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Folder Title: Veterans Briefing: AWACS

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# THE ADMINISTRATION'S 10 BEST ARGUMENTS FOR AWAC.

- 1) IF CAESAR HAD AN AWAC HE'D HAVE HEARD ROME FALLING SCONER.
- 2) IF ROBERT E LEE HAD AN AWAC HE COULD HAVE WHIPPED LILYSSES S. AND LOU GRANT.
- 3) IF FRANK SWATRA HAD AN AWAC HE'D FLY ITUP YOUR NOSE.
- 4) IF JOHN WAYNE HAD AN AWAC ...
- (5) IF PAUL REVERE HAD AN AWAC HE'D HAVE BEEN BACK IN BED BY MIDNIGHT.
- (6) IF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HAD AN AWAC HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO FLY A KITE.
- (7) IF TOJO HADAN AWAC WE'D ALL BE DRIVING HONDAS NOW.
- (B) IF IRAQ HAD AN AWAC, IRAQ COULD REACT TO AN ATTACK.
- (9) IF GOODYEAR HAD AN AWAC INSTEAD OF A BLIMP WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WARNED ABOUT HOWARD COSELL.
- 10 IF RICHARD NIXON HAD AN AWAC HE'D BE SELLING THEM LISED.

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a look at politics through the eyes of the political cartoonist

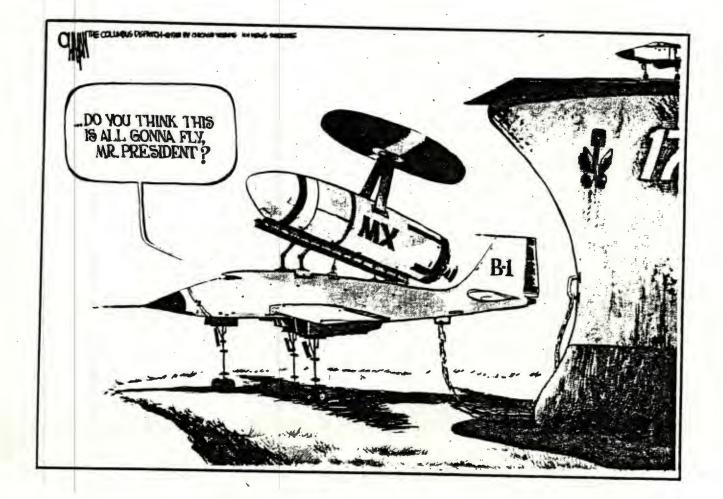
WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY SPECIAL EDITION VOLUME 2, ISSUE 13, OCTOBER 23, 1981



HEM:
YES, MENACHEM!
YES, MENACHEM!
NO MENACHEM!
NO MENACHEM!
NO MENACHEM!
AT ONCE, MENACHEM!
EASY, MENACHEM!
EASY, MENACHEM!

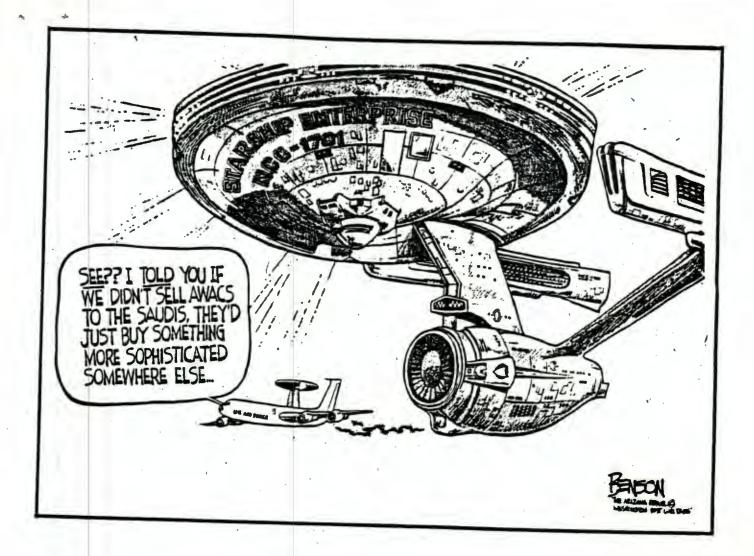


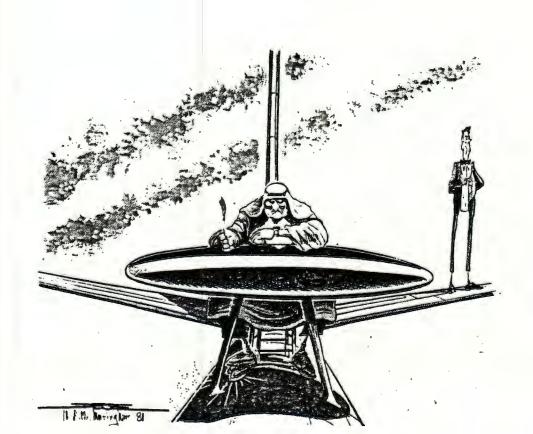
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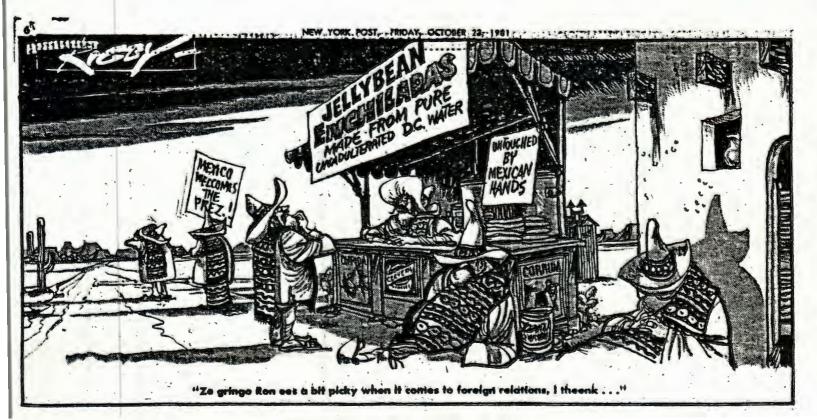






"This is what the American Congress finally agreed on... And you must buy 300,000 of them from Detroit."



