



GOVERNOR REAGAN'S POLICIES AND ACTIONS ARE WORTH STUDY

The following are the positions of Governor Reagan on a number of important issues:

The Future

Many of our leaders seem resigned to a stagnant future, convinced that we can only learn to "live with less" -- fewer jobs, less energy, a lower standard of living, and declining respect in the world. I reject this despairing notion, and propose instead a bold commitment to economic growth and renewed strength.

My goals for the future of our country are simply stated: more jobs, lower inflation, more domestic energy, a better standard of living and peace in the world. By providing America with a strong and growing economy, we can help ensure that the special needs of our citizens -- adequate health care, quality education and equal opportunities -- will be met. And by providing America with a strong defense and a consistent and moral foreign policy, we can help restore our respect in the world, and more effectively work toward maintaining world peace.

This is not to say our task will be easy. The government must make the difficult decisions to strictly limit spending, eliminate waste, reduce excessively high tax rates, curtail unnecessary regulation, and provide a superior defense. But it can be done, and as President I will be committed to these goals, to help ensure that our future is one which all of us can look forward to.

Federal Regulation

Federal regulation has grown inexorably over the past decade, leading to a massive federal bureaucracy that is subject to neither the Congress nor the voters. Such regulation now costs consumers about \$120 billion per year, according to regulation expert Murray Wiedenbaum.

Fortunately, a deregulation trend is building. We should continue pursuing such deregulation in a vigorous, systematic, and orderly manner. We must improve the quality of regulation where it is warranted, but reduce and eliminate it in the countless areas where it is not. It is the government's duty to protect us from each other, not from ourselves or from our own inability to use common sense in dealing with others.

A successful deregulation program must be one of action, not just words. We should, on a broad scale, re-evaluate regulations, identify unnecessary ones, and eliminate them. Moreover, we should establish a "sunset" procedure for regulations with substantial impact, and give Congress veto power over all federal regulations.

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Small Business

Small business is a vital element in our economy, producing about half of our nation's goods and services, and providing an important source of new jobs. Moreover, the opportunity to go into business for oneself is one of America's most important economic freedoms.

Unfortunately, federal tax and regulatory policies are slowly destroying America's small businesses. As recently as 1969, small companies provided 71% of all new jobs in this country; that share now has declined to 43% -- not because big businesses are producing more jobs, but because small businesses are producing fewer.

To revive our small business sector, we need to enact an across-the-board cut in tax rates to restore the incentive to produce, and to eliminate unnecessary federal regulations -- especially with regard to small businesses -- which inhibit growth and production, and destroy jobs.

Windfall Profits Tax

The biggest energy problem we face in the United States is one of supply -- we simply are not producing enough oil and gas here in the U.S. Yet the so-called "windfall profits" tax, which actually has nothing to do with profits but instead is a per-barrel tax on domestic production, would greatly reduce U.S. energy supplies.

The tax would encourage the major oil companies, which already drill for most of their oil abroad, to avoid the tax by shifting even more of their oil-producing investment overseas. And the high tax rates would deprive the smaller oil producers, who drill more than 90% of new U.S. exploratory wells, of much of the private investment necessary for increasing their domestic oil production. Consequently, the windfall profits tax could cost the U.S. up to 840,000 barrels of oil per day, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

By so drastically reducing U.S. oil output, the windfall profits tax would increase our reliance on foreign oil, further raising prices to the consumer. Thus, the consumer would end up paying the tax every time he goes to the gas pump.

Governor Reagan's record while he was a Governor is also information which was provided by the Campaign. Some of the Governor's accomplishments while in office may be worthy of your consideration.

Business Regulation

Governor Reagan sought to eliminate unneeded regulation of business, by allowing government to intervene only when necessary to protect citizens against fraud, theft, or health dangers. Reagan therefore worked to consolidate and simplify the regulatory activities of various governmental agencies to minimize the costs and burdens of compliance.

