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RONALD REAGAN

Radio Commentary

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PLEASE NOTE:

These programs are provided for airing from October 15th thru November 2nd 1979 inclusive. Maintaining this schedule will enable your station to air all newly recorded programs as received.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RETURN DISCS.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Vlasenko"

Yuri Vlasenko, a Soviet citizen, tried to leave the Soviet Union. Yuri Vlasenko is dead.

On March 28th one of our embassy officials went out of the embassy in Moscow and led Vlasenko past the ever-present KGB agents into the embassy. Once inside, Yuri asked for an exit visa so that he could leave the Soviet Union. Upon being told that we couldn't do that he revealed a homemade bomb and threatened to blow himself up.

Our Ambassador tried to negotiate with him and then turned the matter over to the Soviet authorities who don't negotiate in cases of this kind. They attacked with tear gas and a sharpshooter who got off two shots before Yur Vlasenko detonated his bomb. He died there in the embassy where he had sought refuge.

This tragic story is by way of introduction to the plight of seven other Soviet citizens who were in the American embassy the day Yuri Vlasenko died. They had been there, living in the reception room since June 27th, 1978.

There are five members of one family, two of another. All are Christians, members of the largest religious gr-up in Russia and all have other family members outside the embassy who are undergoing the worst kind of persecution.

These seven made their way to Moscow from Siberia. They had tried in every way to obtain, legally, exit visas from their own government. Finally in desperation they had sought the counsel of our ambassador. The religious group to which they belong is the largest in the Soviet Union. It is also the most persecuted and not one member has ever been allowed to emigrate from Russia.

These seven courageous and desperate people have a promise of sponsorship in American from Reverend Cecil Williamson, Jr. of Selma, Alabama. Over the past 10 years they and other members of their families have been -mprisoned, tortured, found insane and some have died. Thousands of Americans, knowing of their plight, have writtto to them but they haven't received the letters. Our ambassador has ordered that mail to them must go through the Soviet postal service.

Shortly after the Vlavenko killing, efforts were made to persuade the seven to leave the embassy. KGB cars were mysteriously waiting at the embassy entrance. When they refused to give up their sanctuary they were moved to a 20-by-20 foot room the Marine guards call the dungeon. There for a year now they have lived together in that one room. They are denied embassy food, but embassy employees--acting as Americans are supposed to act -- stand for hours in the endless lines and buy food for them in the Russian stores.

Last June the ambassador grudgingly allowed American TV networks to interview them but not to show the room in which they are kept confined. Then another mystery - somehow the interviews were never shown to American audiences.

Detente is supposed to be a two-way street. Our wheat and technology can get into Russia - why can't the Vlasenko and Chernogorsk families get out?

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Six Lies On Energy"

In a recent column in the New York Times, Yale Brozen, a professor of business economics at the University of Chicago, argues that Americans are being subjected to a propaganda barrage of startling dimensions on the subject of energy. At the center of this propaganda are six lies about energy which are steering the public and policymakers toward the wrong responses to our energy problems. The lies are being told, Professor Brozen writes "in support of higher energy taxes and tighter controls over voluntary market choices." Who is telling the lies? Professor Brozen doesn't say. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

The first falsehood is that the world will run out of oil in the 1980's. On the contrary, a record 36-year supply of reserves is already staked out. Further discoveries of suspected supplies could add another 50 years to those reserves.

The second lie, according to Professor Brozen, is that the United States balance-of-payment deficit and the erosion of the dollar are caused by the rising price and volume of imported oil. Not so, says Professor Brozen. If this were true, then Germany and Japan should be in deeper trouble than we are, for they import all of their crude oil and natural gas. Instead of blaming oil imports, we should look to unprecedented peacetime budget deficits since 1973 as the major culprit.

The third lie is that the long gasoline lines of 1974 were caused by the Arab oil embargo. The real cause, Brozen explains, is that the Federal Energy office (now the Department of Energy) — "overemphasized heating oil production at the expense of gasoline, then underallocated gasoline to metropolitan areas and overallocated to rural areas."

The fourth falsehood is that we are increasingly vulnerable to an Arab oil embargo. Today, there are more alternative sources of oil available than in 1974; sources such as Nigeria, Mexico and the Canadian Arctic. Brozen says simply "we are more vulnerable to Energy department blunders than a possible oil embargo."

The fifth lie is that American taxpayers must foot the bill for a 25 billion dollar oil stockpile to reduce our vulnerability to an embargo. If we ended the threat of mandatory reallocation, we would encourage greater private storage.

The final lie is that the government must plow billions of dollars into developing new energy supplies before oil runs out. Given its record on such things as Amtrak and the Postal service, the federal bureaucracy isn't exactly the first place I'd turn to. Private investment on energy research and development is proceeding at a respectable pace.

These six lies aren't the only falsehoods clouding our national energy debate. But they are among the major reasons why, under current policies, we are getting nowhere toward solving our serious energy problems.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Department of Education"

When the two houses of Congress each vote out a bill to create, say a new agency, but the bills differ in some details, they are sent to a conference committee. This committee of Senators and Representatives attempts to reconcile the differences in the bills and send a comprehensive version back to each house for another vote.

Some time ago both house and senate approved the creation of a new cabinet level Department of Education. This was in response to the President's pledge to the National Education association that he would try for such a new department. It means, of course, federal regulation of our schools under the domination of the National Education association which is in truth a very powerful union. Another union, the American Federation of Teachers, is opposed to such a department -- as all of us should be. Is the government that administers the postal service and Amtrak -- to say nothing of energy -- qualified to educate our children?

If the conference committee hasn't acted before you hear this we should be letting your elected representatives know you don't want it -- if you don't.

The House version of the bill is full of amendments. It now carries an amendment forbidding federal funding of abortions. Another amendment would require voluntary prayers be permitted in public schools. I've never thought they should have been stopped. An amendment forbids racial or sexual quotas in institutions of higher learning that accept federal subsidies. One also forbids the new department from directing school busing for racial integration. And another removes nurses, medical trainees and Indians from the new department's jurisdiction.

Our best hope is that this measure with all its attached baggage will linger with the conference committee until the end of this session of Congress. Letters to representatives and senators can help bring this about.

