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# The White House NEWS SUMMARY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

## TODAY'S HEADLINES

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mondale Will Meet with Gromyko First -- Walter Mondale announced that he would meet Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on Sept. 27, a day before President Reagan talks to Gromyko at the White House. (Reuter, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Washington Times)

Contacts Continue on U.S. Seamen Seized by Soviet Union -- Contacts are continuing between Washington and Moscow to secure the release of five U.S. seamen from a fishing supply boat detained by the Soviet Union in waters off Alaska. (Reuter, Washington Post, Washington Times)

### NATIONAL NEWS

Reagan Faces Light Campaigning, Decision on Steel Imports -- The President has a crucial meeting with his Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade Tuesday, where he is expected to reach a decision on whether to provide relief sought by the steel industry against subsidized foreign imports. (UPI)

### NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Sunday Evening)

POLL/PRESIDENTIAL TICKET -- The latest NBC poll results show the Republican presidential ticket has opened a huge lead over its Democratic rivals.

MONDALE-GROMYKO -- No surprise that the subject of Mondale's weekly, paid radio address was his Gromyko meeting, his support for the Reagan-Gromyko session and then a message for the Soviet foreign minister.

NICARAGUA -- Two senior American officials warned the Soviets against the deployment of sophisticated jet fighters in Nicaragua.

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## MONDALE, GROMYKO TO MEET

Walter Mondale, a harsh critic of President Reagan's record on U.S.-Soviet relations and arms control, announced that he will meet Sept. 27 with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko -- one day before Gromyko is to meet with Reagan. (Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A1)

Soviet's Gromyko Will Meet Mondale Day Before Reagan

Mondale's meeting plans took the White House and the State Department by surprise. "We weren't informed in advance of it," said Marlin Fitzwater. Several top State Department officials said they first learned of the meeting from news reports. (Cathy Trost, Wall Street Journal, A56)

By arranging a New York meeting with Gromyko one day before Reagan meets the Soviet official, the Democratic presidential challenger was treading delicate ground. But Mondale and his aides went out of their way, following the candidate's announcement of the meeting, to counter possible changes that he might be interfering in the President's constitutional duty to conduct foreign affairs. (William Scally, Reuter)

Mondale Will Meet with Gromyko First

The meeting was arranged "by mutual agreement," according to a Mondale spokesman who declined to elaborate on the process of setting the session. (Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A1)

Mondale Reports He and Gromyko Are to Meet Soon

Aides said the Mondale staff was approached "unofficially" last week by a Soviet academician about the possibility of a Mondale-Gromyko meeting. After Mondale agreed to the meeting, the aides said, the session in New York was arranged by Soviet Embassy officials in Washington and two key foreign policy advisers to Mondale, David Aaron and Barry Carter. (Bernard Weinraub, New York Times, A1)

## KREMLIN ADVISER EXPRESSES HOPE ABOUT REAGAN, GROMYKO SESSION

A top adviser to the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, Stanislav Menshikov, held out the hope that next week's meeting between President Reagan and Foreign Minister Gromyko could be "useful for both countries" if a bit of what he called "realism" prevails. (Donald Neff, Washington Times, A6)

## SOVIET PREDICTS QUICK RELEASE OF 5 AMERICANS

Five Americans taken into custody by Soviet authorities in remote Asian waters were reported to be in a Siberian hotel as a Communist Party official in Moscow, Stanislav Menshikov, said there is "no desire" to hold them captive. (DOn Oberdorfer, Washington Post, A1)

U.S. Fails to Contact Soviet-Held Seamen

The State Department was frustrated in efforts to reach by telephone the five American seamen seized by the Soviets and detained in remote Provideniya on the Bering Sea. (Miles Cunningham, Washington Times, A6)

Menshikov said in an ABC-TV interview from Moscow that the boat presented no danger to the Soviet Union and indicated the five would be freed soon. (Reuter)

## FORMER SOVIET CHIEF OF STAFF SAID DEMOTED

MOSCOW -- Marshal Ogarkov, abruptly removed as chief of staff of the Soviet armed forces, was demoted in a move possibly related to the destruction of the Korean airliner last year, former U.S. official William Jackson says. (Louise Branson, UPI)

Jackson said two officials, one of them a high-ranking military officer, told him Ogarkov had been named to head the Voroshilov Military Academy of the General Staff in Moscow. The post at this institution would be a considerable demotion from Ogarkov's previous job. (Seth Mydans, New York Times, A14)

## JAPAN'S MILITARY BUILDUP SPURRED BY SOVIET THREAT

TOKYO -- In a report crediting the U.S. military buildup with improving Japan's security outlook, the Japanese Defense Agency has called for an accelerated buildup of Japanese forces to counter an increasing threat from Soviet forces in the region. (Timothy Elder, Washington Times, A1)

## EXPERTS URGE JAPANESE-U.S. COOPERATION ON WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT

Warning of a dangerous buildup of Soviet forces in Northeast Asia and of Japanese defenses that "fall short," a panel of prominent Japanese and American advisers, the U.S.-Japanese Advisory Commission, urged their governments to start developing high-tech weapons together. (Barton Reppert, AP)

## WESTERN DEFENSE: IS EUROPE DOING ENOUGH?

BRUSSELS -- The European members of the Atlantic alliance are strongly disputing complaints in the United States that they have not contributed adequately to the defense of the West. They assert that they are, and that critics in the Congress and elsewhere are ignoring the facts. (Military analysis by Drew Middleton, New York Times, A15)

## MOSCOW TO MICHAEL JACKSON: BEAT IT

MOSCOW -- A state-run newspaper, The Leninskoe Znamye, says American teen idol Michael Jackson, the subject of official scorn in the Soviet Union, is contaminating South America. (Louise Branson, UPI)

## ISRAEL TO SEEK CUT IN BUDGET, U.S. AID BOOST

JERUSALEM -- Israel's new national unity Cabinet agreed to cut \$1 billion from the government budget in the next year, but left the decision on where to make the cuts to a four-member committee that is evenly split between the two main political blocs that control the government. Finance Minister Modai did make clear, however, that Israel expects significant help from the United States in overcoming its economic problems.

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

Modai said the government would cut \$1 billion from its \$22 billion budget within days as a first step in a plan for economic recovery.

(Jeffrey Heller, UPI)

Israelis Devalue Shekel and Plan to Reduce Budget

Prime Minister Peres said that "now we feel we have to turn first of all to ourselves, control our standard of living, reduce our expenses and make Israel an independent, self-reliant country from an economic point of view."

(Moshe Brilliant, New York Times, A1)

## DUARTE: LIMITED POWER OVER MILITARY

SAN SALVADOR -- President Duarte has announced he will investigate four murder cases as a demonstration of his three-month-old Administration's concern for human rights. The pledges have helped win wide acceptance in the United States and to gain an unprecedented level of U.S. military aid for the Salvadoran Army's struggle against leftist guerrillas. However, the announcements have yet to be translated into action against implicated army officers.

(Edward Cody, Washington Post, A1)

## GUERRILLAS CHARGE AIR FORCE WOUNDED CIVILIANS

Leftist guerrillas accused the U.S.-backed Salvadoran air force of wounding four civilians, including a child, in a recent bombing of a village after President Duarte issued guidelines to prevent civilian bombing casualties.

(Michael Drudge, UPI)

## LAWYERS DEFY U.S. BAN ON TRAVEL TO CUBA

NEW YORK -- A group of lawyers left for Cuba to attend a legal conference in the midst of a conflict between civil liberties groups and the Reagan Administration over the government's ban on business and tourist travel to Cuba.

