

Political
Viewpoint

Reagan, a shot in the arm

BY JIM REVEILL

Some readers of this column can remember the article I wrote on the United States Presidential elections last fall. In it, I picked Ronald Reagan to win by a slim majority and made some comments on what can be expected from his first term. Today I would like to continue the discussion on what lies in the future for the new president and indeed for ourselves north of the border.

The American people are extremely patriotic and extremely proud of the power and honour their country has construed over the last two centuries. This is why they look towards Reagan to deliver them from their economic and social ills. Judging from the mandate he received from the American electorate, almost any action will be seen as acceptable.

The new president has already gone on record as saying that he will work a 9 to 5 day - five days a week. As was the case when Reagan was Governor of California, the close advisors and members of his staff will have tremendous freedom in developing and implementing policy within the powers of the President.

We will look first at economic and social problems which seem to be at the heart of most of Western society. (Prime Minister Trudeau should recognize this and stop gallivanting through four continents in search of a solution to the North-South dialogue). Reagan

and all of his aides come from a conservative right wing background, putting much emphasis on the ability of the private sector to solve most of

our problems today. Indeed Reagan has already indicated that his first act as president will be to put a freeze on new civil service hirings. This, along with promises to eliminate the windfall profit tax on oil companies and promises to curtail social programs in favour of make-work programs, should satisfy those who elected Reagan - white middle class America, and the business community.

This, I feel, is a step in the right direction. The very basis of our society was founded on the work ethic, not on unemployment insurance, welfare, or union contracts such as those the post office seems to blackmail out of society every year or two. One has to realize that our capitalistic economic system has risk as one of its premises, and if we wish to reap the benefits received from living in our society we must accept the degrees of danger associated with it.

If Reagan lives up to half of the build-up the media has been giving him in the area of foreign policy, we can expect the United States to return to respectability and deal from a position of strength. Hopefully, they will not be subjected to charades such as the Iranian Hostage Issue, the invasion of Afghanistan,

or Cuban and Russian incited revolutions in Latin America and Africa. Already we are seeing the effects of the Reagan administration as the Iranians scurry to make a deal with the out-going Carter administration in fear of negotiations with

the new Republican presidency led by General Haig.

While the Reagan government may come tumbling to its knees shortly into its term, for the time being it is both refreshing and a much needed shot in the arm.

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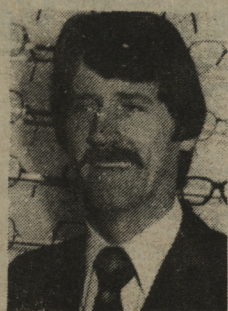
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