

### 'I am Christ'

Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who shot Pope John Paul II, demanded the Vatican respond to his comments before he testifies as the prosecution's star witness. Read about it on Page 10A.



### Beefy tips

Barbecue season has arrived, and the nation's meat producers have declared May National Beef Month. Find out the beef on Page 1B.



### Well-oiled

Edmonton defeated Philadelphia to take a 3-1 lead in the Stanley Cup final. The Oilers look to win their second consecutive title Thursday. For game details see Page 11A.



# Columbia Missourian

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## Reagan says tax plan to correct abuses

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Reagan presented a historic tax reform plan Tuesday to cut individual and corporate tax rates and create "an America that is bursting with opportunity" in a new "age of the entrepreneur."

"Death and taxes may be inevitable, but unjust taxes are not," Reagan said in a 22-minute address to the nation.

The president offered a broad outline of a tax package detailed in a 500-page document set for release Wednesday morning — certain to be the catalyst for a months-long debate pitting powerful interest groups against one another.

Democrats promptly said Reagan's plan is a starting point, but only that, for a thorough review of the tax system.

Reagan asserted his program could spur the economy to new heights, create new jobs, help the poor "climb out of poverty forever," and said "I'll start by answering one question on your minds — will our proposal help you? You bet it will."

The heart of what Reagan called "America's Tax Plan" is a reduction in tax rates that would collapse the current set of 14 tax brackets for individuals — ranging from 11 percent to 50 percent — to three rates of 15 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent. The top corporate rate would drop from 46 percent to 33 percent.

Reagan stressed the lower tax rates come with a strengthened minimum tax aimed at "those individuals and corporations who are not paying their fair share or, for that matter, any share." "These abuses cannot be tolerated," he said.

"From now on, they shall pay a minimum tax. The free rides are over."

In the formal Democratic response to Reagan, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said the administration plan to overhaul the tax code is only a starting point in a long debate.

"If the president's plan is everything he says it is, he'll have a great deal of Democratic support," said Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that will have first crack at the tax bill.

"Democrats will not, however, give the president's reform plan a rubber stamp," he said. "We will make some changes, correct some imbalances, seek to make it fairer."

In making his case for reform, the president said, "In both spirit and substance, our tax system has come to be un-American."

Urging the public to push Congress to act this year, Reagan said a "second American revolution" is brewing, a peaceful uprising "born of popular resentment against a tax system that is unwise, unwanted and unfair."

He ridiculed the present tax system before his prime-time television audience, saying the nation must "radically change a system that still causes some to invest their money not to make a better mousetrap, but simply to avoid a tax trap."

He said his proposals could inspire economic expansion by encouraging small business and told young Americans, "You, too can become leaders in this great new era of progress — the Age of the Entrepreneur."

"My goal is an America bursting with opportunity," Reagan said, "an America that celebrates freedom every day by giving every citizen an equal chance."

In arguing for simplification, he said the tax code is "cluttered with gobbledygook" and that Albert Einstein, who unlocked the secrets of the relativity, "needed help on his 1040 form."

In general, people at the highest and lowest ends of the income ladder would benefit most under Reagan's plan. In stressing simplicity, Reagan said only half of all taxpayers would have to fill out returns and only one in four would find it to their advantage to itemize their deductions.

Families could look forward to a rise in the personal exemption from \$1,040 per person to \$2,000. That increase, coupled with a hike in the standard deduction, ensures Americans below the poverty line would pay no taxes, Reagan said.

"We are offering a ladder of opportunity for every family that feels trapped — a ladder of opportunity to grab hold of and to climb out of poverty forever," he said.

Under the lower tax rates, Reagan said, "A young married couple making \$40,000 and taking deductions could find themselves paying an effective tax rate of barely 10 percent."

"The power of these incentives would send one simple, straightforward message to an entire nation: America, go for it."

A rough analysis of the Reagans' own tax picture for 1984 show they would have saved almost \$30,000 under the plan. The Reagans paid about one-third of their total income in taxes last year.

### Tax plan highlights

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The major points in President Reagan's tax-reform plan:

- Abolishes current tax rates and replaces them with three personal income tax brackets — 15 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent.
- Increases personal exemption to \$2,000 and boosts the income threshold where taxes begin.
- Eliminates deductions for all state and local taxes.
- For first time, taxes portion of employer-provided health insurance benefits, workers' compensation and all unemployment compensation.
- Retains full deductibility of mortgage interest on primary residence and charitable contributions for itemizers.
- Curtails write-offs for business meals and eliminates deductions for business entertainment expenses.
- Increases IRA contribution for nonworking spouse to \$2,000 — same as working spouse.
- Cuts top capital-gain rate from 20 percent to 17.5 percent.
- Reduces maximum corporate tax rate from 46 percent to 33 percent.
- Proposes minimum corporate tax for individuals and corporations.



### Bon Voyage

The 25-year-old USS Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine, makes its final passage before being retired. The vessel is towed past the San Francisco skyline with a Navy

helicopter escort hovering overhead. The 319-foot-long submarine departed from Mare Island and will travel to Connecticut, where it will be displayed in a Navy museum.

## Sides in pot-bill fight trade deceit charges

By Patrick Butler  
Missourian staff writer

Opponents of a June 4 marijuana ballot proposal said Tuesday that supporters of the issue are spreading misinformation and deceiving voters.

