

Speaking out

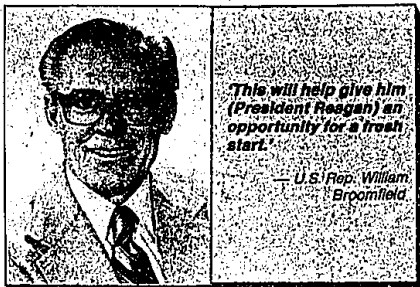
Broomfield calls for advisers to resign

By Dave Varga
staff writer

Area representatives in Washington were demanding resignations and expanded investigations in light of the Iran arms sales scandal last week. Meanwhile, local experts and activists were angered if not surprised by events and hoped for tighter scrutiny of funds going to Nicaraguan's contra rebels.

Rep. William Broomfield of Birmingham, who has been a staunch supporter of President Ronald Reagan, called for the president's senior national security advisers to submit resignations. A representative of Broomfield's office said those advisers would include Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz.

"This would allow the president the freedom to accept the resignations that he believes he should accept, to reorganize the national security apparatus of the government, and to express his continued confidence in those who remain," said Broomfield in a prepared statement. "This will help give him an opportunity for a fresh start."



This will help give him (President Reagan) an opportunity for a fresh start.

— U.S. Rep. William Broomfield

BOTH THE state's two Democratic senators, Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, said an independent investigation is needed to restore credibility for the nation's tarnished foreign policy.

In response to the resignation of Reagan's national security adviser Vice Admiral John Poindexter and the firing of Poindexter's assistant Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North over the arms deal and payoff to the contras, Levin said there are now "two messes on our hands."

"We have a national security adviser and his assistant who are playing fast and loose with the laws of the United States and have a knowledge of and carrying out a policy in violation of the spirit of the law that prohibits aid to the contras," Levin said.

Levin should not be surprised, according to activist Maggie Tyson of Bloomfield Township. Back in April, she said, President Reagan had promised he would find a way to support the anti-Sandinista movement with or without Congress' help.

Tyson and a group called Committee Against Military Aid to El Salvador have repeatedly protested Broomfield's backing of U.S. military support and presence in Central America. However, she was pleased

to hear that Broomfield wants the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which he heads, to expand its inquiry into the affair.

"I'VE ALREADY called Representative Broomfield to congratulate him on calling for an investigation, although I think I prefer our senators' request for a separate investigation," Tyson said.

Riegle went further in claiming that it was not only the spirit of the law that was broken.

"Any effort by the U.S. government to provide funds to the contra forces in 1985 was clearly against the law," said Riegle last week. "It strains the imagination that the president's national security adviser was aware the law was being broken and yet he failed to inform the president."

Not so, said James Ozinga, a political science professor at Oakland University who lives in Rochester.

"I find it believable that he would not know what was going on in his own shop," Ozinga said. "President Reagan gives me the impression that he's not on top of everything and I think that's dangerous. He just gives me the impression of not being in total charge."

Even with the expanded inquiries, Ozinga predicted, "I don't think a whole lot more heads are going to roll."

"ONE RESULT of this is that aid

to the contras should come under some more scrutiny, which I think is good. I'd just as soon see us leave the Sandinistas alone and let them do what they're going to do rather than send aid and just end up pulling the Soviets into the conflict."

Tyson said her group would like to see the investigation into the contra aid angle move up as high as it needs to go, even to Reagan. "It's been almost an obsession with him to topple the Sandinista government," she said.

"I think it's unconstitutional for the White House to act so independently. And the attorney general, Edwin Meese, is a close friend of the president," Ozinga said.

"When you have Rep. Broomfield calling for the resignation of people in the White House, people have to take a good hard look at what's going on."

Sister Barbara Hubbard, adviser for the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Anastasia's Catholic Church in Troy, said she "was just disappointed in the whole situation."

"But I'm glad that if there indeed was injustice that it was brought to light. I feel it's hard to trust people in those offices anymore and I'm not sure who to trust."

Sister Hubbard said the group will continue to pray for peace and for guidance for world leaders.

Michele Giance and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

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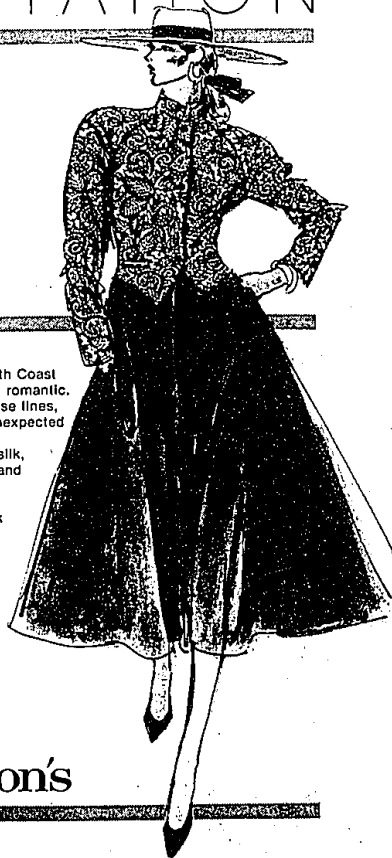
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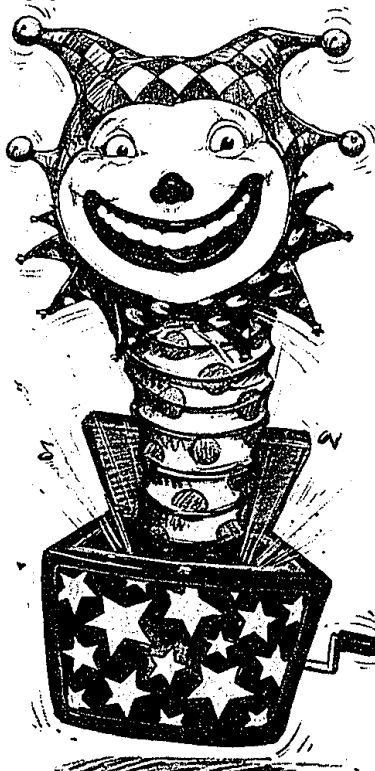


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