

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: News Summary Office, White House:
News Summaries, 1981-1989

SERIES: II: WHITE HOUSE NEWS SUMMARY FINALS,
1981-1989

Folder Title: 10/16/1984

Box: 376

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



The White House NEWS SUMMARY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

NATIONAL NEWS

Mondale Hits Reagan on Waste Cleanup -- In a high school half a mile from a radioactive-waste dump, in a community with abnormally high rates of leukemia, Walter Mondale said the Reagan Administration's efforts to clean up toxic wastes are a "super fraud."

(Washington Post, Washington Times)

Reagan, Mondale Clash on Defense Policy -- Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale are producing some of their most astringent language of the campaign over defense policy, which will be a major topic of their debate.

(Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, Washington Times, AP, Reuter, UPI)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Administration Hails Salvadoran Talks as Product of U.S. Policy -- The Reagan Administration moved to take credit where it had previously feared to tread, praising peace talks Salvador as the product of U.S. policy.

(Washington Post, Washington Times, Reuter)

Israel Says U.S. Easing Payments -- The Israeli government said the Reagan Administration has agreed to an unprecedented postponement in the repayment of \$500M in Israel's debt to the U.S., but this appeared to be disputed by statements from Administration officials.

(Washington Post, Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Monday Evening)

CAMPAIGN -- A 73-year-old, conservative, Republican President is winning a majority of the hearts and minds of likely young voters.

VP BUSH -- The Secret Service helped keep reporters at a distance from the Vice President.

PRIME RATE -- Banker's Trust reduced its prime lending rate to 12.4%.

STRIP MINING -- Government auditors say uncollected fines from strip miners may total as much as \$150M.

SOVIET SNAPSHOTS -- Challenger came back with some Soviet snapshots.

NATIONAL NEWS.....A-2

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.....A-8

NETWORK NEWS.....B-1

EDITORIALS.....B-8

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

NATIONAL NEWS

MONDALE DEPICTED AS SECURITY THREAT

MACON -- President Reagan campaigned across the South, hammering at Walter Mondale as a threat to national security on a swing designed to bolster Reagan's confidence and boost Republican turnout in the region. Reagan criticized Mondale by quoting Democrats who ran against Mondale during the race for the nomination. Mocking his challenger's claim that he is "ready to be president," Reagan said Mondale's election would mean a return to the "horrors" of high interest rates and declining productivity. Reagan's visit to Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina is expected to be his last southern trip of the campaign. In each of the three states, his polls show him leading by 20 points or more. Another purpose of the southern swing, in which Reagan drew large and friendly crowds, was to put Reagan in a positive frame of mind for his second debate.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A6)

He Would Bring 'Reign of Error'

Mr. Mondale wants to evoke Camelot, the President said, but would deliver a "Reign of Error." On the opposite coast, Vice President Bush told a group of senior citizens that Mondale had turned to desperate demagoguery on the Social Security issue, "trying to scare up a few votes." It was clear that both men were at work in a new campaign. Rarely has Mr. Reagan struck so hard at an opponent.

(Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A1)

Reagan Comes Out Swinging; Mondale Confident About California

While President Reagan tries out a sharper and tougher line against Mondale, the Democrat is in the President's home state working to take advantage of new polls showing him gaining ground. A Harris survey released Monday says Mondale trails Reagan by just 9 points, trimming the President's lead by 3 points in the last week. Reagan is now considering a second trip to California before the election, something his campaign manager said in August would happen only if he began slipping badly. It apparently was Mondale's domination of their Oct. 7 debate that prompted Reagan to change his campaign style, lambasting Mondale on one issue after another. In a stinging denunciation of Mondale for having "one of the weakest records (in Congress) for supporting a strong national defense," Reagan quoted Democrat after Democrat to show how the liberals now leading the party "have left the mainstream." (David Lawsky, UPI)

Reagan Campaigning Among Young; Mondale in California for Gala

President Reagan is playing to his strength among the young, calling his popularity on campuses "a phenomenon many of the pollsters can't understand," while challenger Mondale accuses Reagan of ignoring the issue of toxic wastes until it became an election-year problem. With Mondale beginning to make inroads into Reagan's big lead following their first debate, Reagan's campaign was adjusting its plan accordingly. Ed Rollins acknowledged the President's lead in California had slipped in recent days and said Reagan would return to the state next week for more campaigning.

(William Welch, AP)

REAGAN, MONDALE CLASH ON DEFENSE POLICY

Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale are producing some of their most astringent language of the campaign over defense policy, which will be a major topic of their debate. Reagan called Mondale's defense policies a threat to U.S. security while the challenger came his closest yet to questioning the President's capacity to make the crucial decisions should war break out. Reagan, on a campaign sweep of the South, alleged that Mondale would cut funds for major weapons. Mondale, in San Francisco, charged that early in his Administration Reagan had believed sea-launched cruise missiles could be recalled.

