't afford any mistakes -- not lapses of memory, not statements like missiles not being recalled. Mondale, on the other hand, has to do no better than he did in Louisville. If he tries to do anything better than that, he might go for overkill and gain sympathy for the President.

Donaldson: Paul Laxalt and others have said they are not going brutalize the President in preparation for this debate. And today Laxalt said that instead of six practice runthroughs, they only gave the President two, and it was more civilized, to use his word. So I suspect that they're not worried so much about whether Mr. Reagan has all the facts at hand, as to how he looks.

Vanocur: Exactly, Sam. Look, for four years, Ronald Reagan has restored something that was missing during the Carter administration. During Carter's period, the Americans felt impotence about the management of their affairs at home and abroad. He has given the image of a strong America. But his problem is -- and the polls will bear this out -- in foreign affairs he has been weakest throughout these four years, especially with women, especially on the issue of nuclear war and relations with the Soviets. So he's got to reinforce the idea that not just he's a strong leader, he's a potential peacemaker. (ABC-3)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING (continued)

ABC's Dennis Trout: The foreign policy debate got a head start today as Republican and Democratic strategists traded accusations. Former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford said on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" that the world is a more dangerous place than it was four years ago. Clifford and other Democrats claim the President is ignorant about foreign policy, especially the critical area of U.S.-Soviet affairs. (Clifford: "What I regret is that we've made absolutely no progress insofar as the Soviet Union is concerned. He has changed the pattern of the last six presidencies.") Reagan Administration officials argue that the President knows enough details about foreign policy and that relations between the superpowers are difficult because he insists upon approaching Moscow from a position of strength. (Robert McFarlane: "The President on the one hand believes that we can better deter and keep the peace by strength, economically, militarily and strong alliances.") Democrats insist that the Middle East has grown more dangerous the Reagan years and that the President must shoulder the blame for security lapses that led to hundreds of American deaths in three Beirut truck bombing. (Gov. Cuomo: "Now the President's defense is: I didn't know about it. I didn't know about Beirut. I didn't know about the security problem. Well, he blamed Carter for not knowing about Iran. You can't have it both ways." Sen. Laxalt: "Well, the terrorist activity is almost an uncontrollable. We know that.") In Central America, Administration officials claim they've done the right thing in choosing to confront Nicaragua. (Secretary Shultz: "I have seen the material that is available, and there just isn't any doubt whatever that the Salvadoran guerrillas are supplied from Nicaragua.") Democrats point to recent revelations about a CIA manual encouraging political assassination as yet another sign that in Central America and elsewhere this Administration's foreign policy is misguided at best.

(ABC-5)

MIDDLE EAST

Dean: There's no doubt that the candidates will fight their own battle of Beirut on that stage in Kansas City tonight. Some heavy shelling from Walter Mondale can be expected. We have a look at the Middle East as an issue now from Don McNeil in Jerusalem.

CBS's Don McNeil: (Mondale: "In the Middle East, there is no policy.") In fact, there is a policy, but is it working? Experts here point out that the last great American diplomatic achievement in the Middle East came under the Carter Administration with the Camp David agreement, and they wonder why Walter Mondale doesn't try to capitalize on that. President Reagan's initiative in September 1982 has been spurned by both Israel and the Arab states. (Mondale: "I will end the end the fiction that Jerusalem is not the capital of that good country.") A non-issue. A fraudulent issue. Those are Israeli comments on Walter Mondale's promise to move the American embassy here in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Only Costa Rica and El Salvador have embassies in Jerusalem and the Israelis know that violent Islamic reaction to an American move could bring a backlash in the United States, with the Israelis catching the blame. So the consensus here on moving the embassy is to cool it. Ironically, many Israelis agree with the way President Reagan has deferred the embassy issue. (Mondale: "He pressured Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, promising that Syria would

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING (continued)

McNeil (continued): follow. He treated Israel like an adversary.") The Israelis are, in fact, still sitting in Lebanon, and nobody in the unity government here feels Israel has been treated like an adversary. The Israelis have done pretty much what they've wanted to do in Lebanon, and have enough of their own politicians and generals to blame for what happened there. Instead of behaving like Israel's adversary, President Reagan hosted a warm visit to the White House by Prime Minister Peres less than a month before the election. (TV coverage: President and Prime Minister Peres in White House.) The President speeded up current aid and promised to help shore up in the future Israel's disintegrating economy. In fact, Israelis get more aid from the U.S. than any other country in the world -- the equivalent of \$3200 a year for each Israeli family. The consensus view here is that a stalemate in Middle East diplomacy awaits whichever man wins the election -- Reagan or Mondale. But there is also the widespread view that the most active of those two men will have the best chance of breaking that stalemate in the next four years. (CBS-2)

Donaldson: The leader of a Shi'ite Moslem fundamentalist group that claimed to engineer the Marine barracks bombing in Beirut a year ago has issued a new warning that American installations will be hit again. But a senior American official said today these warnings are still very general, that none has been issued so far against a specific target at a specific time. (ABC-7)

CIA MANUAL

Donaldson: President Reagan's national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, said today Mr. Reagan will fire any official who had a part in preparing or approving the suddenly infamous CIA manual advising Nicaraguan rebels on political assassination. McFarlane said the preliminary evidence suggests the responsible person was a subordinate official and certainly not CIA Director Casey. But Newsweek magazine reports today that, in August of 1983, key aides to Casey, U.N. Amb. Kirkpatrick and Defense Dept. officials met to discuss the need for a handbook on guerrilla warfare. In what specificity News week does not say. (ABC-4)

CENTRAL AMERICA

ABC's Peter Collins reports from El Salvador that, while the images and sounds there may be similar to those of Vietnam, the reality is different. No Americans are fighting there and the local army is getting the upper hand over the guerrillas. The improving picture will be tested. The guerrillas know they are losing. And before they sit down to talk seriously, it's expected they will launch all-out attacks to try to improve their position. Only then will we know whether the Salvadoran army is for real. (ABC-6)

ABC -- THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY

John Martin reports that the question under debate is whether early Reagan firmness, even hostility, and rearmament has pushed back the Soviets toward negotiations, or poisoned the chance for arms control and accelerated the arms race. (Democrat: "If you look around the world, at different parts of the world, the United States position is actually more dangerous and has been undermined over the last four years." Henry Kissinger: "I think it is absolute nonsense to say that the world situation is more dangerous than it was four years ago. Whatever the Soviet rhetoric may be, Soviet actions in the last four years have been extremely cautious.") Nobody is likely to resolve their doubts about the candidates' foreign policy overnight. But this has been a week of international signals on some of the issues, and if the candidates address these questions, what is said tonight in Kansas City will help many Americans make up their minds about what America's answers ought to be.

Clark Clifford is interviewed by David Brinkley, Sam Donaldson and George Will.

On the President's popularity:

Clifford: ...President Reagan very intelligently sensed the mood of the people in this country....Mr. Reagan came forward and, I think, did a splendid job in restoring morale in the country....I can pick out five or six other Republicans against whom (Mondale) would be doing exceedingly well. But it's very difficult I think for him to do well against Mr. Reagan, who I think has captured the imagination of the American people in that particular morale area.

On U.S.-Soviet Relations:

Clifford: ...(The President) came into office with this deep, bitter hostility toward the Soviet Union. It was almost as though he discovered that the Soviet Union was very difficult to get along with. They always have been....But every other president has made the effort....Everyplace we have a problem, he claims it's the Soviets. Every Soviet expert that I know says the relationship between the two nations is more dangerous today than it has ever been since the close of the Second World War, and I believe that.

Donaldson: Do actually fear that a Ronald Reagan re-elected could bring us to the threshold of a nuclear war?

Clifford: What I regret is that we've made absolutely no progress insofar as the Soviet Union is concerned. He has changed the pattern of the last six presidencies....He's had four years to try to deliver some results. He has not....

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane is then interviewed.
...On the CIA Guerrilla Manual:

McFarlane: I think the President has made clear that if there were U.S. officials involved in the development of this and approval of it, then they ought to be fired. I think the President will deal with this as he has with other issues in this domain: unequivocally, firmly, promptly.

-more-

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

Will: One of the themes that appears to be coming out of the President's campaigning of the last week is that Walter Mondale ... is a threat to the security of the United States. Do you believe that?

McFarlane: George, the President's directed that neither I nor Cap or George Shultz may comment on the politics of this campaign. Perhaps I can respond by saying that there have been two very different approaches to securing our interest in the past eight years. The President, on the one hand, believes that we can better deter and keep the peace by strength, economically, militarily and strong alliances. The other approach, as a record, people can examine. The President beleives that it was a record of substantially greater turmoil, greater Soviet expansionism and higher risks. SO the American people can judge not upon the rhetoric but based upon reality and the record.

Will: One of Walter Mondale's themes is that Ronald Reagan isn't in charge....Is he on top of the details of foreign policy?

