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Last Updated: 06/26/2025

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FG128

The President has seen _____

CHARLTON HESTON

May 20, 1983

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*No Paper
Ver*

Dear Mr. President:

I'm grateful not only that you gave me time last week, but for your thoughtful and forthcoming response. I hate to be one of those hundreds of guys tugging at your arm, but this syndication thing really worries me. Given the already awesome power of the networks, to move as fast and as sweepingly as Justice seems determined to do could be deeply dangerous to the nation. If Ed Meese passes on your concerns to Mr. Baxter, he may restrain the unseemly haste with which he is pressing ahead.

Of course I'm delighted that you have expressed your desire to personally examine the credentials of those recommended to fill the vacancy on the FCC. I'm convinced your involvement in both these matters is of vital service to us all.

I know you must have people clipping stuff for you, but your kind note thanking me for the last columns I sent impelled me to include the enclosed. You might find a way to use that neat line I've marked at Williamsburg. Good luck with them.

It was lovely to see you both looking so great. Lydia was delighted to have a chance to chat with Nancy and to see some of what she's done with the rooms there. That's vital service, too.

God bless and love to you both,

As ever,

Chuck

End
case
File

138858
ME001

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

Dear Mrs. Nuese:

Thank you very much for your letter -- correction -- letters. I did enjoy both and appreciate your writing. I'm pleased to know Ted doesn't regret his decision. Your concern about a "militaristic point of view" is understandable but may I offer another view? The paradox of military training is that young men are taught a trade which we hope and pray they will never use. It is important that they take pride in what they are doing, the terms are esprit de corps and morale. Those things are very important. The better they know their trade, the higher their morale, the better are our chances of maintaining peace. They are truly the keepers of peace by virtue of their willingness to man the ramparts and by hard won skills.

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Thank you again, and I wish you every success in your writing. Give my regards to Ted.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Dorothy J. Nuese
Box 22
Laurel, Iowa 50141

Dorothy J. Niese
Box 22
Laurel Iowa 50141

Laurel, Iowa

May 10, 1983

Dear President Reagan,

I want to express to you my delight in receiving your recent letter. I was surprised and so pleased. There have been so many times in the past twenty-one months when I have wanted to be in touch with you. Your letter gave me the needed encouragement to re-open the communication.

The thoughts and feelings which I have wanted to express to you have been in two general areas.

The first is an outgrowth of the experience when our son Ted entered the army in August of 1981. The series of events set into motion as the result of the public attention you gave my letter will surely have an impact upon my family and me for years to come. Little fun things continue to ripple in. Currently, the thing is the hope of having an article published in the Readers Digest. If they buy my story, it could make a significant difference on the plans for a degree for me in my chosen field of study. It could also have real impact on the future for my writing which I love so much to do.

During and since the time of "the letter", there has been a steady flow of changes which I shall address later in this letter. But I have often thought of you too, and have wondered if you remembered us or ever thought of us. Your letter last week convinced me that you do. Your response to my letter at the time seemed so real and it went well in the direction of helping to change the image of a president who would seem to have to gear to the powerful. You have encouraged me to take hold of some of my old fashioned idealistic views and trust in the possibility of a president who really cares about the people. It would seem that you would need to speak to the

programs and machines of politics and government, and yet, you seem to recognize the realness of the people behind all that.

That brings me to the second reason why I have wanted to be in touch with you again. When I read the papers and magazines and when I watch the news on television or listen to the radio, I can't help slipping behind the cameras and note pads of the news gatherers and wondering what it is really like for you. With the heaviness of your responsibility and the hazards of being perceived differently by so many people, I feel a concern for how all that is for you and all those dear to you. I think about your feelings.

Now, as to Ted. He is Pfc Ted Paul Nuese, U.S. Army, Special Forces. Right now he is at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. For the most part, his experience in the army has been positive. He talks about being involved for a long time. He has considerable training in Counter Intelligence Agent training, although at this time he is questioning the appropriateness of his involvement in that kind of work. I think it is not going well and Ted doesn't fail well! We shall see. His first love where the army is concerned is Special Forces and he is hoping for a future in that area.