(Michael Battye, Reuter)

REAGAN ADDS BITE TO CAMPAIGN STYLE

With election day three weeks away, the "new Ronald Reagan" has emerged: a combative incumbent not shy about attacking Mondale for defense policies that "would jeopardize the security of this nation." President Reagan, uncomfortable with being on the defensive, which he appeared to be much of last week after his debate with Mondale, has replaced his lofty rhetoric of good feelings and better times with a sharpened focus on his challenger. Reagan tried out his tougher stance during a daylong swing through Dixie, where his allusions to an opponent "playing Russian Roulette" with the economy and defense policies that he said John Kennedy "would be ashamed of" were well received by cheering audiences. Further evidence of what Sen. Laxalt called a "new Ronald Reagan" sent a shudder through the overconfident White House. The new image was expected to be seen today as the President armed himself with economic and educational themes for a quick day of campaigning in the Chicago suburbs. The White House also appears bent on trying to rebut a charge from Mondale that Reagan is insulated from the press and the public. Monday the President chatted briefly with reporters and stunned customers catching a quick lunch by strolling into McDonalds with his security contingent and a small group of reporters to eat a Big Mac, an order of fries and a glass of iced tea.

(Norman Sandler, UPI)

MONDALE HITS REAGAN ON WASTE CLEANUP

WELDON SPRING, Mo. -- In a high school half a mile from a radioactive-waste dump, in a community with abnormally high rates of leukemia, Walter Mondale said the Reagan Administration's efforts to clean up toxic wastes are a "super fraud." Mondale accused the Administration of playing politics with environmental cleanup, noting that "just by magic, three days before I arrived, they announced they were going to do something" about the Weldon Spring site. Mondale's appearance at the site was part of a coordinated effort by Democrats and environmentalists to draw attention to the issue in many parts of the country.

(Paul Taylor, Washington Post, A7)

ST. CHARLES, Mo. -- Walter Mondale, saying his campaign is "red hot," used the words of the late Satchel Page to warn President Reagan, "don't look back, somebody may be gaining on you." The candidate made a blistering attack on the Administration's environmental record and declared a "war on toxic waste dumps" that he said are poisoning the nation's children.

(Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A1)

-more-

MONDALE, REAGAN SWAP HARSH CHARGES ON TOURS

Democrat Questions Opponent's Ability

SAN FRANCISCO -- Walter Mondale questioned President Reagan's decision-making ability in the event of a nuclear crisis. Mondale said he thought Mr. Reagan failed to learn basic facts about America's nuclear forces. But Mondale would not say why he thought the President had failed to master such facts -- thus studiously avoiding the issue of the President's age or a direct attack on Mr. Reagan's competence.

(Nancy Schwerzler, Baltimore Sun, A1)

President Invokes Kennedy in South

MACON -- A combative President Reagan, preparing the ground for Sunday's debate, unleashed his harshest attacks of the campaign on Mondale, accusing him of playing "Russian Roulette" with the economy and being "baffled" by foreign affairs. Mr. Reagan once again invoked the Democratic pantheon of Roosevelt, Truman and John Kennedy, but, for the first time, he charged the late Mr. Kennedy "would be ashamed of those in the liberal Democratic leadership who would weaken our defenses, endanger our security, and sell out the cause of freedom in Latin America."

(Gilbert Lewthwaite, Baltimore Sun, A1)

BUSH GOES ON THE OFFENSIVE

SEAL BEACH, California -- Vice President Bush, seeking to blunt Mondale's attacks on the Social Security issue, told a crowd of 500 senior citizens that Mondale plans to make "massive cuts" in Medicare benefits and blamed Congress -- not the Reagan Administration -- for cutting 500,000 people off disability rolls between 1981 and 1983. Mondale campaign spokesman Scott Widmeyer said Mondale plans to save \$12B in Medicare spending by 1989 by containing hospital costs, which he distinguished from cutting benefits. Bush was not available to answer questions about his charges because of a policy adopted by his campaign of restricting reporters' access to him. Peter Teeley said he "absolutely" has limited Bush's availability to the media because "there are days when we would like to go out and make a speech and have the press report what we say," rather than focusing on Bush's responses to reporters' questions. Bush canceled a news conference in which he was to release quotes from Mondale to substantiate his charge that the Democratic ticket had said the Marines killed in Beirut "died in shame." (Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A6)

Bush Uses Dictionary for Evidence

LOS ANGELES -- Vice President Bush threw the book at Mondale -- Webster's Dictionary. After four days of refusing to either apologize for or provide evidence for his charge in the debate that Mondale and Ferraro had suggested Marines died "in shame" in Lebanon, Bush fired back at a California GOP fundraiser. Referring to newspaper accounts of Mondale's speeches after last month's embassy bombing, Bush quoted Mondale as having said the incident "humiliated" the U.S. "Well, at the risk of being called patronizing," Bush said, "let me direct Mr. Mondale's attention to Webster's International, where 'humiliation' is defined as 'degradation; disgrace; shame.' So much for our needing to apologize..."

(Ira Allen, UPI)

FERRARO STILL DOGGED BY ABORTION ISSUE, FINANCES

CLEVELAND -- Geraldine Ferraro, moving westward through states rich in electoral votes, is being dogged by continued controversy over her views on abortion and the reporting of her finances. The nominee wasn't commenting on the latest declaration against abortion by Archbishop John O'Connor of New York. As the abortion issue continued to swirl, Rep. Bliley, a Republican member of the House ethics committee, said the panel should hold a special session to honor Ferraro's request for a prompt resolution of its investigation of her financial disclosure statements.

(Cliff Haas, AP)

YOUNGER VOTERS TENDING TO GIVE REAGAN SUPPORT

Ronald Reagan, at the age of 73 the oldest President, is more popular with young voters than with any other age group, according to a number of polls. Many disagree with some of his policies, but he is coming across to young people as a firm yet kindly grandfather figure, a leader who inspires confidence in an uncertain world.

