

Reagan: tuition tax credits 'work for us'

By Tim Richard
staff writer

A parish high school in Redford Township which boasts its "large enough to offer a complete curriculum, small enough for individual attention" got the chief executive's attention for 40 memorable minutes Wednesday.

"Helping you make your hopes and dreams come true is what my job is all about," President Ronald Reagan told 388 St. Agatha High School students, 173 grade school pupils and several dozen faculty members.

Reagan continually played down "faith in big government" and played up "faith in the people" and hard work to the school audience.

He fielded a dozen questions from students but none from five dozen members of the White House press corps in a trip that made the Catholic school at 25707 Pembroke a mobile White House from 11:45 a.m. — "the day when we will be closest to history" in the words of principal Dian Koff.

STUDENTS CHERISHED the 73-year-old chief executive's arrival, shouted gleefully when he wished the Aggies football team well in their homecoming game, and gave him a thunderous ovation when he answered student Glenn Williams' question: "If you could do one thing to make the world a better place, what would it be?"

Reagan's answer: "The total elimination of nuclear weapons."

He said he told Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko during his White House visit 12 days ago that "we remain ready to reduce nuclear arms . . . ready to meet them half way."

Like many students, Ken Craig asked about the job: "What do you do when you become frustrated in dealings with foreign nations?"

Jovially, Reagan answered, "I don't let them see it. I go home, I talk it over with Nancy, and she calms me down. But there are less and less of those times," he said, citing the strengthening of the NATO alliance and his frank talk with Gromyko.

More somberly, he added, "The most frustrating thing is terrorism — he cited the bombing tragedies in Beirut, Lebanon — and trying to determine whether there's some actual government behind it."

POLITICS AND his campaign for a second term were played down — Reagan didn't bring up U.S. Senate candidate Jack Loums; as he usually does — except for a favorite issue among Catholics.

"Will Congress ever pass tuition tax credit legislation?" asked student James Killehen.

"Yes — if we will all remember that they work for us," said Reagan. "They need to get letters. It isn't necessary to make them see the light. Make them feel the heat."

He said he wanted to help "parents like yours" who are paying tuition to independent schools and all their taxes by allowing them to deduct tuition from taxable income. That answer received almost as much applause as the nuclear weapons response.

CAROL TUMIDANSKI, whose letter inviting Reagan to her school may rank as the most effective missive since 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon asked the New York Sun about the existence of St. Claus, presented Reagan with three "high-class articles of clothing — an Aggie football jersey, a baseball cap and a school sweater."

Reagan displayed the white jersey with a green 84 on both sides, his name on the front and the name of St. Agatha on the back — again to great cheers.

The seating arrangement was unusual with elementary students behind the podium. "The Secret Service at first didn't want anyone behind him, but they agreed to the fifth to eighth graders," explained Michael Legg, Livonia attorney and Republican leader who used several days' vacation to do advance work for the Reagan visit.

"I feel like I'm playing theater-in-the-round," quipped the former Hollywood actor, turning to acknowledge the uniformed youngsters.

Security was tight. The audience had to be in place a full hour before starting time, and a Secret Service metal detector was tuned so finely that it buzzed at a paper clip in a reporter's coat pocket.

Pastor William Murphy read the invocation — a prayer for the president composed by John Carroll, America's first Catholic archbishop. Students Sholin and Jennifer Della, who took their citizenship oath with Reagan in attendance Oct. 1, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Principal Koff and assistant Bob Snowden introduced the questioners, picked at random by the student government.

OTHER PRESIDENTIAL answers:

• From Patrick Allgeyer: Do the Tigers have as good a chance at winning the World Series as he does of winning re-election?

"I'm afraid to answer. If I guess wrong, I'll have to worry the rest of the trip. . . I can't take sides with a California team in the series."

• Dennis Shubitowski: Compare the jobs of governor and the presidency.

"I was governor of California, the largest state with 10 percent of the country's population. There are great similarities." Biggest difference: As chief executive, he is saluted by military officers.

• Janet McLarty: What about space flight?

With the flight of astronaut Sally Ride, he said, "The worst era of discrimination that we've known has come to an end."