McFarlane: I think that, from my own experience ..., that it's manifestly clear this President intends as his legacy, his stewardship of this country include reduction of nuclear arms. I think the portrayal of his personal dealings with the details of the systems and so forth are, first of all, distorted and not an accurate portrayal of his own grasp of these issues -- which is quite good. Having worked with the President, I can say that with some confidence. The point is that he has a clear strategy for what gets results in arms reduction talks and historically it has been an approach that deals from strength and from having something to bargain with.

Donaldson: ...I'd like to go back to this manual for the Contras. You say people will be fired. How high was the authorization for that manual?

McFarlane: Well, until the investigation is completed, Sam, I don't think we'll know who was responsible, if anyone --

Donaldson: If anyone?

McFarlane: For the --

Donaldson: I mean, someone is responsible for the manual.

McFarlane: Well, there doesn't seem to be any doubt that it exists. Who was responsible and were they U.S. officials or not, are the answers we're looking for, and that's what I referred to.

Donaldson: Well, the President said investigate it promptly. When will that investigation be ready?

McFarlane: I'm not able to say a given day or time, but I would think surely within a week or so.

Donaldson: Do you think it went as high as the Director of the CIA?

-more-

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

McFarlane: I have no basis for knowing.

Donaldson: But if it is that high, he'll be fired, is that it?

McFarlane: All of the evidence preliminarily is that this was a subordinate official and perhaps not even someone that was employed by the CIA. The point is, whoever was involved ought to be fired.

Donaldson: How specific are our warnings in Lebanon that another attack against a U.S. installation there may be attempted before the election?

McFarlane: We have warnings almost every day that a terrorist attack may occur somewhere in Lebanon. It's been that way for more than a year. And so, I think that since that pattern hasn't changed we have about the same probability that we had a week, two weeks, a month ago.

Donaldson: But we're reducing our embassy personnel, are we not?

McFarlane: Yes, we are.

Donaldson: And we're taking diplomats out, are we not?

McFarlane: Yes.

Donaldson: Why?

McFarlane: Those are prudent measures that are responsible to the level of threats we're getting. So it is a sensible thing to do. There will be other things that we will also do that I think will enhance our ability to deter these kinds of things.

Will: ...What's the worst thing the President's done in foreign policy in the last three years? Made any mistakes at all?

McFarlane: I think the foundation changed. Where four years ago, the Soviet Union saw a West in economic decline, alliances in disarray, military balance shifting dramatically in their direction --

Will: You're going to tell me that everything's gotten better. What would you like to do that you didn't do, or what has been left undone that you wish we'd done?

McFarlane: I think that agenda which remains for the next four years is a pretty exciting one, but I don't think it's a failure to say we haven't gotten there yet. A better community of nations in Asia....Trying to renew the economy of Europe, which is in decline somewhat still. Getting arms reductions, we'd like to do that. We haven't gotten quite what we'd like to have from the Congress in terms of preparedness and readiness. But this is not to say that to see change in safety and security of this country isn't well along, and it is.

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

Bob Beckel and Ed Rollins talk with the panel.

Brinkley: How crucial is tonight's debate?...

Beckel: It's clearly going to be one the biggest nights of this campaign....I think it's a moment probably more important to Ronald Reagan. He needs to win this debate tonight....

Rollins: I think it's a critical night for Mr. Mondale. The President has led this country effectively for 44 months. Mr. Mondale's had one good night so far in two years....

Donaldson: ...Are we going to see a President tonight who doesn't try to play to facts and figures, but simply plays to broad themes?

Rollins: I think the President is going to perform extremely well tonight....I think he's ready for the debate. I think he will perform extremely well....The President will respond to the question that are asked....

Beckel: I think you're going to see an aggressive Walter Mondale, like you did in Louisville. You can be an aggressive debater and not have to maul the other person....

Donaldson: ...Why didn't you put (the shame issue) aside, make some sort of apology or statement, so it wouldn't be the focus of tonight's debate?

Rollins: I think the Vice President feels that his statement was a correct statement, and that he is willing to defend it...A lot of this with the Bush comment is kind of inside baseball and really doesn't have a whole lot to do with Nov. 6.

Roundtable discussion with Mary Anne Dolan:

Brinkley: ...Is tonight's debate genuinely crucial?

Will: I don't think so. If the President did very poorly, and there's no reason to expect he will, then that might make it a slightly closer election....

Donaldson: It's crucial in only one sense. The expectation now is built around the senility factor, not where they stand on foreign policy or what they say. What Ronald Reagan says about things seems not to be a test of him, as far as the vast majority of the public is concerned. People will be watching tonight because of Louisville, to see whether the President stands up, makes sentences that make sense....and doesn't drool. And if he does that, then Mr. Mondale can win all the debating points he wants, and the President can misstate all the facts he wants, and the President will be perceived to have won, and Mondale won't have much of a chance as far as debate strength goes.

Dolan: I don't think it's crucial. This campaign really is pretty much over....

CBS -- FACE THE NATION

Host: Lesley Stahl. Guests: Sen. Paul Laxalt, Gov. Mario Cuomo.

Stahl: With just 16 days until the election, both campaigns have switched to foreign policy themes. (President: "He would jeopardize the security of this nation and we're not going to let him." Mondale: "Who's in charge? Who makes these decisions? Who protects America? This is now becoming a central issue in this campaign.") • As their rhetoric got hotter and hotter this week, so did some trouble spots for the President. More Americans died in the El Salvador civil war. The CIA manual on assassination raised doubts about the Administration's tactics in Central America. Both candidates have been warned to avoid statements tonight that might embarrass them later. Listen to Jimmy Carter during the 1976 debate. (Carter: "I would never single out food as a trade embargo item.") And here's Mr. Reagan in 1980, talking about Iran. (President: "We had adequate warning that there was a threat to our embassy, and we could have done what other embassies did -- either strengthen our security there or remove our personnel.") Can foreign events affect the outcome of Presidential elections? History shows that the Korean War helped Eisenhower in 1952. Viet Nam made a difference in '68 and '72, and as a matter of how important Iran was in 1980, the Reagan campaign has just prepared some ads reminding the public of what it calls "the Carter-Mondale record." (TV coverage: GOP commercial.) On the other side, the Democrats are running some scare ads about Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" plan. (TV coverage: Democrat commercial.)

(With Sen. Laxalt and Gov. Cuomo.)

Stahl: You just saw the Mondale ad which seems to suggest: one -- that Mr. Reagan might be threatening the survivability of the United States and two -- seems to raise the age and competency issue all over again. Do you think that ad will make a difference in the campaign?

Laxalt: I doubt it. These are tough spots but probably irrelevant, and we're running some tough spots as well. The purpose of these spots is an attempt to focus on the contrasts and differences between the two candidates.

Stahl: Somebody who ran some focus groups for the Republican campaign seems to indicate that if Iran were presented to the American people in a visual way, that a reminder of one of the most painful experiences of the American people would be brought back and that it could hurt Mondale.

Cuomo: There are all kinds of facts...and it may be that the Republicans are right, that the people will never come to notice those issues and won't react to them, and will react instead to images like American Flags and Olympic victories. If the Republicans are right, then the President will win big. If I'm right, then the American people are now beginning to inquire -- for example, on Iran -- if they say, "There were hostages, but they came back alive. What happened in Lebanon, Mr. President?" If the American people are as smart as I think they are and smarter than the Republicans think they are, I think we have a surprise in store on Election Day.

-more-

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: There are some issues that could bring some of the President's vulnerabilities up.

Laxalt: I think the CIA event of the last few days is really going to be a blip on the total electoral screen. The President was unaware of this activity going on. He's going to check out the facts, and once those facts are determined, he'll take the appropriate action -- if any is required.

Stahl: Will his not knowing what was going on become an issue?

Laxalt: We can't be held responsible for every activity that's occurring in every reach of the government. I don't think that any chief executive, particularly a president, can be held accountable for that kind of standard.

Cuomo: People say, "If he's not accountable, what do we need him for?" The American people have a right to ask President Reagan this question. ...He blamed Carter for not knowing about Iran. You can't have it both ways. Either you're going to wash your hands of all of this and say, "You don't need a President; all you need is an image-maker." Or you have a President who is accountable, in which case you have to replace President Reagan.

Laxalt: This President is accountable. Much of the difficulties we've incurred in Beirut and elsewhere is a lessened intelligence capability. We're engaged in a very difficult situation in Central America, and we are entitled to have every intelligence capability there, as well as throughout the world, in order to make the determinations that are required for us to make policy....The total picture in this election, when we have huge policy issues, talking about a CIA diversion in Central America now, is an unnecessary distraction of the real issues of this campaign, particularly in the closing days.

Cuomo: I agree we should keep our intelligence capacity as high and as strong and as efficient -- and as moral -- as possible. But in Beirut you had the intelligence. Everybody admits that the government was told there was a security problem. There was a story in the front pages of the papers today that a woman who lost her husband notified the government that it was going to happen, so you have here what President Reagan accused Carter of. And in Central America, the problem isn't a lack of intelligence, the problem is an intelligence group that works for you that's saying, "Here's how you kill people in the night." It wasn't a lack of intelligence -- it was too much of the wrong kind.

