

OPINIONS

# A look at Reaganomics

by John Rossomando  
Collegian Staff

Liberals constantly spread falsehoods and misinformation about the 1980s, and the complete economic success which occurred during the 1980s. Liberals hardly have anything to crow about economically speaking. Every time that an economic Liberal has been in the White House the economic picture has almost always been one of disaster. The Liberals bash the 1980s in order to mask their own economic failures. Let's let Ronald Reagan's record speak for itself.

When Ronald Reagan became president in January 1981, the U.S. economy was in the midst of its worst crisis since the Great Depression. Unemployment was 7.4% and inflation had pushed interest rates to 21%. Real income had been pushed to its lowest point in history as a result of the Carter tax hikes. The morale of the American people had been extremely cut as a result of Vietnam and Watergate. The United States was the laughing stock of the world when Reagan came to office, and when he left office in 1989 we

were proud to be Americans again. So were the 1980s as bad as Liberals make them out to be?

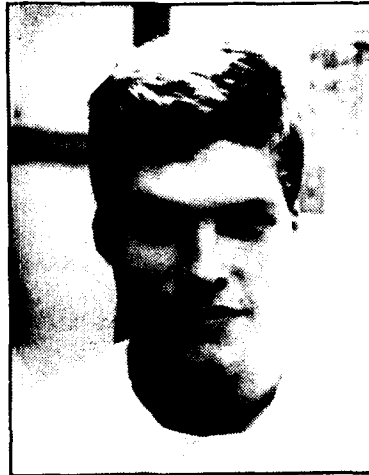
Liberals charge that only the rich benefited from the Reagan tax cuts during the 1980s, and the rich got richer and the poor got poorer.

If this were true, why do Treasury Department figures indicate that the share of income growth by the top 1% was 160% higher under Carter than under Reagan? According to the Congressional Budget Office, the top 1% paid 25% of all income taxes during the 1980s, and they paid 40% more income taxes in 1990 than they had paid in 1980. The bottom 60% paid 11% of all income taxes in 1990, 20% less in income taxes than they had paid in 1980. Between 1980 and 1992 the wealthy paid more of a percentage of taxes compared to all other groups combined. The top 1% paid more taxes under Ronald Reagan than they had paid under Jimmy Carter. Income taxes were reduced upon all groups with the lower groups experiencing a greater cut in taxes than the bracket above them.

How can Liberals also claim

that Ronald Reagan cut the "safety net" for the poor when federal spending on welfare increased under the Reagan Administration? It increased from \$140 billion in 1982 to \$180 billion in 1992 with an annual 3% growth rate according to the 1993 World Almanac.

If things were so bad in the



1980s why did our economy experience the longest sustained period of growth in history? From December 1982 until July 1990, the economy experienced 96 consecutive months of growth, an unparalleled achievement. From 1982 until 1990, 20 million new professional jobs

were created and thousands of small companies and businesses started up. Interest rates fell from 21% in 1981 to 4.6% in 1989. During the 1980s the Gross National Product doubled from an economy the size of Germany's to what it is now as a direct result of Reagan's tax cuts. In 1980 the GNP was \$2.7 trillion and by 1990 it had grown to over \$5.06 trillion. If Reagan's tax cuts were so bad for the country how could this have happened?

During the 1980s income grew at a faster rate than anytime in history. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the average real family income grew by over 15% from 1982 until 1989, and income for the poorest one-fifth grew by almost 12% in the same period. The number of families earning more than \$50,000 increased from 25% in 1980 to over 31% in 1990. The Treasury Department Bureau of Tax Analysis reported that those who were in the bottom tax brackets, of those 65% advanced at least two brackets from 1981 until 1990. The Federal Reserve estimates that incomes between \$10,000 and \$50,000

experienced a higher percentage of net growth than the top 1%.

If the poor got poorer it sure was not among the black population. The black middle class grew from 2.6 million in 1979 to 3.6 million in 1989. The number of people in poverty decreased between 1983 and 1989 by over 3.8 million people.

How can Liberal Democrats such as President Clinton like to make it seem that the Reagan administration did absolutely nothing to curb the growth of the budget deficit when Ronald Reagan was the first to propose a balanced budget amendment? He was constantly embroiled in a battle with Congress to bring spending under control, and his budgets were always dead on arrival when they got to Congress because the Democrats loved to play politics.

In 1982 Reagan raised taxes at the assistance of Congress and it caused the deficit to balloon. The Democratic Congress continued spending out of control causing larger and larger deficits. From 1987-1989 the deficit went down to \$150 billion. Reaganomics died in 1990 when George Bush raised taxes.