(Steven Roberts, New York Times, A1)

Reagan Appeals to Young Voters

It isn't just among affluent professionals that Mr. Reagan is doing well. College campuses report surprising strength for the incumbent: Standard University's student Republican group says a two-day drive recently netted 220 new members, up sharply from a year ago. Blue-collar young voters are among Mr. Reagan's staunchest backers, pollsters say. The President's flat performance in his debate may be eroding some of that strength. Political experts and pollsters attribute his appeal primarily to the booming economy and to his message of renewed national pride.

(Rich Jaroslovsky, Wall Street Journal, A64)

CAMPAIGN/NEWS ANALYSIS

Needing to win a big state outside of his Northeast industrial base to defeat President Reagan, Mondale has decided to make a major final push in California. Asked how he would win where Reagan has never lost, the Democratic nominee replied, "No one's ever defeated Reagan in a debate before, either."

(John Omicinski, Gannett)

REPORT SAYS ADMINISTRATION DELAYING TOXIC WASTE STUDY

The author of the "Superfund" law says a new study shows the Reagan Administration is delaying the assessment of the health risks of toxic chemical dumps with a "roadblock strategy" of budget cuts. Rep. Florio (D.-N.J.) says the GAO report "provides clear and convincing evidence that the Administration is simply not concerned about the threat to public health created by hazardous waste sites." In a response accompanying the study, HHS said it had "made less progress than originally planned...because funding for its Superfund program was not made available on a timely basis...." EPA spokesman Hagan Thompson said that while no sites on the national list have been fully cleansed of toxic wastes under Ruckelshaus, chemicals are being removed daily from some of these sites as well as dumps not on the list that are considered immediate health threats. "To say nothing's being done is ridiculous," Thompson said.

(David Goeller, AP)

FEDERAL PROGRAM CUTS LEVEL INFANT MORTALITY RATE

BOSTON -- Public health experts say cutbacks in federal social programs under President Reagan are responsible for a leveling off of the U.S. infant mortality rate, which had been dropping since the mid-1960s. The rate dropped from 27.5 deaths per 1,000 births in 1965 to 13.8 deaths in 1983. But in 1983 the decline stopped abruptly and has not changed significantly since. "This may be a temporary trend, but it is worth watching," said Samuel Shapiro, a professor of health policy and management at Johns Hopkins University. "This comes right on the heels of an economic recession and reductions in social service programs."

(Gino Del Guercio, UPI)

DOLLAR RESUMES STRONG UPWARD MOVEMENT

NEW YORK -- The dollar has regained its upward march against foreign currencies in such a strong fashion that dealers were calling it a commodity with strong value independent of U.S. economic conditions. "The dollar has a value all of its own, regardless of other factors," said a New York trader for a major European bank. After finishing in New York higher than Friday's close, dealers concluded that neither weaker U.S. interest rates nor foreign central banks were likely to thwart the climb.

(Reuter)

ADMINISTRATION TARGETS LEGAL FEE AWARDS

The Administration is supporting legislation, introduced in the last Congress, that would limit what the government has to pay winning attorneys in successful suits against the government. It also would help out states that are sued successfully in connection with violations of the Constitution or civil rights laws. But opponents, especially civil rights and public interest lawyers, see the effort to limit fees as an assault on the laws themselves. They say that if the Administration succeeds in limiting attorney awards, lawyers will no longer be willing to take on the cases, which often can prove long and costly.

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A17)

WOULD TAX CODE REWRITE HURT PENSIONERS?

Opinion polls show strong public support for rewriting the federal income tax, but a new study concludes such changes would reduce pensions for 52 million workers. The Employee Benefit Research Institute, a nonprofit organization with a bias toward worker pensions, noted that the most popular "tax reform" proposals being considered would limit amounts that employers may set aside in employee retirement plans. Presumably, if a company's tax deduction for such payments were reduced, so would the contribution.

(Jim Luther, AP)

NEW PAC GIVES MONEY TO REPUBLICAN SUPPORTERS OF GAY RIGHTS

LOS ANGELES -- Complaining that contributions from gay Republicans almost always go to Democratic campaign coffers, a new political action committee is trying to ensure a fair share of GOP gay rights supporters. Gay Republican activists have formed Californians for Individual Rights and Civil Liberties-Political Action Committee.

(Rita Beamish, AP)

CHURCH-STATE CASES ADDED TO DOCKET

The Supreme Court, adding more cases involving church and state to its docket, agreed to decide whether the small, wealthy and heavily Jewish suburb of Scarsdale, N.Y., may be required to allow a Nativity scene in the center of town. The Scarsdale case, which involves a privately owned display on a small public park, asks whether a local government opposed to using public land for that purpose may be forced to do so. In another case, the justices agreed to decide whether members of an Arkansas-based religious group who work for its businesses are volunteers or are employees subject to federal minimum wage and overtime laws.

(Al Kamen, Washington Post, A4)

FISH INDUSTRY NETS NEW HELP

Soybeans didn't like it and neither did rice, but before Congress quit last week Rep. Jones (D.-N.C.) was able to land a legislative whopper for the American fishing industry. As a result, over the objections of the Administration and a number of Republican legislators, the ocean fishing industry will have access to Department of Agriculture foreign export credits traditionally used to sell grain abroad. A USDA spokesman noted Monday that the measure is not mandatory and that, given the Administration's opposition to including fish products under export guarantees, it is not likely that the Administration will move anytime soon to set the program in motion.