(Dody Tsiantar, Washington Post, A23)

Lawyers Headed for Havana Charge Intimidation by U.S.

The lawyers, speaking at a news conference in New York, said the Treasury Department had sought to create an atmosphere of intimidation by subpoenaing a New York travel agency for the names of all Americans it had flown to Cuba since 1982. It had also subpoenaed the names of the lawyers who planned to attend the conference this week.

(William Greer, New York Times, A4)

U.S. TO REINFORCE CAMBODIA EFFORT

The Reagan Administration is stepping up its humanitarian and political support for the anti-communist Cambodian resistance forces but has declined once again to provide direct military assistance, according to State Department officials.

(Don Oberdorfer and Lena Sun, Washington Post, A23)

DOCUMENTS CONFIRM BISHOP'S MARXIST-LENINIST STANCE

The Reagan Administration says it will soon release selected documents captured on Grenada last fall, including a secret speech by the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in which he outlined his plan for deceiving the United States into thinking his revolution was non-Marxist.

(George Gedda, AP)

NATIONAL NEWS

## REAGAN FACES LIGHT CAMPAIGNING, DECISION ON STEEL IMPORTS

Buoyed by the polls that give him a wide lead over Walter Mondale, President Reagan is continuing to pace himself, limiting his time on the campaign trail to two or three days a week. He will hit the road again Wednesday with appearances at political rallies in Waterbury, Conn., and Hamilton, N.J. (Helen Thomas, UPI)

## NBC POLL

President Reagan is leading Walter Mondale by 30 percentage points and Geraldine Ferraro's popularity began slipping soon after the Democratic National Convention, a new poll shows. A poll released by NBC News showed Reagan leading Mondale by 62 percent to 32 percent. (UPI)

## FERRARO HAS ITALIAN AMERICANS' HEARTS, REAGAN THEIR APPROVAL

FLEMINGTON, N.J. -- It was a long way from the informally dressed families eating clams and linguini outdoors at the San Genaro Festival in this suburban town Friday night to the black-tie-and-evening-gowns audience that filled the Washington Hilton ballroom Saturday night to hear President Reagan, Vice President Bush, Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro address the National Italian American Foundation dinner. But the message was the same in both crowds: Ferraro has won the hearts of her fellow Italian Americans; Reagan is getting their votes. (David Broder, Washington Post, A10)

Contenders Keep Tempo Smooth at Italian-American Banquet

President Reagan and Walter Mondale spoke on the same platform back-to-back and face-to-face for the first time during the campaign when both tried to woo the Italian American vote. (John McCaslin, Washington Times, A2)

## BUSH DEFENDS ADMINISTRATION RIGHTS POLICIES IN SOUTHERN SWING

Vice President Bush's campaign tour of the South last week brought home an issue the Republicans would rather avoid this year: racial politics. From Raleigh to Winston-Salem, from Charleston to Columbia, the Vice President sought to spread his good-news gospel about the economy, but at virtually every stop he was dogged by questions from local reporters about racial and political issues. (Juan Williams, Washington Post, A7)

Bush Blames Leaders for Lack of Black Support

Vice President Bush, insisting the Administration has "a good record" worthy of support, blames the power of national black leaders and churches for a continued lack of support for President Reagan within the black community. (Norman Sandler, UPI)

Vice President Bush was on the attack Sunday, accusing Mondale of "outrageous demagoguery" for implying Reagan seeks to blur the separation of church and state. (Donald Rothberg, AP)

## NEARLY 10,000 TO BECOME CITIZENS

MIAMI -- Nearly 10,000 people are to become U.S. citizens in the Orange Bowl stadium as Florida stages the largest naturalization ceremony in American history, breaking the record by 100 citizens. Vice President Bush is scheduled to speak at the ceremony and voter registration booths will be set up at the Orange Bowl, enabling the new citizens to register in time for the November election. (UPI)

## PLANS FOR DEBATES ALMOST COMPLETED

A final agreement on the dates, locations and formats of two October debates between President Reagan and Walter Mondale should be reached either today or tomorrow, a senior campaign official said.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

## REAGAN'S STRENGTH AS A REPUBLICAN LIES IN HIS DEMOCRATIC PAST

While President Reagan last week lavished praise on the late Hubert Humphrey, and his strategists talked hopefully of peace initiatives with the Soviet Union, Walter Mondale issued a new budget that went softer on the military establishment while discovering government "waste, fraud and abuse." The Mondale budget, far more detailed and open than anything submitted by Reagan in this campaign, demonstrated better than a Republican commercial how successfully the President has captured the political agenda. ("Reagan & Co.," Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A2)

## MADE-FOR-TV CAMPAIGN MIXES 'HAPPY DAYS,' DEFICIT HOMILIES

The 1984 presidential campaign so far has played to America as a made-for-television docu-drama: a president versus a pedagogue. President Reagan follows a campaign script that blissfully blends ABC's "Happy Days" with Christian broadcasting's "God's Good News" as he moves from one presidential backdrop to another. Walter Mondale, ever the economics lecturer, appears in front of one chart after another, pointing to trends and explaining how massive federal deficits hurt modest-income folks. He seeks to educate people in nine weeks about something they did not come to believe in the last nine months of Democratic politicking.

(News analysis by Martin Schram, Washington Post, A11)

## REAGAN CHALLENGES TENET OF VOLUNTARY TAX COMPLIANCE

President Reagan, departing from his prepared text at a recent political rally, appeared to challenge a fundamental tenet of the U.S. income tax system: the requirement that people calculate their own taxes and pay what they say is due. Indeed, the force behind the present drive by both Democrats and Republicans to simplify the tax code is the concern that growing numbers of people are losing confidence in the fairness of the system and may stop assessing themselves honestly. Yet Reagan, at a hotel rally in Dallas last month, told his supporters, "The government has the nerve to tell the people of this country, 'You figure out how much you owe us -- and we can't help you because our people don't understand it either -- and if you make a mistake we'll make you pay a penalty for making the mistake.' We think we ought to be able to send you a bill and tell you what you owe, not the other way around."

(News analysis by Michael Putzel, AP)



## OTHER SIDE OF 'GENDER GAP': REAGAN SEEN AS MAN'S MAN

For three years, the fact that women like the President and his party less than men do has chilled Republicans and warned Democrats, because women now vote in proportions at least as high as men's, and women outnumber men. But, at least for the short run, it is Mr. Reagan's extraordinary appeal to men, the flip side of the gender gap, that has emerged as a major element in the 1984 presidential campaign. Even the Republicans say they have been surprised by the surge of support from younger men they find in their polls.

(Maureen Dowd, New York Times, A1)

## QUESTIONS WON'T GO AWAY FOR MRS. FERRARO

Despite a blizzard of figures disclosing some of her family's finances, questions still hover over the vice-presidential candidacy of Geraldine Ferraro.

(George Archibald, Washington Times, A4)

HECKLER'S FINANCIAL REPORTING PROMPTS  
CONCERNS SIMILAR TO FERRARO SITUATION

A question has arisen over whether Secretary Heckler committed the same financial disclosure violation of which Geraldine Ferraro is accused. Mrs. Heckler omitted disclosure of her husband's finances while she was a member of the House, just as Rep. Ferraro did. Both claimed the same exemption.