Laxalt: Terrorist activity is almost uncontrollable. We know that. I don't care about the degree of your intelligence or the capability. There's no force in this world that has better intelligence than the Israelis, and they were unable to contain, for the most part, the terrorist activity of the PLO. Certainly no one will question the intelligence capability of the Brits, in connection with their own country, and yet terrorists almost killed the Prime Minister of England at Brighton. This is a very difficult situation. We have to have the very best intelligence we can muster.

-more-

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: Have you raised an issue (about the debate briefings) that you wish you hadn't now?

Laxalt: There is a distinction: One's a campaign context and the other's a context in acting as President. This President has left basic campaign decisions up to his managers. That's been his style, and I think he's been very effective in doing that. In this situation, he did that. The style and the process really wasn't as productive as it might have been. This time he took charge personally when he saw that process didn't work, and you'll see a brand new Ronald Reagan tonight....He'll be far better rested, he'll be far more confident, and more important than all that -- his head won't be loaded up with a lot of computer-like statistics that are irrelevant to any policy debate.

Cuomo: Now Sen. Laxalt is telling the American people when you watch President Reagan in these commercials and this campaign, what you see is not what you get. You said campaigning and governing is different, and he doesn't govern the way he campaigns, which means, how can we measure this man? If he has difficulty when you brief him on a lot of facts, how is he going to sit down and count missiles?

Laxalt: You know there's a lot of difference between your activity in a campaign structure and your performance of a function as an executive.

Stahl: Why is Mondale having so much trouble bringing the traditional Democrats back to him? The blue-collar and Catholics, in particular.

Cuomo: I don't think he is.

Stahl: The polls show that Catholics are for Reagan by 20 points.

Cuomo: You have sanctified these polls and they're not worth it. What's important in polls is trends.

Stahl: Do you think the arguments with the Catholic Church hurt Mondale with the Catholic vote?

Cuomo: I think it helped him. I think the whole Church-State issue helped him, when President Reagan suggested, without saying, that he wanted to Christianize this nation when he said all morality is based on religion. He frightened this country. That's why they backed away from him.

Laxalt: I think the reason Mondale is having problems with his Democrats is they simply don't want to roll the clock back four years, and they're looking at the performance of this President, and they're setting partisan politics aside. That's the reason Ronald Reagan is running as well as he is.

(With Henry Trehwitt, in Kansas City.)

Stahl: The conventional wisdom is that pocketbook issues, domestic issues, dominate political campaigns and that foreign policy usually isn't a factor.

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Trewhitt: I think we have tended, in the aftermath of campaigns, to understate the impact of foreign policy. People vote their perceptions, and both domestic and foreign policy go into that perception....In the present, foreign policy could well determine the outcome of this election.

Stahl: Is U.S.-Soviet relations likely to be a major issue this time?

Trewhitt: It's certainly going to come up in several forms of questions, and how much of an issue it is, I think, is going to depend on how the candidates treat it. Neither Mr. Mondale nor the President, of course, is going to concede a point to the Soviet Union in terms of unilateral concessions, that sort of thing. But the perception of the candidates and how they deal with the Soviet Union is going to have a lot to say about our postmortem judging on who won the debate.

Stahl: What about Mr. Chernenko sending his conciliatory signal right before the debate in an apparent attempt to influence the debate itself?

Trewhitt: There's no question that he had something like that in mind because it was a change of tone on the part of the Soviet leadership. At the time the President addressed the U.N. weeks ago, he made an extremely conciliatory, appealing speech to the Soviets. Gromyko responded almost instantly by denouncing the United States and accusing the Americans of almost all of the world's ills. The Chernenko speech seems to be an effort to rectify that. I daresay both candidates will try to use it to their advantage. It seems to me the net advantage of his doing that and taking this tone at this time works for the President, because it indicates, at the very least, the Soviets are willing to deal with Ronald Reagan on compatible terms even though they have made no concessions at all in their substantive positions.

Stahl: Do you think that either of these candidates tonight will say anything in the debate that could make a difference in foreign policy, particularly the President?

Trewhitt: Particularly the President, yes. Obviously, if Walter Mondale fumbles a great deal, he can hurt himself, but it seems to me the burden is on the President. If he makes a poor impression, as he did last time, that will hurt him a great deal. If he makes an error of fact, that could hurt him a great deal. I would guess the President is going to try to steal the lead from this debate because, after all, he is President of the United States, and it is in his power to make some not very substantive, concessionally kind of statement regarding East-West relations if he chooses to do so.

(With Bill Plante, regarding the differences between the two campaigns.)

Plante: The thing that struck me the most was Mondale's pacing and his ability to march to his own beat. For example, he could have been out stumping, day after day, on an emotional high that he got from the first debate, but he wasn't. He took most of this second week to study for the next debate. He's determined to do it "My Way." Win or lose, he's going to do it the way he thinks it ought to be done.

FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: Whether it's smart politically or not, it doesn't seem to make much sense, does it?

Plante: From a political point of view, no. From Walter Mondale's inner bearings, I guess it does. He has said that even if he loses the campaign, he wants it to be a campaign of issues. He's conducted an issues campaign. He talks about toxic waste dumps with fervor, on a day when Ronald Reagan is outlining a broad picture for the rest of the century. Both of them have their point, but Mondale insists on his.

Stahl: Can you get close to him?

Plante: Absolutely.

Stahl: What about the mood in the two campaigns since the first debate?

Plante: Reagan folks spent that whole first week trying to regain their footing, and maybe even a little longer than that. The Mondale campaign, I'm told, was on a great high that week.

Stahl: I don't know how the President gets the public high schools to get their bands to come and play at his rally.

Plante: It's a civics lesson.

Stahl: Does Mondale get equal treatment?

Plante: It's not the same. There are never as many. It's all tied up in the power of the incumbency. The trappings of the incumbency make a great deal of difference, from the press apparatus to the transportation office, all of those things make an enormous difference.

###

-more-

NBC -- MEET THE PRESS

Hosts: Marvin Kalb and Roger Mudd

Kalb: This is the big day. The second and last presidential debate takes place tonight in Kansas City. The topic is foreign and defense policy, where President Reagan is considered by some to be vulnerable and Walter Mondale strong. Our guests are Secretary Shultz and David Aaron, Mondale's senior consultant on foreign policy and defense.

Our weekly feature, an NBC analysis of state-by-state polling on the critical electoral vote count, shows little change. The President with 28 states firm, another 13 leaning in his direction -- more than enough to win. Mondale still with only the District of Columbia firm, but this week New York no longer leaning toward Reagan but contestable, which makes tonight's debate on foreign policy absolutely critical for Mondale.

Mudd: This was the week that finally got rough. The President had been humming along with what seemed to be an unreachable lead and then he hit Louisville with a substandard performance and the polls began to tighten up a bit. This week as the stakes got higher, the rhetoric began to escalate as both candidates sharpened their attacks.

(Mondale shown: "For 30 years, Mr. Reagan has had a naive and primitive notion of national strength.")

(President shown: "I don't know whether he would outlaw slingshots, but he would jeopardize the security of this nation, and we're not going to let him.")

Mudd: And for the past few days the Democrats have been trying, almost feverishly at times, to exploit two newsbreaks out of Central America -- the uncovering of a CIA manual for the Nicaraguan rebels on assassination, and the crash of a CIA surveillance plane in El Salvador, and today there is a new development on Grenada.

Fred Francis: NBC has learned that there were more casualties of American servicemen before the Grenada invasion than has been officially reported by the Reagan Administration. The invasion officially began with this parachute on dawn, October 25th, but at midnight -- six hours before -- a group of 35 American commandoes, from the top secret Delta Force, dropped onto the Island to clear the Point Salinas airport runway. According to three military analysts, who say they have inside knowledge of the action, the Delta Force raid was a complete failure. The analysts say that in the pre-dawn hours the 35 commandoes were discovered and encircled by a much larger Cuban unit. But in a firefight which lasted two hours six of the Delta Force were killed and 16 were wounded. The analysts report that the failure of the Delta commandoes to clear the airport runway of obstacles forced American Rangers to execute a dangerously low altitude parachute assault on Grenada. The analysts say that the failure of that Delta mission and several other missions in which four Navy commandoes, known as Seals, died, was classified "Top Secret" in interest of national security. The morning, the Pentagon vehemently denied the report, saying we challenge anyone to produce one name of one American soldier who died in Grenada and was not listed.

-more-

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Interview with Mr. Aaron...

Mudd: This past week was filled with some minor developments in Central America. Now we understand there are reports that the casualty numbers were higher in Grenada than had been previously thought. Do these developments make any difference in your assessment of the Reagan foreign policy?

Aaron: I don't think they make a fundamental difference. I think they underscore some of the basic questions about the policy. What is really going on in Nicaragua? What does the President know? Is he in charge? Does he have a clear picture about what we're trying to accomplish? Is he in command? I think these are questions that go to his policy in the Middle East. This recent news about Grenada simply underscores the question, is this Administration leveling with the American people about their foreign and national security activities?

Mudd: Can you take a CIA manual and a CIA plane that crashed and parlay that into a conclusion that the Reagan foreign policy has failed in Central America?

