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*Last Updated: 08/06/2025*

*This column was on the wire to 420  
newspapers 3 hours after the House Vote.  
It has been mailed to every Sen.*

Victor H. Krulak

The House rejection of the President's proposal for aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters is the product of a complex combination of emotions -- none good for the safety of the Western Hemisphere.

There were the myopic who cannot see the onrush of Soviet influence in their back yard. There were the idealistic who cannot believe the Russians mean us harm. There were the indecisive who can never be persuaded that the time has come to act. And, then, there were the politicians who sensed, in the Nicaraguan aid issue, an opportunity to deliver a blow to the President's prestige.

The resultant strategy was the hardest of hard ball, rolling out every myth that might characterize the aid program as futile, wasteful, counter-productive, dangerous and destabilizing.

Here are just a few of them:

"The Contras are licked. -- They are a ragtag mob that could not possibly alter affairs in Nicaragua, and money spent on them would be wasted."

To be sure they are not doing well. -- Twenty thousand dedicated men, many of whom fought to free their country from the oppression of Anastasio Somoza, are still ready to fight. But they simply do not have the wherewithal to match the Sandinistas whom the Russians have showered with a billion dollars worth of tanks, artillery and helicopters.

In the fall of 1984 Congress stopped all aid to the Contras, and prescribed that any sort of aid for the freedom fighters would thenceforward require Congressional approval. Then, in 1985, Congress rejected an Administration military aid plan and replaced it with a \$27 million grant for humanitarian assistance only. No, the Contras are not doing very well, and a major cause is the liberal element of the U.S. Congress.

"Negotiations are the answer. We haven't given diplomacy a chance."

In truth, we have given negotiation more than a fair chance, beginning in 1979, when we abandoned Somoza on the understanding that the Sandinistas would abide by an Organization of the American States resolution calling for free elections, a free press and freedom of worship.

We have since had ten varied negotiating meetings with the Sandinistas. There still are no free elections. The press is less free than under Somoza, and the Church is under continuing assault. The O.A.S. resolution has literally been trampled.

"Giving aid to the Contras is a certain step toward another Vietnam."

In 1981, when President Reagan expressed his determination to support the defenders of freedom in El Salvador, the same negative voices in Congress trumpeted the same dismal tune. -- Support the battle against communism in El Salvador, they said, and it will only be a brief time before

American boys are there, just as in Vietnam.

They were wrong. We had learned our lesson in Vietnam. We supported the Salvadorans, we taught them and supplied them but we let them fight their own battles. It worked. The Salvadoran insurgency is under control. Democracy is firmly in place, with favorable reverberations in neighboring Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama. There is no more thought of sending U.S. troops to Nicaragua than to El Salvador.

"The Nicaraguan military build-up is a natural response to American saber rattling."

The immense Nicaraguan militarization program, bought and paid for by the Russians, is not designed to defend against an American invasion. It has two quite different purposes --to foment revolution among Nicaragua's Central American neighbors and to provide strategic and tactical bases on the North American continent for the Soviet Union.

We know about the Soviet arms delivered to revolutionary guerillas in El Salvador and Guatemala by the Nicaraguans. We know that the headquarters of the Salvadoran guerilla movement is located in Nicaragua.

We observe the construction of a 12,000 foot runway at Punta Huete in western Nicaragua, suitable for the most advanced Soviet long range bombers and reconnaissance aircraft. We observe construction, at San Juan del Sur on the west coast, of a deep water port just like the one at Cienfuegos, in Cuba,

where Soviet submarines are now serviced. We see the construction of strategic highways connecting these military facilities. And we know about the 3000 Cuban and Warsaw Pact advisors now in Nicaragua.

These are the visible trappings of a growing Soviet presence on our continent, in a sensitive location that facilitates air and sea access to our own West Coast, and to the Panama Canal.