(Ward Sinclair, Washington Post, A4)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Mansfield's article, "The Heckler Breakup: A Husband's Tale: What Went Wrong in Their 30-year Marriage," appears on page B1 of The Washington Post (Style).

-more-

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DUARTE, REBELS AGREE TO CONTINUE CONTACTS

LA PALMA -- Salvadoran rebel leaders and a government delegation headed by President Duarte held 5 1/2 hours of talks here. Afterward, San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas read a joint communique in which the two sides agreed to establish a nine-member commission to carry on the dialogue. The government and the rebel alliance are each to name four representatives, while a Salvadoran bishop will be named as moderator for their talks. The leaders of both delegations were enthusiastic in public statements after the talks, although both emphasized that the closed-door meeting was only the beginning of what could be a lengthy process.

(Robert McCartney and Loren Jenkins, Washington Post, A1)

Administration Hails Salvadoran Talks as Product of U.S. Policy

The Reagan Administration moved to take credit where it had previously feared to tread, praising peace talks in El Salvador as the product of U.S. policy in the region. State Department spokesman John Hughes told reporters the talks "would seem to underline the significance of what we have been trying to do in El Salvador." A senior official called the talks "vindication" of U.S. policy.

(Joanne Omang, Washington Post, A15)

Salvador Government and Rebels Agree to Continue Peace Talks

SAN SALVADOR -- There was no immediate reaction from El Salvador's political right to the La Palma agreement but four separate editorials in the rightist El Diario De Hoy left no doubt over the rightists' attitude. "There can be no reconciliation between barbarity and democracy," one headline thundered. "How can one negotiate with seditious groups?" asked another.

(Bernd Debusmann, Reuter)

Duarte, Guerrillas Agree on Progress

Duarte offered a blanket amnesty to the guerrillas if they accept the "democratic process," and said he would propose legislative guarantees of the rebels' right to political association and safety from army reprisals. But Duarte stopped short of calling for a cease-fire, and apparently offered the guerrillas no protection from underground right-wing death squads.

(Jay Mallin Sr., Washington Times, A1)

REAGAN DOESN'T CLAIM 'EVIL EMPIRE' REMARK

President Reagan suggested in a magazine interview released this week that he never called the Soviet Union an "evil empire." He apparently confused a March 8, 1983 speech to the National Association of Evangelicals with an answer to a question at a January 1981 news conference. In a speech to the evangelicals, Reagan called the Soviet Union an "evil empire."

(Washington Post, A6)

FRENCH AND HUNGARIAN LEADERS SEEK RETURN TO DETENTE

PARIS -- French and Hungarian leaders are expected publicly to urge an easing of East-West tensions at the end of the first visit to France by a Soviet bloc leader since the left came to power in 1981. President Mitterrand and Hungarian Communist Party leader Janos Kadar are due to hold a joint news conference in the Elysee Place at which the main topic will be the prospects for a return to East-West dialogue.

(John Morrison, Reuter)

BONN, BUCHAREST APPEAL FOR SUPERPOWER DIALOGUE

BONN -- West Germany and Romania have begun two days of top-level talks in Bonn by urging Washington and Moscow to maintain East-West dialogue. The two countries' foreign ministers, in talks that parallel those of the countries' two presidents, welcomed Gromyko's meetings in the U.S. with President Reagan and Secretary Shultz.

(Reuter)

ISRAEL SAYS U.S. EASING PAYMENTS

JERUSALEM -- The Israeli government said the Reagan Administration has agreed to an unprecedented postponement in the repayment of \$500M in Israel's debt to the U.S., but this appeared to be disputed by statements from Administration officials in Washington. Spokesmen for the Administration cast doubt on the firmness of the reported debt postponement commitment, which was disclosed in a communique issued by the Israeli cabinet following a special meeting. A State Department official said "there really was not talk of a general debt rescheduling" during Peres' three-day talks in Washington. A White House official added, "What we did was talk about things without commitments being made."

(Edward Walsh, Washington Post, A1)

Israel Allowed to Skip Payment On Its Debt to U.S.

The U.S. has agreed to allow Israel to skip \$500M in repayments on its huge U.S. debt in an effort to rescue the country's reeling economy, an Israeli Cabinet spokesman announced. It was revealed that one of the biggest concessions by the Reagan Administration to the country is the granting of the forgiveness period on repayment of Israel's \$9.6B debt to the U.S. More financial rescue actions may be in store.

(Donald Neff, Washington Times, A6)

WEINBERGER OPENS DEFENSE TALKS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS

TEL AVIV -- Secretary Weinberger begins two days of defense talks with Israeli leaders following a similar round of military meetings with Egyptian officials. Weinberger said he was "very impressed with the readiness, the training and the maintenance ability" of the Egyptians.

(Reuter)

IRAQ SAYS ITS WARPLANES STRUCK NAVAL TARGET IN GULF

ABU DABI -- Iraqi warplanes attacked a "large naval target" south of Iran's main oil terminal in the fourth such strike this week in the Persian Gulf, an Iraqi military official said. The Iraqi claim of a hit on an unidentified vessel could not immediately be confirmed.