(Brooks Jackson, Wall Street Journal, A56)

## DECISION DUE ON ARMY GUN THAT FAILED TEST

The Army's new super-gun, the costly, elaborate Sergeant York DIVAD, has failed recent tests and aides are scheduled to recommend this week to Secretary Weinberger whether to continue, stretch out or kill the \$4.2 billion program which has stirred opposition in Congress and controversy in the Pentagon.

(George Wilson, Washington Post, A1)

## PROXMIRE BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF FORMER NAVY OFFICIAL

Sen. Proxmire is investigating the departure of former Assistant Secretary of the Navy George Sawyer, who became vice president of a defense contractor with whom he had negotiated \$5 billion worth of deals.

(Gregory Gordon, UPI)

Editor's Note: "The Candidates' Colosseum," a feature by Elizabeth Bumiller on the National Italian American Foundation dinner, is on page B1 of The Washington Post's "Style" section.

"Moon Spends Millions to Boost Image," the second of two stories on the Unification Church by Michael Isikoff, appears on page A1 of The Washington Post.

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, September 16, 1984

## POLL/PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

NBC's John Palmer: The latest NBC poll results show the Republican presidential ticket has opened a huge lead over its Democratic rivals. The new figures: the Reagan-Bush team leads Mondale-Ferraro 62-32% among likely voters. And about a third of the likely Democratic voters say they prefer Reagan-Bush over their own ticket. And 38% of the Democratic voters say they are disappointed that Mondale is the Democratic nominee. The poll shows the problems for Mondale run deep. Only 31% of all likely voters say Mondale has what it takes to be a strong leader. In contrast, 71% say President Reagan has those leadership qualities. (NBC-Lead)

## POLL/FERRARO

Palmer: From the NBC poll it appears Ferraro is no longer giving the Democratic ticket as much of a boost as she did immediately after the Democratic convention.

NBC's Bob Kur: Mondale picked Ferraro hoping she would excite and attract voters. But in spite of the huge crowds, the frenzied enthusiasm and pride of so many women and the novelty -- (Ferraro: "Men, so help me, in San Antonio, Texas, were reaching out to me holding their little girls in their arms saying, 'Touch her.'" Audience laughs. "Now that's a little heady, folks...") (Ferraro in separate appearance: "It's very exciting, I must tell you, to have people say, 'Gerry, Gerry, Gerry.' It's mind-boggling. I've even tried to convince my children that that's how they should greet me at breakfast." Laughter.) -- in spite of it all, the new NBC poll suggests the Ferraro factor might have fizzled. 52% of all likely voters now say they never were excited by her candidacy. And 15% more who said they were excited in August, say they are not now. (Ferraro: "I don't know how they're getting the people that they're reaching in the polls, but when we go to events and 10-to-15-to-20,000 people turn out, you've got to know there's something going on in this country and it's all new.") But her aides worry that only newness and curiosity draw many who come to see her. And to date, according to the poll, Ferraro does not appear to improve Mondale's chances for victory in November. 29% of all likely voters say they are less likely to vote Democratic because she is on the ticket. Only 18% say they are more likely. She is an engaging campaigner, but her problem has been that pictures like this -- (TV Coverage: Pro-Ferraro people clap hands in rhythm) -- have been pushed aside by scenes like this: (TV Coverage: Ferraro gets into car with reporters crowding her.) Ferraro leaving her accountant's office after questions were raised about the financial affairs of her and her husband. The recent publicity has hurt, according to the poll. Among likely Democratic voters, 21% have a less favorable opinion of Ferraro as a result. Among all likely voters, 32% have a less favorable opinion. No surprise that Ferraro's advisers find nothing to cheer about in the new poll. Some speculate that polls greatly underestimate Ferraro's pull among women. Others suggest that public reaction to Ferraro is not all her fault. They speculate that if Mondale were doing better in the polls, Ferraro would be too. (NBC-3)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, September 16, 1984

## POLL/VP CHOICE (continued)

Palmer: When likely voters were asked to choose which vice presidential candidate would make the better president, the margin was 63-23% for Bush. (NBC-4)

## BUSH CAMPAIGN

NBC's John Severson: Last night marked was the first time all four candidates had been together, all of them pitching for the Italian vote. Ferraro and George Bush shook hands for the first time. On the campaign, Bush has tried to ignore Ferraro. He says his message is upbeat, but spends much of his time beating up on Mondale. (Bush: "They tell Mr. Mondale, 'Be something other than what you are. Go in there and try to sound tough or sound like a leader,' which he's not." Applause.) The Republican crowd loved it and chipped in \$25,000, and they loved it in Texas when Bush accused Mondale of being soft on communism in Central America. (Vice President: "If you walk like a duck and you quack like a duck and you say you're a duck, you're a duck. They are Marxist-Leninists, they are not liberals as Mondale said.") Mondale has never called the Sandinista regime merely liberals, and Bush merely shrugs when asked if he's being the tough guy in this campaign. (Vice President, smiling: Huh? Me? Oh, please.") Bush wasn't tough, he was defensive when he was forced to admit that, unlike the President, he favors abortions in some instances, and he forgot that he also favored limited federal funding for abortions. He said it's the President's position that counts. Then he got angry. (Vice President to reporters: "Let me give you a little lecture....") It's the local press the Bush campaign caters to, like in Savannah, Georgia. He gave a five-minute speech, posed on a tractor, did local interviews and left town, the kind of good news Bush likes to make. Bush will continue to try to make good news by attacking Mondale, praising Ronald Reagan and avoiding controversial issues as long as he can. (NBC-5)

## MONDALE-GROMYKO

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Walter Mondale announced that he, too, will meet with FM Gromyko the day before Gromyko sees President Reagan. And it turns out the initiative for the Mondale meeting came from Moscow.

ABC's Betsy Aaron: The announcement of the meeting was made early this morning. No surprise that the subject of his weekly, paid radio address was his Gromyko meeting, his support for the Reagan-Gromyko session and then a message for the Soviet foreign minister. (Mondale: "If I am elected president, I will drive a tough bargain, and I will not sign any agreement that fails to protect American security.") Claiming he's not planning to upstage anybody, Mondale called the talks "discussions," not "negotiations." (Mondale: "I think the effect of my meeting may at least make clear to Mr. Gromyko that they should be under no confusion about domestic political campaigns. We want this meeting to succeed and that Mr. Reagan will represent all of us at that meeting.")

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY, September 16, 1984

## MONDALE-GROMYKO (continued)

Donaldson continues: According to Mondale, sometime last week an unofficial Soviet contact first raised the possibility of a Gromyko-Mondale meeting, the candidate deciding such a discussion in the middle of a presidential campaign would be, in his word, appropriate. He was asked if he was concerned that Mr. Gromyko might be using the session to embarrass President Reagan. (Mondale: "I have no fears of that, because I can't be used. I've been around the track.") Making no promises about the outcome of his discussion, Mondale did spell out what he hopes will come out of a Reagan-Gromyko negotiation. (Mondale: "My hope that they can move forward on arms control talks, my hope that we can get progress toward a summit, and a range of human rights issues and some other matters as well.") Some may speculate the Russians contacted Mondale to offset the theory they decided Reagan had the election wrapped up. But arms control is very much a political issue with Candidate Mondale about to set out for California -- arms control country -- to begin a week of campaigning on that very issue.