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Business Regulation (cont'd)

His activities included:

- Supporting and signing AB 1, which accomplished the first complete revision of California Corporation Security Laws in 50 years. The law exempted 62% of all applications that would previously have been processed by the Department of Corporations. The law also eliminated duplication of regulation of the state level where they were being handled on the Federal level, and helped bring about the reduction in the number of employees in the Department of Corporations, from 430 to approximately 270.
- Attempting to recodify business regulations to pare them down to the minimum necessary for citizen protection.
- Achieving economies of operation that allowed the lowering of bank assessments from 8.75 cents to 7.5 cents per thousand dollars of assets, and savings and loan assessments from 11 cents to 9 cents per thousand dollars of assets.
- Simplifying and reducing the regulations and restrictions on business dealing with alcoholic beverages.
- Revising the 57-year-old Hide and Brand Law to eliminate needless regulation of cattlemen.
- Integrating the Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and Fruit and Vegetable Standardization to eliminate unnecessary costs to the industry from conflicting procedures of the two bureaus.

Consumer Affairs

As a believer in the free enterprise system, Reagan has been particularly concerned with effectively reconciling problems between consumers and business. Thus Reagan has consistently supported government action to rectify abuses by unscrupulous business and industry, or to exploit consumer problems for their publicity value.

Perhaps Reagan's most celebrated action on behalf of consumers was to reorganize the various state consumer protection bureaucracies into a single Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). By placing all of the consumer protection agencies into a single unit, Reagan was able to eliminate overlapping jurisdictions and duplications. Rather than creating yet another faceless government bureaucracy, Reagan streamlined the existing consumer protection process in a manner that cut out waste as well as gave consumers a single department with which to deal.

The DCA became the first of its kind in the nation in 1970, and established an outstanding record of achievement. Its exemplary record led the National Consumer Information Center to present the DCA with its Government Award in 1974.

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Consumer Affairs (cont'd)

Among the more outstanding aspects of the DCA's record are:

- Saving consumers \$2.75 million in fiscal year 1972-73 alone.
- Conducting over 133,000 investigations, handling nearly 82,000 complaints, and handling over 55,000 disciplinary actions in the fiscal year 1972-73 alone.
- Alleviating the typical bureaucratic run-around by introducing the One-Stop Complaint Form, coordinating 15 state agencies handling consumer complaints.
- Sponsoring field offices in low-income areas of Los Angeles.
- Initiating a Consumer Fraud Task Force to investigate "con" rackets.
- Providing experts in various phases of consumer protection to participate in ethnic conferences held around the state.
- Imposing tough regulations on unscrupulous subdividers.
- Representing consumer interest before government hearings and commissions.
- Initiating the Consumer Advisory Council, including business, labor, consumer and government representatives, to recommend new consumer legislation.

Among other actions Reagan took as governor to help protect consumers were:

- Signing legislation protecting the public against unordered merchandise, by providing that the recipient has no obligation to pay for such merchandise or return it to unauthorized senders.
- Making California one of the first three states in the nation to fully comply with the stricter federal meat inspection standards under the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967.
- Increasing public representation on regulatory board and commissions.
- Supporting the establishment of a Division of Auto Repairs to crack down on unscrupulous practices.
- Granting new power to the state boards of medical and dental examiners to bring actions against those who impose excessive treatment or drugs upon their patients.
- Signing legislation establishing uniform sanitation and health requirements for all grocery stores and retail food outlets, replacing a hodgepodge of different county regulations.
- Signing legislation permitting adoption of high safety standards for all tires used on motor vehicles in the state.
- Signing the law preventing property insurers from summarily cancelling fire, homeowner, and personal property insurance policies without good cause.
- Creating a Division of Consumer Services in the Department of Insurance to handle inquiries and complaints regarding insurance policy problems, to investigate the practices of insurance agents and brokers, and to institute legal action if necessary. This reorganization allowed the Department to handle a growing workload without an increase in personnel (or tax dollars).
- Approving legislation giving consumers the power to sue for damages and injunctions in deceptive practices cases (consumers previously only had recourse to government agencies).