When he left us, I remember his shoulders being so tan and slender. You should see those shoulders now! He has done much growing in other ways, too. We all have.

He has been home both Christmases. Twice when he was home, he brought army friends. We liked that.

Some of the changes I observe make me uncomfortable. I don't really know what I thought they taught soldiers... and I do try to recognize the changes as a part of his personal and professional growth and try to flow with them. He has developed a really militaristic point of view and is so drawn toward the element of hazard and danger. More than anything is his world, he wants to become a Green Beret and does seem to be up against about very stubborn obstacles in moving toward his goals.

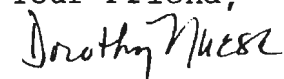
At Christmas, his gifts were costly and we all felt quite indulged in and we loved it! He is over protective about his eleven and fourteen year old sisters and still says I'm a great cook. The last time he came home, he drove his new car (new to him) and arrived at two in the morning. In the darkness of that hour, he asked why the neighbors across the street had cut down the giant tree in their yard. I saw in his luggage a Playboy pinup poster right beside his green Gideon Bible!

Some of what I find regrettable are the gas mask he had in his trunk, the normalcy of heavy drinking habits in young military men and the fact that he probably will not be able to be the best man in his only brothers wedding in our lawn this June.

Those are some samples of some of the feelings and conflicts inside me. I invest much concentration in discerning what things are the result of the soldier training he loves so much and what things are simply a part of his growing up and away. I also try to point him to the wings he is developing and at the same time, rejoice as I see him recognize the roots which still connect us to him.

Thank you again, President Reagan for listening "to the passions of a mother's heart". Your letter assured me that you do remember and care. I have taken license to share candidly and in a very personal way. And so, I have once again entrusted something important to you, trusting as before, that you will "be very careful with the country just now. I appreciate you and was touched that on a gray, rainy day in the spring, you remembered my letter and pulled it out again to read it. Thanks!

Your Friend,


Dorothy Nuese

Note;

This is the morning after I wrote the letter you just read. Last night as I was at work writing to you, Ted called! I think that is rather unique timing. It was late at night.

He had called a few days earlier to tell me that the schooling there at Huachuca was going poorly and that his level of interest was very low. He wanted to terminate his training there. It was good to have him express himself regarding his concerns and his feelings. He had several reasons for dropping the training there and all of them seemed to him to be valid. Not being insightful in military matters, I was not free to comment or counsel. And those choices need and must be his own anyway. That way, he will take ownership for his decisions and the results of them.

One of the main concerns he voiced was that by dropping the schooling there, he would be placing himself at the discretion of the army to place him wherever they need him. He now knows that he will be in the infantry. It seemed to me that he was trying very hard to make the best of a decision which was less than the ideal. More than anything in the world these last two years, Ted has wanted to get into Special Forces and ultimately into the Green Beret.

When I finished letting him tell me the news and all his thoughts, I asked him to tell me what he was feeling. Here is, in essence, what he seemed to be saying; Let's put it this way, Mom, it is not what I had wanted. I am disappointed and I know that Dad will be disappointed in me for quitting. But I am just not cut out for that desk work typing for the next year or so. I really respect those guys who are and I know we need them, but I'm just not one of them. I am going to get to the Beret someday. This is a step down. But maybe it'll just be a longer route.

When I told him about your inquiry, he said; "Tell him I'm not a quitter. I still like the army and I'm gonna go."

I believe this is a young man on the grow!. He's so neat. I'm glad I'm his mom. Thanks for being there.

DJN

COPY

April 26, 1983

Dear Mrs. Nuese:

It has been quite awhile since you sat in that empty bedroom writing me of your son's departure. I've often thought about him and you and wondered how he's getting along and if he's happy with the choice he made. I hope he is. I don't know which branch he chose.

It is a gray rainy day here in Washington and I've been reading your letter again. I don't mean to impose but if you could find the time to write and let me know about your son I'd be most grateful. If you'd send the letter to me at the White House in care of Kathy Osborne (my secretary) I'd get it right away.