I've said before on these broadcasts, the National Education association has a long standing dream of a federal school system with everything from curriculum to textbooks dictated by Washington. Of course the association has in mind that Washington will look to it for guidance on setting policy. The N.E.A. has contributed a half million dollars over the last five years to members of Congress who have brought this dream to its present near reality.

A National Department of Education would extend its power to cover independent and parochial schools. Indeed part of its dream is incorporation of such schools in the public system. It would enlist thousands of employees and have a budget some congressmen have said would top \$10 billion.

This ugly blossom on the academic tree should be left to die of committee neglect.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "SALT II"

When negotiations began on the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with the Soviet Union, five specific objectives were named as essential to protecting our national interest. They were: to establish equal nuclear capabilities for the U.S. and the Soviet Union; secure significant Soviet Arms reductions, especially in those areas where Soviet offensive forces pose the greatest threat; stabilize the situation between the two countries so that neither would be tempted to strike first during an international crisis; reduce the effect of nuclear weapons on world politics; and, enforce verifiable limitations to which both countries must adhere.

Those are reasonable terms and certainly fair to both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Why then should our Senate waste even five minutes debating the SALT II agreement? Because it meets none of the five specifics we listed as essential to protect our national interest.

Point one called for equal nuclear capabilities. Note that word "capabilities". We didn't say equal numbers. The Soviet missiles are far more powerful than ours and the agreement permits them to go ahead with some 300 giant missiles, each armed with a number of separately targeted warheads. We are not permitted to have anything similar. Oh, we can have the same number of missiles but it's like comparing battleships to rowboats.

Then there is that point about stabilizing the situation so that neither side would be tempted to settle an argument by launching a nuclear first strike. Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown, has admitted that virtually all our I.C.B.M.'s, a substantial number of nuclear missile carrying submarines and many of our B-52 bombers would be vulnerable to a Soviet first strike.

Even though some of our European allies express a hope that SALT II will be ratified one can't help but wonder if they are sincere or if they are worried about the Russian Bear sitting right on their borders. Privately they confess to many misgivings. They had counted on the effectiveness of a new weapon--the cruise missile with at least a 1500 kilometer range -- for their own protection. We let the Soviets bargain that down to a 600-kilometer range which puts most Soviet targets beyond its reach.

Then there is the supersonic Russian Backfire Bomber minutes away from their heartlands. We agreed not to even include those bombers among the weapons to be limited by SALT II. We did likewise with an intermediate range nuclear missile, the Soviet SS20, deployed and able to wreck every capital city in Europe.

And as for verifiability of whether they are keeping their part of the treaty -- it just doesn't exist. SALT II allows the Soviet Union military advantages which are denied the U.S. SALT II will not increase the chance for world peace.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Hollywood East"

Senator Bill Roth of Delaware has done some digging into one area of federal spending and learned that a new "tinsel town" called Hollywood-on-the-Potomac may be abuilding.

It's hard to picture eager young performers with stars in their eyes turning their backs on California and rushing to Washington for that big break. Or, to imagine what our national capital might be like if the lobbyists, bureaurcrats and "pols" found themselves elbowing theatrical agents for office space.

Can't you see some new starlet writing home and saying, "It's finally happened! After my bit part in 'Sanitary Design for Drinking Fountains,' I have the lead in a biggie called 'Rhesus Monkeys of Santiago Island.'"

Believe it or not those are titles of movies being made by our government in Washington. Here are a few others, "Identification of Some Common Sucking Lice," "Days of a Tre," and "How to Succeed with Brunettes." Now that last one does sound as if it might be worth seeing.

Senator Roth has caught our attention. The nearest estimate of government spending on film making is \$6000,000,000 a year. But that is only a guess. The truth is there is no central accounting system to control expenditures and help eliminate useless spending.

"There is no accurate record," the Senator says, "of how many government films are in circulation, or are in production, no single catalogue or guide listing existing films and tapes, and no centralized process for contracting federal movies and television advertisements. We simply have no way of knowing who is doing what, for how much, and for what reason.

We learn that a half hour bicentennial film was made at a cost of \$460,000 and seen by fewer than 500,000 people. By contrast, a half hour television show produced commercially for \$180,000 in 1977 had an audience estimated at 30 million.

In true Washington style many of the audio-visual productions are made toward the end of the fiscal year to use up an agency's budgeted funds so they can ask for more money in the next budge. And, like as not, many of those films are never seen by anyone. The Senator learned that agency personnel stockpile projects so their bosses can ask "What do you have that might cost X number of dollars before we have to turn back our money?"

And many agencies spend money on films that simply glorify the agency's image, thus enhancing the agency's potential for continued existence. One last point must be made; very often the numerous agencies engaged in filming duplicate each others product. No cross-check is made to see if someone else had made or is making the picture an agency has listed for production.

I'm sure there is a legitimate reason for some government films. But wouldn't it make more sense to farm that picture work out to Hollywood where there is the greatest pool of technical and artistic talent to be found anywhere in the world? And where there is also a considerable amount of unemployment.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Defectors"

When the Cultural Exchange Program between the United States and the Soviet Union there was concern on the part of many Americans that the Soviets might try to use it for espionage purposes. Whether they did or not I don't know, but as it turned out the Soviets did get more than they bargained for. Or perhaps I should say they lost more than they bargained for.

Artists and entertainers in the Soviet Union are a special class in the "classless" society of the "Workers Paradise." They live at a higher standard than the average Russian and have priveleges matched or exceeded by only the hierarchy. Even so, there must be something lacking. Could it be something so simple as individual freedom?

Late August and early September found the cultural exchange a losing deal for the Kremlin. On August 22nd the superstar of the touring Bolshoi Ballet, Alexander Gudonov, walked off the stage in New York City and asked for sanctuary in this country. On September 22nd the Bolshoi was in Los Angeles, Godunuv's replacement Leonid Kozlov did the same thing taking his ballerina wife Vallentina with him.

The very next day in Switzerland where a Soviet ice show was appearing the top two Russian skating stars, both Olympic champions, defected.

Of course, there have been other defections in years past, but spaced out at greater intervals. We nave in our country the former conductor of the Soviet national symphony, Kirin Kondrashin, and the world renowned ballet stars Nureyev, Natalia Makarova and the inimitable Baryshnikov. The Kremlin theme song these days could very well be that old World War I ditty, "How You Going to Keep Them Down on Farm After They've Seen Paris?"