ABC's Mike von Fremd: The Reagan Administration is making the least of the Mondale-Gromyko meeting. On This Week with David Brinkley, Assistant Secretary Burt insinuated it's nothing more than a warm-up. (Burt: "I think it's fine. I hope he softens up Mr. Gromyko.") And Vice President Bush insisted the Gromyko-Reagan meeting isn't just an election-year gimmick on the part of the Soviets. He made it known he thinks the Kremlin is serious about negotiating. (Vice President: "Nobody is going to convince me that this is pure politics because it takes two to meet. And if you were a Soviet leader and the opposition to us wanted to give away the MX, give away the B-1, put on a freeze that locks Europe into inferiority, you might want to sweat it out, so I don't think they're playing politics.") But a Soviet central committee adviser warned that if Ronald Reagan continues his evil empire mentality of the Soviets, the Reagan-Gromyko meeting will be futile. (Stanislav Menshikov: "Well, a lot depends on what luggage the American side will bring to this meeting. If it brings good luggage, then the results may be useful for both countries. If the luggage is the same that we've been inspecting for the last few years, then the meeting may prove to be just another meeting.") So the Soviets are playing both sides against each other. The Mondale and Reagan campaigns may be jostling back and forth to make the most of their meetings with Gromyko, but in this election year the Soviets are playing this game knowing they have the ace in the hole. (ABC-Lead)

Palmer: Mondale, in an effort to shore up his foreign policy credentials, announced he will meet with Gromyko one day before Gromyko is due to meet with President Reagan.

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NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR SUNDAY EVENING, September 16, 1984

## MONDALE-GROMYKO (continued)

NBC's Lisa Myers: Although he's criticized Reagan for playing politics with foreign policy, a beleaguered Mondale jumped at the Soviet offer of his own meeting with Gromyko. (Mondale: "This meeting will not be negotiations. Only the President negotiates with foreign powers. It will be a discussion.") He said he isn't concerned that the Soviets are trying to use him. (Mondale: "I have no fears of that because I can't be used. I've been around the track.") Although he didn't clear it through the White House or State Department, he insists he isn't meddling. (Mondale: "No, I'm not meddling. I'm not negotiating at all.") Nor is he trying to upstage the President. (Mondale: "I'm not planning to upstage anybody.") He said he will tell the Soviets they should do business with Reagan, that they have nothing to gain by delaying the resumption of arms control talks until after the election. (Mondale: "I think I speak for all Americans when I say we want this meeting to succeed and that Mr. Reagan will represent all of us at that meeting.") Many interpreted the Soviet decision to meet with Reagan as a sign they viewed his reelection as inevitable. A top Mondale aide said he wanted a meeting to refute the notion the Soviets had written him off for dead. (NBC-2)

## SOVIETS/AMERICAN SEAMEN

Donaldson: Of concern to American diplomats is their continuing inability to contact five American civilian seamen being detained by Soviet authorities. The Russians say they rescued the Americans when their supply ship capsized off the coast of Alaska near Soviet territory. But so far, they have not allowed U.S. diplomats to contact the seamen, although one Soviet official predicted today the incident will be resolved very quickly. (ABC-2)

Palmer: Five American seamen are being held at a hotel in Siberia while diplomats negotiate their release. The sailors' ship was boarded by the Russians on Tuesday 50 miles across the strait from Alaska, and the crew was taken into custody. No reason was given for that seizure. (NBC-11)

## ARMS CONTROL

NBC's Marvin Kalb: The effort continues to entice the Russians to the negotiating table. Some new bait is now being thrown: the willingness to merge the Euro-missile and strategic talks into one. Despite the Reagan-Gromyko meeting, nothing much is expected until after the elections, and even then the Administration would have to get its act together and come up with a single negotiating position. Assistant Secretary Burt's readiness to merge two sets of arms negotiations into one just might break the deadlock, but if so, not until next year. (NBC-11)

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## SOVIET SUB ACTIVITY

ABC's John McWethy: ABC has learned the Soviet Union is making greater and greater use of the Arctic polar ice cap under which to hide its ballistic missile submarines and as a route for slipping its subs between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Part of the reason: the U.S. is not able to keep track of the Soviet submarines as well when they are under the ice. A second reason: the Soviet Delta force of about three-dozen boats is being so heavily used now that in order to keep them on station off the U.S. coast, it is sometimes necessary for the Soviets to shift submarines between the Atlantic and Pacific in a hurry. As the Soviets have increased their presence in the polar region, the U.S. has been doing much the same, keeping track of the Soviet vessels and hiding some U.S. Navy missile boats to see how well the Soviets do at tracking them. (ABC-3)

## NICARAGUA

Donaldson: Two senior American officials warned the Soviets against the deployment of sophisticated jet fighters in Nicaragua. Vice President Bush said that would be destabilizing. And Assistant Secretary Burt said it would be a serious development. While neither would say what would happen if the planes were deployed in Nicaragua, other Administration officials have suggested the U.S. would take action. (ABC-4)

## ISRAEL

Donaldson: The new Israeli unity cabinet announced the first step of a rigorous austerity program, a \$1B rollback in the Israeli federal budget. The same percentage rollback here would mean trimming \$38.8B instead of increasing the budget by the \$50B which has been the average increase for the past three years. (NBC-9, ABC-7)

## SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKE

Palmer: Thousands of black miners who work in the gold mines have begun their first legal strike ever over pay.

NBC's Martin Fletcher: South Africa runs on cheap, black labor. The blacks have a stranglehold on the white government if they organized. They've started to organize. Black unions are booming. (NBC-10)

NOTE: CBS did not air an evening news broadcast.

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ABC'S THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY

Moderator: David Brinkley. Panel: Sam Donaldson and George Will.  
Guest: Stanislav Menshikov, Adviser to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR.

Brinkley: In your estimate, what is likely to come of the Reagan-Gromyko meeting?

Menshikov: A lot depends on the luggage the American side will bring into this meeting. If it brings good luggage, then the results will be useful for both countries. If the luggage is the same that we've been inspecting for the last few years, then the meeting may prove to be just another meeting.

Brinkley: What would you like Mr. Reagan to bring in his suitcase?

Menshikov: I would like to find, first, a realistic view of the world, a realistic view of the role of both our countries. These are the two greatest nuclear powers, and for that reason the fate of humanity depends on the behavior of these two countries....One side should not try to become stronger than the other side. We should also approach each other with mutual respect. There has to be the principle of non-interference in internal matters of another country.

Will: Are you saying Mr. Gromyko will not bring any change in the Soviet position and specifically, is it still the Soviet position that there can be no resumption of arms talks unless the United States agrees to withdraw the Pershings and cruise missiles in Europe?

Menshikov: The position of the Soviet government is well known. We do want the Americans to stop deploying weapons in Western Europe and we do want them to bring those weapons out of Western Europe. In that case, the Soviet side would be ready to destroy a large number of its own missiles in Europe.

Will: There's been a considerable anger in the Soviet Union about some of the President's rhetoric. Yet the Soviet press for the past year or so has continually portrayed President Reagan as Adolf Hitler. Which is worse, the President's rhetoric or yours?

Menshikov: It is not true that we compare Mr. Reagan with Hitler....It is not true that Mr. Reagan is like Hitler. Hitler was a man who did not understand that by starting a war he would bring about his own destruction. I think Mr. Reagan and the current Administration is of a different view.

Donaldson: A story was published in the West that Chernenko was so tired by his appearance (with the cosmonauts) that he took to his sickbed again. Is that true?

Menshikov: No. Mr. Chernenko is at his desk. He is working.

Donaldson: Why was Marshal Ogarkov removed as chief of staff?

Menshikov: According to what I know, this is a usual change in the high command of the Soviet Union. These things happen once in awhile.