When all is said and done, we see the reality that a Congressional coalition, whether impelled by timidity, idealism, deranged priorities or cold politics, has dealt President Reagan's program to nourish democracy in our hemisphere a serious, but by no means, fatal blow. The Senate has yet to speak, and we have not heard Ronald Reagan's last. So, at this point, we should ask -- is it Mr. Reagan's policies and image that have suffered? Or is it something much bigger?

I suggest that those who were driven, by whatever reasoning, to prevent our helping those in Nicaragua who are willing to risk their lives in freedom's cause, have done something far more mischievous. They have increased the likelihood of the existence on our continent of a compliant Soviet puppet through which the freedom of other American lands will be threatened. They have dealt a shattering blow to the confidence of nations struggling to attain democracy in Central America. And they have added greatly to our own security problems.

Whatever the motivation of the congressmen whose vote brought us to this unhappy hour, they should be obliged to ask themselves just when they will be ready to act. Will it be when Soviet imperialism is entrenched in Honduras? or in Guatemala? or Mexico? -- When?

And then they should be obliged to reflect on an old truth:

"He who risks putting anything ahead of his freedom is likely to lose not only his freedom but whatever he chose to put ahead of it in the first place."

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Apr 86

End  
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399/15  
MF002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHY OSBORNE

FROM: Peter Roussel

Time is doing a story on the President going to the ballgame. In that regard, they are asking:

1. How did the President feel being at the ballgame? What did he enjoy most about it?
2. Does he feel he was bad luck for the Orioles?
3. Did he practice on the White House lawn before the game?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 10, 1986

MEMORANDUM TO PETER ROUSSEL

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE

SUBJECT: TIME ARTICLE REGARDING THE ORIOLES BALLGAME

Well, as someone who used to make a living broadcasting (on radio) major league baseball, going to a game and being sort of back stage; in the dugout instead of the grandstand, it's a happy experience. It's hard to pin down one single thing as more enjoyable than another. I was glad to find out I could still throw a strike even if it took two tries. (I still claim my first throw was high because I was afraid I'd hit some of the photographers who had ganged up around the catcher.)

You can't be around the sports world without sharing some of the superstitions that go with the game. For example, never talking about a no-hitter if the Pitcher seems to be on the way to one. Yes, I'm bothered by the fact that I've been to 4 opening games and all four times the Orioles have lost. I promised them that if I'm even at another opening day I'll sit in the visitors dugout.

Well as someone who used to make a living broadcasting (on radio) major league baseball, ~~go~~ going to a game and being sort of back stage; in the dugout instead of the grandstand, it's a happy experience. It's hard to pin down one single thing as more enjoyable than another. I was glad to find out I could still throw a strike even if it took two tries. (I still ~~to~~ claim my first throw was high because I was afraid I'd hit some of the photographers who had ganged up around the catcher.)

You can't be around the sports world without sharing some of the superstitions that go with the game. For example never talking about a no-hitter if the Pitcher seems to be on the way to one. Yes I'm bothered by the fact that I've been to 4 opening games ~~of the~~ and all four times the Orioles have lost. I promised them that if I'm ever at another opening day I'll sit in the visitors dugout.

End  
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—  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

390.22455  
PRC 014-12

June 6, 1986

DONALD T. REGAN  
JOHN M. POINDEXTER  
PATRICK J. BUCHANAN  
PETER J. WALLISON

FYI -- The President has  
approved the attached  
endorsement.

David L. Chew

(Elliott)  
April 10, 1986  
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT OF TERRORISM: HOW THE WEST CAN WIN  
EDITED BY BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

At a time when the civilized world is besieged by terrorists who menace and murder the innocent for political ends, Benjamin Netanyahu has come forth with a book that gives us cause for hope and a strategy for courage.

In Terrorism: How the West Can Win, Ambassador Netanyahu presents a collection of essays by leading commentators and political figures of our time -- essays that describe the roots, participants, and goals of the modern terrorist movement, that explain how the West can and must unite to rout this insidious scourge that threatens the way of life we hold dear.