Best regards,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Dorothy Nuese
Box 22
Laurel, Iowa 50141

RR:AVH:pps

RR Dictation

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WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER
BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

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New File Location: May 23, 1983 Box C

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

138858

112001

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Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Dorothy J. Nuese
Box 22
Laurel, Iowa 50141

HANDWRITING FILE

Dorothy J. Mues
Box 22
Laurel Iowa 50141

Laurel, Iowa
May 10, 1983

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DJN

To Mrs. Dorothy J. Nuese Box 22 Laurel Iowa 50441

Dear Mrs. Nuese

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Thank you again and I wish you every success in your writing. Give my regards to Ted.

Sincerely R R

End
case
File

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Fo 002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

Dear Ted:

I have your letter and wish I could just say yes to your request. Unfortunately, it isn't that easy. As you know, there is a long time thing about a percentage of diplomatic posts being filled by career foreign service people. The truth is we've gone to the outside more than other administrations have done by quite a considerable margin so we are not in the strongest position on this. Truth is the career man was moved out by a political appointee. Ted, if this doesn't work perhaps we can keep Weston on top for something else.

Best regards,

Ron

Mr. T. E. Stivers
Post Office Box 608
Decatur, Georgia 30031

T. E. STIVERS
CONSULTANT
POST OFFICE BOX 608
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30031

Dear Mr. President:

Bob Tuttle tells me that the appointment of Ambassador to Kenya is down to a choice between a State Department career person and Weston Adams of South Carolina. I am writing to urge Weston's selection.

First, Weston is a very competent individual, and I have personally known him and his loyal work in the Reagan efforts since 1975. Having known a number of ambassadors over the years, I am certain Weston is highly qualified. I understand Bill Clark has met Weston and is supportive.

Another important aspect is the need to keep "changing the guard". The bureaucracy perpetuates itself, and no where is that more evident than in the State Department. A volunteer like Weston can only go through a few senators and his Reagan friends. This would be quite a mismatch, except we have you!

Your volunteers need some victories, especially as the election approaches. Weston Adams' appointment would be good for the country, and good for the morale of your troops. I hope you will personally intervene if necessary.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Honorable Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

16691

May 17, 1983

To Mr. T. E. Stivers P.O. Box 608
Decatur Ga. 30031

Dear Ted

I have your letter and ~~also~~ wish I could
just say yes to your request. Unfortunately it
isn't that easy. As you know there is a long
time thing about a percentage of diplomatic posts
being filled by career ~~appointees~~ foreign service
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considerable margin so we are not in the strongest
position on this. Truth is the career man was
moved out by a political appointee. Tld if this
doesn't work perhaps we can keep Weston on tap for
something else.

Best Regards

Ren

End
case
File

125280
PR003

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

Dear Miss Bennett:

First I heard from Trent Lott about your endorsement of our policies at a recent town meeting. Then he delivered your letter to me. I want to thank you for both.

Believe me, your letter came out right as far as I'm concerned. I wish some of our Congressmen and Senators (not Trent) could see as clearly as you do what is needed to solve our problems -- foreign and domestic.

I'm grateful for your generous words. You make me very proud. Thank you for your invitation. I hope we can meet. I'll get hold of Patti and ask about the album -- I don't have one yet myself.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

Miss Angel Bennett
207 Bell Street
Petal, Mississippi

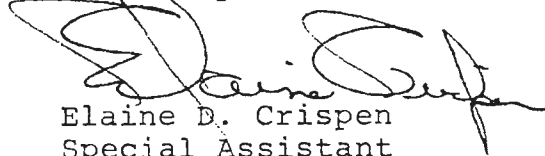
June 8, 1983

Dear Miss Bennett:

The President has requested that I write to you regarding your inquiry. Apparently you are interested in knowing where you would be able to purchase a copy of Patti's album. The album has not yet been released and I do not have a date for release to share with you.

I am sorry that I could not be more helpful at this time. If I do receive further information, I will pass it along to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elaine D. Crispen".