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

Donaldson: On Friday, the Soviet Union took into custody five U.S. seamen off the coast of Alaska, saying they had been rescued. Why won't you let any of our diplomats contact those seamen?

Menshikov: I have no personal knowledge of that incident, but I am sure that fishermen in Alaska do not present any danger to anybody and this incident will be solved very quickly to the benefit of both countries.

Brinkley: I believe that around the world the Soviet Union is perceived as having refused to discuss arms reduction. Are you comfortable with that position?

Menshikov: I'm not sure that this is so widespread as you indicate....We are asking for a freeze in activity in anti-satellite and other weapons designed for space. It is well known that when you start to build up a system of cosmic super-defense, the other side not only indulges in the same activity but also starts building up its strategic weapons to overcome that defense system.

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Guest: Marshall Shulman, Director of the Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union at Columbia University.

Brinkley: What do you expect to come out of the Gromyko-Reagan meeting?

Shulman: The best thing we can hope for is that it will be simply a first step in the process. I wouldn't expect that very much of substantive content will come of it.

Donaldson: Why do you think Gromyko agreed to it? He must know that it will help Ronald Reagan's reelection campaign.

Shulman: Sure, but I think it would be more difficult for him to say no to this than to accept. He was in a dilemma. If he had said no, it would have deepened their propaganda disadvantage.

Will: The Soviet Union won't come back to strategic arms talks, I gather, until we withdraw Pershings and cruise. That is not going to happen, is it?

Shulman: It would be unrealistic to expect the United States to withdraw those weapons. My own view is that it was a mistake for us to deploy them in the first place, as many of our military people thought. But having done so, politically it's very hard to pull them out now....I think the problem of when and how to get back into the talks is a Soviet problem. It is not for us to make concessions to them about it. But the condition that will be necessary will be for them to realize the United States is serious about negotiations.

Will: The very fact that the Soviet Union is so eager to negotiate "Star Wars," is that evidence they think it will work?

Shulman: No, it isn't. The reasons are: first, that we've got tests coming up that are going to make any future choke-point on the testing more difficult. And the other reason is if we do it, even if they don't think it's feasible, they're going to do it, too. What they face is an enormously costly diversion of resources into this field.



THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

Donaldson: Can we really have serious negotiations in Geneva until the Soviets solve their leadership succession problem?

Shulman: Yes, I think we can. Even in this country, many things are said in the name of the leader that are in fact the result of group staff decisions. The staff -- in the case of the Soviet Union other members of the Politburo -- has shown that it is capable of acting even when the top leadership situation is unsettled.

Donaldson: Is Gromyko the strong man at the moment?

Shulman: In foreign policy, he probably has the lead. With a weak central leadership, he probably has more of a free hand than he's had before.

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Guest: Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt.

Brinkley: Is the meeting really serious or is that a part of Mr. Reagan's depicting himself as a peacemaker?

Burt: It is very serious and those people who have argued that somehow this is a production of the President and his political advisers for campaign purposes forget what the President said last January when he gave a speech saying that he wanted a dialogue with the Soviet Union....We will be prepared to be flexible, and if the Soviets are, we may get somewhere.

Will: One way to get the Soviets back to the table would be for the Administration to come up with a trade, wherein our part would be some pulling back from the strategic defense system. Can you rule that out? Is the President committed to going ahead with strategic defense?

Burt: The President is committed to a very strong research and development effort in strategic defense, period....We have already said that we would be prepared to consider Soviet proposals for a moratorium in the context of negotiations. We're certainly not going to agree to a freeze on testing simply to go to the negotiating table.

Will: The Nicaraguans are rushing completion of an air base, disproportionate to any defense needs they have. Sen. Moynihan and others have said we will have a crisis of a magnitude of the Cuban missile crisis if the Soviet Union sends strategic aircraft for that base. Is that going to be raised with Gromyko? Is Moynihan right?

Burt: The problem of Soviet support for Nicaragua I am quite sure will be raised in the discussions with the Soviet Union....Delivery of advanced weapons, including supersonic fighters, to Nicaragua will be a serious development.

Will: I gather Rep. Fascell has written two letters to the President demanding to know why we refuse to raise the Sakharov issue at the Stockholm meetings .

Burt: That's not true. In fact, we have raised the Sakharov issue.

Donaldson: Mondale is going to meet with Gromyko the day before the President. Do you think that is helpful or not?

THIS WEEK with DAVID BRINKLEY (continued)

Burt: I think it's fine. I hope he softens up Mr. Gromyko.

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FREE-FOR-ALL DISCUSSION -- Jody Powell joins panel.

On the balanced budget amendment:

Will: A great hero of popular government was born this week. Ruth MacNamee, 10-year Republican in the state legislature, under heavy, silly pressure from Washington and the Republicans and the White House voted not to tamper with the Constitution by constitutionalizing economic policy.

Powell: Emotional issues tend to bring forth foolish sorts of ideas. We're all worried about what's going to happen so we've got this tomfool constitutional amendment thing. On nuclear weapons, we've got the freeze, which is about as foolish.

Brinkley: Let me argue the other side, just for the fun of it. If we don't put int into the Constitution, how are we ever going to get a balanced budget?

Will: The way to have a balanced budget is to submit one. The President's crazy for balanced budgets, submit a balanced budget. In the fullness of time, the public will either become angry or won't. Anger and fear do the work of reason in democracy. People get scared enough, then you'll get one.

Donaldson: Eventually, we're going to have to raise taxes and cut spending more, and eventually we'll have a balanced budget.

On the Mondale deficit plan:

Will: I would raise taxes differently, but I think he's right. As I've made it obnoxiously clear, I think we're undertaxed. But beyond that, it seems to me he has bitten the real bullet. The problem is that Reagan is winning. Reagan can say, "Don't listen to Mondale and Will. They keep underestimating economic growth." And he can show in his computers that if we have 5.5% real growth through 1989, the budget's balanced. There are a lot of people who say the recession rang so much inefficiency out of the economy that we're going to do that.

Donaldson: It's just another example of how Mondale is making an attempt to engage the President in something that he, then, can get a foothold into, and the President is escaping by not in any way coming down to fight it out. He's just dodging and escaping, for obvious political reasons, a trap that Mondale isn't strong enough to force him into.

Powell: Reagan's problem is if he says what he knows will have to be done, he will in effect be admitting that a good portion of what he's done over the past four years is a mistake.

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CBS's FACE THE NATION

Moderator: Lesley Stahl.

Guests: Olympic medalists Flo Hyman and Cheryl Miller.

Stahl: Everyone says that women came into their own in the '84 Olympics mainly because of Title IX, and I'd like to ask you both if you agree.

Hyman: I received a scholarship because of Title IX, and through the money and also myself being a minority, I was definitely a recipient of the benefits of that legislation.

Miller: I've always taken it for granted that women could receive scholarships. When I found out that Title IX was in danger, and what it stood for, I just think that I was very lucky to have received a scholarship to go the University of Southern California, because I know for a fact that my parents wouldn't have been able to afford it.

Stahl: President Reagan joined the suit against Title IX in the Grove City case, and yet after the Olympics, he invited you all to the White House and he more or less embraced the women. Did you all feel you were being exploited in any way in that situation?

Miller: I thought he was being very sincere myself. I'm not going to get into figuring out what the President means. I just felt it was a sincere, warm welcome.

Hyman: ...I appreciated the President's gesture, and took it for what it was.

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Guests: Senators Bob Packwood and Orrin Hatch.

Stahl: There's everyone in (support of the Title IX bill now before the Senate) except Sen. Hatch and a couple of other opponents. What is your objection to this bill, and do you have your own bill which is quite different?