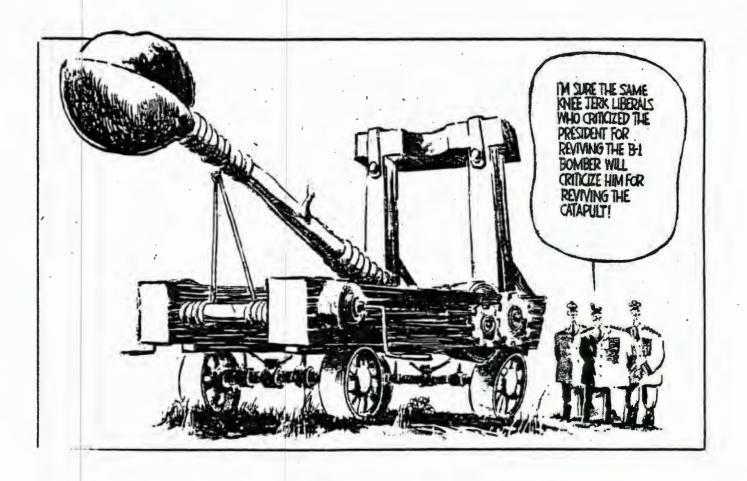


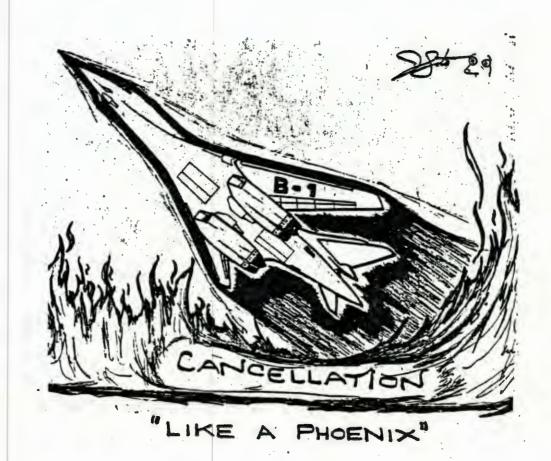


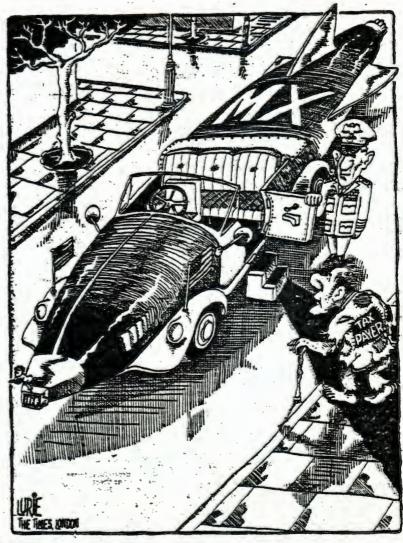


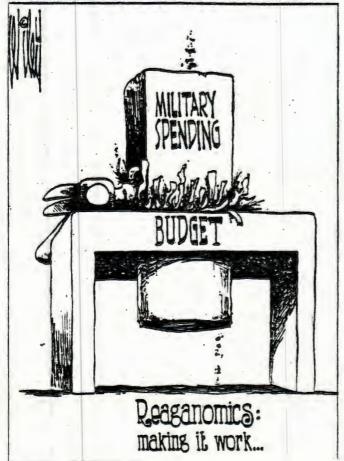


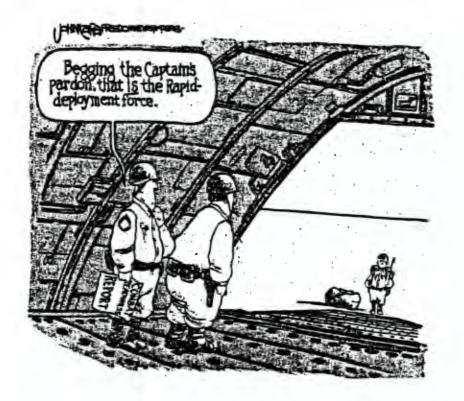
"If it's a California wine you wish, Mr. Larry will assist you."