Elaine D. Crispen
Special Assistant
to Mrs. Reagan

Miss Angel Bennett
207 Bell Street
Petal, Mississippi 39465

From the desk of President Ronald Reagan:

To Miss Angel Bennett
207 Bell St.
Petal Miss. 39465

Dear Miss Bennett

First I heard from Trent Lott
about your endorsement of our
policies at a recent Town meeting. Then
he delivered your letter to me. I want
to thank you for both.

Believe me your letter came
out right as far as I'm concerned. I
wish some of our Congressmen & Senators
(not Trent) could see as clearly as you
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I'm grateful for your generous
words. You make me very proud. Thank
you for your invitation I hope we can
meet. I'll get hold of Patti and ask
about the album - I don't have one yet
myself.

Again Thanks.

Sincerely,
RK



End
case
file

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1983

Dear Mr. President ^{96 Papers} ₉₆

Thanks so much for the
striking moments of the Williamsburg
Summit.

But it is I, and people all over
the world, who thank you. You
carried a difficult and in many respects
momentous meeting to an outstanding
conclusion. You carried off a personal
tour de force (if I may use a French
expression).

You have my thanks and
admiration and respect

Gene

End
Case
File

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TR 076

The President has seen _____



House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

C. W. Bill Young
5th District, Florida

May 31, 1983

No paper

Dear Mr. President:

The enthusiasm of the Cuban people of Miami on your last trip to Florida reminded me of many of the days we spent campaigning together in 1980, and I appreciated the opportunity to spend that day with you.

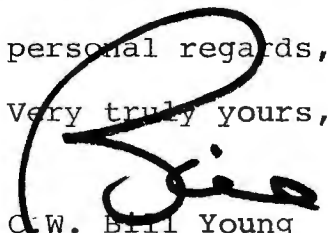
Enclosed is a copy of the St. Petersburg Times, one of Florida's leading newspapers, which published a glowing account of your visit.

In particular, I thought you might be interested in the way they reported the response to your line, "Cuba, Si! - Castro, No!". As the Times said, "The roar sounded as if it could be heard all the way to Big Havana!"

This is just one of several favorable stories which followed your visit, and I just wanted you to know that the warm reception you received flowed over into the media for a change.

With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,


C.W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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Co.
F



The President has seen _____

1983 Summit of Industrialized Nations

Williamsburg, Virginia
May 28-31, 1983

Re.

No Reply

I have to go - alas.

If you are discussing
Middle East this evening - could
Francis Pym represent me.
Tomorrow - on economic matters
and on the communique, Geoffrey Howe

Thank you for your superb
chairmanship.

Raymond

case
file

HEARST NEWSPAPERS
SUITE 510
1701 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

TELEPHONE
CODE 202 - 298-6920

*No Reply
Please
OK*

May 31, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I noticed with a great deal of pleasure that no one at the Williamsburg summit insisted on, or even advocated, higher taxes for an unbalanced budget. The argument against it is well set forth in this article by Louis Rukeyser, to which I referred in my column last Sunday.

Heaven knows, the unbalanced budget must be a source of concern to you, but you've got a lot of sound people on your side pointing out that increased revenue from taxes encourages more government spending.

The way to reduce the budget deficit is your way of reducing government expenses, just like you or I would have to do.

All the best,

Bill Hearst
William Randolph Hearst, Jr.

WRH/ad

SERVICING:

Albany Times-Union
Albany Knickerbocker News
Baltimore News American

Boston Herald American
Los Angeles Herald-Examiner
San Antonio Light

San Francisco Examiner
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Gannett Westchester Newspapers/Sunday, May 22, 1983

Raising taxes is no way to reduce the rising deficit

By Louis Rukeyser
Syndicated Columnist

Picking the most dangerous fallacy now beguiling Congress could be a difficult job. Indeed, so many silly myths immediately spring to mind that the task might require six months of intensive task-force study, meanwhile paralyzing any other activity on Capitol Hill — a possibility that could make the effort worthwhile all by itself.

But my own nomination this spring can be made more rapidly. It is the notion currently so popular with some politicians on both sides of the aisle, and with many of their media acolytes, that the sensible way to deal with the ugly deficits looming out to the far horizon is to resume raising taxes. From this, we get the smug assumption that it is somehow "responsible" to increase taxes and "irresponsible" to reduce them.