NOTE:  
NOT to be Copied  
unless Approved  
by D. Chew's Office

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1986

The President has seen 6/6

OK  
RR

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: PATRICK J. BUCHANAN  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR  
OF COMMUNICATIONS

PETER J. WALLISON  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Endorsement of  
Terrorism: How the West Can Win

ISSUE

Whether you should endorse the book Terrorism: How the West Can Win, notwithstanding your long-standing policy of not endorsing individual publications.

BACKGROUND

You have been asked to endorse the book Terrorism: How the West Can Win, edited by Benjamin Netanyahu and published under the sponsorship of the Jonathan Institute -- a charitable organization dedicated to studying and combatting terrorism. Ben Netanyahu, the author of the work -- the Israeli Ambassador to the UN -- has pledged the proceeds to the Jonathan Institute, a not-for-profit study center on terrorism named after his brother, Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu, the only Israeli killed in the famous raid on Entebbe, July 4, 1976. The book is a compilation of brief articles by several distinguished Americans and foreigners representing diverse perspectives on the political spectrum. The Secretary of State, Bill Casey and Senator Alan Cranston all have contributed essays to the book. You read the book on your trip to Tokyo.

ARGUMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT

Secretary Shultz, Admiral Poindexter and Patrick Buchanan feel it would be beneficial for you to issue a statement endorsing the book. The statement may be used on the jacket cover of the book. They feel the book offers a positive assessment of what Western nations must do to eliminate terrorist activities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST ENDORSEMENT

Peter Wallison notes that you receive scores of requests for endorsements of books each year, many of which reflect support of your policies in a number of important areas, or are by friends or political supporters of yours. Your policy of declining all such requests avoids having to make difficult choices among many worthy causes. Once you start endorsing specific books, there will be no limit to the number of requests. In the case of a collection of essays such as this one, an additional concern is that you may be seen as endorsing the individual views of the authors of the essays -- views not expressed in this book -- which could later prove controversial or embarrassing.

The proposed endorsement is at Tab A.

DECISION:

- ( )        Approve endorsement.
- ( )        Reject endorsement.



End  
Case  
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SP386

Arr 86

10 April 1986

Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States

*Handwritten:*  
Nancy  
Reagan  
RM

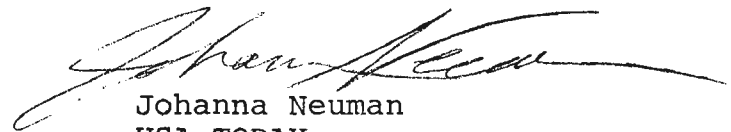
Dear Mr. President:

I just wanted you to know how thrilled my parents were last night when you called on their daughter with the red gloves.

So touched were they - and so grateful am I - that I thought I would share with you the story of the red gloves.

My parents were traveling last year in Italy, where they decided to buy me a gift, a pair of gloves and matching muffler. They bought the set in beige, and returned to their hotel. But my mother gave it further thought. Finally she told my father that since red was Nancy Reagan's favorite color, they should have bought the gloves and muffler in red, so that the president might call on me at the next press conference. My father thought this a long shot, but reluctantly agreed to return to the shop across Milan the following day to exchange the set.

He grumbled a little, but last night, when they watched from their home in California, both my parents smiled. Thank you.

  
Johanna Neuman  
USA TODAY

End  
Case  
File

399/12  
67002

April 10, 1986

Dear Madam President:

Our mutual friend Bob Michel delivered your gift to me, and I'm delighted with it. Thank you very much and please give my thanks also to Marie Van Stavern, Belva Tessier and George Grim, as well as all the others at the Center. I've already called on my duck to lay some eggs, and they were delicious. She has caused quite a commotion around the West Wing and the Oval Office. I'll see that she is well taken care of.

Having gone to college only a few miles from Washington, Illinois -- Eureka College -- I'm pleased to learn of the Center and, again, my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Ms. Margaret McKinney  
Washington Senior Citizens Center  
101 Burton Street  
Washington, Illinois 61571

RR:AVH:SEV:pps

Encl: Inscribed NR/RR Photo

RR Dictation

8-10-86



To Our Friends at Wash. Sr. Citizens Center  
with every good wish, our appreciation &  
Warm Regard.