(Rawhi Abeidoh, UPI)

ASSAD VISIT SHOWS HEIGHTENED SOVIET MIDEAST ACTIVITY

MOSCOW -- Syrian President Assad starts talks with Kremlin leaders on a visit which Western diplomats say spotlights heightened Soviet diplomatic activity in the Middle East. Western diplomats said Assad would probably express his disapproval of reopened ties between Egypt and Jordan, and tell Chernenko that Damascus was concerned about continued Soviet support for Yasser Arafat's leadership of the PLO. The diplomats also said Syria was unhappy about Moscow's attempts to persuade it to end its support for Arafat's opponents. The diplomats noted Assad's visit was the latest in a flurry of Soviet contacts with Middle East leaders and said it was part of Moscow's aim of securing a more significant role in the region.
(Martin Nesirky, Reuter)

MILITIAMEN BATTLE ON EVE OF CRUCIAL PARLIAMENT VOTE

BEIRUT -- Christian and Moslem militiamen battered villages in mountains south of Beirut with heavy artillery exchanges on the eve of a crucial vote on a new parliament speaker, the third most important government post. The state-run news agency and radio reports said it was not immediately known why the fighting flared between a string of Christian and Moslem villages.
(Philip Williams, UPI)

WARM TREND IN RELATIONS GREETES SHULTZ IN CANADA

TORONTO -- Secretary Shultz and Canadian FM Clark met for the first time in what aides described as a "warm and open exchange" that emphasized improving relations between the two countries. Clark said Canada's newly elected government was more interested in re-establishing Canada's reputation as a pragmatic country than in continuing the anti-American rhetoric of Trudeau. (James Morrison, Washington Times, A5)

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS HANOI SEES U.S. ROLE IN ASIAN PEACE MOVES

UNITED NATIONS -- Vietnam's foreign minister says he is ready to discuss with the Reagan Administration ways of bringing peace and stability to Southeast Asia. "Without the contribution of the United States, we could not have peace in southeast Asia," said Nguyen Co Thach. Thach said he has not yet had any contact with Reagan Administration officials. "We welcome Vietnam's willingness to discuss with us further our offer to accept for resettlement in the United States all persons now confined by Vietnam for their past association with the United States or the former South Vietnamese government," said State Department spokesman Bill Lenderking.
(George Esper, AP)

NORTH KOREA AGREES TO ECONOMIC TALKS WITH SOUTH IN NOVEMBER

TOKYO -- North Korea said it accepted South Korea's latest offer to discuss trade and proposed a meeting next month.
(Reuter)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

CBS's Dan Rather: While the latest polls do indicate Mondale may be getting to first base with more voters than before, they also indicate he still has a long way to go to even the score. (There's) one group that consistently has given Mr. Reagan high poll ratings. A group that comes as a shock to the don't-trust-anyone-over-30 children of the 60s.

CBS's Jerry Bohan: (President: "All over this country, I have seen your generation at rallies and at political gatherings and all, and I am so pleased with that because you're what the election is all about.") It is one of the more curious aspects of campaign '84, that a 73-year-old, conservative, Republican President is winning a majority of the hearts and minds of likely young voters. (Young man at construction site: "Reaganomics seems to be working. I'll vote for him. I'll give him another four years to straighten the country out.") From the work place to the academic world, polls indicate most voters 18 to 24 prefer Mr. Reagan. (Young woman: "I think he's just great. I mean, he's cute on top of that.") Even at Berkeley, a bastion of radical thought and politics, there is an organization called the College Republicans. Very long on enthusiasm, very short on numbers. Even so, the idea that anybody at Berkeley could vote for Ronald Reagan is enough to make old radicals cry foul. (Allen Ginsberg: "You've got millions and millions of dollars to cover TV, to cover the media with their PR and propaganda and you might call it brainwash, if you were in the Soviet Union.") In part, it is a matter of dollars. The 18 to 24 year olds, sometimes known as the Me-First generation, like the Reagan economic policy. (Young woman: "I like what he says on the taxes and stuff." Another young woman: "We were afraid of getting out with a B.A. and having it be useless and not being able to find a job. And now there's a whole new class of people coming out, and the jobs are there.") And then there's the psychological factor. Young voters especially, say analysts, are influenced by the candidate who projects a strong father image. And Ronald Reagan has the edge in the battle for bid daddy. (Scott Fraser: "Very big daddy and he is a very desirable daddy in the way he portrays himself, and he's always smiling and happy. It's very hard to imagine how he would punish you if you were to do something wrong.") But there's a volatile flip side to the strategy of images. Example: In early October, the CBS News-New York Times poll showed 18 to 24-year-old voters preferred Reagan over Mondale by a substantial margin. (President, at debate: "The -- ah --") But less than two weeks later, after what even his aides said was a lackluster performance in the first presidential debate, the margin had narrowed considerably. (Graphic shows before figures: Reagan with 72 percent, Mondale 24. After: Reagan 55, Mondale 38.) And with three weeks to go, there is still time for Mondale to chip away at the Reagan lead. (TV Coverage: President in McDonald's.) Perhaps with that in mind, the President today took a Big Mac break with some young voters near the University of Alabama. The strength of his youth movement remaining one of the surprises of the campaign. The question: Whether it has any staying power.

(CBS-5)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

NBC's Tom Brokaw: The presidential election is 3 weeks from tomorrow, so there are 21 days to go, and judging from their campaign appearances today, it appears that President Reagan and Walter Mondale plan to keep the heat on each other for the duration.