Well, sorry, gang, but balderdash. There is no evidence in either the distant or recent past that overburdening the private economy with revenue demands is the route to a balanced budget. There is, on the contrary, abundant evidence that endless increases in taxes promote and expand endless deficits.

Consider: If raising taxes were truly the way to eliminate deficits, we would have had the biggest surpluses in U.S. history right through the 1970s.

Instead, we quite predictably produced the most horrendous series of budget deficits on record — as the gargantuan tax increases encouraged greedy legislators to spend all these bountiful new revenues — and more.

The worst of those tax increases was the most dishonest: the hidden tax known as "bracket creep," in which inflation pushed workers into higher tax brackets without

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any genuine economic elevation. Ordinary workers found their earnings taxed at rates originally intended for the affluent.

Congress, the chief beneficiary of this governmental con game, gleefully took advantage of these "inflation dividends," and then some. From 1970 to 1980, unlegislated increases in personal income-tax revenues totaled 176 percent.

Why, then, couldn't the government balance the budget during that decade of windfall tax increases? Because, Congress, characteristically, used this bonanza as one more excuse to avoid cutting spending; federal outlays from 1970 to 1980 bounded ahead by 194 percent — even faster than revenues.

The only way to keep that sort of political largess from recurring in the next decade is to install the promised inflation indexing of the tax system, as promised, in 1985. No wonder so many of our noble legislators edge near apoplexy at the prospect of losing this perennial prop for profligacy. Their crusade to repeal indexing before it's too late — i.e., before the public

finally regains an honest tax system — becomes a highly useful litmus test of economic integrity.

So President Reagan is clearly right, resisting congressional efforts to under the scheduled July 1 tax cut and/or to indexing the best tax benefit you never. But my own sympathy for the embattled White House would be greater if its act on taxes had been more consistent.

In 1981, the president came on strong as a tax cutter. This was all to the good, though the three-year program was grossly oversold; so many other taxes have increased that 1983 represents the year of authentic net reductions. (The cuts didn't "fall;" they've barely started.)

But in 1982, the president turned around and endorsed a \$100 billion tax increase whose brilliance rates somewhere between counterproductive and suicidal.

And guess what? The projected deficit has grown since that loony bill was passed. Once again, a tax increase could reduce the budget deficit by a nickel. I lesson even a congressman might learn by now.

Truth is, this economy is looking better and better. The chief threats now are inflation-based. The Federal Reserve has moderated the recent inflationary growth money without overreacting and choking recovery. And Congress has to ease Fed's job, not by raising economically destructive taxes but by finally coming grips with major reductions in federal spending.

Myths can be comforting in the false economic land of Washington. But in the real world, as we have had ample opportunity to discover, they can kill the goose.

Recession-proof retailer finds its niche

By Independent Press Service

Even in the depths of recession, Family was growing quietly, cutting a limited-price merchandise category. Merrill Lynch's Lawrence Rader thinks economic

States, selling on a cash-only basis a wide variety of goods, including clothing, toys, school and automotive supplies.

Rader notes that sales have expanded from \$37.1 million in 1973 to \$207.4 million in 1982. "We now feel confident that store sales can grow at least 5 percent during the next four to six quarters," said Rader, adding that 1983 sales could grow to \$250 million.

producing and selling a cornucopia of products for the food industry. P recession hit deep into its division, lowering over San Francisco-based

But according to president Smith

"irresponsible" to reduce them."

Mr. Fukeyser's response to this assumption was quick, and blunt:

"Well, sorry, I am, but balderdash."

Then he went on with these interesting observations:

"There is no evidence in either the distant or recent past that overburdening the private economy with revenue demands is the route to a balanced budget. There is, on the contrary, abundant evidence that endless increases in taxes promote and expand endless deficits."

Then came this snapper from Mr. Fukeyser:

"Consider: If raising taxes were truly the way to eliminate deficits, we would have had the biggest surpluses in U.S. history right through the 1970s."

"Instead, we quite predictably produced the most horrendous series of budget deficits on record -- as the gargantuan tax increases encouraged greedy legislators to spend all these bountiful new revenues -- and more."