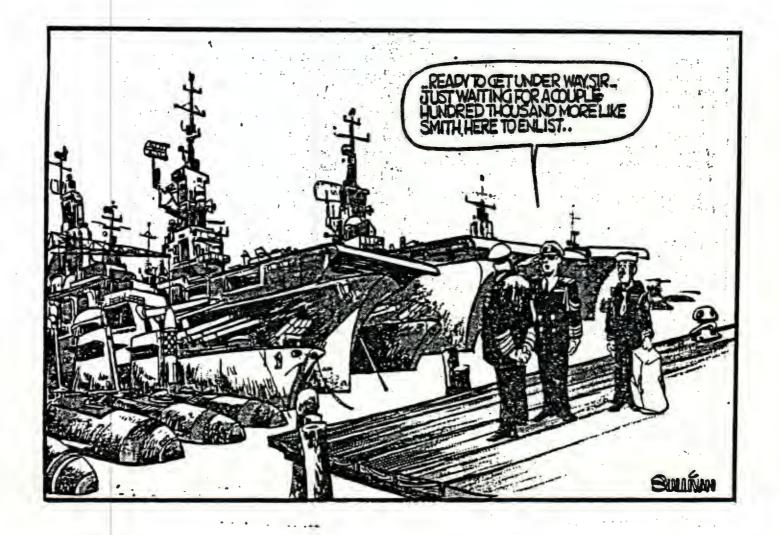








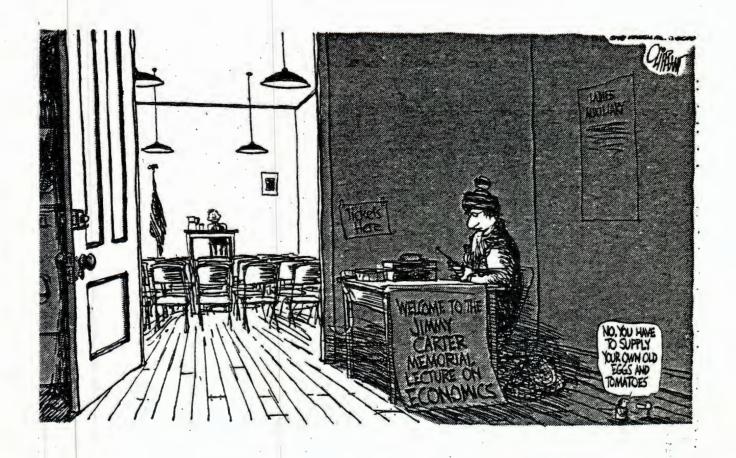




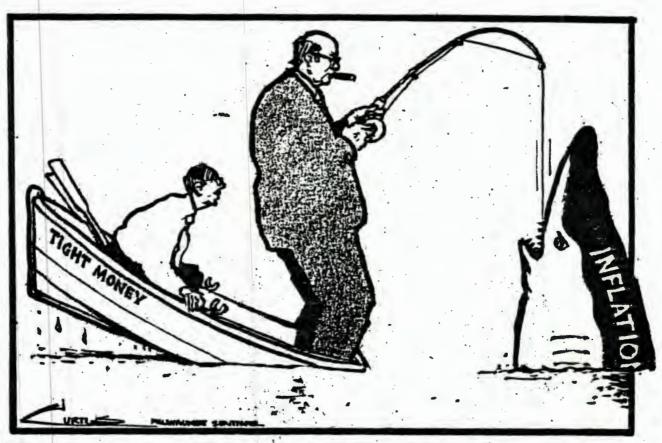




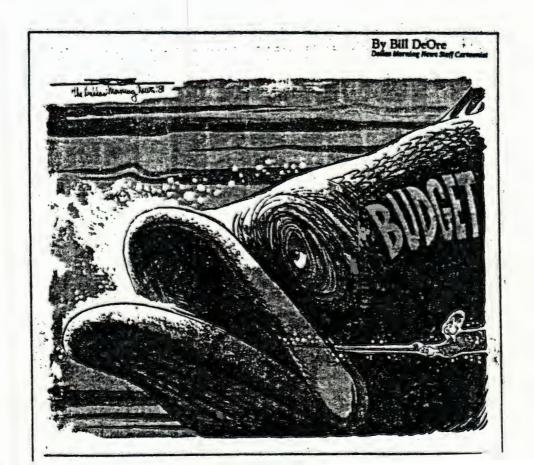
Windows of Vulnerability







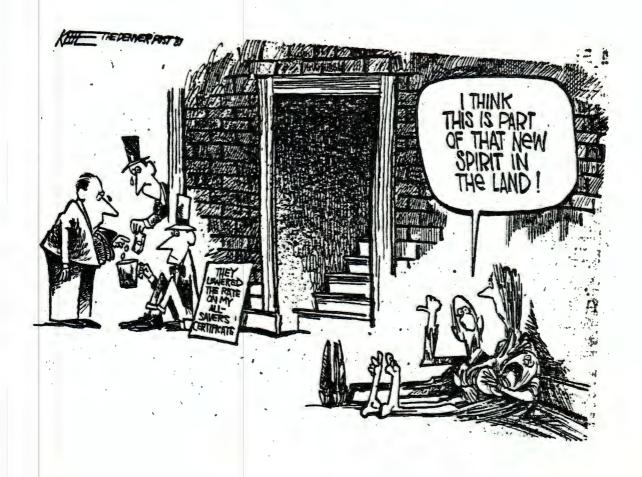
"Don't give him any slack, Mr. Volcker!"



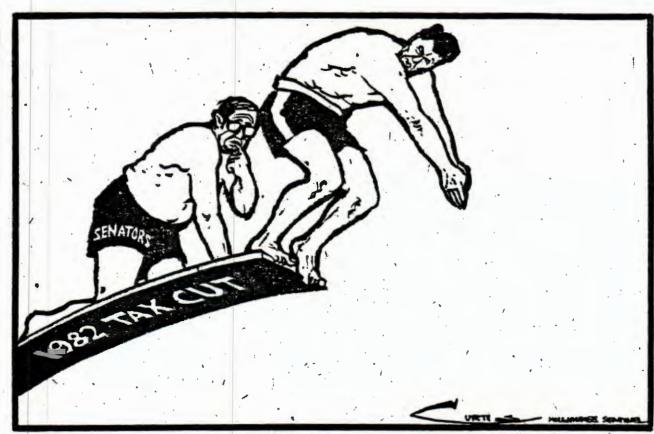




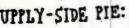
"SUPPLY-SIDE ECONOMICS? NAH, IT'S ALL WET!"