Aaron: I don't think you have to take those as examples of the failure. The real failure of the Reagan policy in Central America is the fact that our enemies, the opposition to the things we all would like to see in Central America -- more democracy, stability and so forth, the exclusion of the Soviets and the Cubans -- by those measures, Latin America is in worse shape today than it was four years ago. There are almost 10 times as many Cuban and Soviet advisers in Nicaragua than there were four years ago; the guerrillas are two-to-three times stronger in El Salvador. This is the result of the policy.

Kalb: Do you feel the President is in charge, that he knows the details he should?

Aaron: Apparently, in the case of Central America, the White House says he didn't know. Now that raises very important questions, because when you authorize a covert action, which is what a president must do, he's supposed to be told all the important things about it. That's why the Congress is upset; they're supposed to be informed of those things. And if you look at other areas, strategic arms for example, there are numerous examples of the President simply not knowing the most elemental fact. He said America faced a window of vulnerability. That apparently was because he didn't know that 75% of our strategic forces existed. And he was surprised to discover, for example, that most Soviet land-based missiles were the backbone of the Soviet arsenal and therefore, his SALT proposals were non-starters.

Kalb: But he also said this week that Mondale would probably outlaw slingshots if he would get to be president. What about the Mondale policy and what is, in fact, the Democratic candidate now proposing to the Russians that you think could entice the Russians to return to the table?

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Aaron: I don't think the Russians have to be enticed to the negotiating table. What's necessary is for us to have a bold policy, one that puts forward proposals that are in our interest and see if there's common ground with the Soviet Union. This notion that somehow we have to pay a price to get them back to the table I think completely misses the point. It's this small jockeying for advantage and shape of the table and that sort of thing which has characterized this Administration's preoccupations for the last year in arms control. What's necessary is a bold stroke. Challenge the Soviet Union. Say "We're not going to have space weapons if you're not going to have space weapons." And let's go to the table and work out an iron-clad treaty that's verifiable, mutual and fair.

Mudd: Mondale is now caught between being a dove and a hawk. Is it a serious political problem for him to avoid being thought of as a weak-kneed lefty? He's pro-freeze. He's anti-MX. He's anti B-1. He's pro-summit. All that adds up to someone who's being torn between right and left.

Aaron: I don't think that's right. I think he's very pro-defense. I think his defense record is not only defensible but admirable. His position on the MX is that it's a sitting duck. Why are we deploying a \$50B sitting duck that might invite attack and put nuclear war on a hair-trigger. He favors the midgetman, as does the President's own panel on strategic forces. The B-1 -- the Soviet Union has been planning for 15 years to shoot that thing down. Almost as soon as it's deployed, it's going to be vulnerable. What you need is a president who understands the facts, who doesn't just think you buy whatever the Pentagon proposes, who understands you have to impose some discipline, and that's what Mondale is willing to do.

Kalb: Even if one were to assume for a second that the President and his argument about Mondale will not cut ice with the public, what is it Mondale can do right now to win over members of his own party who are much further to the left and "softer" on defense than he?

Aaron: I think the Democratic Convention was a watershed in that respect. Not only did he get a commitment out of the Democratic Party for substantial, steady increases in defense in order to meet the challenges the country faces, but he also fought off very successfully a number of proposals that would not have been in his judgment in the country's interest. But this whole idea of Mondale being weak, this is the same old stuff that Ronald Reagan has done for 20 years. Everybody's been weak for him. Kennedy was weak because he didn't "take the final step" in the Cuban missile crisis. What would that have been. He criticized Johnson for not threatening to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam. He criticized Ford for not re-starting the Vietnam war in 1975. This is a litany that he has used consistently throughout his political career. It didn't have any basis in the past. It doesn't have any basis today.

Mudd: You've once said that this campaign would come down to one issue and that issue is whose finger was on the button. Ronald Reagan's finger has been on the button for the past four years and it hasn't been pushed yet. So what's the issue?

-more-

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Aaron: The issue is nobody wants the button ever to be pushed. And the challenge for a president is not only to know everything he needs to know should he face that decision -- and quite frankly if he thinks that some of the missiles that he has are recallable, that's a frightening prospect. And that apparently is what the President thought. But even more important, he's got to avoid that situation ever from arising. The American people can look at the record of his last four years. Are we closer to a genuine understanding that controls nuclear arms today? Have we made any progress in any of the vital areas of the world where instability could lead to war in the Middle East? In Central America? We're not closer, and we're not closer because of the policies of this Administration.

Mudd: Do you think after the election that if Mr. Reagan is re-elected that his attitude toward the Soviet Union will reharden?

Aaron: I don't know what the President's attitude really is. I think that's the fundamental question that the American people have to answer. Is the man that we've now seen the last three, four, five weeks before the election the real Reagan? Or is the real Reagan the man that we've seen for 25 years -- the man who has never supported arms control from any President?

Interview with Secretary Shultz...

Kalb: Mr. Secretary, you say Fred Francis' report on Grenada. Are you aware that there were any additional deaths beyond those reported by the Pentagon?

Shultz: No. According to the Pentagon there weren't.

Kalb: Well, so far as you know, though the distinction that is being drawn is perhaps deaths suffered prior to the official beginning of the attack. Are you aware of any deaths that might have been suffered by the United States prior to the beginning of the attack?

Shultz: I have to rely on the Pentagon report, which was quite unequivocal.

Mudd: Apparently the CIA surveillance slights have been going on for some time.

Shultz: Yes.

Mudd: Do we have any evidence, producable evidence, that indeed arms are moving from Nicaragua into El Salvador?

Shultz: Absolutely, and that's that those flights helped the Salvadoran armed forces to diagnose and do something about it.

Mudd: Is the evidence available to the public?

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Shultz: A lot of material that is collected by classified means is not available to the public, but I have seen the material that is available, and there just isn't any doubt whatever that the Salvadoran guerrillas are supplied from Nicaragua.

Mudd: But if there is doubt in the public mind wouldn't you do better to show the public what you've got?

Shultz: Well, it's a question, because when you disclose your information, and to do that you have to disclose how you got it, then maybe you'll have a harder time getting it, and the importance of the information is such that it helps the Salvadoran Army defend itself.

Kalb: Isn't one of the ground rules for American military personnel in El Salvador that they not be anywhere near a combat zone?

Shultz: Anywhere near is a question mark. That is a ground rule, and so far far as I know they continue to observe that. The situation in El Salvador has been gradually improving, so that rather than be basically confined to the capital, San Salvador, they have been getting around a little bit more lately.

Kalb: Are you saying that they're getting around more and could now perhaps be in a combat zone?

Shultz: No, because there are more places that are quite safe to be in.

Kalb: What about this report about the three U.S. servicemen who were in fact seen in a combat zone?

Shultz: I don't think it was a combat zone. And, at least as I understand it, they were completely within the rules set out.

Mudd: In a speech (in California last Thursday and Friday) you credited Ronald Reagan with bringing to this country a new patriotism, a new pride and a new faith. Whatever happened to the tradition that during political campaigns Secretaries of State and Defense should stick to their knitting?

Shultz: What I did was accept an invitation from Rand and UCLA to speak at the opening of a new center they have studying Soviet behavior, and I made one speech to them that concentrated entirely on the problem of managing the U.S.-Soviet relation, which I think is a very important topic in our foreign policy, and I addressed it very seriously. And second, I addressed the World Affairs Council at Los Angeles, and there tried to put forward the general sweep of American foreign policy in President Reagan's time. As it happens I think the President has managed both the U.S.-Soviet relations and the general sweep of foreign policy very well, and the reasons for that good performance and basic success are apparent and it seemed to me well to lay them out, and this is a good time to do so.

Mudd: I thought Secretaries were supposed to be non-partisan during a campaign, aren't they?

-more-

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Shultz: Secretaries have the job of putting forward what the foreign policy is and describing it, analyzing it, and this is a time, certainly, when the American people are paying attention, so I thought it was a pretty good time to say my piece.

Kalb: On the U.S. Soviet front, President Chernenko seems to want to get his questions in for tonight's debate as well. They do focus on arms control. Could you tell us which areas of arms control you think are most ripe for the plucking for some kind of progress?

Shultz: The Soviets suggested we meet in Vienna and discuss the militarization of space, and we do think that's a very good topic, and we accepted their invitation without any conditions at all, and we're prepared to go, and we're still prepared to go, and that's pretty good rubric, because it includes both defensive and offensive systems, which of course, use space.

Kalb: Do the Russians agree that the topic of space would include both offense and defense?

Shultz: They don't agree on that. On the other hand, when Mr. Gromyko was here talking with the President, he put forward what he called the question of questions. The preeminent question, which in his view had to do with offensive nuclear systems, and we agreed with him.

Kalb: Do you feel the Russians are now insisting, as they have in the past, on the complete removal of U.S. medium range missiles from Europe in order to get the talks started again in Geneva?

Shultz: That's a little questionable, because they had the press statement yesterday that perhaps suggested a little different stance.

Kalb: Suggested what?

