

# Reagan accuses budget foes of scheming for tax increase

Mercury News Wire Services

WASHINGTON — President Reagan accused congressional opponents of his new budget proposal Tuesday night of maneuvering for a tax increase and pledged that any such bill would be "VOA — vetoed on arrival."

In a nationally televised news conference, Reagan, who proposed last week to eliminate federal programs ranging from Amtrak passenger rail subsidies to the Small Business Administration, said he is only trimming "fat" and is not cutting "essential parts" of the government.

Questioned about the timing of this year's planned summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Reagan said the Soviets had not yet come up with a date for the meeting, which has been in doubt for some weeks. "I'd like to have it pinned down," said Reagan, who has proposed a meeting in June or July.

Asked whether Gorbachev may be seeking to use the timing of the summit to elicit concessions on arms reductions from the United States, Reagan said, "That kind of linkage wouldn't work."

On another foreign policy question, Reagan said he was "encouraged" by the release of Anatoly Shcharansky from Soviet confinement and said he hoped this was "a beginning, a sign for what is going to continue to take place."

He said he had no way of knowing the motivation of the Soviet authorities in allowing the Jewish activist to be freed, but he noted that since his summit meeting with Gorbachev there has been an increase in the number of Soviet citizens permitted to go to the West.

## Aid to Haiti

Reagan also said the administration hoped to provide economic aid to the new government in Haiti that replaced that of Jean-Claude Duvalier, who fled into exile last week. He insisted that the United States played no role in the departure of the Duvaliers besides providing an Air Force C-141.

"We hope we can be of help as this interim government goes forward to try to institute democracy there in Haiti," he said.

In his opening statement, Reagan defended the fiscal priorities he submitted to Congress last week, which have come under bipartisan criticism. "Those who say that our budget is dead on arrival are really saying, brace yourself for a tax increase," Reagan said. "Rest assured that any tax increase sent to me will be VOA — vetoed on arrival."

Reagan insisted that Congress meet the deficit targets set in the new Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget law. He said the cuts he proposed in fiscal 1987 domestic spending would be made "in the area of fat that's in administration," and added that no level of government has a higher cost of administration than the federal government. Reagan said, "Now, if we can eliminate some fat, we can handle this."

On another domestic issue, the president contended that the gov-



United Press International

**HUG FOR HEART PATIENT** — Donna Ashlock, the 14-year-old California girl who received the heart of a boy she once dated, gets a hug from President Reagan on Tuesday at the White House. The Patterson teen also received a jar of jellybeans from the president.

**Any tax increase sent to me will be VOA — vetoed on arrival.**

— President Reagan

ernment's affirmative action program to increase minority hiring has become "a quota system." He called for a "colorblind society," where "nothing is done to or for anyone because of race."

## Affirmative action

Despite his criticism of federal affirmative action goals, Reagan did not say what he would do about the executive order that requires them. His Cabinet has been unable for months to resolve an internal dispute over the order. Attorney General Edwin Meese III contends that voluntary hiring goals and timetables have become illegal quotas, and Labor Secretary William Brock maintains that the

order is working and should be left alone.

Reagan also defended Vice President George Bush, who has recently been making the rounds of conservative groups in the intensified jockeying for the the 1988 Republican presidential nomination. Asked whether Bush had been "consistent" with his recent comments on conservative issues, Reagan said, "Well, you're asking a fellow who was once a liberal New Deal Democrat before he became a Republican. Sometimes we do change our minds with things that have gone on."

Reagan could not, in response to a question, cite specific examples in which Bush had made a major contribution to administration policy, but said Bush had been a supporter of "everything we're trying to do."

As he left the news conference, Reagan was asked about son Ron's recent performance as host of "Saturday Night Live."

"Like father, like son," the actor-turned-politician said, adding, "I was very surprised."

Colonel Daleill

Dr. Fred P. Garcia

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Feb = 12  
1986

PROJECTS PROPOSED IN 1985  
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
IN 1986

MAJOR PRIORITIES

1. to make incoming military personnel feel welcome in Corpus Christi
2. assist newcomers in getting settled in Corpus Christi
3. integrate lower echelon personnel into community activities

HOW CAN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BE OR ASSISTANCE?

1. Welcome...
  - .host functions three (3) times per year to welcome new flight training students
  - .encourage small group get togethers ("couple to couple" dinners)
  - .arrange a function to recognize the outstanding "Service Man of the Year" from each command or branch of the service
  - .provide periodic tours of Corpus Christi and environs
  - .aid in recognizing selected military personnel
2. Settling in...
  - .provide newcomers with a concise booklet that would adequately meet 80% of their needs-including a list of city department functions; names and addresses of military related organizations; "hotline" services, i.e. child abuse; information available at Chamber of Commerce, etc.
  - .aid in reducing the cost of moving by helping dependents find jobs; arranging with utilities (Central Power & Light, Southwestern Bell) to defer deposits
3. Integrate...
  - .devise ways to get enlisted personnel acquainted by involving them in volunteer agency work

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS:

1. Stage a large community event to honor the 75th anniversary of Naval Air Training. The proposed date was May 17.

" OVER :  
O.V.R.

(over)

10...1000  
1/2 20 = 1000  
1/4

2. Look into yearly ROTC recognitions
3. Military/civilian golf and tennis tournaments (civilians pay expenses for military participants)
4. CC/DC in the fall of 1986--make it "meaty" enough to attract a lot of interest
5. Need to do something every month with NCO's and enlisted men--example: adopt-a-wing or a squadron; joint Chamber/Rotary luncheon with an outstanding speaker
6. A Salute to the Military--a week of speakers, golf tournaments, etc., culminating with the Navy's air show
7. Arrange a reunion of classes by the year they got their wings
8. Adopt-a-classmate--a civilian actually participate in some of the military training
9. Recognize graduating aviators--at a Chamber breakfast or luncheon; parties in private homes; or a BBQ at the Bayfront Plaza Convention Center

NJAS + CCAD  
WED SOMETHING DURING  
THE WEEK