Reagan was right!

# Bombarded by beavers

by Dave Barry  
Syndicated Columnist

Today's topic -- and we wish to stress that this has nothing whatsoever to do with the Clinton administration -- is Beavers In The News.

Here at the Center For Being Alarmed, we have been monitoring the beaver situation for more than two years now, and we feel that the time has come to alert you, the public, to what is going on, so that you can take appropriate action in the form of whimpering in terror.

Let's review the sequence of events, bearing in mind that we are not making ANY of these events up; they all were reported in actual newspaper items sent in by many alert readers.

We will start with 1992, when wildlife authorities in Celmsford, Mass., in an effort to control the burgeoning local beaver population, decided to have a team of veterinarians give them (the beavers) vasectomies. The New Haven Register stated: "The beavers will be enticed with tasty bark to swim into traps. ... Female beavers will be released, but males will be held and vasectomized."

At this point, the question you are asking yourself is: "How does The New Haven Register know the bark is tasty?" Trust me, it knows. It

is staffed by journalism professionals.

Anyway, while authorities in Chelmsford were vasectomizing male beavers, authorities in Colorado were attempting to implant Norplant contraceptive devices in female beavers. This effort was covered extensively in The Denver Post and The Rocky Mountain News (which at one point ran this headline: BEAVERS GET NORPLANT WHILE WOMEN WAIT IN LINE).

The highlight of this effort occurred when wildlife authorities invited the press to a Denver veterinary hospital to witness the first beaver implant, which was to be performed by Dr. David Robinson. Everything was ready; The cameras were rolling, and the sedated beaver was on the operating table, breathing anesthetic gas through a little cone over its snout. Robinson, wearing a rubber glove (you don't want to take any chances, not with your modern, sexually active beaver) made one final examination, and then announced: "It's a male."

The News published a wonderful photograph of this event, showing Robinson with his arms around the beaver, groping his (the beaver's) private region, looking concerned.

"The problem with beavers is,

their sexual organs are drawn way up inside their body cavities," explained Robinson, in a statement that will elicit strong beaver envy from any male human who was ever pedaling a bicycle hard when the chain broke.

Now we move to 1993, during which the following news items were published (we are still not making any of this up):

The Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review reported that



a beaver chewed through a 100-foot tree, which fell on a "passing wood-chip truck," causing about \$2,000 damage. The Review reported that "The driver and police were laughing over the incident, with jokes flying about the beaver ambushing the truck in order to get at the tantalizing wood

chips."

The Associated Press reported on a lawsuit in Chippewa Falls, Wis., resulting from an incident wherein "a beaver chewed through a tree, causing it to fall on a fence, allowing Holstein heifers to escape from a pasture and wander onto some railroad tracks." Eight heifers were killed by a train.

The Winnipeg (Canada) Free Press reported that a 71-year-old outdoorsman was sitting on the tailgate of his pickup truck when he felt a sharp pain. "He looked down," reported The Free Press, "and realized a large beaver had sunk its teeth into his left leg." Fortunately -- and let this be a lesson to those who would limit the rights of citizens to keep and bear hockey sticks -- the man had a hockey stick. "He beamed the beaver several times until it clamped on to his hockey stick with its teeth," stated The Free Press.

(We received one other extremely alarming beaver report in 1993 but we are too tasteful to mention it here, because it involved an incident on the Brule River in Wisconsin wherein a beaver gnawed through a tree in such a way that it landed in a fatal manner on a canoeist.)

So the pattern is clear: The beavers are striking back. Perhaps you are not concerned about this. Perhaps you live in

an urban area, and think you're safe from attack. Perhaps you are a fool. Consider the following item from the Dec. 15, 1990 installment of the syndicated feature Ripley's Believe It Or Not:

"In the 1950s, beavers WERE DROPPED BY PARACHUTE IN CALIFORNIA to build dams in areas threatened by erosion!"

That's right: Beavers can be dropped from airplanes. They could land ANYWHERE. And please do not be so naive as to try to tell us that the government would not do such a thing. The government, and we say this as a loyal, taxpaying citizen, is completely out of its mind. The government is perfectly capable of suddenly deciding to drop mass quantities of beavers on urban areas, especially if an economist suggests that this might create jobs.

So that is the situation. Nobody is safe. What can you do? You can be on constant alert. You can refuse to sleep and constantly dart your eyes around in a nervous manner. You can carry a hockey stick at all times, even to work. Perhaps your co-workers will laugh. Perhaps your boss will want to have a word with you.

Perhaps he will beg like a yellow dog for your help when he feels the Chomp of Doom on his ankle.