"On the other hand . . ."



eat ingredients conservatively



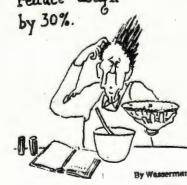
Fill pastry shell after trimming with sharp knife.



Handle upper crust very gently.



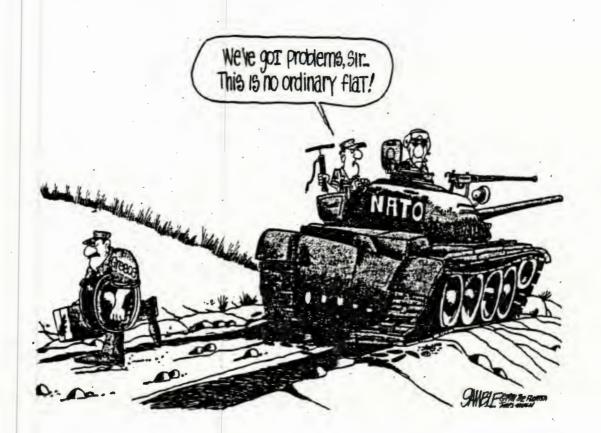
\*For larger pie, reduce dough by 30%.







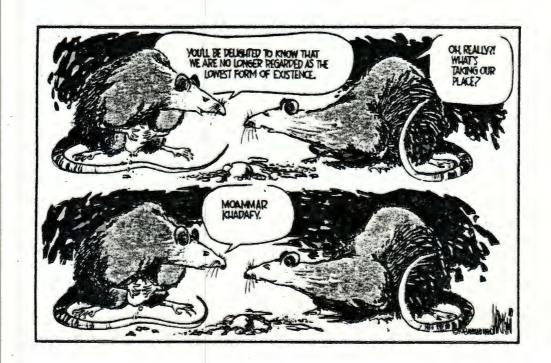


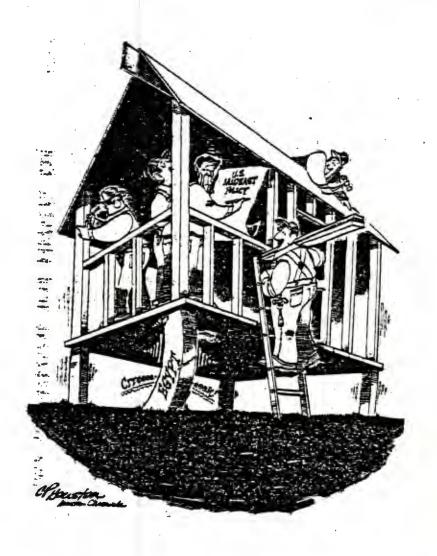








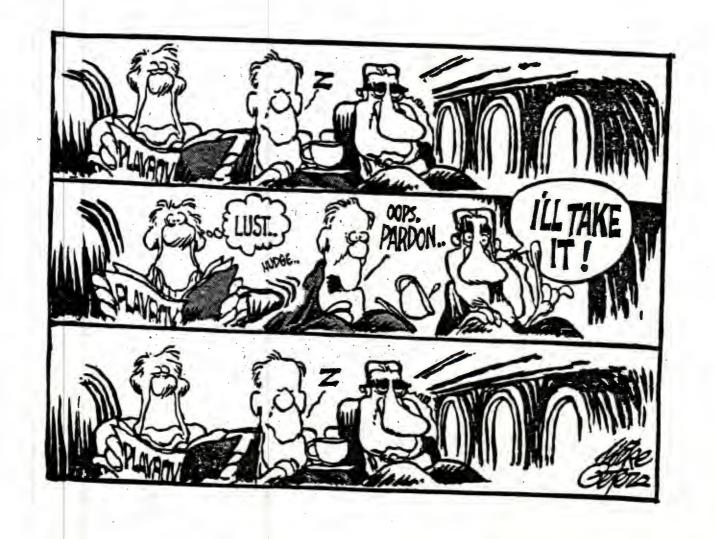










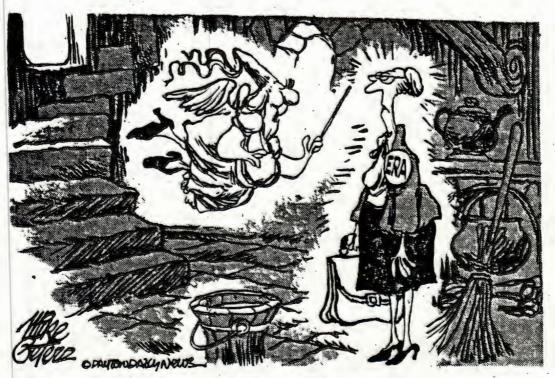




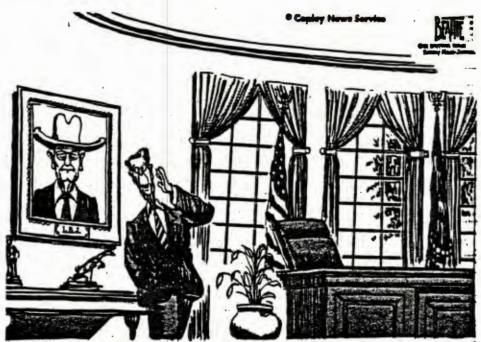


ee I GIVE IT A 20 ... IT'S SOUNDS GOOD, BUT IT'S HARD TO DANCE TO ... ?9

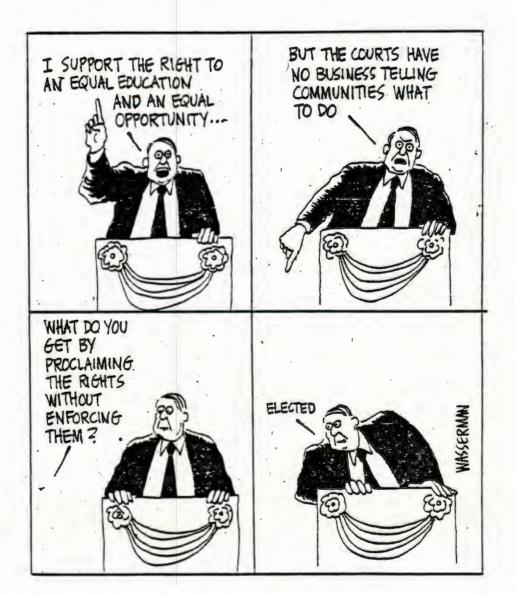




'But remember Cinderella ... if you're not ratified by the stroke of midnight, you'll go back to washing clothes and scrubbing floors ...'

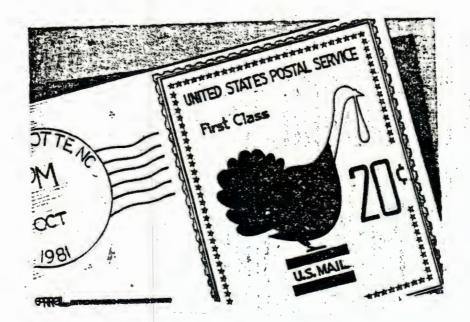


"I've decided to rename it the 'Not So Great Society...'"

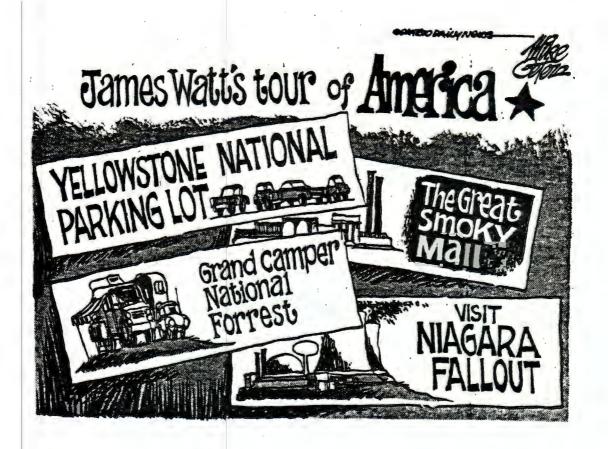








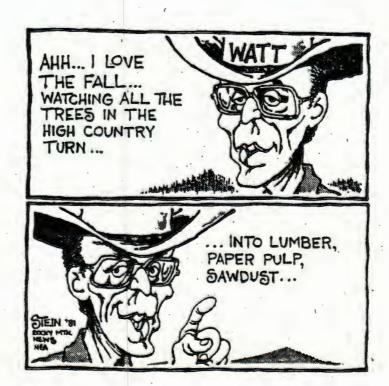








"I just thought of something. . . . Do you know how many trees flad to be cut down to make enough paper for one million signatures?"





VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

October 26, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mort:

Phelps Jones called on Senator Quentin Burdick's office this morning re AWACs.

(As you know, Burdick will see the President, Vice President, and Under Secretary Jim Buckley before the day is over.)

We made the following principal points to Joan Timoney who is handling AWACs for the Senator:

- 1. while the merits of the case are close, denying the President this bipartisan initiative would saw him off at the knees;
- 2. VFW supporting AWACs because we think it is the right thing to do; no "payoff" of any kind for us;