On September 27th the shaken leaders in the Kremlin came up with something of an answer to that musical question. They cancelled the 24 city United States tour of the Moscow symphony, scheduled to open in New York City October 2nd at Carnegie Hall. The symphony was also scheduled to officially open the season at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Some 3,500 tickets had already been sold.

This would have been the fifth U.S. tour for the orchestra. There has only been one defection from that group and that one in 1969. Apparently the Soviet leaders had reason to believe things might be different this time for they asked our government to refuse sanctuary to any of the musicians fi they tried to defect. This, of course, we could not do.

You see there are those words engraved on the Statue of Liberty which the men in the Kremlin can never understand, "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp! Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "In Defense of Success"

The rich get poorer and the poor get poorer. That's how George Gilder begins his unorthodox but thoughtful defense of society's most successful members in a recent essay in the AMERICAN SPECTATOR. Gilder provides ample evidence to support his claim that in every age and every culture, society's most productive members seem to be subjected to intense villification. In recent history, we have witnessed the holocaust of Jews in Nazi Germany; the pogroms of Kulaks and Jews in Russia; the slaughter of Ibo tribesmen in northern Nigeria; the killing of nearly a million overseas Chinese and now, in Vietnam, the wholesale expulsion of ethnic Chinese. In each of these examples, the tragedy was precipitated by a combination of racism and resentment of the minority's economic successes. Gilder writes "Everywhere nations proclaim a determination to 'develop'; but everywhere, too, their first goal is expropriate, banish or kill the existing developers."

In the United States, this vicious resentment takes a milder form. Often, an individual who succeeds in business is assumed to be dishonest. These assumptions sometimes take the form of an ethnic stereotype. Thus, the successful Italian businessman is automatically assumed by many to be involved in organized crime. A successful Chinese restaurant or laundry is a front for the opium trade, and so forth. Non-ethnic attitudes toward businessmen take an equally harsh tone. Those who subscribe to these beliefs are part of a growing segment of Americans who assume that the accumulation of wealth is inherently a dishonest activity. That one man's wealth causes another's poverty.

We might just dismiss these notions as the superstition and envy of those who have failed to attain their goals in a free society. But, according to Gilder, these attitudes have captured the hearts and minds of many in influential government and academic circles. Gilder writes "Wealth causes poverty — an idea that has burst like blinding sunlight in the mind of many a young radical and still shines brightly for all those who seek some alternative to hard work, thrift, inequality and free exchange as a way of escaping want. How much easier it is — rather than learning the hard lessons of the world — merely to rage at the rich..."

The bureaucratic class is bent upon convincing the poor it claims to represent that the producers of wealth are the cause of their problems. That one individual's success means that another is being downtrodden. Nothing could be further from the truth. American society is the most mobile society in the history of the world. The business successes of some are successes for all of us because of their total effect on our economy — in terms of jobs, investment and consumer choices. Most successes still recognize the value of virtues such as hard work, ambition and the willingness to take risks. We know that these attributes can still set an individual on a path toward success, regardless of his background. Success is something to reward and congratulate in America, not something to resent.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Coal"

Some time ago when the President addressed us on energy, he advocated converting more of our utilities and industrial plants from oil and natural gas to coal. He even set a figure for utilities -- substitute coal for 50 percent of the oil they are presently using.

Well you can't argue with the fact that we have enough coal to last 900 years. We have an estimated one-third of all the known coal reserves in the world. But you can ask, why aren't we burning more? You can even ask why aren't we mining more? We are producing about 150 million tons a year -- well below our capacity.

The answer to these questions was given a few years ago by a spokesman for the energy industry. He said very simply, "Under federal policies and regulations, we can't mine it, and we can't burn it." "It", of course being coal.

A massive network of regulations has led to our present situation. Washington is aware of this problem because Carl E. Bogge, President of the National Coal Association, sent a lengthy memo to the White House listing the federal practices that made the President's request for conversion impossible to fulfill.

I'm indebted to a fine journalist and friend, M. Stanton Evans, for collecting and making public these government road blocks to more use of coal. They are: A moratorium on leasing federal lands for coal mining since 1971; the unworkability of the Department of Interiors coal leasing program; that same department's regulations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act which may even put some operators out of business; some policies under that same act which will declare some coal bearing lands "unsuitable" for mining; public lands withdrawal; and emission standards under the Environmental Protection Agency which could make unusable large shares of the most economically recoverable U.S. coal reserves.

Stan Evans went on to cite more of Mr. Bogge's memorandum, such as taxes on the coal industry; price controls on other fuels which held them so low, that coal couldn't compete; and increased coal slurry pipelines for transporting coal which would compete with existing means of transportation.

By far, however, the biggest road block are the so-called "ambient air standards." Every air quality control region in the U.S. is in violation of those standards, mainly because of what are called "suspended particulants." Now this isn't necessarily man caused pollution. These particulants can be dust, swamp gas and other of nature's wonders. But because they are present we can't add whatever particulants might be produced by mining or burning coal.

It would seem that a study is called for weighing the regulations and their benefits against the benefits of utilizing our biggest natural fuel supply.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "California"

Those who love California have had a hard time lately fighting an unattractive image that has come upon the Golden State in the closing weeks of summer. First there were the long lines at the gas stations dutifully shown on nationwide television. Some commentators had a field day with that one. Californians were portrayed as gas greedy road hogs in a panic at the prospect of not being able to drive in their usual profligate way.

It was pretty hard to get the truth across that on a per driver basis Californians averaged less mileage per month than their fellow Americans in Maryland, Virginia, and even in the limited area of the District of Columbia. It was even harder to convince the Department of Energy that basing California's gasoline allocations on the 1972 census was an error of sizeable proportions. California has some four million more automobiles than it did in 1972.

But it was nature that gave California its latest pasting. In a spell of weather not experienced in more than half a century a heat wave settled on the state. The cooling ocean breezes off the Pacific stayed well out in the Pacific. The nights, which even in summer are usually 20 to 30 degrees cooler than daytime temperatures, stayed at almost the same level as the baking days.