Shultz: On the other hand, to think in terms of a moratorium of some sort at the preset very unequal levels would not be to our advantage, or to suggest it would be to their advantage, but to accept it wouldn't be to ours.

(Question on Senators Percy and Helms as chairman of Foreign Relations Committee...)

Kalb: Did you sit in on a meeting at the White House on October 13th of last year when, it is said, that your colleague, Defense Secretary Weinberger, recommended the withdrawal of the Marines. That was before the terrorist attack against them.

Shultz: I was present at most of the meetings or represented there, but I don't, I can't sort of suddenly recall October 13th, or things of that kind.

Kalb: Are you familiar with a Weinberger recommendation then that in fact the Marines be pulled out prior to the terrorist attack?

-more-

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Shultz: That very well may be, and Secretary Weinberger, I think, has been reluctant from the beginning about the Marines' presence in Lebanon.

Kalb: And what happened? What was the President's role at that point?

Shultz: You are asking me about a particular time and place. The President, of course, saw and sees that the Middle East is a place of tremendous importance for us, importance because of our support for Israel, importance because of the resources there, importance because of our friendship with many in the Arab world, and our mission in Lebanon is a mission of peace, a mission to bring -- to help bring stability to that troubled part of the world, and that's what we were there for.

Kalb: Roger, there are so many topics that are going to come up in foreign policy tonight we're not going to blow it by alerting either candidate as to what we're going to ask, but clearly the Secretary seemed to be saying that Weinberger did, in fact, recommend that the Marines be pulled out prior to the terrorist attack. The President clearly did not accept that recommendation and the attack took place. What is your sense on what would happen tonight if Mondale once again "won" the debate?

Mudd: I think the shingles would begin to fly off the roof. I think there's pressure on both those men tonight to do well. Everybody says that pressure is on Reagan. I think it's on both of them. It seems to me that unless Ronald Reagan scores a smashing victory tonight, I think it's very unlikely that any incumbent president would ever debate again. Because if he does not do well this evening, all things become possible for Mondale. People then begin to think very seriously about this race.

###

THE McLAUGHLIN GROUP

Host: John McLaughlin

Panel: Pat Buchanan, Jack Germond, Robert Novak, Morton Kondracke

Q. Impact of the CIA manual on the election?

Buchanan: Mondale has fallen back in the NBC and USA Today polls to 25 points behind Reagan because he has been strident, negative and whining. This CIA "ding-bat" pamphlet has brought the Democratic Party's latent McGovernism to the surface. They are trashing the CIA and it's going to hurt if they focus in on it.

Novak: This kind of garbage comes out before every campaign.

Germond: No impact on the campaign but it is a debate talking point. The President's investigation will turn out that Casey had nothing to do with anything. Nobody's ever responsible in this Administration.

###

PBS -- WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW

Host: Paul Duke

Panel: Henry Trewhitt, Baltimore Sun, Haynes Johnson, Washington Post,
Howard Fineman, Newsweek, Terence Smith, New York Times

On Soviet Relations:

Duke: Chernenko chooses the moment to bring up improved relations between the Soviets and the U.S. Coincidence? Accident? What?

Trewhitt: Deliberate. What he didn't say in the interview with the Washington Post was interesting. He set out some terms for improved relations that are not the times of things that can readily be grasped by any Administration. The tone was entirely changed. When the President was before the United Nations, he made a very conciliatory speech, almost appealing for Soviet understanding and negotiations. Gromkyo responded by denouncing the U.S. for almost all the world's ills. Chernenko's interview seems to be an attempt to set that right. He sets out very mild language, he's very cautious with his conditions for improved relations. The effect of this three weeks before the election is to work to President Reagan's benefit, because it suggests the Soviets have made up their minds they are willing to deal with him. He has made up his mind that President Reagan is going to be reelected and why not make a gesture that really doesn't cost him anything. This is (tied in with) the beginning of negotiations with President Duarte and the rebels in El Salvador just before the American election and it also says something about the state of mind of people in Central America that they cannot be in the position of kicking this President in the shin in advance of the election.

Q. Is there anything President Reagan can do before the election to try to respond to any openings Chernenko might have given him and boost his own standing?

Trewhitt: Most of the things Chernenko suggested the U.S. might do demonstrate goodwill are not the things this Administration is going to do. It's not going to freeze space weaponry in advance, although the President may well suggest that he is more amenable to a moratorium. There is one point made by Mr. Chernenko that wouldn't cost the President a dime -- to say that he is willing to make a push for the ratification of that long-pending treaty to stop nuclear testing. It would be a gesture of goodwill that might steal the lead in the debate Sunday night.

On the CIA...

Smith: This week we got a look at some of the latest publications of the CIA. It's a primer instructing the rebels in Nicaragua on kidnapping and killing of public officials, assassination, political terrorism, the sort of thing we and this Administration says it is entirely opposed to. The Administration tried to disassociate itself from this, saying it was a low-level functionary. It was produced by the CIA.

Q. Can Casey survive?

Tip O'Neill called in the strongest terms for Casey's resignation. It seems obvious that he becomes more of a political liability to Ronald Reagan.###

AGRONSKY & CO.

Host: Martin Agronsky

Panelists: Jack Kilpatrick, Carl Rowan, Hugh Sidey, Marianne Means

Agronsky: ...If Walter Mondale does well or better in Sunday's debate as he did in the first confrontation with Mr. Reagan, do you think he has a chance to win the election?

Kilpatrick: He's always had a chance. The polls look pretty close in California, in New York, in Iowa, among others. If he did so spectacularly well that he turned around those particular states, he could make a close election out of it.

Rowan: When I look and see one national poll saying he's 9 points behind, and another one saying he's 25 behind, I know that somebody out there polling doesn't know what he's doing....That means, I think, that this thing's still open for the taking.

Means: It's difficult for me to see how Mondale can do spectacularly well enough to have the impact in the debate that he needs....All Reagan has to do is not screw up....What Reagan is going to try to do is he's going to try to paint Mondale as weak on defense. Reagan always does that to all his opponents. I think Reagan went too far the other day when he said that the Carter administration had unilaterally disarmed. I mean, that's just not true....

Rowan: ...So (Mondale) won't talk about it in terms of Reagan being 73, he'll talk about it in terms of what the President knows, what he controls.

Agronsky: I think it's going to be Lebanon and I think it's going to be arms control.

Sidey: This debate will not be a debate to enlighten on the issues. It will be a debate that is very personal. It will be a personal assault.

On the CIA manual:

Means: I think this is more than an embarrassment and I also think that, to judge from the early political reaction to it, this is just going to further erode support for the covert effort in Nicaragua....

Kilpatrick: The questions been asked before. Suppose that there had been an opportunity to assassinate Hitler, let's say somewhere around 1938. What might that have spared the world?...What misery might be spared by the removal of these cruel, unscrupulous leaders? So let's not get too shocked by the idea.

Rowan: ...When you start this, you have really opened a world of horrors.

White House News Summary - Monday, October 22, 1984 -- C-1

ABC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Peter Jennings:Both Mr. Mondale and Mr. Reagan, having shaken hands, joining me is David Brinkley.

David Brinkley: It is the best debate we've had yet, by far, of the three. I thought it was an instructive and interesting discussion -- agree or disagree is something else -- they were both very good. They answered the questions, which in itself is remarkable.

Jennings: They didn't answer all the questions.

Brinkley: They answered most of them.

Jennings: ...I think, perhaps, a couple of the reporters on the panel did not point out that on one occasion at least for each of the candidates they were not specific....They tend to say pretty well what they want to say on questions which are difficult for them.

Brinkley: It's in the nature of a political discussion -- like this, press conference, debate, whatever you care to call it -- for them to come there prepared to say this or that and they're going to say this or that regardless of what they're asked. And we've seen it tonight. But again, I thought of the three debates we've had, this is by far the best.

Jennings: I also think that one of the things that this very large television audience around the country tonight has been looking for was to see whether Mr. Reagan was sharper, leaner and better prepared for this debate than he appeared to many people after the first debate and there was no doubt he was.

Brinkley: He was. He was remarkably better than in the first debate.

Jennings: The closing statement very much characteristic of Mr. Reagan, making it very personal, referring to the letter he put in the time capsule. Let us get our opening shot opinion from George Will.

George Will: Walter Mondale said "Strength requires knowledge." If you go through the transcript tomorrow, you will see that Walter Mondale used "strong" or "strength" 100 times and "knowledge" almost that often. His problem...is that he's losing the men vote in the country -- the male vote -- and particularly, conservative blue-collar Democrats. Therefore, on two issues, he flanked the President on the right. He said, "You should have retaliated in Beirut." Furthermore he said, "I will not share things with the Soviet Union as liberally as you will." But this problem came back to haunt him a little bit. The President's strongest answer, I thought, was on the Nimitz and on the McGovern wing of the party and Mondale's association with it when he was a senator in the 70's. But clearly, this was not a debate for Walter Mondale to win. He did very well, but it was a debate for Ronald Reagan to lose. The question that the voters will now answer is did Ronald Reagan lose it? I think, as you two have both said, the President was measurably sharper tonight, that he solved that problem that he had, correcting the image. In Louisville, Walter Mondale acquired momentum in respect, but he didn't start moving voters. The question is, did he move voters away from Reagan tonight? I'm inclined to doubt it.