NBC's Chris Wallace: It was the old hardline Reagan that campaigned across the South. Gone was his recent conciliatory stance against the Soviets. Instead the President emphasized his differences with Mondale about standing up to the Russians. (President: "He said what we did in Grenada eroded our moral authority to criticize the Soviets. I've never had any trouble criticizing them." Mondale now says he backs the U.S. invasion of Grenada, but the President seemed more interested in developing attack lines for next Sunday's foreign policy debate. He said Mondale has long been confused by Soviet aggression. (President: After they invade Afghanistan, he said, 'it just baffles me why the Soviets these last few years have behaved as they have.' So much baffles him.") Support for a strong defense is one reason why Republicans say the South has become even more of a Reagan base than the West. For lunch, Reagan's image makers sent him to a McDonald's. But this effort to appear just plain folks was interrupted when he had to be reminded to pay at the counter. (TV coverage: President shown paying for food.) In Georgia, the President continued hitting Mondale on defense, saying he repeatedly opposed new weapons systems. (President: "I don't know whether he would outlaw slingshots, but he would jeopardize the security of this nation, and we're not going to let him.") Aides know the President will have tough moments in Sunday's debate, discussing the Beirut bombing and failed arms talks with the Soviets. But they believe an old Reagan argument will still work -- that he knows how to deal with the Soviets from strength and his opponent doesn't. (NBC-2)

ABC's Peter Jennings: There are quite a number of political analysts in the country who will tell you that the general American public doesn't begin to pay attention to the presidential campaign until the World Series is over. Well, the series is over, and the next really heavyweight event of the political year is this Sunday's second debate between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mondale. Today both candidates were on the road. President Reagan was campaigning in the South.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: It was a rock-'em, sock-'em Ronald Reagan who skipped across the South today, tearing into Walter Mondale with the snappy one-liners that have become his campaign trademark. At the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa -- (President: "He said what we did in Grenada eroded our moral authority to criticize the Soviets. I've never had any problem criticizing." (Cheers)) In front of the City Hall in Macon, Georgia -- (President: "He said -- quote -- I am ready to be president. You know something, I think he's more ready to be our problem than our president.") At the Greenville Technical College in Greenville, South Carolina -- (President: "His insistence on higher tax rates is like playing Russian Roulette with our economic security. Only in the game the way he plays it, every chamber in

-more-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

Donaldson (continued): the gun would be loaded.") (TV Coverage: The motorcade pulling into McDonald's.) Tough work, this campaigning. Takes a lot of energy. But today, the President's media masters had carefully planned a well-photographed recharge. (TV Coverage: President getting tray and taking it to a table.) That's right, the President stopped off in Tuscaloosa at McDonald's, bought himself a Big Mac, an iced tea, some french fries, sat right down with a couple of local boys and fell to eating. You have no shame, a reporter said to Larry Speakes. A man's got to eat sometime, Speakes replied with a straight face. It's been a good day of campaigning for the President in a friendly region. In fact, the Darden polling firm in Atlanta finds Mr. Reagan as popular today in the South as he was before his first debate with Walter Mondale. His associates are increasingly confident that will be the case after his second. (ABC-3)

Rather: To hear Walter Mondale tell it today, it's going to be a come-from-way-behind victory for the Democrats on election day. Talking in a school auditorium in Missouri, Mondale cited as proof the wisdom of an old baseball great. (Mondale: "And my advice to my opponent is the same as Sachel Paige once gave. Don't look back, somebody's gaining on you. And we are!") (CBS-4)

ABC's Brit Hume: While Walter Mondale was under attack on a range of issues today, he went on the attack on a single issue where he thinks Mr. Reagan is weak. Mondale toured a notorious chemical and radioactive waste dump near St. Louis that is owned by the Army, but a succession of administrations, including this one, has done nothing about it until recently. In a speech at the local high school, Mondale explained. (Mondale: "Not long ago, I announced that I would visit this site. And just by magic, three days before I arrive, they announced they were going to do something. If only had 761 days to go in this campaign, I'd go to a dump every day and clean them all up." TV Coverage: Sign saying, "Sierra Club" in cutaway, then another sign, as the crowd cheers, saying: "Dioxin victims for Mondale-Ferraro.") Mondale got a warm but hardly overwhelming reception here, although the youthful crowd did seem to appreciate his message on the environment. (Mondale: "Elect somebody committed to enforce the laws of this land and who understands that it is our job and our generation (sic) to protect the air, the water, the land and the public health of this people -- of our people.") Today's events may have lacked the electricity of those huge, post-debate rallies last week, but Mondale still had something to cheer about. A Harris poll due out tomorrow is expected to show the President ahead by only nine points. Optimistic perhaps, but for the Mondale camp, the stuff of dreams. (ABC-4)

NBC's Lisa Myers: It was the old Reagan and his hold on young voters that Mondale was after when he toured this toxic waste dump and accused the President of reckless disregard for the environment. However, the new Reagan beat Mondale to the punch, by announcing Friday that \$250 million would be provided to clean up the site.

-more-

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

Myers (continued): (Mondale: "Just by magic, three days before I arrive, they announced they're going to do something. If I only had 761 days to go in this campaign, I'd go to a dump everyday and clean them all up.") He blasted Reagan as a born-again environmentalist. (Mondale: The new Reagan announces the cleanup of Weldon Spring; the old Reagan cleaned up only six dumps in four years. When you needed it then to protect your health, they weren't around, but when they were worried about their political health, they showed up in time.") Elsewhere in what the campaign dubbed 'national toxic waste day,' Geraldine Ferraro launched a scathing attack on Reagan's appointments to environmental jobs. (Ferraro: "Remember, this is the Administration that gave us James Watt once and Anne Burford twice.") Mondale has cancelled all but a few campaign stops this week, because he wants to spend all his time and energies preparing for Sunday's crucial debate. His advisers believe they softened up Reagan last time, but this time they're moving in for the kill.