Born of the heat, an inversion layer settled in at 400 feet. And since the mountains surrounding Los Angeles are higher than 400 feet the smog just piled up under that inversion layer until the air was thick enough to stir with a spoon. Then, and also born of the heat, brush fires started, adding billowing smoke and ashes to the smog.

Well, the heat wave broke, the inversion layer lifted, the fires were doused as they always are and apparently the crisis was over. The Trojans of Southern California were rated the Number one football team in the nation and things seemed to be pretty normal.

This came the unkindest blow of all. One of the summer sports most Californians are denied is swatting mosquitos. Oh — there are a few places where the little monsters can be found — when Spring comes to the High Sierra, for example, but certainly not in Southern California. That is — until this very unusual year.

Now the San Diego area—particularly the community of Imperial Beach—has been invaded by swarms of large, economy size "skeeters." Like the plot of a horror film the source of the plague has been located. It is several hundred acres of swamp in Tia Juana river estuary. So you say—like in those same movies—"happy ending". But no—the federal government is in the cast of this story and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuses to allow (on environmental grounds) spraying of the swamp. Meanwhile the humans in the area are being eaten alive.

But never sell California short. The Mayor of Imperial Beach has declared the swamp will be sprayed even if it means going to jail. And he has declared he'll be at the nozzle of the first sprayer—jail or no jail.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "The Draft"

There's a lot of talk about the draft these days. The question really entails three different proposals: universal national service, military draft, and registration for use in the event of a future draft.

Frankly, I'm opposed to universal national service. The idea rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. Though voluntary service should be encouraged, the job for determining who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where, and how, in our society, is the job of the people involved — children, parents, religious institutions, and teachers—and not the government. The individual shouldn't be reduced to the level of a statistic to be manipulated by social engineers.

I am also opposed to a military draft in peacetime. The issue here is a basic philosophical one. Only in a national emergency does the nation have a legitimate claim to the mandatory service of its young people for the military.

Another issue is a more practical one—is the volunteer army working? I believe it is. Test scores and statistics show no significant decline in the quality of today's soldiers, and when I visited some of the troops in Germany last Winter, I found them to be well-informed on current events — in fact, probably better than many civilians back home. Their morale was also surprisingly good.

In addition, the volunteer army ended 1978 some 2,000 members over strength, due to the fact that more soldiers stayed in than had been predicted. When a volunteer organization's dropout rate declines, it must be doing something right.

A more serious worry is the state of the reserves and the National Guard, most of whose units are below strength. Yet the problem here is that the reserves and National Guard have not been made sufficiently attractive to young people. Therefore, the solution is to make such service more attractive.

This brings me down to the final point—registration. I oppose the institution of a stand-by registration system.

First, the word "registration" to young people is code for "draft", an idea that evokes painful memories of Vietnam for many and an idea that has always seemed alien in a democratic society during peacetime.

Second, and more important, stand-by registration would not greatly speed mobilization in time of an emergency. One defense manpower specialist I talked with said that registration would perhaps reduce mobilization time slightly, from 110 to 90 days—but at a great cost. It seems to me that it makes more sense to put those millions of dollars into program improvements and promotion to make the reserves more attractive to volunteers.

Voluntary support and participation have had a lot to do with the greatness of our nation. We should continue to rely upon it in the future.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Red Tape"

There are now 151 nations in the United Nations organization. There are several who aren't there — including good ones, too. Member governments range from totalitarian to authoritarian, from monarchies to representative, from dictators to more dictators and, until recently, even an Emperor (Bokassa the First — now disposed). But all of them have one characteristic in common, varying only in degree; that is, the stultifying hand of bureaucracy.

I've talked about our own bureaucratic problems, criticized bureaucratic excesses and deplored bureaucratic arrogance. Today I'd like to show what citizens of other countries have to put up with. You'll probably find yourself saying, "We're not so bad off after all." But, I hope you'll also say "let's get our own act together before we are that bad off".

In one country in South America the post office was charged with burning 3 million pieces of mail rather than delivering it. The postal officials vehemently denied burning 3 million pieces of mail — they said they had only burned 300,000.

An American businessman in a European country had to "nationalize" his car which he had brought into the country. It took 12 different procedures in offices as much as 15 miles apart with hours of waiting in each office. He now hires a private company to expedite such problems. The expeditors are all former bureaucrats.

A Swiss woman living in Paris, wanted to marry a Lebanese. Every time she applied to the Prefecture of Police she learned of another government form she'd have to fill out. Always there was another bit of information she hadn't supplied— such as her grandmothers maiden name. One day in desperation she tucked a pillow under her dress, went to another office, shed buckets of tears and told them she was pregnant and received instant approval of her marriage.

There was the case of a woman who was billed for 11 years for her mother's TV set license renewals. Her mother had been dead for 11 years. She was threatened with fines for not accepting a registered letter addressed to her mother. She had gone to the post office and tried to get the letter by showing them her mother's death certificate. They refused to give it to her because she didn't have written authorization from her mother.

We usually seem to follow in our English cousins' footsteps by 10 or 12 years. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher may have some tips for us a few years down the road.

Meanwhile, a senior civil servant fired half of his staff, closed down a bunch of government run ventures and cut his \$23 million budget by a full one-third. When he tried to show his superiors in London how his methods could be used throughout the country, they yawned in his face.

There is one government employee to two and one half other workers in England. We have a little way to go yet—here it's one to four.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Radioactivity"

There have been some questions in the mail recently about my stand on nuclear power. Some have challenged that the problem of nuclear waste has not been solved. Others have taken the position that the very existence of nuclear plants threatens us with the dread, invisible spread of radioactivity. The things we have now learned about the harmful effects of low level radiation from the World War II bomb tests is offered as proof that nuclear electric generating plants will be an ongoing source of silent death.

Well, it is true that mistakes were made in those early days of atomic testing; that there was a lack of information even among nuclear scientists. It is equally true that we now do have an enormous fund of knowledge which makes it possible to accurately appraise potential risk.

When Madam Curie's discoveries led to the development of the X-ray we know there was little thought given to possible side effects. Undoubtedly there were casualties associated with X-ray use. But would anyone suggest that the X-ray has not been a boon to mankind with benefits far outweighing the unanticipated side effects?