-more-

ABC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Jennings: We're going to find out later this evening by taking an ABC poll...as to whether or not people think there was a winner or a loser in this. But I think that anybody looking for a knockout...didn't find it. And would you both agree that there were no serious factual errors?

Brinkley: I don't think so; I didn't detect any. There were, of course, opinions that many people could disagree with from both of them.

Will: No, I didn't think so either. And I think that's in the nature of a foreign policy debate. There was less of this Social Security and interest rates, and all this factual trivia.

Jennings: We want to go to Kansas City and talk to Sam Donaldson and Britt Hume. Sam, do you think this is Mr. Reagan being Mr. Reagan, as Senator Laxalt said earlier in the week he wanted him to be?

Sam Donaldson: He certainly was. Both men were effective tonight, each within the extent of his articulation and his ability to project his personality. I thought Mr. Mondale was particularly effective in talking about the destabilization of something called "Star Wars" and of saying in effect that "I'm not going to give away the store to the Soviets." The President handled the age issue brilliantly with a one-liner. And he was effective also in talking about the Russians and in putting forth his own view of the future, I believe. If you look at everything from the standpoint of all things being equal, you can make the case that this man won or that man won. But Mondale's problem were that all things were not equal coming in here. Unlike 1980, when people seemed to be looking for a way to be able to turn out Jimmy Carter, it's clear from the polls that people are looking in here tonight to see if they can find a way to retain Ronald Reagan. Was he sharper than Louisville? Was there a case of old age? And, in fact, he demonstrated tonight that he is sharp, that he is Ronald Reagan, and I predict that this debate will keep the President in power and will add to a reelection, at least from the standpoint of the outcome of the debates.

Jennings: Britt, do you think it keeps Mr. Mondale's momentum going?

Hume: I think Mondale had the opportunity tonight to make nearly all the points that we've been hearing him make on foreign policy and he did make them. But I think the question turns on whether this was the Walter Mondale of Louisville, or better, or whether this was someone else. And I think that while, as I suggest, he made most of his major points -- especially on the issue of disarmament, arms control, and the rest -- that Walter Mondale was not as sharp tonight as he was two weeks ago. Two weeks ago, for example, Walter Mondale was the man who had the laugh lines, the man who seemed the most comfortable. Tonight Ronald Reagan had the laugh lines. While, I think Mr. Mondale -- when you read the transcript -- will be seen as having covered a great deal of ground and having scored some points on the President, there is one other aspect of all this which has been unkind to Walter Mondale all year and which we saw again tonight, and that is the question of how he looked. The television camera, for some reason, is unkind to Walter Mondale. He's 56 years old, he's ruddy, he's healthy, people at rallies think he's handsome. But tonight, the camera made him look older and wearier.

-more-

ABC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Brinkley: I don't know why that is. We know he's been through all the primaries, he's been through all of the campaign, he's been through two debates now. He has a right to be tired. I think what Britt says is true. He looks better than that. One thing we might all agree on is that Mr. Reagan had the best joke in which he said "I do not think age should be an issue; I do not plan to make a political issue out of Mondale's youth and inexperience."

Jennings: I noticed that at the same time....I wonder if that won't be taken by some people who are clearly supporters of Mr. Mondale as being flippancy?

Will: It may be, but that's the point. They're supporters of Mr. Mondale and I think what Reagan was trying to do is reassure people who's anxieties he raised in Louisville and he probably did that because he certainly seemed in possession and good-humored about it. One of the longest wrangles in the debate tonight and the least edifying was about whether or not the President said certain kinds of missiles are recallable. All I can say is my idea of hell would be trying to diagram that sentence. The President has many strengths, pronouns aren't among them. It seems to me the President can argue that the pronoun there "they can be recalled" refers to the airplanes and the submarines that carried the missiles. Mondale can say that someone back in central Illinois didn't teach him how to speak quite as clearly as they ought to in using those pronouns. So the two men can disagree about what he really meant.

Jennings: Let me ask you both whether or not you think debates..are chance at making -- any really lost opportunities in either side?

Will: I was very surprised that the President didn't come down harder on Grenada, because that is something that they're about to celebrate in the next few days. And also come down a little bit harder on the voting record that Mr. Mondale had when they were cutting defense severely in the Senate. On the other hand, aesthetically speaking, Mondale's performance was superb in that the first sentence was the main theme of his closing summation, "Strength requires knowledge." "I'm strong, I'm not the weak person that you thought up to this point." "Knowledge, the President doesn't have it." That was a very coherent use of the evening.

Brinkley: I thought Mr. Reagan did, very effectively, point out Mondale's voting record when he was in the Senate by talking about his commercial on the Nimitz, with the F-14's taking off, saying you voted against building the Nimitz, you voted against building the F-14's. If you'd had your way, you couldn't have made that commercial.

Jennings: You don't think Mr. Mondale was successful, then, in that respect by saying I didn't want to build the B-1 bomber because it wasn't the bomber we wanted. He wanted the Stealth bomber instead.

Will: It's an axiom of politics that when you're explaining, you're losing. And that was an explanation. It may have been true, but it sounded as though he was on the defensive.

-more-

ABC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Brinkley: I thought it was remarkable on how much they agreed on....You call it huddling. It always happens as the election draws near. It's 16 days away. As it draws near, all politicians move toward the center, huddled together like sheep in a storm, looking for protection. And they've found a great many things tonight on which they agreed. Which is not really all that surprising.

Jennings: One thing they did not agree on was the question of sharing anti-nuclear technology with the Soviet Union. Does anybody want to take a guess as to how that plays in the country?

Will: I think the country's terribly confused about the whole subject. Again, just as an act of rhetorical cleverness, it was Mondale again on two issues there -- Beirut one, then another -- flanking the President on the right.

Brinkley: And there is absolutely nothing to share. He couldn't share it if he wanted to, it doesn't exist yet. It may exist sometime. So it's largely irrelevant.

Jennings: ...I just want to remind people at this point that Mr. Mondale had a very specific audience in mind tonight. It is those wavering Democrats, the independents, who the Carter-Mondale ticket lost in 1980 and who Mr. Mondale was really trying to bring back this evening. Your answer to our pollsters later on this evening will give us a much clearer answer of how the evening went. Thank you very much for joining us.

-end of CBS coverage

CBS COMMENTARY FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Dan Rather: President Reagan and former Vice President Mondale in Kansas City, concluding the second of two side-by-side candidate forums for this 1984 campaign for the president year. A 90-minute session on which both of the candidates, despite the obvious, had much riding. By his own acknowledgement and that of his staff, former Vice President Mondale, perhaps had more riding on the outcome of this candidate forum, in that he's acknowledged that he is trailing and trailing by a considerable margin in just about every poll. Our CBS News correspondents Bruce Morton, Bill Plante and Bob Schieffer are in Kansas City. Let's go to them and ask quickly, first of all Bruce Morton, your first impressions at the end of this second and concluding of the candidates' forums.

Bruce Morton: Walter Mondale started behind and needed a big win here. You can argue about who won narrowly, but I don't think he got that big win I think he really had to have.

Rather: And Bob Schieffer and Bill Plante, we're hoping that they are with us at the moment....Bill?

Bill Plante: Dan, I think that the President did what he set out to do, which was to hold his own, and in the process was able to get in a couple of nice grace notes as well.

Bob Schieffer: I thought that Walter Mondale was quite impressive tonight with his mastery of detail and the facts. I think Ronald Reagan was a bit better than he was last time. I would give it to Mondale on points.

Rather: ...Bruce Morton, the big question is whether any voters' minds were changed tonight. What do you think?

Morton: It sure is hard to judge those things, Dan. I would guess not so much as happened the first time in Louisville. I think that people who haven't seen very much of the President except on formal, scripted occasions saw a man that night who seemed stiff, nervous and unsure of his facts. Now, there are a number of facts after this debate that are going to be in dispute, for instance did the President ever say that you could recall a submarine-launched missile once launched. But I think, over and above any specific factual disagreement, the viewers tonight saw a man who seemed much more at ease. He made a couple of the little jokes that this President is famous for, and he looked comfortable with the evening. And I think that will probably have helped him quite a lot.

Rather: Bob Schieffer, your assessment on where the President scored and where former Vice President Mondale scored.

Schieffer: Well, I think the President's most popular point made here was when he turned the age thing and said he promised not to exploit Walter Mondale's inexperience.

Rather: ...Clearly Vice President Mondale tried to score by characterizing President Reagan as a well-meaning man, but out of touch and not knowledgeable enough nor well enough informed. And President Reagan tried to score by tying former Vice President Mondale to the (continued)

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather (continued): Carter-Mondale policies of the past. Bruce Morton, the last time it took about 48 to 72 hours before a consensus formed, at least in the press and according to public opinion polls with the public as well, that if there was a winner out of the last debate, the winner insofar as the debate was concerned may have been former Vice President Mondale. Although there wasn't any indication it changed a whole lot of votes at that time. Do you think that will be the case this time, or will we be able to tell a little quicker than that?