Hatch: Well, it's not a "couple of other opponents." It's a very serious issue. The issue is not whether we're going to overrule the Grove City case. The issue is not whether we support the other three civil rights statutes. We do. The real issue is a question of federal power, because for the first time what they want to do is to define "recipient of federal funds" so broadly as to include everybody. What it means is this: For the first time in federal law they would include the corner grocery store because somebody comes in and buys groceries with food stamps, or the corner pharmacy because a person comes in and buys drugs because they are on Medicaid or Medicare, or the family farmer because the family farmer may have a loan from an agricultural organization.

Packwood: "Recipient" does not include "individual" in the bill. Under the old law, as you're well aware, grocery stores of 15 employees or less were not covered. They are not covered now. (Hatch disagrees.)

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FACE THE NATION (continued)

Stahl: I understand, Sen. Packwood, that the Reagan Administration is now negotiating with your side. How close are you to an agreement on this?

Packwood: We are so close.

Stahl: What I don't understand is that if the Administration is now agreeing to go back to where we were before Grove City, why they brought the case in the first place?

Packwood: I suppose to argue the case the way they would argue it, it's identical to the Bob Jones case. They argued that the law meant one thing, and that Bob Jones was entitled to certain rights. Having won the case, they then came and said "Now we think that's wrong. That was the law. We want to change it." I think that's the argument they're making now....The compromise will take us back to where we were on the day before the Grove City case, period.

Stahl: If the Administration reaches a compromise with Sen. Packwood, will you continue to fight this?

Hatch: I have been right in the middle of the negotiations, and I know how far the Administration is going to go, and they are not going to go as far as Sen. Packwood wants.

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NBC's MEET THE PRESS

Panel: Marvin Kalb and Roger Mudd.

Guest: Vice President Bush.

Mudd: We saw the report from last night's Italian-American dinner. In the last week the President himself has campaigned among the Poles and Italians. My question is, since when did the GOP become the party of the huddled masses?

Vice President: Well, it should have been a long time ago, but I think what Ronald Reagan has done is make clear to the blue-collar worker, to the ethnic communities, that we represent their values and that the progress since Carter-Mondale days has been dramatic, and I think they understand it.

Mudd: Do you think there's the equivalent reach out toward blacks?

Vice President: We have not done well there, but our record deserves (credit). Enterprise zones, minimum wage differential, the record on support for black colleges, the record on civil rights enforcement -- we've got a good record, but for some reason we haven't gotten the message out.

Mudd: Why are you so good at getting your message out about everything else, except you fail getting this message out about your policy toward blacks?

Vice President: I don't know....I think there has been a lot of discipline in that black community equating compassion with spending on federal programs.

Mudd: What is your position on the relation between religion and morality and politics?

Vice President: I think in politics there are certain moral values. I'm one who -- we believe strongly in pluralism, we believe in separation of church and state.

Kalb: Why didn't the President invite Mr. Gromyko in 1981 or 1982?

Vice President: You will recall there was some discussion of Andropov coming....Nobody is going to convince me this is pure politics, because it takes two to meet.

Kalb: Some of the polls taken in Dallas at the time of the Republican Convention say that a majority there, Republicans, favored a verifiable nuclear freeze.

Vice President: I think people are crying out for reduction in tension... I think when they understand the complexities, they'd much rather do what we want, which is significant, verifiable reductions, not a freeze that locks in inferiority.

Mudd: Do you think that by meeting with Mr. Gromyko, the Reagan campaign staff robs Mondale of his so-called "trigger happy" issue?

MEET THE PRESS (continued)

Vice President: I've never felt that was a very good issue for them, because it doesn't happen to be true. The idea that if you're for our approach you're less interested in peace, that's the Democratic theme. They're wrong. We have enhanced the peace, in my view.

Kalb: In Nicaragua, Defense Minister Ortega says that shortly they hope to receive MIG-21 fighters. This Administration has said more than once that if that kind of sophisticated armament arrives in Central America, we're going to take action against it. Could you tell us whether that is the case?

Vice President: No, and I don't think I should go into what we might do. But injecting into a Marxist-Leninist country these highly sophisticated weapons would be destabilizing.

Mudd: Do you regard the Soviet Union as an evil empire?

Vice President: I regard them as totally different from us, I regard them as in various times seeking out and spreading their form of aggression, but I also feel that if we keep our country strong we can deter that aggression.

Mudd: You don't like to take the low road, and yet in the last few weeks you've accused Mondale of trying to cut the Pentagon budget drastically, of being soft on the Sandinistas, and you have said he would give away the store for an arms control agreement. What's come over you?

Vice President: I'm just trying to present facts. I don't think that's a slashing attack.

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## FINAL COMMENTS

Kalb: I have the impression listening to the Vice President that the issue of war and peace is likely to be one that will be with the Republicans probably from now through the rest of the campaign.

Mudd: Well, it worries them, obviously. I think the scheduling of Gromyko is a direct response to what is obviously a weak point. Whether Mr. Bush thinks it's true or not, a lot of people do think it's true. However, the frustration of Mondale in getting his handle on the issue was demonstrated just today when Mondale said that he, too, wanted to meet with Gromyko. There's an interesting piece in The New York Times this morning by Phil Gailey and Howell Raines that indicates there's growing pessimism in the Mondale campaign about their ability to get in front of things.

Kalb: One of the reasons could be that if you go back to the poll NBC is releasing today, this "Teflon presidency," how difficult it is for certain things to stick, if I'm not mistaken, 60% of the American people disapprove of the President's linking of religion to politics. But 57% disapprove of Mondale criticizing the President on that.

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PBS'S WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW

Moderator: Paul Duke. Panel: Harry Ellis, Charles McDowell of The Richmond Times-Dispatch, Jack Nelson of The Los Angeles Times, Hedrick Smith of The New York Times.

Smith on the Gromyko visit: It's certainly an improvement from the way things have been, at least as far as the White House is concerned. The President began the year taking a more conciliatory line toward the Russians, trying to ease the situation. The problem is we don't really know whether this is a matter of atmospherics that both sides are engaging in or something much more serious....I think the Russians are realistic and they do follow the polls and probably reckon as most other people do that the President is becoming more and more of an odds-on-favorite for reelection and there is no point spurning him. But let's also remember the Administration has let it be known they're the ones that initiated the diplomatic dialogue that set up this meeting.

Nelson on the Mondale campaign: I think the problem is his message is being obscured partly by events beyond his control, such as news of the Gromyko meeting, the House Ethics Committee's decision to investigate Ferraro's finances, Ferraro's fights with Church leaders over abortion policies. On the other hand, there are some things his campaign should have control over that have also detracted from his message. For example, he showed up at airport receptions where there were more Reagan supporters than Mondale supporters. In one plant in Green Bay, Wisconsin, he stood for 30 minutes waiting for just a trickle of workers to come out. Finally, one of them came out and handed him a package which he said was the latest product from the factory and he wanted him to test the quality. It was four rolls of toilet paper. Mr. Mondale looked rather bewildered and said, "You want me to test the quality of this?" And the guy said, "Well, squeeze it," and he squeezed it, but it was all very embarrassing, all being recorded by the television cameras. He has a message he's trying to deliver and I think it's an important one. Last Monday he did unveil his plan to reduce the deficit by 2/3 and he wants Mr. Reagan to unveil his plan. Well, so far I think Mr. Reagan has been pretty well able not to engage in a public dialogue....There is a certain amount of morale problem in this campaign....I will say he did have some good rallies and some people are listening to his message.