Samuel A. Wenk, research and development manager for the Southwest Research Institute, has tried to put risk and benefit in proper perspective. He says, "We live in a world of natural radiation. Everyone panics at the terms 'nuclear' and 'radiation' when it comes to power plants; in truth, however, we are getting daily doses of radiation from the sun, the ground and the buildings we live in that is 10 to 20 times greater than what is put out by nuclear power plants."

Wenk is peculiarly well qualified to speak of this—not alone by his scientific training. He had a skin cancer removed that was caused by too much exposure to the sun.

But here is assessment of the annual natural radiation we're all exposed to. Ground level radiation from cosmic rays is about 45 millirems. If you fly an average of 10 hours a month add another $62\frac{1}{2}$ millirems. The average in the United States of radiation from the ground we walk on is 60 millirems. The building materials in our homes give off 40, and in driving 10,000 miles we get an additional 4 from the paving materials used in streets and highways. That totals some 211 millirems per year.

That is the equivalent of 10 chest X-rays and we haven't counted what we eat and drink. The intake from that is 25 millirems. Then Wenk says there is localized exposure. A wearer of dentures gets Alpha radiation which fortunately has limited penetration. Wearing glasses adds rems of Alpha radiation to the corneas. Cooking with natural gas exposes us to Radon, which is also found in our drinking water—there are no average figures on this. You get more Radon from taking a shower than you do if you take a bath.

An efficient 1000 megawatt coal generating plant exposes the nearby population to 380 millirems a year. A nuclear power plant is restricted to less than 10 at its own fence.

Anyone interested can get this information and more from the federal government's Environmental Protection Agency report: "Radiological Quality of the Environment in the U.S. — 1977."

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "The Golden Fleece"

Wisconsin's Senator William Proxmire has faithfully for five years called attention to examples of government extravagance and foolish spending. The Senator makes public his award of the "Golden Fleece" to individuals, departments, agencies or branches of government guilty of unnecessary, unwise or careless expenditures of taxpayers' money. There have been 55 such awards in these five years.

If you are curious about why his award bears the title, "Golden Fleece," just look at it this way; we the taxpaying citizens are the wooly creatures being shorn everytime someone in government gets extravagant.

Senator Proxmire really hit home with his most recent award. He presented it to those who you might say govern the government - his colleagues in the U.S. Congress. Said the Senator, "I am giving my fleece of the month to Congress for the eruption in its staff and spending over the past decade. In that period the staff of the House and Senate has grown by about 70% and the cost of that staff by 270 percent."

The growth is remarkable when you look at the figure. The House staff has increased from 7,300 10 years ago to 11,600 today. The Senate did better by doubling its staff - from 3,400 to 6,800 (that figures out to 68 staff members per Senator).

Total staff cost this year is \$550,000,000, up from \$150,000,000 10 years ago. A pay raise has been proposed which will increase this even more.

In reality however, this is only the tip of the iceberg. The real cost to us is the increased spending generated by congressional staff. There is no way to estimate what that total may be but there is no denying that staff makes a sizeable contribution.

The next time you read somewhere that the coming \$552 billion budget is in response to demands by the people for more government services take that with a large grain of salt. Far more legislation is generated by government agencies than by popular demand.

It works like this: those entrusted with operating a government program (very often with the best of intentions), decide they can do even more for the people if only they can get more money, more personnel and, of course, a little more power. They put their proposal into legislative form and then look around for a representative or senator to introduce the bill.

Enter the congressional staffers. They have to justify their existence so they are on the lookout for things they can present to the boss as worthwhile things to do. The department promoters contact staffers they are acquainted with. The staffers take the proposal to their boss as a politically attractive bill he can author. And presto, up goes the budget. Government grows larger and the first thing you know the congressional staff has grown 70 percent in 10 years.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Gadgets"

There has been a lot of talk recently to the effect that Americans have lost that spirit of inventiveness and ingenuity which we have been known for throughout our history. Well, judging by the proliferation of various household gadgets designed to save labor and sometimes money, this is not so. A recent article in U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT fills us in on the latest products you need to have a truly modern American home.

For the apartment dweller who is conscious of using every inch of space, designers have come up with a queen-size bed that turns into a desk. The bed is lifted by counterweights against the wall to reveal a desk with plenty of drawers, a bookcase and a file. The price? \$2,400. Those with fireplaces will be happy to know that they can buy a do-it-yourself chimney sweeper for under 24 dollars. The contraption is equipped with strong brushes on four sides, so that when it is lowered through the chimney, it cleans all four sides at once.

Do you ever have trouble deciding which television program to watch. If your trouble is worth \$1,000., you may now buy a specially designed TV set which has a full-sized color screen with a small black-and-white inset. You can watch one program on the color screen while monitoring another on the black-and-white inset.

Products aimed at providing the convenience of your office at home are becoming increasingly popular. For about 15 dollars you can buy an adapter kit to turn your family's instant camera into a photo copier. If you are the clandestine type, for about 120 dollars you can get your very own portable paper shredder.

As you can imagine, energy-saving devices are at the peak of their popularity right now. Most ambitious is a Minnesota company that offers a one-passenger commuter car for about \$2,800. The car gets about 100 miles per gallon. You can buy special devices to lower the temperature of your hot water heating system to save about a third on hot-water costs. The device includes a special booster which raises the temperature of the water for the two appliances in your home which require hotter water — the dishwasher and the washing machine. You may also buy a gadget which enables you to turn off the pilot light in your gas-burning furnace when it is not in use.

These are just some of the new labor-saving and energy-saving devices which are catching the fancy of gadget-minded Americans. Ingenuity is alive and well from coast-to-coast.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Land"

On September 9th a meeting took place in Reno, Nevada. Those gathering there were representatives of the Attorney Generals of 13 Western states. They met in response to a law passed by the Nevada legislature in July in which that state laid claim to 49 million acres of land owned by the U.S. Government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Nevada has started what is being called the "Sagebrush Rebellion". From the Rockies, across the deserts and all the way to the Pacific, the western states are voicing their angry resentment of a powerful absentee landlord -- the federal government -- which has overlaid the West with controls and regulations as irksome as barbed wire was in an earlier day.

The West has a legitimate beef (and I don't intend that to be a pun). Early in our history, as territories became states, the federal lands within their borders were turned over to the states for development or sale to private owners. Naturally, the federal government retained title to lands it had actually developed for use. These included military reservations, federal installations, national parks and so forth.

