

Reagan blasts Congress for credibility loss

By JAMES GERSTENZANG
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Reagan delivered a withering attack at Congress last night for second-guessing the commitment of U.S. troops to Lebanon. He said Congress "must take a responsibility" for a loss of credibility that followed the Marine withdrawal.

Once U.S. forces are committed, Reagan said, "You have rendered them ineffective when you conduct that kind of a debate in public."

"All this can do is stimulate the terrorists and urge them on to further attacks," he said.

"I just don't think that a committee of 535 individuals (Congress), no matter how well intentioned, can offer what is needed in actions of this kind or where there is a necessity, he said, contending that foreign policy must be in the province of the president as constitutional commander in chief.

Reminded that he had said in October that

the presence of U.S. Marines in Lebanon was central to American credibility on a global scale, Reagan was asked how much credibility has been lost now that he has pulled out the Marines and ended American involvement in the multinational peacekeeping force after a loss of more than 260 American lives.

"We may have lost some (credibility) with some people," Reagan responded, but said the situation in the Middle East nation has changed and that the United States will continue its diplomatic efforts to achieve peace.

Reagan began his 23rd formal news conference since taking office with an announcement that the United States will seek a worldwide ban on the production and use of chemical weapons. He was also questioned on U.S. policy in Central America and the ethical standards of his administration.

Asked about Democratic charges that there has been a "sleaze factor" in the ethics of his administration, the president said, "I reject the use of the word 'sleaze,'" and that critics were ignoring the American tradition of "innocent until proven guilty."

Without mentioning the stalled nomination of his counselor Edwin Meese III as attorney general — Meese is being investigated by a special prosecutor — the president added: "We're having an awful lot of guilt by accusation."

Reagan's news conference ended in an eye-catching way. Rather than walking through the room and mingling with reporters as he usually does, he stepped through a door behind his podium and two Marines in full dress uniform slid closed the door behind him.

Speaking of congressional criticism of his decision to deploy U.S. Marines in Lebanon and to keep them at Beirut International Airport even after 241 servicemen were killed in a terrorist attack on their headquarters last fall, Reagan said the only thing such discussion can do is worsen the situation.

"When you're engaged in this kind of a diplomatic attempt and you have forces there, and there is an effort made to oust

them, a debate as public as was conducted here raging with Congress demanding — 'Oh, take our, bring our men home, take them away' — all this can do is stimulate the terrorists and urge them on to further attacks," he said.

"Once the force is committed," he said, "you have rendered them ineffective when you conduct that kind of a debate in public."

"In the last 10 years, the Congress has imposed about 150 restrictions on the president's power in international diplomacy," he said. "I think the Constitution makes it pretty plain back in the beginning how diplomacy was to be conducted."

The administration has been stressing that Congress must share responsibility for the failure of Reagan's policy to achieve its goals in Lebanon — a stable government and the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces.

Last month, the Marines were withdrawn from the airport to ships offshore, and on Friday Reagan quietly announced the

redeployment of the fleet away from the Lebanese coast.

Reagan was asked about a string of resignations by individuals accused of abusing their government responsibilities or using their office for personal gain.

With Meese's nomination to be attorney general now in limbo, Reagan said, without mentioning Meese specifically, "I'm not going to take any action that is based on accusations without proof."

Democrats hope to capitalize on the issue. They have started using a television commercial emphasizing ethical questions raised against Reagan appointees.

Reagan opened his news conference with the announcement that Vice President George Bush will go to Geneva in two weeks with a new American proposal aimed at breaking stalled 40-nation United Nations negotiations on a treaty banning development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons.

Reagan said this country is developing "bold and sound" means of verifying compliance with a treaty.



Carole King

King draws full house for Hart

By MICHAEL J. VAND
Collegian Staff Writer

Gary Hart has a friend in Pennsylvania helping him campaign for next Tuesday's primary election.

Singer/songwriter Carole King last night sang and spoke on behalf of the Democratic presidential hopeful to a crowd in the HUB Fishbowl. Police estimated between 800 and 1000 people attended the performance. The appearance was sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government.

King told a press conference before the show that this was her first campaign appearance in about a week. King, an Idaho resident, has been testifying before a Senate subcommittee to support the Idaho Wilderness Bill.

King came to central Pennsylvania because it is a very important area that tends to be neglected in campaign appearances, she said. The Hart campaign agreed and arranged for her appearance.

When asked what qualified her to campaign for a presidential candidate, King answered that she is a person as well as an entertainer and that she believes in Hart.

"I believe so strongly in Gary Hart and feel so close to him in our ideal of what the country should be doing that I have taken my time to do this and happily," she said.

She said her responsibility was not to tell people to vote for Gary Hart because Carole King says so but to tell voters to focus their attention on the man and check him out. She said voters should not just go by first impressions but should be informed and make intelligent decisions.

King said she has familiarized herself with Hart's record over the years and does not disagree with

him on any issues.

"I found over the years that every time he cast a vote or took a stand it was common sense. It was exactly what I would have wanted to see happen in the name of what was just and what was going to be the best solution," she said.

King said Hart has strong feelings for a nuclear freeze and is concerned about the unemployment situation. She said his programs are spelled out in his book, *A New Democracy*. For example, jobs can be provided by government and private business getting together to repair the infrastructure of roads and bridges, she said.

"The beef is in the book," King said.

King said she believed Hart's poor showing in last Tuesday's New York primary was due to the voters being more comfortable with ideas that are old and endorsed — even if they are not good. She said she thinks Pennsylvanians will be more independent-minded and do more thinking for themselves. She does not anticipate a defeat in Pennsylvania, she said.