(NBC-3)

Jennings: When political reporters converge in Iowa -- remember the Iowa caucuses? -- they usually find that The Des Moines Register is a pretty good barometer to what people in the farm belt are thinking. In Iowa a month ago, President Reagan was leading Walter Mondale in the Register's poll by 23 points. The latest poll this weekend shows that Mr. Mondale has lopped 15 points off that lead, and Mr. Reagan now leads by only eight. (Graphic shows new results: Reagan 51 to Mondale 43.)

(ABC-5)

ABC's Richard Threlkeld looks at America's farms as part of his continuing series of the issues of the campaign. Four years ago, Ronald Reagan won 60 percent of the farm vote by promising to make rural America prosperous again. Today, from the Rockies to the Appalachians, you'd be hard put to find anybody in rural America who's not a whole lot worse off than he was four years ago. The Reagan Administration was bent on getting government out of agriculture. Instead, it's more involved than ever. Farm programs are costing the taxpayers seven times as much as three years ago, to no effect. Walter Mondale has been stumping the countryside, lashing out at the Republicans for ignoring the farm crisis. But Walter Mondale carries the baggage of the Carter grain embargo. (ABC-6)

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH

Jennings: One other political note and a surprise today for reporters covering the campaign of Vice President Bush. Today, Mr. Bush refused to take questions from national reporters after a speech in Los Angeles. ABC's Carol Simpson tells us the Secret Service helped keep reporters at a distance. The Vice President's campaign staff reportedly wants the traveling press to report only on Mr. Bush's speeches, not his answers to questions on controversial subjects.

(ABC-7)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

BISHOP O'CONNOR

Brokaw: At the same time, New York's Archbishop O'Connor was speaking out again today on politics and abortion. O'Connor was answering New York Governor Mario Cuomo's recent speech on politics and religion. Today the Archbishop called it "a grave immorality." He rejected the argument that anti-abortion laws won't work. (NBC-4)

EL SALVADOR

Brokaw: An El Salvador summit -- the first meeting between the Duarte government and guerrillas after five years of war -- war in which the United States and the Soviet Union have a sizeable investment. Publicly the Reagan Administration had high praise for the Summit. Marvin Kalb has learned that privately the Administration expects this war to continue.

NBC's Marvin Kalb: The President praised the meeting, his top aides portraying it as a vindication of his controversial policy in Central America. (President: "President Duarte is participating at great personal risk, but it's a risk worth taking in the cause of peace, and the President has our prayers for success in this historic endeavor.") When Secretary of State Shultz conferred with Duarte last week, they agreed there would be no power sharing of any kind -- no deal before the rebels put down their guns and joined the electoral process, a prospect considered very remote. (Shultz: "President Duarte has made very clear the basis on which he goes into these discussions with them. And President Reagan has very vigorously endorsed that position, so there's no change on our part or theirs.") Meaning, the Administration still thinks a military solution is more likely in the short term than a political one. The Salvador military, with fresh U.S. supplies, seen as getting stronger and doing better, and after the American election, able to take the offensive against the rebels and hurt them badly, if the talks fail to produce a breakthrough. No official I've talked to thinks a breakthrough is imminent or even likely.

Brokaw: Why are we getting all this up-beat talk from the Reagan Administration today?

Kalb: There isn't really very much conviction, no confidence that anything serious is happening down there. The oldest rule of thumb in diplomacy...that if it's happening this publicly, it can't be all that serious. The Administration wants it to appear as though the President's very controversial policy in Central America is now appearing to be triumphant.

Brokaw: Is there a possibility that something really can emerge from these talks?

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

Kalb: It does not look that way at the moment, though everybody would like it to happen. There are many officials in the Administration who really feel deep down that you can't have a compromise real negotiations with the Communists in Central America, that eventually, if not this year, the next year, the U.S. will have to use its muscle.

Brokaw: Thanks very much, Marvin Kalb, with the Reagan Administration point of view. (NBC-lead)

CBS's Richard Wagner reports there was not a weapon to be seen in La Palma. Security was in the hands of the International Red Cross and the Salvadoran Boy Scouts. A man said the people want peace because they're tired of all the violence. A woman said: We want peace, we want dialogue, and we want all the world to know it. Duarte also received support today from another chief of state. (President Reagan, in Tuscaloosa: "President Duarte is participating at great personal risk, but it's a risk worth taking in the cause of peace. And the president has our prayers for success in this historic endeavor.") Although a dialogue has begun, it would be naive to think that five years of killing will come to an end because of a few hours of talking. What the Salvadoran people can hope for is that, if peace is not at hand, it's at least a little bit closer.