Mr. Fukeyser concluded with an optimistic note about the nation's economy. It is a note shared by most of the nation's economists, and increasingly by politicians of both parties:

"Truth is, this economy is looking no better and better."

"The chief threats now are Washington-based. The Federal Reserve has to moderate the recent inflationary growth of money without overreacting and choking the recovery. And Congress has to ease the Fed's job, not by raising economically destructive taxes but by finally coming to grips with major reductions in federal spending."

"Myths can be comforting in the fantasy economic land of Washington. But in the real world, as we have had ample opportunity to discover, they can kill the golden goose."

The vote approving President Reagan's plan for basing the MX represented a broad cross-section of the House. Joining 148 Republicans in support of the measure were 91 Democrats. That's the kind of bipartisanship, particularly on issues of national security and foreign affairs, the president seeks. A day after House acceptance, the Senate easily voted approval of the same funds for the MX, accentuating the president's dramatic triumph. The House has the whole issue now.

To be sure, partisan pols like Tip O'Neill haven't yet conceded. The speaker, trying to build up brownie points, emphasized that freeing the \$625 million was just the first obstacle facing the MX in coming weeks. Congress also must vote on bills to authorize and appropriate \$4.5 billion for actual procurement of the weepors. In the face of existing national deficits and how the Soviets will respond, argued Speaker O'Neill, the president's plan won't fly again. I suggest that Tip might review what President Reagan did this time, as he is bound to get directly involved again.

One comment bears repetition: "At stake is the future of arms reductions -- balanced, verifiable arms reductions that can make the world a safer place for all the earth's people."

The Congress heard the president loud and clear. I think it will again in the next round.

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May 29.

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(Suggested head) MA VICTORY (Ind head)

By William Randolph Hearst, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief, The Hearst Newspapers

NEW YORK -- President Reagan achieved a notable personal triumph when the House of Representatives approved his plan to base 100 MX missiles in existing shelters under the plains of Nebraska and Wyoming. Then the Senate swiftly endorsed the plan. When you consider that only a couple of weeks before, the opposition was regarded as near-insurmountable, the approval for his House resolution, 279-to-186, must be chalked up by all factions as a major triumph for the president.

He used his powers of persuasion to the utmost, especially in arguing that the missile was essential leverage in the search for an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union which only recently resumed in Geneva. The turn-around in the vote unblocked a decision by Congress last year to deny funds for the mammoth weapon which can deliver 10 warheads on Soviet targets with extreme accuracy.

This measure now will release \$625 million for flight testing and engineering of the missile. Those funds were frozen last year by legislators who disagreed with an earlier program known as "dense pack." President Reagan started out way behind on the new plan. He called in congressmen to the White House, explaining what it means in detail to our national security. I rooted for him to make an impression but wondered if he hadn't left it a little too late.

But the president's strategy confounded all skeptics, supporters and skeptics alike. The House, remember, has a Democratic majority. Speaker Tip O'Neill, at first super-confident of a negative vote, began to wilt before roses were counted. He offered a lame excuse, suggesting that the MX was better than anything the Russians had but it would encourage them to try to outdo us.

Besides, declaimed the speaker, it was up to the president to cut back on military spending and reduce the national deficit. I'm not inclined to go along with big deficits but neither do I want to see American security vulnerable in any way. The House saw the issue in a few days wit out caustic references to deficits which don't hold water in the face of national survival.

A great debate in Washington is whether raising taxes can reduce the deficit or if it's the other way around. An intriguing answer to the tax-deficit question came recently from Louis Rukeyser who writes a column for the McNaught Syndicate. His father, Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, a famed economist, wrote for The Hearst Newspapers for years and was a personal friend of Pop's and mine. In the Gannet Westchester Newspapers the other day Louis wrote.

"Picking the most dangerous fallacy now beuzziling Congress could be a difficult job. My one nomination this spring is the notion, currently so popular with some politicians on both sides of the aisle -- and with many of their media acolytes -- that the sensible way to deal with the ugly deficits looming out to far

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