"I feel Gary's own merits will carry him in this state."

She also said she is impressed with his integrity. For example, she said Hart has refused to accept political action committee money.

"He's refusing actual money," King said, "Who refuses actual money these days?"

King refutes opponent Walter Mondale's remarks that Hart does not have the experience necessary to be president. In defense, King pointed to his 10 years experience in the Senate and his service on various committees. Mondale is concentrating on the experience issue because it is the only thing she can find to attack in a candidate with new ideas, she said.

"New ideas mean untried ideas,"

she said. "But the old ideas — the tried ideas — have not worked."

After the press conference, King spoke to the audience in the Fishbowl. With the Reagan Administration funding cuts for education, many students may be wondering if they will be able to afford to stay in school, she said.

"You do have a chance, you do matter, you do make a difference,

you can take control of your own lives," she said. "You have to try, you have to go for it."

King closed her speech by telling the audience to vote because each voice counts. She performed three musical numbers including "One Small Voice" from a new album, "Speeding Time." She closed with "You've Got A Friend" from her 1971 album, "Tapestry."

Democrats to debate tonight in Steel City

Editor's Note: Daily Collegian reporters Mike Netherland and William Scott will be at tonight's debate to cover the event. Please see tomorrow's Collegian.

By WILLIAM SCOTT
Collegian Staff Writer

The Democratic presidential campaign moves to Pennsylvania today, with the League of Women Voters hosting its third in a series of debates at 8 tonight in Pittsburgh.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale, fresh off of Tuesday's victory in the New York primary, Sen. Gary Hart, D-Col., and the Rev. Jesse Jackson are scheduled to participate in the event, to be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

The debate will be televised live in the State College area on WPSX, channel 3, beginning at 8. The league previously hosted presidential debates in New Hampshire and Atlanta, and a fourth is scheduled to be held in Dallas on May 2.

The race in Pennsylvania

between Mondale and Hart appears to be close, with a Gallup poll conducted last week showing 42 percent of the Democrats surveyed favoring Hart, 40 percent favoring Mondale and 8 percent favoring Jackson.

The poll, conducted by Gallup for television stations KYW-TV in Philadelphia, KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh and WNEP-TV in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, showed Jackson's vote coming almost exclusively from the black community, with only 2 percent of the white voters surveyed favoring him.

Jackson finished a strong third in New York's primary, gathering 26 percent of the vote. Mondale and Hart garnered 45 and 27 percent, respectively.

With nearly half the committed delegates to the Democratic National Convention now chosen, Mondale has 861.25, Hart 512 and Jackson 140.5. It takes 1,967 to win the nomination.

Democrats in next Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary will elect 117 of the state's 195 national convention delegates.

Buildings collapse in East Manhattan

By WILLIAM MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Two adjacent buildings undergoing renovation collapsed yesterday on Manhattan's Lower East Side, killing two people, injuring 19 others and reducing it to "a big pile of dirt," witnesses and authorities said.

The dead men apparently were two members of a construction crew pouring concrete inside the vacant brick buildings when they collapsed at 2:35 p.m., Fire Department officials said.

Last week, the Buildings Commission had ordered a safety inspection of the buildings.

"Everything just came down. . . It's a big pile of dirt," said Michael Cruz, an employee of a nearby store.

There were only 10 workers believed to be inside the buildings when they collapsed, said Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward.

The dead men and three injured workers were pulled from the

rubble, said Fire Lt. Frank Martinez.

Of the 19 workers and bystanders who were injured, none was seriously hurt, said Jared Lebow, a spokesman for the city's Emergency Medical Service.

Service on three subway lines was halted in the area for two hours, and police closed the Williamsburg Bridge.

The collapse caused a 20-inch water main under the buildings to snap, sending cascades of water into the street and nearby sewers, said Andrew McCarthy of the city Environmental Protection Department.

Fire Lt. James Curran said the workers apparently were pouring concrete, and that "apparently brought the two buildings down."

Buildings Commissioner Charles Smith said his department had ordered the buildings' owners or renovators to commission a private safety inspection of the buildings or show cause why such an inspection was not necessary.

Thornburgh to appear in State College today

By MARCY MERMEL
Collegian Staff Writer

Governor Dick Thornburgh will be in the area today appearing at a private reception and a public meeting.

Thornburgh will address students in the University Scholars Program at an informal reception in Old Main this afternoon.

Boris Simkovich (junior-nuclear engineering) said Thornburgh will answer students' questions on topics such as his work before becoming governor, his emphasis as governor and his future plans.

University President Bryce Jordan is also expected to attend

the reception to be held at 4 today in the Alumni Lounge of Old Main, said Simkovich, an Honors Program Assistant who helped organize the event.

After speaking with the University Scholars, Thornburgh will meet with the State College Chamber of Commerce at 7 p.m. at the Sheraton Penn State, 240 S. Pugh St.

The governor is expected to speak on economic developments and business initiatives in the state, according to one of the governor's aides.

The public is invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

thursday

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- Playing home video games is a valuable learning tool in helping children prepare for the computer age, according to a consumer affairs specialist for the Mattel Corp. 2
- African students from about 20 different nations will share some of the culture of their homelands with the University community this Saturday night as part of the Black Arts Festival. Page 20

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weather

Mostly cloudy today with occasional showers and drizzle. Temperatures will begin to fall this afternoon from a high of 48. Variable cloudiness, windy and cold tonight and tomorrow with a few rain or snow showers. Tonight's low 34 and tomorrow's high near 44. by Glenn Rolph