As the nation expanded westward, however, and the newer western states were added, a change occurred. The 100th meridian marked the change. To the east of the meridian federal ownership of land ranges from six-tenths of one percent in Iowa to a high of 12 percent in New Hampshire. In the District of Columbia, our nation's capital, it only amounts to 26 percent.

But west of the meridian it's a different story. It's almost as if the government said, "we're being foolishly generous giving all this land away." Federal ownership goes from the six states east of the 100th meridian averaging about three percent to the four states west of them averaging 37 percent federally owned. And, as you continue to move west through the most recent additions to the Union the percentage goes up in all but Washington which has 29 percent of its land in federal ownership. Arizona is 43 percent, Utah 66 percent, Idaho 64 percent, Nevada 87 percent, Oregon 53 percent, and California 45 percent. But then comes our largest and newest state Alaska and the federal government stubbornly holds on to 96 percent.

This federal land has been made available for multiple use -- lumbering, mining, cattlegrazing and recreational. But now the B.L.M. is writing new regulations which, in effect, will change the rules in the middle of the game. Out in Idaho a rancher whose cattle operation is based on the lease of 15,000 acres of grazing land (a lease his family has held for 92 years) is told the government is taking back the land as a winter range for deer. The E.P.A. tells him he can't poison coyotes and the F.D.A. has ordered that only a veterinarian can administer antibiotics to cattle. The nearest vet is 60 miles away and doesn't make house calls. The B.L.M. is suspending the 10-year leases and changing to a year-to-year basis and imposing 212 separate environmental impact statements on the ranchers.

Is the federal government a better custodian of 700 million acres than the states would be? In a recent fire the B.L.M. managers refused to let a rancher help put out the fire.

Taped 10/25/79

RONALD REAGAN
RADIO COMMENTARY
DISC 79-15

79-15A

1.	Cuba Overseas	2:43
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PLEASE NOTE:

The enclosed are provided for airing from November 5th thru November 13th, inclusive.

PROGRAM #7 should be aired on November 13th.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RETURN DISCS.

OCT 29 1979

SPECIAL ATTENTION PROGRAMMING

THE ENCLOSED DISC CONTAINS ONLY SEVEN (7) PROGRAMS TO AIR
YOU THROUGH NOVEMBER 13th. THIS IS THE DATE WE ANTICIPATE
THAT GOV. REAGAN WILL BE DECLARING HIS CANDIDACY.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PROGRAM #7 "Miscellaneous & Goodbye"
BE AIRED ON NOVEMBER 13th, TO TIE IN WITH A PLANNED TELEVISION
PROGRAM.

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Station Manager/Program Director

FROM: O'Connor Creative Services

Another reminder...we are now able to fulfill listener requests for copies of Ronald Reagan program texts.

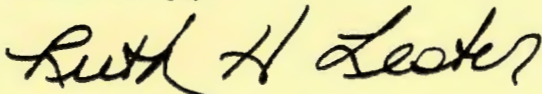
Effective immediately stations wishing to do so are authorized to voice tag each Ronald Reagan broadcast with the following:

"The title of the program you've just heard is _____ . If you would like a copy of the text of this program by Ronald Reagan, address your request to: Ronald Reagan Program, Box 8888, Universal City, California, 91608. (Repeat title.)

Listeners are not required to provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope and there is no charge. If you have any questions about this service, please direct them to my attention in writing.

PLEASE NOTE - We will continue to include reprints of the Ronald Reagan texts with each program shipment.

Cordially,



Ruth Lester
Sales Director

O'Connor Creative Services, Inc.
Box 8888
Universal City, CA 91608

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Cuba Overseas"

In recent weeks, our attention has been fixed on the subject of Russian troops in Cuba. The discovery has been widely considered as just another indication of the Soviets' desire to expand their presence in the western hemisphere. In exchange for Soviet military support, and some nine million dollars a day in economic subsidies, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro serves as a cheerleader for Russian interests throughout the world. A recent notable example of this came at the recent Third World "summit" conference in Havana. In contradiction to the supposed ideal of the organization to assume a position of nonalignment between the superpowers, Castro made a mockery of the proceedings with his podium-pounding exhortations to the Third World nations Soviet system.

Despite the power the Soviet Union is able to exert over Castro, the Cuban dictator still fancies himself a revolutionary leader who aids and inspires revolts in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. The Russians aren't bothered by Castro's delusions because much of his international interference fits nicely into their own foreign policy designs.

The evidence of Castro's meddling in foreign affairs is staggering. Back in 1961, just two years after seizing power, Castro sent a handful of troops to Ghana to provide training in guerilla tactics. In 1963, he sent tanks, arms and advisors to Algeria, which was then involved in a border dispute with Morocco. The Congo received Castro's blessing--- and Castro's troops---in 1965. In 1973, Castro ventured into Middle East affairs. South Yemen and, according to some reports, Syria, received Cuban military support. With this pattern established, U.S. policy makers should not have been surprised by the major Cuban involvement in Angola and Ethiopia in 1975 and 1976. 20,000 Cuban troops fought on the Communist side in Angola. 16,000 troops were sent to Ethiopia.

Latin America is a favorite Castro target, too. Most recent is his well-documented support of the more radical elements of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Castro readily acknowledges his intention to instigate rebel movements elsewhere in the Americas, in such countries as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

These activities pose a serious threat to our own interests. Castro has helped undermine and overthrow a number of governments friendly to the United States. That makes economic and military aid to Cuba seem a good investment for the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile the Cuban people continue to suffer with economic hardships so that their leader can sell the "virtures" of his failed system to others. I'll discuss what life is like in Cuba in my next broadcast.

In my last broadcast, I outlined the 20 year record of military interference that Fidel Castro has compiled in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. But this meddling has taken its toll at home. The costs of this military adventurism along with the inherent inefficiencies of the Communist system has brought Cuba a sluggish economy, chronic shortages and a serious deterioration in the work ethic. And, there are reports that many Cubans are getting tired of waiting for the promised land Castro has been promising them for 20 years.

But they will have to wait. Even Castro has warned his people that it's going to take another 20 years of sacrifice before his goals are realized. You can bet that if Castro should happen to be in power 20 years from now, he will tell a new generation of Cubans the same thing. There are many fundamental problems with Communist Cuba which will continue to deny the nation the prosperity of the West. Carl Migdale, a reporter for U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, visited Cuba recently and saw the inadequacies of Castro's regime.