Ellis on the Mondale deficit plan: The most important thing is he has addressed the problem as a very serious one. Second, he has taken the risk that Americans are willing to hear how painful it will be to reduce it....The President is using a figure that the average American family would be charged \$1,800. Now he appears to have gotten that figure from the U.S. Treasury because Secretary Regan was saying it first. It is very hard to see how the President comes to that figure because under the Mondale program, a family with income between \$25,000-\$35,000 a year would have an extra \$95 in taxes, between \$35,000-\$45,000 an extra \$205 on average. And if you did get up to \$100,000 it would be something like \$2,600 extra in taxes. All I can think of is that the White House and the Treasury are saying it is not only the tax increases but that this program will throw the economy into recession and therefore there will be associated costs that will be passed out among the citizens.

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WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW (continued)

Ellis continues: I have a feeling the President has two options if he's reelected: either to go on as he is and be tagged as the man who gave the nation a really tough economic problem to solve in the deficits, or to grasp the mettle and perhaps to do it in one of two ways: one, appoint a bipartisan commission, or to introduce a tax reform that would raise taxes but would not be income taxes as such.

McDowell on the Republican campaign: The Republicans are painting the Democrats as people who are always singing the blues, a band of pessimists roaming the land. The President's tremendously far ahead. The President's being shielded from the press as much as possible and he's talking mostly generalities. He's running a kind of "feel good" campaign. They have made a tactical decision, pretty obviously, that they are so far ahead that they don't have to concentrate on their base in the South and West but they can go national, go for a crushing win and go for a lot of Democratic votes. And a part of that they can base on groundwork carefully laid at the Dallas convention, which is more and more evocation of Franklin D. Roosevelt, a new hero to the Republican Party, Harry Truman, John Kennedy, and most recently and most effectively, Hubert Humphrey.

McDowell on the polls: The same polls that suggest Mr. Reagan has a 15-16 point edge have questions. Who would keep the U.S. out of war? Mondale wins by 5 points. Who would do a better job of keeping the government fair? Mondale wins by 13 points. Who cares more about people like me? Mondale wins by 6 points. And the same people who gave those answers in favor of Mondale say, "But I'm for Ronald Reagan." He is trusted generally somehow.

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AGRONSKY & COMPANY

Moderator: Martin Agronsky. Panel: Jack Kilpatrick, John Newhouse of The New Yorker, Carl Rowan, Hugh Sidey.

Agronsky: Do you think Mondale can still overtake Mr. Reagan?

Rowan: ...I don't think Mondale will catch him.

Kilpatrick: It's still possible...

Newhouse: Realistically, I think Mondale has only one issue that he can exploit: it's war and peace. He's not exploiting it.

Sidey: Both of these men have been on the national scene 20 years and they're known. And barring an act of God or some extraordinary circumstances, I think this country probably made its mind up quite some time ago and we're just beginning to see it focus.

Agronsky: I keep trying to keep in the back of my mind Harry Truman and Tom Dewey in 1948, but failing the act of God or some extraordinary crisis, I just can't see Mondale overtaking Mr. Reagan.

Agronsky: Gov. Cuomo made an extremely perceptive and useful speech (on religion and politics). How did you feel about it?

Kilpatrick: I did not find one thing in the Cuomo speech that would be any different from what a Ronald Reagan would say or you or I would say. They were platitudes, that we are not going to involve the state in an establishment of religion. What I did object to was something to this effect, that he was trying to say the Republicans, I think, were seeking to force their beliefs on others. I don't buy that for a minute. That's known as the Democratic process. If I am supporting a bill and my side prevails over your side, then I have forced my beliefs upon you. It's called majority rule.

Rowan: Cuomo was making another extremely important point. He was really saying to the bishops and archbishops, 'You are making a move you and the rest of us Catholics may come to regret.'

Newhouse: Jack Kennedy tried to dispel the notion that the Catholic Church could impose its views on members of the faith in politics. It seems to me ironic that the Church itself is re-raising the same concerns.

Sidey: I don't think it matters that much, but I don't necessarily call abortion a religious issue. It's also a scientific issue. It goes much deeper than just religion. But I don't think anybody in this country believes that either party wants to impose a state religion.

Rowan: I'm not accusing anybody of talking about a state religion. I'm talking about somebody wanting to change the Constitution to say that a woman out there who doesn't want to carry to term has to carry that baby to term. The government has got no business doing that.

Newhouse: There is a larger issue here, which is to say which candidate is the more faithful member of his flock. That implicitly is coming into the campaign, and I think it's regrettable.

AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

Rowan: Ferraro has been reduced to a no-threat because she can't go anywhere and talk about anything except the abortion issue.

On Geraldine Ferraro:

Sidey: I think it's time to be honest with ourselves about her as a candidate for vice president. The fact is that she has given no exceptional speeches, she has introduced not exceptional ideas into the debate. When she gets into the ground, such as on nuclear missiles it's quite painful; she obviously doesn't know what she's talking about. And she has proved to be not that stirring a personage on the stump. She has two things going for her: She is tough and she is a woman.

Kilpatrick: I thought she, on the whole, handled her press conference on the finances quite capably. She can take a gorgeous picture, which is important in this campaign.

Newhouse: She clearly likes the campaign arena and she's pretty good at it but she's been on the defensive.

Rowan: She has revealed a lot more about her finances than George Bush ever has revealed. (Sidey disagrees.) You say she's come up with no new ideas. Vice presidential candidates don't spring new ideas. What they do is run away from their old ideas. George Bush four years ago talking about abortion is about 180 degrees from the George Bush who today supports Ronald Reagan.

Newhouse: If she isn't springing new ideas, what is the President doing? He's avoiding issues and trying with considerable success to have a love-in with the electorate.

On the Mondale deficit speech:

Rowan: It was a good speech, but it may be a losing speech because one of the disquieting things about this campaign is that there are certain truths and issues most Americans don't want to face up to. Mr. Reagan is hiding out on the deficit issue.

Agronsky: Mr. Reagan is saying the deficit is the fault of the Democrats. He's saying that Democrats are always choosing to sing the blues. He smiles. He made that crack a couple years ago, "I don't worry about the deficit, it's big enough to take care of itself." What kind of a jovial, superficial and I think fundamentally juvenile way is that?

Kilpatrick: He didn't say it was all the fault of the Democrats, he said it was all the fault of the Congress, and to an extent that's absolutely true.

Sidey: I think it's a bum rap on the President that he doesn't propose a budget. He has proposed three budgets in detail, they are out there for everybody to see. He would be irresponsible to propose a phony budget at this point when they're in the process of making the real budget.

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AGRONSKY & COMPANY (continued)

Newhouse: The fact is the deficit doesn't seem to be an issue in the country. It will be an issue when it begins to bite. And according to the economists and the big banks and academia it will begin to bite fairly soon, possibly next year, at which point interest rates will go up, money will become scarce and the economy will slump.

Kilpatrick: Granted, the Congressional Budget Office is a very respected outfit. To me, it is absurd to sit here in September of 1984 and try to project down to a decimal point \$289.2B deficits in September, 1989. These figures are mostly moonbeams. What we want to know is what are the attitudes of the two candidates generally.

Agronsky: You can't dismiss it that easily in my opinion. Two years ago, there were innumerable predictions that we were moving toward a \$200B deficit, which all were fulfilled.

Kilpatrick: They were off by \$20B or 10%. That's a pretty good margin of error.