Clara & Ronald Reagan

# Washington Senior Citizens Center

101 Burton Street  
Washington, Illinois 61571  
Telephone (309) 444-8777

March 20, 1986

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

Dear Mr. Reagan:

*Send photo  
with letter.*

The ladies at the Washington T. C. (Tazewell County, Illinois) Senior Citizen Center have designed and are making ducks, crocheted in yarn and filled with jelly beans. Knowing that you favor jelly beans as an occasional snack, we want you to have one of the ducks, with our compliments.

Congressman Robert Michel has visited our Center, and was pleasantly surprised to find that it carries on its varied programs for the "golden age" citizens of the Washington area, entirely supported by contributions from local sources. We know that you favor such local enterprise, with no dependence on government support from tax generated funds.

The Directors of the Center have asked Bob Michel to act as our messenger to deliver the duck (which was paid for by two of the Center's officers--no drain on the Center's funds). Mr. Michel will demonstrate that, this is, indeed, a duck, not a drake, since it lays eggs.

Our best wishes to you--and happy munching.

Sincerely,

*Margaret H. McKinney*  
Margaret McKinney, pres.

*Marie Van Stavern*  
Marie Van Stavern, vice-pres.

*Belva Tessier*  
Belva Tessier, sec.

*George B. Grim*  
George Grim, treas.

To Ms. Margaret F. McKinney Wash. Senior Citizens Center  
101 Burton St. Wash. Ill. 61571

Dear Madame President

Our mutual friend Bob Michel delivered  
your gift to me and I'm delighted with it.

also Thank you very much & please give my thanks  
to Marie Von Stavern, Belva Tassier & George  
Lrim as well as ~~at~~ all the others at the Center.

I've already called on my duck to lay some eggs  
and they were delicious. She has caused quite a  
commotion around the West Wing & the Oval office.  
P'd be that she is well taken care of.

Having gone to college only a few miles from  
Wash. Ill. - (Eureka College) I'm pleased to learn  
of the Center and again my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely R R

To Mr. Alan Brown Box R-4526 APO N.Y.N.Y.  
Dear Alan 09283

Thanks very much for your letter. It was  
good to hear from you and I appreciate your  
sympathy & your concern about Congress & it's  
failure to vote aid to the Contras. I hope by the  
time you receive this the situation may have changed.  
The Sen. passed a bill to give such aid & it's  
now in the House so we'll have another crack at  
it in the next several days. I think we ~~may~~<sup>may</sup>  
have a better chance this time.

Marcy sends her best and again Thanks.

Sincerely Ron

(over)



399111

FO003-00

April 10, 1986

Dear Alan:

Thanks very much for your letter. It was good to hear from you, and I appreciate your sympathy and your concern about Congress and its failure to vote aid to the Contras. I hope by the time you receive this the situation may have changed. The Senate passed a bill to give such aid and it's now in the House, so we'll have another crack at it in the next several days. I think we may have a better chance this time.

Nancy sends her best and, again, thanks.

Sincerely,

**RON**

Mr. Alan Brown  
Box R-4526  
APO New York 09283

RR:AVH:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

8 11 1 1 1

Box R-4526  
A.P.O., NEW YORK NY 09283

23 March 1986

Dear Mr. President:

I share your great disappointment in the shocking turndown by Congress of your request for funds to aid the Contras in Nicaragua. It was totally irresponsible of those people to ignore so cavalierly the considered opinion and recommendation of the President of the United States in a matter so vital to Western Hemisphere security. Those same trough-swillers will vote for aid in the billions and hundreds of millions to countries like Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Zaire and Peru, whatever their merits, but will not give a cent to defend the United States. The same day that the Congress denied those important funds to the Contras (important actually as well as symbolically), "democratic" Spain (another recipient of U.S. funds) made a \$26,000,000 loan to Ortega's Nicaragua, as you know. That occurred after Felipe González met with Ortega in Stockholm, during which televised meeting they both lambasted you personally for your Nicaraguan position.