• Robert Infrate: What clubs or activities did he

'Helping you make your hopes and dreams come true is what my job is all about.'

— President Reagan at Redford Township's St. Agatha High School

take part in during high school?

"I majored in extracurricular activities — athletics, drama club, student senate, president of the student body, I never dreamed when I was in the drama club that I would be an actor. Extracurricular activities are just as important because there is teaching and learning there, too."

• Janet Synlewski: How does he feel about alcohol abuse among teenagers?

"Alcohol is just another form of drug. There's no place for them. . . You're growing up now. You only get this piece of machinery once. Take care of it," said Reagan, laughing, adding that he has been 39 years old for more than three decades.

• John Peltz: Do you favor a national health program?

"If you mean socialized medicine — no. If you have to get sick anywhere in the world, get sick here." He said nations with socialized medicine find quality declining, waiting lists lengthening and costs rising. But he favored government-paid medical care for the needy.

• Dantes McSweeney: Does he want to be remembered as an actor or a president?

Hoping aloud that some of his movies never will be shown on the late night show, Reagan opted for the presidency.

• Mary Pittiglio: Does he mind traveling to countries where there is political unrest?

"It goes with the job. But it does pay off."

• Jennifer St. Croix: Does he have any privacy?

"You do know you live in a fishbowl," he said, adding he finds great privacy at Camp David, Md., his California ranch, and even in the White House when there's no state dinner.



President Reagan expressed support for tuition tax credits for parents of parochial school students Wednesday at a parish high school in Redford Township. He told students that "parents like yours" should be allowed to deduct tuition costs from taxable incomes.

Bottle & Basket

WINE SHOPPES

ANNUAL FALL WINE SALE

20% OFF

Save 20% on 3 Bottles or more of Wine or Champagne

• BRIE CHEESE
\$6.49 2.2 lb., from France

• JARLSBURG CHEESE
\$2.39 lb., imported

• PIC-A-NUT PISTACHIOS
\$10.99 3 lb. bag

• MAUNA LOA, MACADAMIA NUTS
\$3.89 7 oz. jar, of Hawaii

NEWMAN'S

• OLDSTYLE POPCORN
99¢

• INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH VENETIAN SPAGHETTI SAUCE
32 oz. jar \$1.89

• OLIVE OIL & VINEGAR DRESSING
au naturel 8 oz. bottle 89¢

"REESE"
Smoked Baby Clams
3.66 oz. 99¢

"REESE"
Petite Smoked Oysters
3.66 oz. 99¢

BREMNER WAFERS
"delicious with hors d'oeuvres, dips & cheese"
4 oz. 99¢

THE ORIGINAL POPPYCOCK
popcorn, almond, pecan, butter crunch
12 oz. tub \$2.50

• PETER VAL MINERAL WATER of W. Germany
79¢ ea. \$7.75 case & dep.

• STONED WHEAT THINS
10.6 oz. pkg.; from Canada
89¢

• POMEROY MUSTARD
17.5 oz. crock from France
\$2.99

• HONEYCUP MUSTARD
8 oz. jar from Canada
\$2.29

Bottle & Basket

2 Birmingham Locations:

HUNTER & MAPLE
188 N. Hunter • 648-6553
M-F: 9:30-9; Sat.: 9-9

TELEGRAPH AT MAPLE
6535 Telegraph • 648-6484
Next to Frank's Nursery
M-Th: 9:30-9; Fri. & Sat.: 9-9; Sun.: 12-6

• This 20% OFF Sale excludes wines or champagnes already reduced.
• We reserve the right to limit quantities.

VISA PACKAGE LIQUOR DEALER

A NEW INEXPENSIVE WAY TO BUY QUALITY FURNITURE

• Residential Office • Commercial

Now you can buy name brand, top quality furniture the direct way at a tremendous savings, and have it delivered, set up and serviced by a company that has 35 years in the furniture business. A company that's here in this area to serve you personally. Find out about this new way to get the kind of furniture and service you expect, with greater savings than you'd ever expect.

Call 356-1880

Oscar Henry Interiors

ANNOUNCING: THE NEW LOWER "WIGGS PRICE" EVERYDAY ON EVERYTHING.

4080 TELEGRAPH
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, 484-7370