Rather: After meeting for six-and-a-half hours, the two sides at the La Palma peace talks agreed to meet again next month. (CBS-Lead)

ABC's Anne Garrels says rebel leaders drove 15 miles from a guerrilla encampment. Truckloads of their supporters followed. There was no warm embrace between the two sides at the church. The guerrillas met with Duarte inside, out of view. (ABC-Lead)

ABC's Peter Collins: The mood of the day was a wild hope that maybe, just maybe peace has a chance in El Salvador. Peace, peace, peace, they shouted. President Duarte waved happily as his caravan passed tens of thousands of people. Everywhere there were signs of hope, the dove of peace. Even army troops seemed in the mood. Top officers gave Duarte an emotional farewell as he passed into guerrilla territory. All the way, the message was the same: We want peace. It was a remarkable trip, the president's car alone, surrounded by careening TV vans. In La Palma itself, more thens of thousands filled the streets in the town square with only Boy Scouts providing security. There were signs. "Votes, not bullets." "Peace and democracy." "Forward to peace." And there were smiles. People wearing hope and expectation on their faces. (Man: "Esto -- est fantastico!" Another man: "It could the beginning for the era of the peace.") The whole idea today was to create a new mood in El Salvador, to change hearts and minds hardened by war, to make them believe peace is possible. Today, at least, it worked. (ABC-2)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR MONDAY EVENING, October 15, 1984

PRIME RATE

Rather: New York's Bankers' Trust Co. today reduced its prime lending rate $\frac{1}{2}$ a point to $12\frac{1}{4}$ percent. No other major bank immediately followed suit. (CBS-3, ABC-8)

BRITAIN/IRA

CBS's Tom Fenton reports Britain is on a heightened state of alert after the IRA bombing at Brighton. But that alert is done with typical British subtlety. (CBS-2, ABC-10)

STPIP MINING

CBS's Bruce Hall reports on Ethel Gabbard, who refused to move out of the way of strip miners. The miners had violated laws as well, and ignored government fines for it. Former Interior Secretary Watt, in his war against over-regulation, abolished the office that was supposed to collect the fines. Government auditors say the uncollected fines may total as much as \$150 million. Environmental groups filed a suit seeking enforcement of the 1977 Strip Mining Law, and today, barely three weeks before the presidential election, the government agreed to an out-of-court settlement not only to enforce the law, but to collect the back fines. (CBS-12)

FEMA

Rather: FEMA today confirmed a computer trade magazine report about some of the federal government's proposed powers during a national emergency, including the power to seize defense-related industry plants and to censor international business telecommunications. Datamation magazine said the FEMA plan amounts to a military takeover of the computer industry and even private computers during a vaguely defined national emergency. Datamation also says some of the big companies covered by the plan were surprised to hear about it. A FEMA spokeswoman said that the standby plan isn't a secret and contains nothing unprecedented. (CBS-13)

SOVIET SNAPSHOTS

Brokaw: It turns out that the space shuttle Challenger came back with a collection of intriguing Soviet snapshots. NASA officials said the mission took 2400 pictures of the site of a Soviet nuclear accident 27 years ago. Although the Soviets have never commented on this accident, it is believed that they sealed off a wide area which had been contaminated. (CBS-10, NBC-5)

###

EDITORIALS

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

The Bush-Ferraro Debate -- "If Mondale fails to overtake the Republican incumbent's massive lead, it will not be because of any debate failure on the part of his running mate....Vice President Bush did his best to serve the Reagan cause, avoiding any major gaffes that would embarrass the White House. But he did give Ms. Ferraro an opening to appear offended and, at times, displayed some of the shrillness that was supposed to be his opponent's weakness." (Baltimore Sun, 10/12)

No Hits, No Runs... -- "For the purpose of the debates is to expose the candidates to the people, face-to-face, so that voters may judge them. Mr. Bush and Ms. Ferraro each performed capably. No matter which one becomes Vice President in January, the nation should be reassured that both are up to the job." (Miami Herald, 10/13)

Domestic Issues -- "In the vice presidential debate, so far a mastery of the facts is concerned, who won? Or, more precisely, who lost in the sense of erring most gravely on the facts? It was a split decision. Rep. Ferraro was weaker than Vice President Bush on foreign policy and national security material. She was, on the other hand, highly factual on domestic questions -- whereas he was anything but." (Washington Post, 10/15)

A debate between candidates, not genders -- "Ferraro had to, and did, prove her competence and independence. Bush had to, and did, prove his loyalty. Indeed, he may have won the blue ribbon for the corporate vice president exhibiting the most unbridled praise of his boss. 'It's a joy to serve with an American President...' But in the end, the debate was something of a draw." (Boston Globe, 10/13)

...But He Won It In The Briar Patch -- "But if you look at this debate to determine which one of the candidates is better qualified to immediately become president -- to walk in to the Oval Office and pick up the ringing phone -- the George Bush won for the most basic of all reasons: on foreign policy, he's more qualified. After the debate, some of Ferraro's aides conceded her weakness on foreign policy but pointed out how much she's learned just in the past two months. That's true. She's come a long way. But not far enough." (Washington Post, 10/13)

JAPAN

Reagan's Rudderless Policy Toward Japan -- "The Reagan Administration has scored one major achievement in relations with Japan and has falsely laid claim to a second. In most matters, Mr. Reagan's record is merely average. His outstanding accomplishment is the dollar-yen accord....He wants to claim similar success on the defense issue, where he doesn't deserve any credit....To claim that Mr. Reagan talked Mr. Nakasone into spending more on defense is sheer American arrogance....At a time when the U.S. business community recognizes that America's primary competitor well into the next century will be Japan, Mr. Reagan's slackness on the trade issue is inexcusable."

(James B. Treece, Wall Street Journal, 10/15)