Rowan: You admit that by '89, the error could be upwards.

On the Gromyko meeting:

Newhouse: To the Russians, I don't think it was a question of why do it. I think it was a question of why not do it. I think they felt they would be doing Mr. Reagan a larger favor by refusing the invitation. Also, I think they want to take a look at Mr. Reagan and see if possibly something might come out of it because they are extremely concerned about the prospect of moving the arms competition into outer space.

Rowan: If they really want Reagan defeated, as they may, they know the best way to get him to win is to give him a chance to run against Chernenko. I think what the Russians have decided, "We're going to deny him this. Then, he's got to run against Mondale, not against us."

Kilpatrick: I'm always a little suspicious of these symbols and gestures.

Sidey: All I can say is I hope Mr. Reagan keeps his hand on his wallet when he goes into that meeting, because I remember when Mr. Gromyko came when the missiles were placed in Cuba and he sat there with John Kennedy and lied.

Rowan: The politics of this are just absurd. We were about to release this great document showing how many ways the Soviets have cheated on how many treaties, etcetera. We're going to hold it back until after Gromyko comes so he doesn't show up in a foul mood.

Newhouse: We're holding it back partly for that reason, perhaps, but partly because the State Department and the intelligence community have not signed off on that document.

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MCLAUGHLIN GROUP

Moderator: John McLaughlin. Panel: Pat Buchanan, Jack Germond, Morton Kondracke, Robert Novak.

McLaughlin: Why did Gromyko accept Ronald Reagan's invitation?

Buchanan: Ronald Reagan and the White House are playing politics. Gromyko has a strategic objective, I'm speculating. What they want primarily is an interruption or cancellation of a strategic defense by the United States. I think he's going to try to get a concession on the ASAT testing.

Novak: I think it's less a matter of substance than Pat does. The Administration is putting out the line that this shows the Russians know they can't be intransigent. That's a lot of bunk. I think there are two reasons (Gromyko decided to come.) One is that they decided Mondale is a loser and the second thing is I think they feel that if Reagan wins that he should win without a totally hard line against the Soviet Union.

Germond: The White House is demonstrating once again that it can be totally shameless politically, do the most obvious, crude, stupid things and get away with it. I don't think it means a thing; perhaps marginally it softens Reagan's image.

Kondracke: It's clearly political. Why didn't they invite him a long time ago? I think the Soviets have tried to beat up on Reagan; that didn't work. Reagan is way ahead in the polls and they figure they'll get the best arrangement they can out of him. I don't think anything is going to come out of this.

Novak: If it's a friendly meeting, Reagan wins. If Gromyko says this man is a warmonger, the people will gather around the President. The interesting thing, I believe, is that this is a very strong effort by George Shultz and the other people at the State Department who want a soft line to avoid winning the election without some contact at the upper levels of the Soviet Union.

Kondracke: It may just be we're going to get some negotiations going in the second term.

McLaughlin: Gromyko consented to come because he's under pressure from the Eastern bloc nations who are fed up with the Cold War. He said to Honecker, "I will do the detente business, you stay home."

PREDICTIONS -- The group's electoral predictions for November election:

Buchanan -- Reagan 511, Mondale 27  
Novak -- Reagan 488, Mondale 50  
Germond -- Reagan 405, Mondale 133  
Kondracke -- Reagan 450, Mondale 88  
McLaughlin -- Reagan 515, Mondale 23

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MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)Predictions -- Popular vote percentage:

Buchanan -- Reagan 57, Mondale 43  
Novak -- Reagan 55, Mondale 45  
Germond -- Reagan 54, Mondale 46  
Kondracke -- Reagan 56, Mondale 44  
McLaughlin -- Reagan 60, Mondale 40

Barring a calamitous event, can Mondale win?

Buchanan: If I were part of Mondale's Secret Service detail, I'd take away his belt and shoelaces at night; barring a calamitous event, he can't win.

Novak: He needs something really uproarious. Germond: I do think it is possible if there were a pseudo-dramatic event. There are seven weeks to go. Kondracke: Yes, but it's very hard. McLaughlin: No.

McLaughlin: Mondale's campaign this week was a political horror show. First, his deficit reduction plan bombed. Secondly, the polls. Third, Ferraro. And fourth, the Gromyko visit. Did Mondale get any political mileage out of his deficit reduction plan.

Germond: We don't know whether his deficit plan bombed or not. There's no way of telling until we see how it goes with people and how Reagan reacts, whether or not Mondale is effective at all in forcing the President to rebut him on specifics, which he has not been. Secondly, the polls are devastating for Mondale, but it is essentially no change since the convention.

Novak: You may not know whether it bombed, but I know, and so do Democratic politicians. Sen. Dole is exactly correct, that the Democratic politicians are running away from this thing as fast as they can. A guy like Paul Simon in Illinois wants nothing to do with it. The trouble is a lot of people like you think the American people want tax increases. Believe me, they don't.

Kondracke: A lot of people like Jack and me think the American people might want to know what the next four years is going to be like. Here's Ronald Reagan sitting there with his book closed, not telling us anything. He's calling for a line item veto? Okay, Mr. President, you've got your line-item veto, what are you going to veto?

Buchanan: I don't know any Democrats running around saying this is a terrific plan. The thing is dead and Mondale's saddled with \$85B in taxes.

Novak: I was out with Reagan this last week. He is not doing a good job of attacking this plan, in my opinion, because he's got all the cautious managers saying not to say anything.

Is the deficit plan a plus or a minus for Mondale?

Buchanan: Big minus. Novak: Massive minus. Germond: We don't know.

Kondracke: Politically, it's probably a minus, but it shouldn't be.

McLaughlin: Minus.

MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (continued)

McLaughlin: Who is winning the battle between the Catholic hierarchy and Geraldine Ferraro?

Kondracke: I don't think the Catholic hierarchy is winning at all because the Catholic politicians are doing what Catholic lay people have been doing for years. When they want to, they are ignoring what the hierarchy said.

Buchanan: Ferraro is being hurt. What's being peeled away from Ferraro, Cuomo and Kennedy is the solid, ethnic, socially conservative Catholic support they've got.

Novak: Ferraro is losing on this issue because she's in the terrible position of not merely seeming to be pro-choice, but seeming to be pro-abortion. The only thing that mitigated in her favor was that George Bush had a very bad week on abortion. He was skating all over the place.

Germond: The one bit of research that's been done on this issue earlier when O'Connor and Cuomo got into it showed that overwhelmingly the voters in New York, including Roman Catholics, supported Cuomo's position rather than the archbishops'.

Who's winning on the overall religious question?

Buchanan: Reagan. Novak: Reagan, because it's pinned down the South.

Germond: Reagan. Kondracke: I think it's turning against Reagan.

McLaughlin: I think it's a wash.

## PREDICTIONS

Buchanan: I think the Russians are going to pull an October surprise somewhere. I think there's going to be a challenge before the election.

Novak: In their lovey-dovey with the Russians mood, the White House isn't talking about it, but the Russians have eight super-nuclear carriers under construction and there's going to be trouble when they break out.

Germond: Some Republican prominents are urging some of the leading Catholic clergy to back off. I expect them to do that in the next few weeks.

Kondracke: This weekend is the anniversary of "Camp David."

Mondale is going to clobber President Reagan for not having advanced the peace process in the Middle East. McLaughlin: The prime rate will drop to 11.5% by December 31 and 9.5% by June 30, 1985. Ronald Reagan will capture the majority of the Jewish vote come November 6.

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