Morton: No, I think we'll get the same kind of effect. I don't know that anybody will be seen as the big winner this time. But I think you have kind of a double effect. First people watch the debate, they listen perhaps to us for a few minutes afterwards, and you get a little shift in the polls. Then you have the newspapers and the columnists and everybody talks to his neighbor across the back fence, as says, "Gee, I thought so-and-so did better," and a verdict kind of emerges. And then you get a bigger kind of self-reinforcing movement. I think that's what the Mondale camp has been seeing ever since Louisville. Mr. Mondale in the latest CBS News-New York Times poll cut about half of the margin, but he was still 13 points behind the President, and that's a whole lot.

Rather: Bill Plante, was there any sense in the hall that this was -- and let's use the word -- fairly boring for long stretches, when candidates talk of "walk in the woods," Simpson-Mazzoli Bill. Was there any sense of that in the hall?

Plante: No, there really wasn't, Dan. Bob and I were sitting here watching it on a tiny TV screen as well as watching the stage, and I must say that gives you a different impression, and that's how most Americans did see it. I was struck by the fact that both candidates went right out in the first 20 minutes of this debate -- which is the average attention span, their managers tell them -- and sounded all of their major themes. Mr. Mondale on the attack against the President's competence, and the President on his leadership issue. But I think both of them scored. Bob may be right, it may go to Mondale on debating points. But, as we've discussed in many of these things, it isn't the debating points that influence the voters at home. It's their impression of the man. I think the President did just fine tonight in holding his own, which is really all his managers wanted him to do. They thought if he could do that, that he'd have no more problems after fallout from this debate.

Rather: Bob Schieffer, what about the theory that, if the President stayed anywhere close to Walter Mondale in this debate, he would be the big winner, because after all the whole purpose, from Mondale's standpoint at least, is to change some votes. Now from that standpoint, would you still say that you think the edge is for Mondale?

Schieffer: Well, I do. I do think that the edge goes to Mondale in this debate, Dan. But this may well be a debate that Ronald Reagan can survive. It seems to me that Mr. Reagan gave a much better account of himself tonight. He seemed more self-assured. He seemed to have the answers and he seemed familiar with the issues. There were a couple of times during that last debate when -- at several points he had kind of a

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Schieffer (continued): puzzled look on his face. Tonight, you will notice in the two-shots of the two men, Mr. Reagan often was looking down. He did not have that look that he had the last time. My guess is -- and it's only a guess, and who could make anything but a guess at this point -- is that hard-core Reagan people will not change their mind because of this debate, nor will hard-core Mondale people. Mr. Mondale may have picked up some undecided voters tonight.

Plante: I would think that there is something for each side to claim victory on in this debate. The question really is: Where do the undecideds go? Did it influence them?

Schieffer: Or how many of them are there? And there are not very many.

Rather: Bill Plante, you said something that interests me. President's Reagan's advisers told him that 20 minutes was about the attention span of people who watch these debates? Isn't that a terribly cynical point of view?

Plante: I don't think they were referring specifically to this debate, but the attention span they talk about is the average attention span for listening to a lecture -- and for some people the debate was much like a lecture -- and I think both sides realized -- because somebody in the Mondale camp said the same thing to me -- that they had to capture the attention and make their major points in the first 20 minutes of this debate.

Rather: Bruce Morton, we've heard a lot of talk from both camps about trying to put the spin on the post-debate press coverage, including broadcast coverage. Now what spin does the Reagan camp want, what spin does the Mondale camp want, besides the very obvious. They want it said that they won.

Morton: Well, I'm sure the first thing you do is run out and find a reporter and claim victory. But, you know, more specifically, the Mondale people are going point to various substantive, quite detailed answers that their man gave, and say: Boy, look at that. He really knows this stuff. He really understands the subtleties of arms control, and you can see from the texture that President Reagan doesn't. The Reagan people are going to say: Look what a commanding figure he cut. He hit the bold leadership themes. He talked about the weakness and ineptitude of the Carter-Mondale administration. He made that case that, to use a phrase they use all the time, America is standing tall again. So, you know, both sides are going to have some things to shout about.

Rather: Joining me here in our New York studios is Bill Moyers....Your impressions, and -- perhaps more importantly -- what you think was created in the voters' minds here this evening.

Bill Moyers: The Reagan voters have no less reason to vote for their man than they did before the debate, and the Mondale people have no less reason to vote for their man. It's like Bruce Banyard down in East Texas, who said: You know, my candidate is a no good, no account, rubber-footed rascal, but I'm going to vote for him anyway.

-more-

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Moyers (continued): Why? Because I'm for him. And I think that debate probably confirmed both camps tonight. A lot of people were watching for Ronald Reagan to fall off the log, and he didn't. A lot of people were watching for Walter Mondale to soar, and he didn't. They seemed more equally equipped in terms of their attention to the duties of the presidency tonight than they did the first time. The President wavered at the end. He started a letter he never finished. He never got to the point that he was trying to get across in that final summary, and I think some people will question that. But not sufficiently to have an effect on the momentum of this election that they did two weeks ago.

Rather: On the other hand, President Reagan, it seemed to me, scored quite well with two uses of humor. One when he turned the age issue back around on former Vice President Mondale, and the other when he said: Well, the deficit has been blamed for a lot of things, I don't know if they've been blamed for the great immigration waves come across the country.

Moyers: Yes, and I think Walter Mondale in the beginning scored as he kept trying to score throughout the debate by trying to hold out the idea that President Reagan is not a man in touch or in control with the details. He kept saying the commander-in-chief needs to be the commander-in-chief. I think he scored on that, but Reagan came back pretty much as we were talking during the debate -- he was doing defense all the night, and he did pretty well on it.

Rather: Mr. Mondale tried to score by saying: Well, your idea of strength candidate and President Reagan is to pay \$500 for a \$50 hammer. He never seemed to quite follow-up on that nearly as long and nearly as effectively as might have been planned.

Moyers: He kept going for the jugular with a feather tonight. I don't understand that unless it the feeling -- the fear in his camp that he might press the President too hard and appear to be too rough with the President. He never seized a lot of the opportunities that were presented to him. But who knows, you know, what's going to happen with 100 million people out there making up their own minds.

Rather: Well, let's quickly go to two gentlemen who may know, James Baker and Jim Johnson....First Jim Baker. I assume you believe your candidate won. Why?

James Baker: Well, I think he was in command tonight, Dan, and we feel very strongly that the President did what he had to do tonight. He was on the offense most of the time and he was in command of the issues, and we think in command of the debate.

Rather: Did you think he was on the offensive and in command in the first five or six minutes of the debate?

Baker: Well, we thought the first five minutes was -- that was probably as difficult a question as he got during the course of the debate, and perhaps he wasn't for the first three or four minutes. But certainly he was after that, we feel.

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather: Jim Johnson... I assume you think your candidate won. The question is: Why and where do you think he scored the most?

James Johnson: I think he won because he was strong and effective throughout. He showed that he would be an effective president. I think he did an excellent job in pointing out the weaknesses of the Reagan case. He demonstrated that the President didn't comprehend these essential elements of nuclear arms control policy. And he demonstrated again that the President is seeking to blame others on Central America and the Middle East. I think he clearly demonstrated that he was in charge. I think he raised serious questions as to whether or not the President was in charge.

Rather: That's where you think he did well. What would you judge to be Mr. Mondale's worst moment tonight?

Johnson: I can't think of any. I thought he did superbly throughout.

Rather: James Baker, where did think that President Reagan didn't do as well as you had hoped?

Baker: Well, I just finished telling you, I think, that we feel he did very, very well. We're very pleased with the results tonight. I think the President made it very clear that, once again, America is prepared for peace. He said in 1980 he was going to re-strengthen our defenses. He has. We have a country that's respected abroad again. We've got stronger relations with our allies. He made all those points, and we're just very happy with the way this debate turned out, quite frankly.

Rather: There was some talk after the last debate, even by those in the Reagan camp, that President Reagan had been -- quote -- brutalized in the preparation process. We were led to believe this time that he prepared mostly himself. Is that true?

Baker: Well, he prepared essentially the same way this time as he did last time, although we did not have as many formal rehearsals sessions. We didn't have as many mock debates. Last time we had five, this time we had two. Although we had some Q-and-A sessions. Basically the same type preparation.

Rather: Jim Johnson, you and James Baker were reported earlier as telling your candidate that the first 20 minutes of the said-by-side forums such as we had tonight is the most important. Is that true?

Johnson: I don't think it was tonight. I think it was in the last 30 minutes that it was most important, when President Reagan talked about this idea of Star Wars which he clearly didn't understand, and then talked about the Russians sitting down, us giving them our technology. And then doing some kind of warning shot or demonstration shot to prove to them that we had this technology in hand. That sounds all very dangerous to me, and I don't that was at all good for the President. Tonight, I think it was last 30 minutes. Vice President Mondale had a very strong close, and I think there were very serious questions raised with the President talking about this movement of the nuclear arms race into the heavens. I don't think the American people want that.

