

Opinions

Cuts in defense spending getting more attention

By Cliff Blue

From both Democratic and Republican sources, the call for cuts in defense are frequent and urgent. It now seems certain Congress will reduce defense appropriations requested by President Reagan for 1984-85 fiscal year.

This is the will of the majority, according to polls. Because of the unprecedented size of federal deficits, cuts are certainly desirable.

But, after accepting that, it's well to keep the issue of defense spending in perspective.

Many may not realize it but when John F. Kennedy was president, we are reminded that defense spending accounted for 49.5% of the federal budget. This we get on good authority.

We read that if President Reagan's total requests were accepted by this second session of the 98th Congress, it would represent only 29% of today's federal budget.

The reason more can be spent on defense is that the cost of social programs to various recipient groups has skyrocketed.

In Jack Kennedy's day social spending was about 29% of the budget. Today, it's over 52%!

So it appears with government handouts and aid programs -- food, fuel, housing, medicare, social security, welfare and grants in other forms, that spending has outrun revenue. That appears to be what President Reagan has been preaching for years.

This, we have not realized.

People & Issues

How much defense spending is necessary? That question is like asking how much spending a community can justify on law enforcement, or how much life insurance is needed by the head of the family. It's impossible to know, exactly.

Thus, after cutting defense spending in 1984, which seems certain, legislatures and voters will have satisfied the 1984 wave of popular opinion; but eventually, new taxes or serious limitations on automatically increasing social programs will have to be the answer to balancing the budget.

The federal debt is out of control, a fact which few people will argue.

In days of prosperity, there is no reason for the Federal government to operate with a deficit.

The federal government should move quickly toward operating on a balanced budget, otherwise, we all will find ourselves back in a depression such as we found ourselves in once before, in the 1932 days.

THEN AND NOW -- Ice cream traces its roots back to the Roman Emperor, Nero, but it took an American to devise the most convenient way to eat it. The invention Ice Cream-on-a-stick.

It was during the roaring twenties that candymaker Harry Burt was inspired to freeze ice cream on

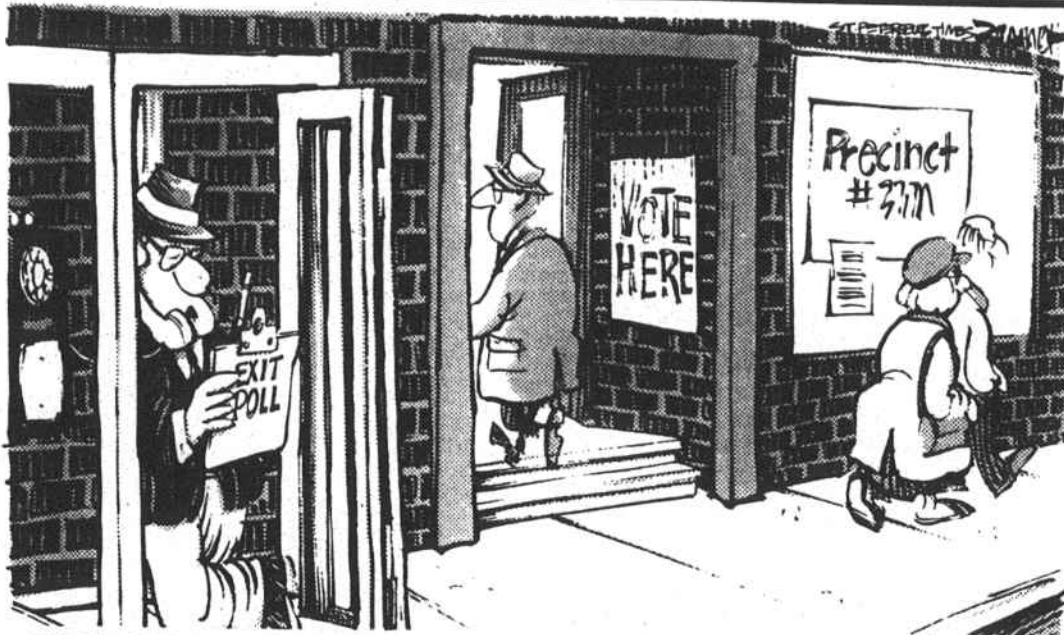
a stick and coat it with chocolate to make an ice cream "lollipop." Called "Good Humors" because they made everyone smile. These treats were sold from carts that rang with sleigh bells, attended by friendly men in white uniforms -- the now -- legendary Good Humor Men. This year, marks the 60th anniversary of the Good Humor Ice Cream Corp. and its famous frozen treats.

MORGAN SAYS -- Former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan of Harnett County says the Democrats will lose if U.S. Senator Hart is the Democratic nominee for President on the Democratic ticket. Morgan says: "There aren't many people in the whole state of North Carolina who can tell you what Hart stands for and what his record is. It's really frightening," says the former U.S. Senator. Morgan is a supporter of Former Vice President Mondale.