I congratulate you on your plain "guts" in facing up to those sunshine patriots in Congress, and wish I had an urgent and viable solution to offer you! How I regret that I am obviously not of the caliber to help you in your splendid battle against the Communist forces abroad, and their boot(?)-licking poltroons at home.

My respects and warmest best wishes to you and Nancy.

Yours,



Alan Brown

P.S. My cat and I sent you a birthday card with a picture which might have given you a smile. Sorry you didn't get it, but glad that all of you had such a fine gathering to celebrate your 75th.

*The Ward L. Duval Company*

*401 North Michigan Avenue*

*Suite 3140*

*Chicago, Illinois 60611*

*Ward L. Duval*

*President*

April 7, 1986

*Telephone*

*312/644-6066*

PERSONAL TO THE PRESIDENT

*No Reply*

The President of the United States  
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20500

My dear Mr. President:

RE: The FCC

As you know so very well, my responsibilities in broadcasting result in my having a constant relationship with the Members of the Federal Communications Commission, their personal staffs and the Bureau Chiefs.

I suppose I can say, Mr. President, that no other broadcaster, still active (or for that matter, including those long retired) has had and experiences the on-going relationship I have at that vital agency.

Mr. President, I have known every Chairman of the FCC since it was established by the Communications Act of 1934. My acquaintance with the first Chairman did not develop until he left the agency, but I did get to know him and each of his successors very well. As I have written to you in the past, and as we have discussed in the Oval Office, Mark Fowler is in a "class" by himself! Not only is he the finest Chairman in the history of this increasingly important agency, but Mark, more than any other Reagan appointee, understood and implemented at once your program of deregulation, your market place approach to that which manifests itself between Government and the business community and the entire populace.

Mr. President, Mark's term expires June 30, 1986. This fine man, this truly outstanding American, this sterling example of a Ronald Reagan Government leader richly merits a reappointment.

The President of the United States  
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page 2

April 7, 1986

I would be remiss, Mr. President, if I did not stress herein that Mark has not sought another term. He has had several major opportunities come his way, but he has advised me that should you desire him to continue, he would be honored to continue and to carry forward the program now underway. Mark knows fully well there is more to be done, more gains to be recorded in the public interest at the Commission.

There are other details I would like to review with you regarding the Commission, but with your having just returned to the White House after a richly-deserved "rest", and with the schedule before you, I feel I would be presumptuous to seek another meeting with you. However, I will pass along a few added thoughts via Kathy Osborne.

Mr. President, I will be profoundly grateful for your consideration of these comments.

Ron, Dorothy sends her love and from both of us to Nancy.

Respectfully yours,



Ward L. Quaal

WLQ:jw

*The Ward L. Duval Company*

*401 North Michigan Avenue*

*Suite 3140*

*Chicago, Illinois 60611*

*Ward L. Duval*

*President*

*Telephone*

*312/644-6066*

April 2, 1986

The President of the United States  
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Hillsdale College and its  
admirable "independence"

Dear Mr. President:

Just as your richly merited vacation in California commenced before the Easter weekend, USA Today carried a page on the matter of government and "civil rights."

With all the demands upon your time and all the material you find it necessary to read, you may not have seen the piece regarding Hillsdale College and its truly outstanding President, George C. Roche.

I know that you have met Dr. Roche and that you have been on the Hillsdale campus, so you are familiar with this truly great American institution.

Mr. President, I am very proud that I served for a lengthy period as a member of the board of trustees of Hillsdale College and would have continued except for the incredible travel schedule which one in broadcast management must pursue. During that time of service I realized all the more the countless problems posed to that fine academic institution by "Big Brother" in Washington.

*Los Angeles, California 213/277-9399 714/493-3316*

The President of the United States  
April 2, 1986  
Page two

I enjoyed reading the piece, some truly fine cogent commentary by President Roche, and I enclose the item herewith.

Ron, Dorothy sends her love and from both of us to Nancy.

Respectfully yours,



Ward L. Quaal

WLQ:lb  
Enclosure

The President has seen 4/10

*The Ward L. Quaal Company*

*401 North Michigan Avenue*

*Suite 9140*

*Chicago, Illinois 60611*

*Ward L. Quaal*  
*President*

March 31, 1986

*No Reply*

*Telephone*  
*312/644-6066*

The President of the United States  
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. President:

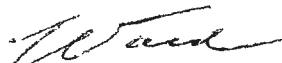
Re: The Press and Coverage of Military "Action"

As you know, I am for total access of the press  
where practical.

However, in this case there was no way, remotely  
possible, to apprise the press in advance.

Ron, our love to Nancy.

Respectfully yours,

  
Ward L. Quaal

WLQ:jw

Enclosure

# Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

STANTON R. COOK, *Publisher*  
CHARLES T. BRUMBACK, *President*  
JAMES D. SQUIRES, *Editor*

JACK FULLER, *Editorial Page Editor*  
LOIS WILLE, *Associate Editorial Page Editor*

F. RICHARD CICCONE, *Managing Editor*  
COLLEEN DISHON, *Associate Editor*  
DENIS GOSSELIN, *Associate Editor*

Section 1 □

Friday, March 28, 1986

## The press left behind again

For the second time in his administration, President Reagan has sent this nation's military out on a foreign adventure without the press along to report the activities back to the American people. And for the most part, no one cared. Even the press establishment was considerably less distraught over the handling of the Libyan shootout than the 1983 Grenada invasion.

The American people simply don't get very exercised anymore about the press being left behind, which probably is more a reflection of our public image problems than anything else.

But the lack of public concern does not justify the continued abdication of responsibility by the Reagan government. After the Grenada invasion, the first time ever an American President went to war without some representation by the press along, there was an loud outcry by the nation's newspapers and television news networks. And although the public didn't seem disturbed, the Pentagon worked out an elaborate news pool arrangement to make sure the press could go along next time.

Under that arrangement, a rotating schedule of wire service, broadcast and newspaper reporters was established, members of which were to be summoned in advance and given the opportunity under certain ground rules to witness secret military operations. This formal pool arrangement was ignored in the Libyan exercise until after the U.S. had twice fired on Libyan positions and patrol boats. Then reporters were summoned and offered an opportunity to tour the area and talk to U.S. military personnel aboard the carriers, basically the same after-the-fact access arranged in Grenada.

There will of course be a lot of excuses forthcoming, the most likely being that the Libyan confrontation occurred spontaneously during a routine military exercise. And that the press was given access as quickly as possible. Another will be that before the fighting started, the military put together a group of reporters who happened to be in the region and took them out to the fleet. That is all true, up to a point.

But there are problems with it. The first reporters were returned to Italy before the shooting started so they had nothing much to

have tipped off what is rapidly becoming apparent to everybody, anyway, that the Reagan administration expected to be shot at off the Libyan coast and in fact went there with confrontation foremost in its mind. And it is precisely that kind of information that the American public is entitled to have as quickly as possible.

It may not seem all that important to the public at this point, now that our military forces have successfully engaged the Libyans in an exchange of rocket fire. After all, no U.S. casualties were recorded in an operation against a dictator despised and feared throughout most of the world. But the fact remains that for the first 48 hours the sole source of information about this military exercise was the White House and Pentagon spokesmen.

Once the Navy guns had been successful in Libya, it didn't take the Pentagon long to "activate" the pool, searching through Italy for representatives of the American news organizations authorized under the agreement.

But how long would it have taken if one of the mad colonel's surface-to-air missiles or patrol boat rockets had been better aimed? If U.S. blood was flowing in the Gulf of Sidra, it probably would take as long to find it as it did to discover what happened to the crew of the shuttle.

A government success is one thing, a failure something else. A disaster would have left a lot of angry relatives demanding to know exactly what happened. The press would be up in arms trying to explain how the government prevented it from living up to its responsibility. And the only version of events available would be the government's, which always takes a long time coming and leaves a lot to be desired.

