

Levin: Arms-for-hostages 'major blunder'

By Rich Perleberg
staff writer

Reports of an arms-for-hostages swap will doom future American hostages and should be denied or repudiated immediately, according to U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.



Sen. Carl Levin
"We blew it"

Levin also said he would press for an immediate congressional inquiry into reports that the American government traded arms to Iran in exchange for the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon for more than a year.

"I just think we've made a major blunder," Levin said Monday morning in an interview with the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

"We've guaranteed that they'll take more and more hostages. If you can accomplish an end by taking hostages, then you are going to take hostages. We can't reward hostage taking."

THE WHITE House has not responded to much publicized stories about dealing with Iran other than to say the government has done nothing illegal or improper in arranging for hostage releases.

Levin said there is no reason for President Reagan not to deny the

Levin is in his second term in the U.S. Senate.

IN OTHER matters, Levin said it is almost a sure bet that the U.S. Senate will pass a trade bill in the wake of the Nov. 4 elections that gave Democrats a 55-45 majority.

The bill, which could face a presidential veto, will be aimed at "countries that discriminate against our goods at the same time they have access to our markets," he said.

"This is an economic issue. I'm not mad at the Japanese. I admire the Japanese. I'm mad at our government."

Levin said trade rules in other nations restrict free American trade in

areas "where we are most efficient" such as beef, telecommunications, rice, citrus, some auto components and lumber.

Japan, he said, subsidizes rice prices at \$1,400 a ton even though Americans could export it for sale at \$400 a ton.

"They want to keep their farmers in business," he said. "I want to keep my auto workers in business."

LEVIN SAID Washington is still struggling to face up to the national debt.

"We had a great opportunity this year that we blew, and that was the tax bill," he said. "We should have closed the loopholes and taken the

revenues and used them to reduce the deficit."

He said 69 percent of the public favored such action but added that the House leadership chose not to stand up to "Reagan's rhetoric."

Levin also said that some of the benefits of a new \$1.7 billion drug-

fighting bill included more money for jails, local law enforcement efforts and border patrols.

Levin sponsored an amendment to the bill that requires mandatory jail sentences for those convicted of selling drugs to youngsters or of selling drugs near schools.

WSU's Adamany asks tuition hike

President David Adamany will ask the Wayne State University Board of Governors to approve a tuition increase averaging 2.5 percent for winter semester classes starting next Jan. 12.

If approved today at a special board meeting, it will become the first general increase in tuition rates at Wayne State University since the fall 1982 semester. "That's the longest period of tuition stability for any of the state's public colleges and universities," Adamany said.

The hike means that the typical part-time student will pay about \$12 more next semester, while the average cost to full-time students will be about \$25.

"We hope that no student will be prevented from getting a WSU education because of it," he said. To offset the effect of the increase for

the neediest students, 13 percent of the revenue will go back into a fund for financial aid based on need.

THE PROPOSED increases for residents per credit hour are:

- Resident freshmen and sophomores — \$1.50, from \$56 to \$57.50.
- Juniors and seniors — \$1.75, from \$66 to \$67.75.
- Graduate students — \$2.25, from \$82 to \$84.25.
- Law students — \$2.25, from \$115 to \$117.25.
- Medical students — to \$5,050 per year from the current \$5,350.

More than half of Wayne State's students are part time. The new rates are well below the 4.3-percent ceiling on tuition increases recommended by the state of Michigan.

Futures' issue: 2-year college

University of Michigan Professor Richard Alfred will discuss "Community Colleges in the 1990s: Development or Demise" on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College on Friday.

The presentation, sponsored by the college's newly created Futures Institute, will begin at 12:45 p.m. in J-305.

Admission is free and open to the public. The campus is on Orchard Lake Road at I-696 in Farmington Hills.

Alfred, who holds a doctorate in higher education from Penn State University, is president of the Council of Universities and Colleges with the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Heavily published in educational

finance, governance, institutional development and public policy, he also chairs the higher, adult and continuing education program division of U-M's School of Education.

Alfred's presentation is the first of many programs that will be sponsored by the OCC Futures Institute. Established in September, the institute was designed to monitor and disseminate information on emerging trends in our society.

"We will be assessing the needs of our faculty and staff and hope to provide opportunities to broaden and deepen their exposure to relevant issues, up-date training, and increase professional enthusiasm," said Futures Institute spokesman Spencer Johnson.

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