- 3. we will, of course, inform the 14,000 members of the VFW in North Dakota of how both Senators Burdick and Andrews vote.

Miss Timoney said while the Senator is still "leaning against" AWACs, she will pass along to him this expression of concern from the VFW National Commander before the close of business today.

She had earlier told Senator Burdick of Art Fellwock's September 23rd and October 6th public statements. Thought there was "good possibility" that the Senator might wind up supporting the President.

Cordially,

COOPER T. HOLT

Executive Director



# **WOODY JENKINS/Commentary**



# Reagan Makes Solid Case For AWACS Sale to Saudis

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has run into a great deal of Congressional opposition to his proposed sale of five Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

But, on the merits, Reagan's plan is not only in the interest of the United States and Saudi Arabia, it is also in the interest of Israel — the source of opposition to the sale.

It was only a few days ago that Iranian Air Force jets crossed the Persian Gulf and heavily bombed key oil refineries in Kuwait, destroying facilities that help supply America's energy needs.

Saudi Arabian refineries are just as vulnerable to attack, located as they are, just 20 minutes flying time from air bases across the Gulf in Iraq and Iran.

Saudi Arabia, of course, produces 60 per cent of the oil in the Mideast and is America's most dependable supplier of oil. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is the most powerful friend America has in the region — the only moderate Arab state with the influence and prestige to counterbalance madmen such as the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran and Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi of Libya.

