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"Death Valley Rerun" continued

The following text was the concluding part of last week's feature 'Ronald Reagan: Death Valley Rerun' by Glenn Walton. Somehow it got lost on the way to or back from the typesetters, and it was decided to print the feature over two weeks. Part I discussed Reagan's use of the media, especially television, to promote what is basically a campaign of style over substance, and the reactionary nature of his views. Here, then, are the concluding paragraphs:

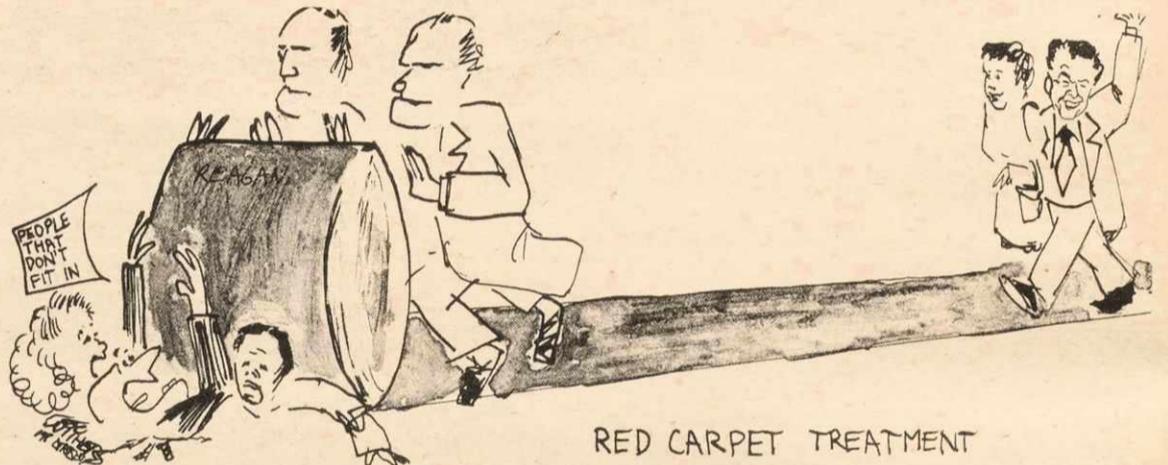
What a politician says and what he actually does of course need have no connection, and Reagan's stint as governor of California was more moderate than expected. Reagan's promised tax cut became almost overnight an increase in levies. Similarly, his promises to cut government spending evaporated in the face of political realities,

what is, I believe, needed at this time. The American people are by no means as opposed to reform as Reagan's current vogue would indicate, and there is widespread sympathy for the policies of the liberal undercurrent in the great conservative sea that is American political life. A whooping majority (80% in some surveys) of Americans support, for instance, legalized abortion, which ironically Reagan signed into law in California, despite his present opposition to it. Concern about nuclear energy is growing in the U.S., and opponents of its use are not the 'tiny minority' that Reagan says they are. A comprehensive health insurance program is long overdue in the U.S., the lack of which, in the world's richest nation, is one of the more ignominious failures of its political system. neglect, but clear hard think-

American political life. Reagan, who as president would have to draw on all segments of a heterogeneous society, bases his solutions to grave

economic and social problems on the traditional narrow base of traditional Republicanism, which would entrust the private sector to solve the present crisis of capitalism. If Reagan should prove too extreme even for a fed-up electorate, reform, however unlikely, may still have a chance. If he does win, television will have performed a profound disservice to democracy.

A perfect example of media oppression came at the Republican convention. One of the major networks had an interview with a woman delegate lined up. She had wanted to talk about women's rights, but after hearing the candidate address the convention,



and state spending in California increased 122% during his tenure. The man himself appears to have little patience with actual governing, preferring to delegate responsibility to the men around him who share Reagan's right-wing views, if not his charm. If there is any doubt about the ideological direction of any future Reagan administration, it is useful to remember the words of Reagan's friend, Al Bloomingdale, of department store fame, who correctly points out that 'This whole goddam country is based on the business community.'

Reagan hopes to govern on a base that is narrower than

ing and administrative expertise. It is a constant source of surprise to me how politicians manage to get people to vote against their own interests, but Reagan apparently only has to wave the right flags to make them forget. Edward Kennedy's electrifying speech to the Democratic convention

pointed out the widespread nostalgia in the U.S. for forceful leadership, whatever the ideological bent, and his reaffirmation of liberal principles in a year of reaction reawakened much of the dormant liberal sentiment that in better economic days seemed to be in the ascendancy in

she demurred, not wanting to spoil the effect he had made on the television audience. As long as Americans put up with propoganda, they will continue getting the leaders they deserve. But this is perhaps too harsh. If present voting trends continue, soon a majority of Americans will not bother to vote at all in the presidential extravaganzas so exhaustingly publicized by the media. When that final shutoff happens, then participatory democracy can be added to the scrapheap upon which already lies the rusty literacy of a republic that two centuries ago was the hope of thinking people everywhere.

Recommendations Made On Harrassment

TORONTO (CUP)—Sexually harassed students, staff and faculty of York university may soon be able to find help if proposals now under consideration are accepted by the university community.

The proposals were contained in a report released September 22 by the York presidential advisory committee on sexual harassment.

The recommendations of the committee include:

- the creation of the special harassment complaint center to assist victims of harass-

ment;

- the establishment of a set of "well defined" guidelines for complaint procedures;

- the formation of an informal tribunal which would hear allegations of harassment and recommend disciplinary action should the allegations be proved valid;

- the documentation of all allegations should the victim not wish to appear before the tribunal;

- and the hiring of two part-time counsellors who would "inform the victims of options available and, where re-

quested would assist the victim" by acting as a representative in any further proceedings.

The circulation of the committee's report signals the start of a discussion period and members of the university community will be encouraged to air their views individually or in a number of public hearings.

The report also includes a definition of sexual harassment and "guidelines on conduct" for York students and employees.