

Editorial

Reagan — lost in his own fog

President Reagan — many times a hypocrite.

During his nationally broadcast speech Monday night, Reagan claimed he has presented a responsible budget to Congress, but Congress has failed to enact it.

Reagan's responsible budget includes enough smoke and mirrors to please Harry Houdini.

Reagan forecasted a growth in gross national product that far exceeded all other projections. The increase in GNP has not even approached Reagan's projection. Reagan also underestimated the inflation rate, while most economists were forecasting a sharp increase in it. Inflation greatly exceeds Reagan's projection.

Reagan and his advisers painted a rosy economic picture as a means to increase revenue projections and decrease expenditure projections. This is how Reagan reached the deficit target mandated by Gramm-Rudman-Hollings.

That is Reagan's responsible budget.

Reagan's primary target during his speech was not the budget deficit, however. It was the Democratic Party. Reagan blamed Democrats for the budgetary mess. Reagan described Democrats as profligate and undisciplined big-spenders motivated by partisan concerns.

What Reagan failed to mention was the petulant and irresponsible behavior of congressional Republicans. The Republicans, instead of working with the Democrats to forge a consensus, are sitting on the sidelines hoping the Democrats will stumble. Is this the representation their constituents want?

After blaming Democrats for the budgetary morass and ignoring the intransigence of congressional Republicans, Reagan asserted a need for a balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto to control wasteful spending. If Reagan wants to show fiscal responsibility he should first submit a balanced budget to Congress, which is something he has never done. Once he does that, let him ask the American people for

a balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto — but first he needs to meet the problem head-on.

The problem is the deficit. No one, including Reagan, Congress, and the American people, has been willing to deal with one simple fact — military spending, Social Security and Medicare, and interest payments on the national debt nearly equal annual revenues.

Interest payments are the only part of the budget that are untouchable, but if Congress and Reagan continue to regard military spending, Social Security, and Medicare as untouchable, only three options remain to balance the budget.

The first option would be to eliminate all other federal programs. This would include the FBI, Environmental Protection Agency, Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Agency, Food and Drug Administration, and dozens of other essential agencies and programs. What would this option do to national security and economic growth?

The second option would be to substantially increase taxes. Walter Mondale's presidential campaign demonstrated the popularity of this idea compared to Reagan's simplistic call for "staying-the-course."

The third option would be to decrease spending for all but the "untouchable" programs and to increase taxes. On the surface this appears to be a sensible approach, but it would still entail gutting numerous essential programs and a huge tax increase.

The only sensible approach to the deficit is to cut defense spending, reform the entitlement programs, cut non-essential spending, and moderately increase taxes.

Reagan may spend weeks asking for a balanced budget amendment and a line-item veto, but neither of these smokescreens will reduce the deficit by a penny. If Reagan is serious about balancing the budget he will get off of his duff and present a balanced budget to Congress. Until he does so, his criticism of congressional Democrats is merely partisan hyperbole.

Off the Record

Youth and the Klan: a sad combination

The American Negro College Fund uses the slogan, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Ironically, this phrase easily could apply to the dozens of Klan members who proudly paraded their ignorance and outdated ideals down Franklin Street last Sunday afternoon.

The existence of extremist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan is a pathetic example of what happens when peoples' minds are so wasted by ignorance and hatred that they cannot accept different races, lifestyles or beliefs.

But the saddest waste evident in Sunday's march was the presence of young boys in the

ranks of the marchers. These children were too young to fully understand the evil that they represented.

Their minds have already been poisoned with hatred and racist ideas by the adults they trust. Instead of opening these young minds with education and understanding, the adults in the Klan have stunted these children's intellectual growth with bigotry.

Because they were indoctrinated into the Klan's warped ideology at such a young age, there is little hope for these youths to escape a life of prejudice. They are trapped into a stagnant world where they can never have friends of a different

race or religion, and they can never tolerate new ideas.

But worst of all, these young children insure that the Klan will have at least one more generation of racial violence and intimidation.

Fortunately, the Klan and their supporters represent only a very small minority.

This was evident Sunday when many local children and teenagers joined adults in protesting the Klan's presence. While their protest was not organized and it probably changed few if any opinions, it did show that in the future there will be even less support for the Klan and its activities.

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Letters

Trust is integral to honor code

To the editor:

When a student enrolls at Carolina, he or she becomes a part of a long-standing tradition of student self-government as embodied in our honor system. More than a century ago, this honor system was instituted at Carolina to protect the pursuit of academic interests at the University. Broader goals of the honor system include its part in the University's mission to prepare its students for their future lives as responsible citizens. Unlike a proctoring or monitoring system, which places responsibility with an external authority, the Honor System makes each person responsible for his own honorable conduct — we monitor ourselves. As Seneca said 2,000 years ago, "It goes a long way toward making a man trustworthy to trust him." A faith in this fundamental axiom underlies our system, and it is the responsibility of each of us as students at this University to make our actions and our lives an exemplification of its truth.

This University presupposes a commitment by each student to the ideals expressed in the Code of Student Conduct (Article II of the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance), composed of the Honor Code (II.A.) and the Campus Code (II.B.).

HONOR CODE: It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.

CAMPUS CODE: It shall be the further responsibility of every student to abide by the Campus Code; namely, to conduct oneself so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community.

The Instrument further states

that "the discovery and dissemination knowledge through research, teaching, and learning is the fundamental activity of this academic community. Intellectual honesty is integral to that enterprise. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work (I.A.G.)." Consequently, for academic cheating, suspension for at least one semester and a failing grade in the course involved is the normal sanction for the initial offense (II.D.1.a., III.B.2., II.B.5.).

Students at this University have an unusual degree of self-determination and responsibility for self-governance in the regulation of their conduct. However, these greater rights and freedoms engender responsibilities. Certain of these responsibilities are specifically enumerated in Item I.A.6. of the Instrument and appear in all University notebooks. Each of us must uphold these responsibilities to ensure the continuation of the tradition of self-determination at UNC.

Here are a few notes of practical advice. If you are unsure of the requirements of an assignment or the degree of collaboration allowed, ask. Make sure you know how to document your sources. Starting work ahead of time is the best way to avoid the last minute crunches when you can make a rash decision. And it's always better to turn something in late than to risk plagiarism to turn it in on time. And finally, if you have any questions about the judicial system, please feel free to call the Summer Court at 962-5505, the Student Attorney General's office at 966-4084, or Beth Furr, Assistant Dean of Students, at 966-4041.

John Fox
Summer Honor Court Chair
Doug Thomas
Student-Attorney General