In fact, the Saudis are more conservative than we are in some ways. Even today they refuse to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, or any other Communist government.

The vulnerability of Saudi oil refineries and oilfields to air attack from its radical neighbors is the reason they and we badly need the AWACS protecting Saudi territory.

But isn't it true that the AWACS are offensive weapons which can be used against our ally, Israel?

No, the fact is that the AWACS are not offensive weapons. Nor are they defensive weapons!

AWACS are not weapons at all.

Quite, simply, an AWACS is a Boeing 707 aircraft with a radar on top of it. Its sole purpose is to elevate a radar off ground level in order to allow the radar They cannot jam other radars. And, of course, they are unarmed.

In no sense are they a threat to Israel. In fact, just the contrary is true. Under the Reagan agreements, American personnel will be flying the AWACS for the near future. Only after 1990 would Saudi crews have control of the aircraft, and even then American maintenance personnel would be absolutely essential to keep them flying.

Saudi Arabia produces 60 per cent of the oil in the Mideast and is America's most dependable supplier. Yet, their refineries are vulnerable to air attack, located 20 minutes from bases in Iraq and Iran.

to "see" hostile aircraft at a much greater distance.

At ground level, a radar can detect approaching aircraft only about 25 miles away. But on a Boeing 707 flying at 30,000 feet, a radar can see them 210 miles away. Jet aircraft can travel 25 miles in about two minutes—not enough warning time for defensive aircraft to get in the air. But 210 miles flying time is about 15 minutes—enough time for the Saudis to get their fighters in the air to defend their oil refineries.

AWACS do nothing else. They cannot detect troops or tanks on the ground. They do not take aerial photographs.

Continued close cooperation between Saudi and American military personnel and our respective governments is clearly in the best interest of Israel. If the Saudis are forced to turn to others for the sophisticated hardware necessary to defend themselves against attack from radical Arab states, Israel will find itself in a precarious position.

Israel's chief ally, America, will no longer have much influence with its most powerful Arab neighbor, Saudi Arabia.

Better for America to keep the friendship of both Israel and Saudi Arabia. Better for them. And better for us.

Copyright 1981 by Woody Jenkins. Send column ideas to Rep. Louis (Woody) Jenkins, 732 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La. 70802.



## MYLIO S. KRAJA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE AMERICAN LEGION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

1 202 861 2711 1608 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

> Deliver to each Member of the U. S. Senate Charge to Account # CWA 054661

THE AMERICAN LEGION STRONGLY URGES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED SALE
OF AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: AWACS ARE NON OFFENSIVE
RADAR PLANES POSING NO THREAT TO ISREAL, AWACS EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD HAS NO
INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPABILITY COMPARABLE TO SIMILAR FRENCH OR BRITISH
EQUIPMENT, AND IT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO SECURE SAUDI OIL FIELDS
AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTACK.

WE BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE FREE TO EXERCISE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE MAKING OF FOREIGN POLICY.

JACK W. FLYNT NATIONAL COMMANDER THE AMERICAN LEGION



VV

### NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Office of Director

October 19, 1981

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

#### Dear Morton:

Brief update on our AWACs effort stemming from the October 6th meeting in the Family Theater:

## Below groups tell me they will support:

- 1. VFW (of course)
- 2. American Legion (Finally!)
- 3. Air Force Association
- 4. National Association of Uniformed Services
- 5. Non-Commissioned Officers Association
- 6. Marine Corps League
- 7. Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association
- 8. Reserve Officers Association
- 9. Military Order of World Wars
- 10. AMVETS
- 11. American Security Council
- 12. Association of Naval Aviators, Inc.

### Possibles:

- 1. Association of the U. S. Army (now meeting at Sheraton Washington)
- Legion of Valor (DSC & MOH winners)
   (Maj. Jim Doughtie, 421 Bel Pre Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853
   Recommend a Blackwell call here.)

The balance of the attendees either turned me down or are still waffling.

Organizations for AWACs will sign a common message to each Senator, message attached, and this common message will be the subject of a "Dear Colleague" by Baker or Tower drawing attention to support for President.



TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

97TH CONGRESS

SUBJECT: THE AWACS SALE

We, the undersigned leaders of non-governmental organizations, urge each United States Senator to cast an affirmative vote when the AWACs "package" sale comes before the full Senate.

We are convinced for differing, yet compelling, reasons that this sale is in the wide national security interests of the United States.

We note that, if the Senate turns down the President's proposal, the Saudis will purchase an airborne radar package elsewhere. We further note that such an "elsewhere" purchase would diminish both our long term security and economic interests. We would be effectively "side-lined," watching events over which we had no control.

Finally, we note the ungrudging bipartisan support for the AWACs sale by all three living ex-Presidents, all six living ex-Secretaries of Defense, all five living ex-Presidential National Security advisors, two former Secretaries of State, and all three living former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Few votes you will ever cast as a U. S. Senator will be so irreversibly significant.

We call upon you to cast a vote supporting the President of the United States.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Lent 10/15 to:

EHD

Wendy Borcherdt

Wayne Valis

Jack Burgers

Cal. Lilae

James Buckley

Clipping sent to

American Legian

Mational Association Alluformed fluvior

Mon-Commissioned Officers Assoc.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Marine Corps League

Reserve Officers Assoc.

AMVETS

American Leunty Council

### COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

October 12, 1981

Honorable Morton Blackwell Special Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Morton:

It was a pleasure to attend the fine briefing which you arranged at the White House on the proposed sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

The presentation was quite convincing, and I moved from the "undecided" camp to the "for" side.