Many Cubans are complaining that Castro's military exploits abroad are sapping the nation's economic resources. Cuba is in no position to be sending troops and weapons throughout the Third World, they say, when Cubans face chronic shortages of the basic necessities of life. Many were angered by the millions it cost to entertain Third World diplomats at the recent summit conference in HAVANA. One Cuban worker told Migdale "The government imported goods for over a year for the summit. That meant there was less for the people." An Havana housewife complained that she can't find detergents because the government says it doesn't have the money, even though it spent 100 million dollars on the summit meeting. Well, here is how a Communist party official answers complaints like these. "Those who complain don't understand that the summit was a defeat for the United States and a triumph for our revolution." But apparently many Cubans would rather have laundry detergent than a revolutionary triumph.

Food in Cuba is as scarce as ever. Despite rationing, Cubans must still wait in lines for hours to get their allotments. There are also long lines for just about everything else. Do you think you have problems with rush-hour traffic? How would you like to wait up to four hours in the morning just to board a commuter bus to take you to work?

Adding to the tension in this supposedly classless society, is the emergence of a sizable elite with many special privileges. Perhaps as many as two million out of a total population of 10 million enjoy special status as political and party officials, managers, members of the armed forces and students.

Morale among workers is at an all-time low. The work ethic seems nowhere to be found. Absenteeism runs high. This has compounded problems for an economy already suffocating from red tap, absurd government planning and cozy, corrupt relationships between businessmen and government officials.

There are no signs yet that the dissatisfaction among many Cubans will soon evolve into open revolt against the regime, but it's clear that Castro's Cuban Communism is a failure. It is hard to imagine why any Third World country would want to buy his brand of government.

It seems to me the paramount American interest in the Middle East is to prevent the region from falling under the domination of the Soviet Union. Were Moscow, or even its radical allies in the region, allowed to establish dominance or acquire a stranglehold on the West's sources of petroleum, either at the wellhead or at various oil route chokepoints, the economies of the major industrial states would be jeopardized and the capacity of NATO and Japan to resist Soviet pressure would be dangerously impaired. Indeed, any American government which allowed oil supplies to its allies to be placed in question would almost certainly invite the neutralization of Western Europe and Japan, the encirclement of China, and--eventually--the isolation of our own country.

The critical importance of the Middle East to American global interests should be obvious, and yet our nations policies continue the gradual erosion of our influence and power in the region. Today, the Soviet Union is capitalizing on its huge military buildup by raising the level of risk. The Soviet fleet has the run of the Mediterranean, free access to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and is extending its global reach.

This assertion of Soviet military power at both ends of the Middle East is evident in their string of bases and naval facilities in Iraq, Syria, South Yemen, Ethiopia and Libya. The armies of all these countries are largely dependent on Soviet equipment. The recent turmoil in Iran, Afghanistan, and Turkey--all bordering upon the Soviet Union--is crucial to the balance of power between the Soviet Union and the West, and in each case chaos means a gain for the Kremlin.

Meanwhile our record is one miscalculation regarding the extent of Soviet capabilities and Soviet interest in affecting or controlling the flow of oil from the Middle East, in base rights and in defense pacts. Swayed by "detente", our policymakers have yet to achieve a clear understanding of the Soviet role in the region. Moscow's objectives are part of a major effort to alter the global balance of power--in its favor.

The Iranian debacle is a recent example of the extent to which U.S. indecision and ignorance of the challenge in the region can obscure the true stakes. Continued instability provided important opportunities to the Soviets to expand their sphere of influence and to deny or control oil resources vital to the Western economies. Meanwhile those leaders in the area who have cast their fate with the United States now seriously question our political judgment and our ability and willingness to back our friends and to withstand to their survival.

The Soviet Union--not the United States--is poised to fill the power void left "East of Suez" by the British. On the next broadcast I'll do Chapter two.

Our own policymakers have yet to grasp the fact that territorial disputes among Arab states are persistent. Ethnic and religious rivalries abound. Conservative and radical attitudes regarding social change are constantly in conflict. The tragedy of the Lebanese civil war and the border war between the two Yemens earlier this year are two cases in point.

The existence of Israel has served as a bastion of liberal democracy in the heart of the area. Our own position would be weaker without the political and military assets Israel provides. Yet, America's own policymakers downgrade Israel's geopolitical importance as a stabilizing force and as a military offset to the Soviet Union.

The fall of Iran has increased Israel's value as perhaps the only remaining strategic asset in the region on which the United States can truly rely. Israel's strength derives from the reality that her affinity with the West is not dependent on the survival of an autocratic or capricious ruler. Israel has the democratic will, national cohesion, technological capacity and military fiber to stand forth as America's trusted ally.

With a democratic political system like our own we need have no fear of Israel's political stability or of the rise of a radical anti-American leadership at her helm. Her intelligence services provide critical guidance to ongoing regional development, the technical know-how of her specialists could be used to service American equipment in a crises, and her facilities and airfields could provide a secure point of access if required at a moment of emergency.

Further, Soviet planners must constantly take into account the effective dominance of the Israeli forces especially its air force. In a moment of crises the knowledge that this air force can create a "zone of danger" and uncertainty to the U.S.S.R must greatly restrict Soviet options and thereby facilitate the tasks of American planners.

Egypt--friendly to us--may well be able and prepared to take a front-line position in defense of Western security interest. To the extent that it can participate, so much the better. But it cannot substitute for a strong Israel in the ever-turbulent Middle East.

So it seems foolhardy to risk weakening our most critical remaining regional strategic asset through building the basis for a radical Palestinian state on her borders or through providing her with insufficient military assistance. If we were to pursue such a course, the task of Kremlin planners would be greatly eased and a determined barrier to Soviet expansionism in the region would have been withdrawn.

Only by full appreciation of the critical role the state of Israel plays in our strategic calculations can we build the foundation for thwarting Moscow's designs on territories and resources vital to our security and our national well-being.

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Salt"

Over the past 15 years we have permitted the Soviet Union to derive us of our nuclear advantage while at the same time it increased its superiority in conventional forces. Our once unrivaled advantage in naval strength is melting away.