"The proposed city ordinance... is nothing but a veiled attempt to decriminalize marijuana possession," said John Dye Jr., regional director of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers and coordinator of the Just Say No Committee.

But supporters of the ordinance say it is the opponents who are telling lies.

"They're the ones that are misleading people," said Keith Schaeffer, treasurer of Citizens for Responsible Marijuana Law Enforcement. "There's no way you can decriminalize it by passing a city ordinance."

The proposal would allow authorities to prosecute anyone possessing 35 grams or less of marijuana under a city ordinance rather than the more severe state statute. Violators under the city ordinance would not have a criminal record and maximum penalties for the first two offenses would be less than under the state statute.

Dye and other opponents said at a press conference that proponents of the ordinance are deceiving voters by claiming the ordinance would not decriminalize marijuana.

"Taking away criminal penalties is decriminalizing," Dye said. Although authorities still could prosecute under the state statute, Dye said the city ordinance would shield

offenders from the state law's more severe penalties.

But Schaeffer said Boone County Prosecutor Joe Moseley told supporters of the ordinance that even if the ordinance passes, he would use the state statute if there was any evidence that the suspect had been selling marijuana.

Opponents also said the public was led to believe the proposal was the same one the Columbia Area Substance Abuse Task Force recommended to the City Council in November 1984. Schaeffer said his group has never claimed the two proposals were the same.

What is the difference between the two? Kitty Harris, a task force member, said her group recommended a city ordinance that would punish possession of 35 grams of marijuana or less as a Class A misdemeanor. The ballot proposal would make possession a misdemeanor but would not specify Class A, she said. The task force's ordinance would specify the same punishments as the state statute.

If the proposed ordinance is not adopted, Harris said, the task force will continue its efforts to get the council to approve "the right ordinance." Harris said the task force will not try to put its proposal before the voters.

"There is a way to do it properly within city government," she said. "It (the task force proposal) is absolutely standing still because of this election."

Dye said proponents of the measure

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## Council still backs manager-evaluation process

By Lester Graham  
Missourian staff writer

Despite the recent political flap that led to the resignation of former City Manager Dick Gray, Columbia City Council members still have faith in an evaluation process by which they gave Gray high marks in January.

The council in January lauded Gray's performance and rated his abilities 19 percent higher than in the previous year. Gray ranked highest in the areas of fiscal management, appearance, communication and community relations.

Gray resigned May 13 under council pressure that stemmed from the resignation of former Mayor John Westlund and the way Gray had allowed top city administrators to

build up compensatory time.

"I don't think the review process had anything to do with Mr. Gray's demise," Fourth Ward Councilman Pat Barnes said Saturday. Gray was forced to leave office because of controversies surrounding Westlund's resignation and the policy on compensatory time, Barnes said. Both controversies occurred after Gray's January evaluation by the council.

Westlund resigned in April after an audit ordered by Gray showed the former mayor had collected about \$12,000 in reimbursements from city coffers. Gray allegedly ordered the audit after hearing rumors that Westlund had been seeking ways to fire him.

Gray stepped down less than a month later, censured for ordering the Westlund audit, which council

members condemned as an embarrassment to city government. Gray also was under fire for his policy on compensatory time, which had allowed high-ranking, salaried city officials to build up sizeable nest eggs at taxpayers' expense.

First Ward Councilman Al Tacker also said Gray's departure resulted from the Westlund audit and the compensatory time controversy — issues he said had no relation to the January evaluation. "Things blew up after January," Tacker said. He said he thought Gray had done an excellent job until the scandals surfaced.

Former Mayor Robert Pugh, who coordinated the council's 1984 and 1985 reviews of Gray, said the recent political squabble "kind of makes

that (evaluation) process look like a joke." But he said he still has faith in using the process to grade future city managers.

"These (the Westlund audit and compensatory time) are things that city managers definitely get their heads lopped off for," Pugh said. The council may have misunderstood Gray's leadership abilities, he said. "There was more tension there than anyone suspected."

Pugh said he still thinks the evaluation process decreases the possibility of friction between the manager and the council. "It lessens the chance of confrontation over what the City Council knows and thinks," he said, "but nobody could have predicted these things that came up."

Third Ward Councilman Ed Kai-

ser, who was appointed to the council after the evaluation, said he supported the Gray review and would support reviews of future managers. "I think councils in the past have been able to call a spade a spade," he said.

Such reviews show the public that city bureaucrats are accountable to the people's elected representatives, Kaiser said. Reviews become invalid only when the public mistrusts the judgment of council members, he said.

Pugh said the council took Gray's evaluation seriously and probably will want to continue with such grade cards. But, he said, the controversy that surrounded Gray's resignation may have made voters skeptical of the rating procedure.

However, Fifth Ward Councilwoman Barbara McDonald disagreed. Columbians knew the climate in the County-City Building radically changed when the implications of the Westlund audit became public, she said.

She, too, said she would support grading future managers, and said such reviews are valid measurements of council-manager relationships.

The council in January rated Gray on 18 areas of performance, including personal appearance, manpower development and community relations. Gray scored 85.42 overall, a significant jump from the 77.36 he scored in January 1984. Gray's score was rated on a scale from one to 100, though council members were asked to rate him from 60 to 100.