-more-

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather: ...The voters and the viewers tonight got, if not a head-to-head, then at least a side-by-side comparison of Ronald Reagan's and Walter Mondale's perception of the world. On some matters, a world of difference. Over the next few days, word of mouth and the press will begin to produce a perception of how they did. But the single most important conclusion is yours, the voter. If tonight's event has any value, it is what you, a free citizen, think about it and you act upon what you have heard. Just over two weeks to go till election day....

-end of CBS commentary-

-more-

NBC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Tom Brokaw: And so ends the final meeting between President Reagan and Walter Mondale as they shake hands on the stage....The President unable to finish his concluding statement because of time restraints -- he ran over the four minutes....Mondale tonight repeatedly tried to make the point the President must have command -- he must know the facts -- trying to raise doubts about the President's capacity to govern and lead. The President, for his part, repeating several times his determination to eliminate and control nuclear weapons....Something akin to the end of a heavyweight prize fight -- everybody back in the ring.

As I said just a few moments ago, President Reagan attempting tonight to portray himself as someone who wants very much to get nuclear arms under control and eventually he said his dream is to eliminate nuclear arms. One of the points of contention in this debate tonight and indeed throughout this campaign has been the President's knowledge about nuclear arms questions and the strength and the nature of our strategic forces. As you probably are aware, Mondale has been saying that the President believed one time that nuclear weapons could be recalled from submarines. That came up again tonight. The President denied having ever made that statement. Well, the record is there and John Chancellor has been looking it over. We have the exact quote. It came up, as I recall, May 1982 in a news conference.

John Chancellor: That's right, it did. Well, you can sort of -- I'm going to read it so you can make up your own mind. The President was talking about different kinds of nuclear weapons and in my excerpts here, he says the "missiles sitting there in the silos, in which there could be the possibility of miscalculation. That's the one the people know that once that button is pushed, there is no defense, there is no recall. Those that are carried in bombers, those that are carried in ships of one kind or another," and we presume the President was referring to missiles, he said, "You are dealing there with a conventional type of weapon or instrument, and those instruments can be intercepted and they can be recalled." Now I suppose, Tom, there are people in the White House tonight who would argue that he was talking about ships that could be recalled, or submarines that could be recalled. I think if you read the text very carefully, the English language does not say he was talking about ships.

Brokaw: The English language is not terribly clear on this all together -- "weapon or instrument" -- and my guess is that the White House defense will be when he said "instrument," he was referring then to submarines and to airplanes. Roger, what about the political effect of all this?

Roger Mudd: Not a clean knockout by one party or the other....I think President Reagan tonight was better than he was two weeks ago. It's obvious here that both sides here feel pretty good tonight about how their man did. I think President Reagan was better than he was two weeks ago. I think, however that it is obvious he was not sure of himself this evening. He did tend to wander around occasionally when the question got close. I think his statement at the beginning of the debate in which he said, in effect, the station chief -- the CIA station chief in Nicaragua had approved this pamphlet and then had to admit on national television that he had misspoke and indeed the CIA suddenly was not in Nicaragua -- was a major fault -- faulty step on his part. He used this evening a lot of his

-more-

NBC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Mudd (continued): old chestnuts that were very effective. His closing statement about going down the coast of California was the old, patented Reagan. I'm not sure what quite the point of most of that was, but I think if you press me, I'm going to have to say that it was a slight edge for Mondale, although not as decisive as two weeks ago.

Brokaw: Let the record show that I didn't even have to press you. What about you John?

Chancellor: I thought the President was bad at the beginning when he made that extraordinary gaffe about the CIA in Nicaragua. And I thought frankly he was just awful at the end. It seemed to me as though he had lost his train of thought and was rambling and went back to that story about the "time capsule" letter the way public speakers often do to get on familiar ground. And the fact was that he got so involved in that that he didn't see the lights that are on the stage and he had to ad-lib and had to cut him off. In the middle, I thought the President was just first class. I thought he was tough, his facts were good and he was hard-hitting, but the end I think will stick in people's minds.

Mudd: I think you must say about Mondale that he had one theme tonight and he pounded it time after time -- it was competence and leadership. Every question he got, every opportunity he got to rebut was on the issue of leadership -- Lebanon, Central America, wherever -- he used that word leadership. He did -- in his answer to the nuclear freeze -- expose the nuclear freeze as kind of a campaign talking point and not much of substance. I didn't think he was very good on that at all.

Brokaw: Well what surprised me a little bit as well was that the President did not respond to this question about leadership and command and capacity by raising again the Mondale role in the Carter-Mondale years, which has been their response to that throughout. And so the President, from a debating point of view tonight, let a couple of those opportunities go by. He wasn't very clean or very effective when he went after Iran and some of the other matters....

Gen. Alexander Haig, tonight Mondale tried to make the point -- repeatedly -- that this President does not have command of all the facts that he should have on the question of nuclear arms and strategic areas. You were in the Administration, you wrote a book in which you were quite critical of not just the President but also those people around him and those very areas, weren't you?

Gen. Alexander Haig: Well, that perhaps will make my comments now all the more credible. I think it's ludicrous to suggest that the President did not know that our submarines and our aircraft can not be recalled once a weapon has been released. I worked with the President on these issues for many years and he clearly understands them beyond a question of a doubt. Now he may be guilty of "Haig-speak," which I'm well known for and a lack of precision which would meet Mr. Chancellor's criteria, but that's human nature. I think the main aspect of this debate tonight is that whether or not the American people have the yearning for the good old days -- the days of the Carter-Mondale administration with our economic crises, with the loss of Angola, Ethiopia, Southern Yemen, Kampuchea, Afghanistan.(cont.)

NBC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Haig (continued): There hasn't been a repeat of these things over the last four years and the bottom line of these debates are clearly going to be the reflection of the American people from the broad accomplishments of the Reagan Administration.

Brokaw: Sen. Gary Hart....Mondale's trailing anywhere from 9 to 22 points, depending on what poll you happen to read these days. The fact of the matter is all the polls indicate the American people were not very happy with the Carter-Mondale Administration in the areas of national security and defense, and in fact you made those very points when you were running against Mondale. Can it make it up based on this performance tonight?

Sen. Gary Hart: Well, actually, the differences in foreign policy between myself and Vice President Mondale were not all that great. A few of them surfaced, but not very many. I think the debate really established a second level of determination in this Presidential campaign. I think it's very clear what the differences in policy, both domestic and foreign are between the two parties and their candidates. It seems to me, what the debates have drawn out is a different style leadership. Ronald Reagan is brilliant, as we all know, at description and at sentiment. He is awful at prescription and at solutions. He just simply cannot handle detailed analysis and proposals as to how to solve some of these problems, whether it's covert operations in Central America or the nuclear arms race. Walter Mondale can, and I think he demonstrated that this evening brilliantly.

Brokaw: Don't you think, however, given the political nature of the race that we now have, that there wasn't a substantial change that will probably come out of this debate tonight, Senator Hart?

Hart: Well I think if the American people want four more years of a president who is increasingly detached and out of touch, they'll vote for Ronald Reagan. If they want a president who knows the facts, and who's in command of the policies, then they're going to shift, as they did rather dramatically in the '80 race, only this time they'll shift to Walter Mondale.

Brokaw: And, General Haig, wouldn't you have to agree that Walter Mondale tonight did show, in fact, a command of the facts and an articulate expression and understanding of where he wanted to go?

Haig: He's a very good nag, and what's he's doing really, is attacking a series of policies, most of which he agrees with, except in the arms control area primarily, and perhaps human rights. But the real question is, are we better off as a people? Is the world more peaceful, is American credibility stronger around the world? And is our domestic economy in better shape? The answer is, unequivocal, of course it is.

Brokaw: Marvin Kalb, your impressions of the debate, briefly.

NBC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE (continued)

Kalb: It's terribly hard when you're sitting up there to draw any kind of huge judgments. The things that came through to me was at the very beginning....What came through to me first was the President's confusion about the CIA function in Nicaragua -- that clearly came through very strongly. I don't know whether it's a sign of maturity or simply recognition of the world, but his own sense of frustration on the problem of Lebanon came through. Not only there, but in the Philippines. What is the alternative, he asked. These are very large questions and perhaps he might have had answers to both of them, I don't know. But it struck me, listening to him, that there was a sense of a man who has grappled with the problem and really doesn't know the answer. I have a feeling that that is a growing side of maturity within the President.

Brokaw: There was a curious situation tonight in which Walter Mondale said he wouldn't share anything with the Soviet Union in terms of Star Wars technology and the President said, no, I think I might. I'd put it out there on the table and show them what we have.

Kalb: There is in this particular technology, in my view, a sort of an innocence about the way the President addresses this problem. There is an underlying naivete. There is no way that a man who has that kind of distrust for the Soviet Union ultimately -- is he going to give the most sophisticated technology to them.

Brokaw: The election is two weeks and two days away. No matter what we have to say about all of this tonight, you ultimately will be the judge of what you saw of course. And we'll know better November 6.

-end of C-Section-