As a result, I have written the enclosed column, which will appear in 40 newspapers this week in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama. It reaches about 1 million readers.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

With appreciation and kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Louis (Woody) Jenkins

P. S. You have my permission to reprint the enclosed article as you see fit.

### WOODY JENKINS/Commentary



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### Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

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AWACs BRIEFING: October 6, 1981

Association of U.S. Army Col Erik Johnson 2425 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201
841-4300

Legion of Valor of U.S.A. 621 South Taylor Stl Arlington, VA 22204 892-5984 BG Robert Gaynor; Maj. James Doughtie

Air Force Association 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20006 637-3300

Lt. Gen. A.B. Anderson; Col. Ben Catlin

Fleet Reserve Association 1303 New Hampshire Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20036 785-2768

Robert Nolan

Paralyzed Veterans of America Doug Volmer; Jim Mayer 4350 East-West Highway Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20014 652-2135

American Legion G. Michael Schlee 1608 K. St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 861-2711

National Guard Association 1 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20001 789-0031 Merle F. Allen

Non-Commissioned Officers Association
110 Maryland Ave. N.E. Box 143
Washington, D.C. 20002
543-2239
Richard Johnson;
Mack McKinney

Veterans of Foreign Wars

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Marine Corps League 933 North Kenmore St. Arlington, VA 22201 524-1137

543-2239

Cy Kammeier

AWACs Briefing: Page # 2.

Retired Officers Association Vice-Admiral Charles Minter 201 North Washington ST. Alexandria, VA 22314 549-2311

Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association Col. Robert Talbert 1 Constitution Ave. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 543-0100

Reserve Officers Association First and Constitution Washington, D.C. 20001 479-2200

Gen. J. Milnor Roberts; Gen. Evan Hultman

Military Order of the World Wars Gen. C.M. Talbott; 1100 17th St. N.W. Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20036 296-3923

Robert Kales

Disabled American Veterans 807 Maine Ave. S.W. Washington, D.C. 20024 554-3501

Sherman Roodzant

AMVETS 4657 Forbes Blvd. Lanham, MD 20801 459-9600

Donald Russell; Gabriel Brinsky

Blinded Veterans Association 1735 De Sales St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 347-4010

Ellsworth Sharpe

Naval Reserve Association 110 N. Royal St. Suite 307 Alexandria, VA 22314 548-5800

Phillip Smith

Air For ce Sergeants Association P.O. Box 31050 Washington, D.C. 20031

Donald Harlow

899-3500 Navy League of U.S.

Vincent Thomas

818 18th St. N.W. WAshington, D.C. 20006 298-9282

Mark Goldman

Jewish War Veterans 1712 New Hampshire Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 265-6280

AWACs Briefing: Page # 3.

Army and Navy Union 25 Mississippi Ave. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20032 245-6039 Albert C. Allen

Joint Baltic American National Comm.
P.O. Box 432
Rockville, MD 20850

Jaan Elias

340-1954

Council for Inter American Security 305 Fourth St. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 543-6622

Roger Reed

Lovers of Israel P.O. Box 686 Bedford, TX 76021 Mike Evans

American Security Council 499 S. Capitol St. S.W. Washington, D.C. 20003 825-1776

Rick Sellers; Anthony Makris; Philip Cox

Heritage Foundation
513 C. St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
546-4400

Jeff Gayner

Association of Naval Aviation 5202 Leesburg Pike Suite 200 Falls Church, VA 22041 998-7733 Admiral Mark Hill

Council on National Policy P.O. Box 52889 Baton Rouge, LA 70805

Woody Jenkins

Stanford Research Institute 7005 Radnor Rd. Bethesda, MD 20034 229-8469

Brig. Gen. Albion Knight

American Logistics Association 5205 Leesburg Pike Suite 1213 Falls Church, VA 22041 998-5400

William Lazarus

AWACs Briefing: Page # 4.

Religious Roundtable 1500 Wilson Blvd. Suite 502 Arlington, VA 22209 525-3795

Ed McAteer; Charles F. Fitzgerald

The Conservative Caucus 7777 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22043 893-1550

Howard Phillips; Andy Messing

The Eagle Forum
316 Pennsylvania Ave. S.W. Suite 203
Washington, D.C. 20003
543-0353

National Defense Council 5840 Cameron Run Terrace # 319 Alexandria, VA 22303 765-1815

The Viguerie Company 7777 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22043 356-0440

Richard Viguerie

The Congressional Club 311 First St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001

Susan Stacy; Brad Stone

Veterans Administration Washington, D.C.

Designate - Deputy Administrato Charles T. Hagel

389-5428

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D HON JEREMIAH DENTON

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 5327

MASHINGTON DC 20510

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED LEADERS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, URGE EACH UNITED STATES SENATOR TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE AWACS 'PACKAGE' SALE.

WE ARE CONVINCED FOR DIFFERING, YET COMPELLING, REASONS THAT THIS SALE IS IN THE WIDE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE NOTE THAT, IF THE SENATE TURNS DOWN THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, THE SAUDIS WILL PURCHASE AN AIRBORNERADAR PACKAGE ELSEWHERE. WE FURTHER NOTE THAT SUCH AN 'ELSEWHERE' PURCHASE WOULD DIMINISH BOTH OUR LONG TERM SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY 'SIDE-LINED,' WATCHING EVENTS OVER WHICH WE HAD NO CONTROL.