As just proven by the Illinois election, a vacuum created by public apathy is usually filled quickly, most often by something bad. And then everybody starts looking for a scapegoat, with the press a most handy target.

It is not often this newspaper suggests looking to another nation for exemplary behavior regarding the press, for no other nation can boast such a record for freedom and independence. But the Reagan administration is changing all that. Even the British, who normally put much more severe government re-



*The Ward L. Quaal Company*

*401 North Michigan Avenue*

*Suite 3140*

*Chicago, Illinois 60611*

*Ward L. Quaal*

*President*

*Telephone*

*312/644-6066*

April 2, 1986

The President of the United States  
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. President:

The enclosed editorial from the Tribune of March 31 will be of interest.

Kindly bear in mind, Mr. President, that when I send these editorials to you, they are forwarded merely for your information. It does not mean that I feel a particular "posture" taken in an editorial is correct. I am merely attempting to keep you advised of comment as I see it in newspapers across the country, and above all, from our own Chicago Tribune.

Ron, warmest wishes to you and Nancy.

Respectfully yours,



Ward L. Quaal

WLQ:lb  
Enclosure

401 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611, 312 644-6066

WARD L. QUAAL  
PRESIDENT

PHOENIX, AZ  
602 224-0020

WESTERN FIELD OFFICES

LOS ANGELES, CA  
213 277-9399

STANTON R. COOK, *Publisher*  
CHARLES T. BRUMBACK, *President*  
JAMES D. SQUIRES, *Editor*

JACK FULLER, *Editorial Page Editor*  
LOIS WILLE, *Associate Editorial Page Editor*

F. RICHARD CICCONE, *Managing Editor*  
COLLEEN DISHON, *Associate Editor*  
DENIS GOSSELIN, *Associate Editor*

Section 1

Monday, March 31, 1986

# Unbalancing the Constitution

A White House spokesman says that President Reagan, to get the balanced-budget amendment he wants, may call on the states to demand a constitutional convention. "It may be," Larry Speakes told reporters, "that the President feels strongly enough about the balanced budget that he would favor a constitutional convention and take the chances as to what they would do."

Thirty-two state legislatures already have petitioned for a constitutional convention to write a balanced-budget amendment; if only two more join them Congress will be compelled to call one. But there appears to be no way to limit the scope of a constitutional convention; the basic fabric of American government would be open to whatever changes could be pushed through. The whole nation, not only Mr. Reagan, would be taking a chance on how the Constitution might be rewritten.

No doubt Mr. Reagan thinks of this as a conservative position. It is about as conservative as setting a house on fire to get rid of termites. One can only hope he was letting off steam, not expressing a real intention.

What grieved Mr. Reagan was the Senate's failure last Tuesday to pass his cherished balanced-budget amendment. Sixty-six senators voted for it and 34 against, leaving it one vote short of the required two-thirds majority.

The outcome showed how difficult it is to change the Constitution and what a good thing

that is. Without the obstacles in the way of change, Congress by now might have redesigned our whole governmental framework to make its own job easier.

That is the purpose, more or less disguised, of the balanced-budget amendment. In the guise of "compelling" fiscal responsibility, it would relieve future congresses and presidents of responsibility. It would give them a permanent, all-purpose alibi for unpopular budget-cutting measures. With it in place they would have virtually no choice but to keep spending in line with available resources, except in wartime; the hardest decision—to cut or not to cut—would already be made for them. And voters surely would not blame them for something they couldn't help!

The constitutional principle here seems clear: The less responsibility government officials take for their decisions, the less they can be blamed. Perhaps Mr. Reagan has confused this with his own views about "getting government off our backs." But that is hardly the same thing as issuing government a blanket excuse for unpopular decisions. And it is hardly conservative to argue that the Constitution is the place to set fiscal and economic policies.

