

Photo: Bill Gray

Former California Governor Ronald Reagan addressed a packed Edman Chapel Wednesday. (Above, far right) Preceding Reagan's address, Illinois Governor James Thompson attacked President Jimmy Carter's foreign and domestic policy. (Above, near right) College Republican President Brad Bright presented Reagan with a stuffed version of a Wheaton mascot and tradition, Perry Mastadon.

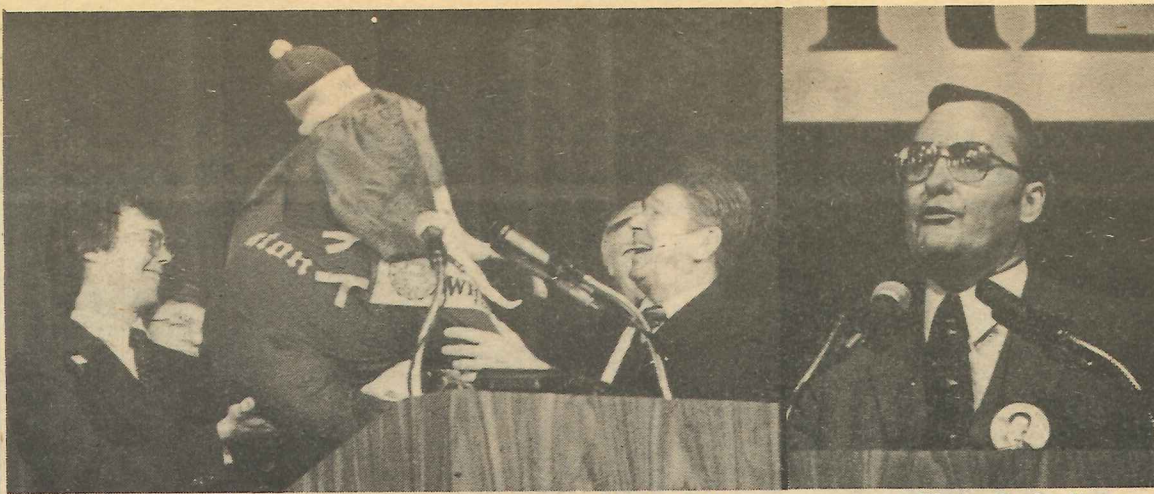


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Thousands cheer Reagan Governor outlines proposals for local control in education

by Maribeth Vander Weele
Cheered by thousands of supporters, Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan appeared on Wheaton's campus Wednesday in Edman Chapel.

Receiving a late start, the former California governor first apologized for being an hour late, and then described the casualties of what he said was the president's domestic policy, casualties he observed earlier in the day.

"We started the day in Youngstown, Ohio, going through the deserted, decayed steel plants, which are a result of presidential policy," he said.

Lambasting Carter seemed to be the order of the day. A preceding speech by Illinois Governor James Thompson attacked the president's foreign policy as ranging "from a tragedy to a comedy, from deception to naivete."

Thompson also assailed Carter's charges that Reagan would begin a war if elected.

"How else do you get into war, but with national military might so weak that other nations are encouraged to strike against you? The real question is not war or peace. The real question is, in the event of a nuclear war by actions of a third power that we couldn't prevent, could we defend ourselves?"

But Reagan's speech focused not on war, but another topic. Lauding Wheaton as "a school not only with a mission, but for the missions," the former governor underscored the importance of education.

"This work of educational excellence and missionary work is truly in the tradition of the biblical injunction: 'Go ye, therefore and teach all nations,'" he said.

American education, he added, offers a means to help the needy and poor of the United States and nations all over the world.

Education can be upgraded from increased resources, but also from state and local — not federal — control.

"Only if the people closest to the problems of education — teachers, parents, school boards, and boards of governors — are

allowed to make the basic educational decisions, will the quality of education improve." The federal government's role should be as a watchdog to discrimination, he said.

If elected, Reagan promised to form a task force to analyze current federal educational programs, but he labeled the present Education Department a step toward the federalized school system.

The presidential candidate also supports tuition tax credits for parents sending children to non-public schools.