FINALLY, WE NOTE THE UNGRUDGING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THE AWACS SALE BY ALL THREE LIVING EX-PRESIDENTS, ALL SIX LIVING EX-SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE, ALL FIVE LIVING EX-PRESIDENTIAL NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS, TWO FORMER SECRETARIES OF STATE, AND ALL THREE LIVING FORMER CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. FEW VOTES YOU WILL EVER CAST AS. A U.S. SENATOR WILL BE SO IRREVERSIBLY SIGNIFICANT. WE CALL UPON YOU TO CAST A VOTE SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. COLONEL PHILIP C COX SECRETARY AMERICAN COALITION OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES. BRIG GEN ROBERT RICHARDSON USA (RET) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE MR W L GLEESON PRESIDENT AMERICAN FREEDOM NETWORK MR ED SAJOVIC PRESIDENT AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC MR JOHN M FISHER PRESIDENT AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD R RUSSELL AMVETS ADMIRAL THOMAS MOORER USN (RET)

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL AVIATION INC

MR CLAY CLAIBORNE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

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BLACK SILENT MAJORITY COMMITTEE MR GARY POTTER PRESIDENT > CATHOLICS FOR CHRISTIAN POLITCAL ACTION MS KAREN MCKAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMITTEE FOR A FREE AFGHANISTAN LADY MALCOLM DOUGLAS-HAMILTON PRESIDENT CITIZENS FOR FREEDOM COMMITTEE TO UNITE AMERICA MS. CONNIE MARSHNER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COALITIONS FOR AMERICA MR MACK STERLING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONFEDERATE AIRFORCE MR RALPH J GALLIAND CHAIRMAN CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY COMMITTEE MR GREG HILTON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONSERVATIVE VICTORY FUND HR L FRANCIS BOUCHEY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COUNCIL FOR INTER-AMERICAN SECURITY MS PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY PRESIDENT EAGLE FORUM MR ROBERT HECKMAN CHAIRMAN FUND FOR A CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY MS MARTHA ROUNDTREE PRESIDENT LEADERSHIP ACTION MR J A PARKER THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE MR CY KAMMEIER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARING CORPS LEAGUE GENERAL C M TALBOTT USA (RET) CHIEF OF STAFF MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS LT GEN OREN E HURBUT USA (RET) CHAIRMAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES MR BILL BILLINGS PRESIDENT NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACTION COALITION MS CARY STEADMAN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL REAR ADMIRAL PHILLIP W SMITH USNR PRESIDENT NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION MS JOAN HEUTER PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN PRO-AMERICA CHIEF ENGINMAN JOE WASSON RESERVE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION MAJOR GENERAL MILNOR ROBERTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AMBASSADOR ELBRIDGE DURBROW PRESIDENT SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE FUND MR JOHN HVASTA SECRETARY GENERAL AMERICAN COMMITTEE SLOVAK FORLD CONGRESS WARRANT OFFICER DONALD HESS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT US ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MR ARTHUR FELLHOOK NATIONAL COMMANDER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



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MR BRADFORD PETERSON
NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN
YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM
MR RON ROBINSON PRESIDENT
YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION

08:49 EST :

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### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1981

Dear Cooper:

I want to personally add my thanks to those of the President, which I understand are en route to you.

Your efforts in behalf ot the AWACS sale were a key element in convincing a majority of the Senate to support this decision of the President.

In addition to an obviously effective lobbying presence, you provided very useful information which helped direct the President's actions as he worked with undecided Senators.

Again, let me thank you for the excellent V.F.W. effort on behalf of the President.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell

Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Cooper Holt Executive Director Veterans of Foreign Wars 200 Maryland Avenue N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1981

Dear James:

We only spoke once about the AWACS sale, but I heard echoes of that conversation at a very critical time.

On the day that Senator Jepsen announced his decision to support the President on the AWACS sale, my wife and I had dinner with Senator and Mrs. Jepsen. Dee Jepsen mentioned repeatedly the strong and useful advice which you gave to the Senator through her as an important factor in his decision. Your most persuasive point was that one can be a very strong friend of Israel (as you and the Jepsens and I are), and still conclude that is is in the best interest of Israel, on some occasions, to disagree with a policy decision of the Israeli government.

I am convinced that the forces of freedom through out the world would have been severely weakened if the President had lost this battle in the Senate. Senator Jepsen's decision was the central reason why we won. Thus, your unsung role in this matter may have been a key to influencing major world events.

Cordially,

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Morton C. Blackwell Special Assistant to the President

Reverend James Robison Evangelistic Association P.O. Box 18489 Fort Worth, Texas 78118

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1981

Dear General Roberts:

I know that the President is going to thank you personally for your magnificent assistance in obtaining our badly needed victory on AWACS. But I want to add my sincere thanks as well.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the leadership of the ROA in this battle was critical to our success. Your leadership brought over to us the support of virtually the entire range of politically effective veterans and service related organizations.

Too often such efforts go unsung. I want you to know that many here at the White House are singing ourselves hoarse in praise of your achievements.

You know how to get things done. Your work with ROA Iowans close to Senator Jepsen and Senator Grassley was unquestionably a key element in their decisions. The decision of these two fine Iowa Senators was clearly what broke the back of the opposition.

A defeat for the President in this matter would have damaged the forces of freedom around the world. In years to come, we may look back on your success in this effort as a key factor in influencing world events.

Cordially,

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Morton C. Blackwell Special Assistant to the President

General J. Milnor Roberts
Reserve Officers Association
First and Constitution Avenues N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002