How do we support our friends and defend our vital interests in the Middle East? How do we protect our own freedom? And how in Heaven's name did we get in this perilous situation?

Well, we were entranced by the notion that if we pounded our swords into plowshares the Soviets would do likewise. They did exactly the opposite. While we made actual reductions in our strategic programs, they made massive investments in theirs.

Oh! they talked about arms control, and even seemed to hold out the promise of real progress. But somehow, progress was always just around the corner--waiting for us to make a few more concessions.

In 1972 we presented Salt I as a "turning point in the arms race," and began our reliance on what is called the "SALT process", which included the doctrine of "Mutual Assured Destruction." At the same time the Soviets began their exploitation of our wish to believe.

Toward the end of the last administration we began a recovery of our military strength. The B-1 bomber was scheduled for production, the new MX missile was to be accelerated, the decline in our Navy was to be reversed and many other urgent programs were set in motion.

With the promise of long range defense programs to provide for our security we went forward with the SALT II negotiations. But now the B-1 bomber has been cancelled without any quid pro quo from the Soviets: the MX has been slowed down: the cruise missile delayed: the Navy's ship building program cut back; and, under the heat of a Soviet propaganda attack, we have halted development of a weapon that could have neutralized Russia's massive tank forces on the NATO front.

Simple arithmetic tells us that the gap in military strength between us and the Soviets can only grow wider if we continue on our present course. When you examine the new SALT II agreement you see that it isn't true, as claimed by some, that it will put a brake on the arms race, save money and be adequately verifiable. SALT II is not Strategic Arms Limitation, it is Strategic Arms Buildup, with the Soviets adding a minimum of 3,000 nuclear warheads to their inventory.

We must restore the security of the U.S. and we should make it emphatically known to the Soviets and--more importantly--to the nations of the free world that we intend to do just that. At the same time, let's assure the Soviet Union we will join in any arms limitation agreement that legitimately reduces nuclear armaments to the point that neither country represents a threat to the other.

But this treaty, flawed as it is, should be shelved.

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Health Care"

The advocates of government medicine in our country are still at it and one could say probably closer than ever to achieving their goal of compulsory socialized medicine. One can't help but wonder why oh why they won't open their eyes and really look at how government-run medicine is doing in countries that already have it.

Our British cousins in the United Kingdom are most often cited as an example of why we should socialize the entire health care field. But what are the British doing while all this praise is being heaped upon them? They're trying to get back to the kind of private, fee for service medicine we have here in the U.S.--that's what they are doing.

The British Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union has just negotiated an additional fringe benefit for its 45,000 members and their families: Nothing less than a complete package of private health care benefits. And they aren't alone. The automobile association will soon be offering its 5.3 million members a new plan guaranteeing private medical care whenever admission to a National Health Service Hospital takes more than six weeks. Such a wait, I might add, is rather normal in old blighty. Another firm IBM, has just bought private health insurance for all its 15,000 employees in England.

Now all of this doesn't mean England's massive tax-supported National Health service is being discontinued. It just means that people are willing to pay if they can get treatment more quickly, choose their own doctors and hospitals and have such other amenities as private rooms.

Britain now has eight private health plans along the line of our own Blue Cross. They have two-and-a-half million members and are adding 100,000 a year. Because of this there has been an expansion of purely private medical facilities. The number of private hospitals is increasing 10 percent a year. An American company, American Medical International, Inc. is investing \$85 million in seven new private hospitals in England and Wales. And we can expect even more because the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is expected to restore the tax exemption for worker of some \$110 million in employer financed health plans. The Labor party had imposed the tax to discourage the growth of private health care.

It's easy to see why private health care is growing even in the face of the so-called "free" government care. There are three-fourths of a million people on the waiting list of the Nationalized Health Program for operations such as hernias, gallstones, hip replacements, varicose veins--even tonsillectomies. Indeed children are waiting as long as three years to have their tonsils out.

Britain has had 30 years to make its government medical program work. What is happening there is typical of other nations with government health plans.

Shouldn't we profit by their experience and not follow them down the road of socialized medicine?

RONALD REAGAN

Reprint of a radio program entitled "Miscellaneous and Goodbye"

Believe me, my friends, I speak to you today with mixed emotions and maybe it's fitting that I make it the final desk-cleaning day.

The first item is, in my opinion, very serious for all of us and another indication of how far we are straying from the very basics of our sytem.

The Mountain States Legal Foundation has filed a suit with the Federal Government claiming that constitutional rights of several states are being violated. When Congress voted to extend the time for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment it refused to allow several states to change their position and rescind the approval they had given earlier.

A few weeks ago the U.S. Department of Justice, which above all, should be the defender of constitutional rights, filed a motion with the Idaho court where the case is being heard. The motion was to disqualify the judge appointed to hear the case.

Now hear this! The Justice Department wants him disqualified because of his religion. He is a member of the Mormon church. I leave it to you to imagine what such a precedent could do to our entire system of justice if judges can be either assigned or disqualified on the basis of religion.

These next few items may make you laugh but you'll hurt a little too. A former California Superintendent of Education, Dr Max Rafferty, has uncovered a few items having to do with extremes in the battle of the sexes.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has discovered that in one public school more boys than girls were being spanked. If the school doesn't want a million dollars in federal aid to be withheld it will henceforth spank girls and boys in exactly equal numbers.

In Woonsocket, Rhode Island the city council has ruled that from now on those metal-covered holes in our streets, we've long called "manholes" will henceforth be known as "personholes," And in Missoula, Montana a "Peeping Tom" ordinance is now a "Peeping Person" law.

Well that's all the desk-cleaning for today and as I indicated when I began it has been my last such chore. This is my final commentary.

I'm going to miss these visits with all of you. I've enjoyed every one. Even writing them has been a lot of fun. I've scratched them out on a yellow tablet in airplanes, riding in cars, and at the ranch when the sun went down.

Whenever I've told you about some misfortune befalling one of our fellow citizens you've opened your hearts and your pocketbooks and gone to the rescue. I know you have because the individuals you helped have written to let me know. You've done a great deal to strengthen my faith in this land of ours and its people. You are the greatest.

Sometime later today if you happen to catch me on television you'll understand why I can no longer bring you these commentaries.