WOOD BURNING -- Cost-conscious people throughout the nation are finding wood-burning stoves -- may be the best way to warm their homes at lower cost.

We read that wood burning stoves heat homes at a fraction of the cost of oil, gas or electricity. What's more, wood stoves are working better than ever these days, thanks to a form of technology called the catalytic combustor. It burns smoke, increases stove efficiency and safety as it lessens pollution.

So we read in a journal!



...AND AS FOR THE DELEGATE RACE - IT'S LOOKING LIKE A SUBSTANTIAL LEAD FOR MOE OVER EENIE, MEENIE AND MINIE ...

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Grace Commission on target

A mere billion dollars isn't much to get excited about in Washington, D.C., but if you can talk about saving \$300 billion during a three-year period, you ought to create some excitement.

That's exactly what J. Peter Grace, a New York industrialist and non-paid chairperson of a commission created by President Reagan, says can be done with the federal budget.

The report of the Grace Commission, which was recently published, results from some two years of effort by a team of 161 top business executives who, in turn,

enlisted 1,350 more volunteers. They delved into the operations of the federal government to discover and expose the excesses, duplication, inefficiencies and unnecessary expenditures that can and should be cut. The commission's work did not cost the taxpayers a dime. It was financed entirely by private business.

Strangely enough, the report didn't create any excitement. Relatively little public attention has been given to it. What we keep hearing from congressional leaders and some economists is that they have cut about all that can be cut

out of the federal expenditures and we will have to turn to additional tax revenues to tackle the deficit.

The Grace Commission report includes more than 2,000 specific recommendations that the business executives believe would not only save \$300 billion over three years, but result in a better-managed federal government.

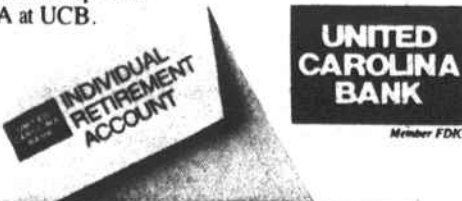
Some of the recommendations cut into favorite sacred cows, such as entitlement programs. Most members of Congress hope the report will fade away, but taxpayers should insist that doesn't happen.

DON'T PUT OFF AN IRA FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS...

...WHEN UCB HAS AN IRA THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

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And the UCB Self-Directed IRA is perfect for the individual who wants complete control over his investments. It's the one plan that gives you the flexibility to buy common stocks, corporate bonds and government bonds. Plus earn money market rates. We'll be glad to help you select the IRA that best meets your needs. Just contact your United Carolina Banker. We'll show you all the right reasons to open an IRA at UCB.



...Letters Continued

(Continued from page 2B)

Half of the money used in the States went to the hospitality program of Clifton Presbyterian Church. Clifton, which has 25 members, provides to 30 needy men free bedding, a bath, two meals and transportation to and from central Atlanta -- 365 days each year.

The other half of the stateside money went to the Open Door -- a service that provides free meals to unemployed men and women in downtown Atlanta. Shelter is also provided in special cases. The Open Door grew out of the ministry of Clifton Presbyterian Church and also includes a ministry to those in prison and their families.

Todd's eyes were donated to the

Georgia Lion Eye Bank and her body went to medical education at Emory University. The disciples question in Matthew 25:44, "when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?" and Jesus' reply in verse 45, figured large in our decisions about the use of the money received and the use of Todd's body.

The task of dealing with the long list of friends who have expressed gratitude to God for Todd, who helped in various ways, who expressed concern for me and the family, and who celebrate the resurrection has been a rewarding experience. Writing has taken (and is taking) time, but it has not been a heavy burden. Thank you. Shalem, John Reagan

PHONE FOR FOOD
Fish, Shrimp, BBQ, Chicken ...
SPECIALS DAILY
875-5752
Wagon Wheel Restaurant

A.A. Meetings
Wed. 8 p.m.
Nursing Home
Dining Room

NOTICE

Meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Article 21, GS 105-322 of the Machinery Act, a meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review will be held:

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1984
beginning at 1:30 p.m.
by appointment only

After notices of new property values have been received, these values can be reviewed at the Tax Supervisor's Office.

You are urged to check your property values and in the event you are dissatisfied, complaint procedures will be furnished at the Tax Supervisor's Office and if requested, an appointment will be made to appear before the Equalization and Review Board.

NO COMPLAINTS WILL BE HEARD BY THE BOARD EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT.

All meetings will be held at the Hoke County office building at 227 N. Main St. in the Commissioners conference room.

The Board expects to adjourn April 2, 1984. In the event of later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper.

HOKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS