

January 26, 1982

A Democratic View of the Nation

FACT SHEET

¶ At 9 PM tonight, President Reagan will deliver his State the Union address. Following his address, the Democratic Party will present a 30-minute, pre-recorded program:

The State of the Union: A Democratic View.

¶ The Democratic program will be broadcast by the three major commercial television networks: CBS -- 2 minutes after the President's address, NBC -- 10 pm, and ABC at 10:30 pm.

¶ The program will use scenes from congressional field hearings, man-in-the-street interviews and new public opinion data to demonstrate broad public concerns about Reagan Administration economic policies.

It will present vital facts about current national attitudes:

- That the public is most concerned today about unemployment and Social Security.
- That the public believes by a ratio of almost 2-to-1 the Reagan economic program is on the "wrong track."
- That 2/3 of the public believe the Reagan tax cut was unfair, that it was aimed at helping the wealthy.
- That roughly half the public has now lost faith that President Reagan cares about "people like me."

¶ The program portrays the unanimous concern of Democratic leaders that the Reagan economic program is unfair, that it promotes a growing chasm between the wealthy and the rest of American society, that it fails to invest in human capital. It shows Democrats discussing these problems and the need for different means of addressing them.

Speaker O'Neill: "The American people don't want special advantages. They just want to put the bread on the table. The Reagan Administration is putting the 'American dream' beyond the reach of most Americans. The Democrats are determined to fight for that dream."

Senator Byrd: "We Democrats know that the budget must be kept under tight control, but we also believe in fairness. What we see in America today is unfairness."

¶ This program, the first of its kind ever presented by a major political party, was produced for the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and the Senate Democratic Policy Committee. It was paid for by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee and the Democratic National Committee.

¶ The program hits two key points about the Democrats:

- 1/ that we remain the the Party of the people.
- 2/ that we are prepared and organized to fight for the people.

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