Mr. Reagan's readiness to tamper with the Constitution, even to throw it open to unlimited attack, may show something about the depth of his feelings about balanced budgets. What it doesn't show is conservatism.

Mr. Reagan has been the swing vote to watch. As it grew, its voting strength was suppressed by

and estimated to be 10 percent of the city's population, has a voice.

## Consolidation registers

GEORGE C. ROCHE III

An opposing view

## Keep big government out of civil rights

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Let me give you a perfect example of what a grotesque federal bureaucracy can do to a ferociously independent private institution.

At Hillsdale College, we have offered "to furnish all persons who wish, irrespective of nation, color, or sex, a literary and scientific education" since 1844 — nearly two decades before the Civil War.

Yet Hillsdale College, never having accepted a penny of government funding, now finds itself under attack by the federal education bureaucracy.

Since we have never practiced discrimination, have never been alleged to have practiced discrimination, and never will practice discrimination, we are being discriminated against by federal bureaucrats who now have the power to refuse to let students attend Hillsdale.

The sticking point, as you might expect in bureaucratic life, is a form. We will not sign a piece of paper promising to adhere to government "affirmative action" guidelines.

Our logic is clear. We were in the "affirmative action" business nearly 140 years before meddlesome bureaucrats found it necessary to "regulate" such matters, and we're not about to change now.

Look what our innovative and long-standing quest for academic equality has gotten us: a costly 11-year legal wrangle culminating in an adverse Supreme Court decision.

But that decision apparently wasn't adverse enough for the education establishment, which concocted a number of legislative "remedies" to correct the "obvious abuses" gen-

*George C. Roche III is president of Hillsdale College.*

erated by the decision that only those particular areas of a college receiving federal assistance need adhere to "affirmative action" guidelines.

This "program specific" approach was really the Supreme Court carrot. The stick, and it was a big one, was stretching the definition of "recipient" to include all colleges getting federal aid of any sort, including ours, which does not accept federal funds but will accept students who have individual government loans or grants.

And education does not suffer in isolation. Millions of regulations chain small businesses. The poor, the aged, disadvantaged, the hurt, and the handicapped, all supposedly the beneficiaries of government aid, instead become its victims, caught in an endless web of rules and frustrations.

Our hopes of bettering our lives, our very dreams, falter under the burdens the bureaucracy imposes. Half a century's experimentation with do-everything government has proven to be a monstrous, heart-breaking mistake.

We at Hillsdale are prepared to live with the Supreme Court decision, to shoulder the added burden of raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually from the private sector to replace those government funds formerly available. We fervently believe that what education needs now is not more government but less.

We believe big-government solutions will produce typical big-government results — and this country already suffers from far too many of those.

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PR067-02

President did not send  
letter to Ward Quaal -  
called him instead

To Mr. Ward L. Quaal 401 No. Mich. Ave.  
Suite 3140 Chi. Ill. 60611

Dear Ward

It was good to hear from you - all three letters and the clippings. We haven't come around to the F.C.C. situation yet but I appreciate your input on Mark and assure you it will be widely circulated before a meeting takes place.

As for the Tribune editorials I find myself missing the old Col. more & more. This isn't the Tribune I grew up with back in Ill.

They are so convinced we were out to attack Libya and thus ~~we~~ should have been loaded with war correspondents. The truth is that particular exercise is an annual event & this was the 7<sup>th</sup> time we've held it in that same place. Each time we take groups of six reporters out on the command ship, one group at a time, rotating them back to shore every few hours. The last group had ~~been~~ just been taken ashore when Kaddafi launched his attack and we responded.

I must confess I'm no happier about the 2<sup>nd</sup> editorial about the Const. Amendment to balance the budget. Tom Jefferson at the Constitution's launching declared it's one glaring omission was lack of a prohibition against the govt. borrowing.

I'm with you on ~~the~~ George Roche. I'm totally opposed to that Court decision that binds a college to Fed. controls if a student has a govt. grant.

Nancy sends her best and love to Dorothy from both of us. Sincerely Ron

Eno  
Case  
File