Reagan coupled the goal of better education with the goal of freedom for America. "What we want is so simple, so elementary. All we want is to live in freedom and in peace, to see to it that our nation's legitimate interests are protected and promoted.

"We want to worship God in our own way, lead our own lives, take care of our families and live in our own style, in our own community, without hurting anyone or anyone hurting us.

"We want the kind of personal security human beings can reasonably expect in a system of economic freedom and democratic self-government," Reagan said Wednesday.



Photo: Holly Nelson

Not every one advocated a Reagan presidency. About 15 sympathizers of the women's movement picketed, protesting Reagan's stand against the Equal Rights Amendment.

by Maribeth Vander Weele
Supporters rallied, such as Gladys Dickelman, head of religious television Channel 38's Timeline and an anti-Equal Rights Amendment activist.

Opponents marched, such as Sheila Stoll Clark, president of the state chapter of the National Organization of Women.

Supporters shouted, such as 10-year-old John Schalmann of Wheaton Christian Grammar School, who cheered for the Republican "because he's a born-again Christian."

Opponents attended, such as campus Young Democrats and John Anderson advocates.

And some came expressing no political opinion at all about the appearance of presidential candidate Ronald Reagan at Wheaton's Edman Chapel Wednesday. Some, such as Tom Craig, member of the Wheaton North High School band that played for Reagan's appearance. "Most kids view it just as a day to get out of school," he said. Wheaton Central and Wheaton Warrenville bands also performed.

But support far outweighed the opposition to Reagan as thousands boasting pins, Republican literature, hats, and bumper stickers rallied to the candidate's cause.

Gladys Dickelman of Barr-



Photo: Bill Gray

ington, a Wheaton student in the 1940s, was just one among a group of anti-ERA activists.

A speaker to churches and groups across America, Dickelman said the movement, which Reagan supports, developed after women became politically aware in the pro-life issue and after a realization the public schools taught sex education without corresponding moral values.

"Being a good Wheaton student, I learned to do my homework," she said, stating that elements of the radical women's movement trace back to Marxist and dialectic beginnings.

"It's all identified with the humanistic secular philosophy," she said.

The force of the radical feminist movement has prompted a counter-movement in a world previously untouched by politics, she said.

"All of this has forced Christian women who used to be quiet, little women to become politically sophisticated, to work within the system in an honorable way."

An enthusiastic supporter of Jerry Falwell and the evangelical "Moral Majority," she said the group's view coincides with her own stands. "I think Salt II is immoral — giving up the defense of the nation and causing us to be vulnerable to the Soviets, who have taken more land than any other country. God has commanded us to the Great Commission," she said, stating that the Soviets' persecution of Christians and stance against religion injures Christians' effectiveness in making disciples of all nations.

Opposition to the Salt II treaty is one issue Reagan supports. And the group has other beliefs. "The Moral Majority believes in the family, in the value of life, in the defense of the nation, and in the basic moral principles that built our nation. They're saying go out and get educated as a church," Dickelman asserted.

But others marched to the tune of a different drummer. Carrying pro-ERA signs, some 15 picketers, members of various women's organizations, constituted anti-Reagan sentiment.

"You will find us behind green and white signs (signaling a 'green light' for ERA) over all Illinois," said Sheila Stoll Clark, president of the Illinois National Organization of Women.

The group endorses no one presidential candidate, rather condemns Reagan for his view on abortion and ERA. "I think he has been an opponent of ERA for a long time, with his rather parochial view of the women's movement," she said. "There's no such thing as support of equal rights for women and opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

"I think it's going to be a very important issue (in determining election outcomes)," she added.

Others agreed with Clark's assessment. Bearing a sign labeling Reagan "the 59-cent candidate," Reed Lee of Glen Ellyn, a free-lance researcher, also condemned Reagan's stand on ERA.

"Nationally, women are earning 59 cents for every dollar of what men have made. That's across the board. That figure has not changed in the last few years," he said. "It indicates something about the deeply-ingrained prejudices of some sort in our economic system."

Women's rights advocates, however, were not the only Reagan opposition. Supporters of President Carter and John Anderson appeared, but remained low-key. Only small buttons declared their support for candidates other than the majority's

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