



Reagan May Have Been Elected, Doesn't Recall

40th President 'Not Entirely Sure' If He Swore to Uphold Constitution

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Ronald Wilson Reagan, sworn in Tuesday as the nation's 40th president, said he "can't recall" defeating Jimmy Carter in November's general election.

"As to whether I defeated Mr. Carter in last year's presidential election, I have no memory of that," the new president told reporters following his inaugural address at the U.S. Capitol. "Whether I did or did not win, I unfortunately cannot say with 100 percent certainty."

"President Reagan is a very busy man who does a lot of things in the course of a day,"

said Reagan aide Michael Deaver in defense of the new president. "And, as such, he cannot be expected to remember every last detail of his activities or promises."

In his inaugural address, Reagan said that, in addition to being unable to recall details of last November's election, "I cannot recall a new morning in America. I have no memory of a public mandate to reform our government. And I am afraid I have no recollection of our nation's renewed determination, pride and strength."

Raising his right hand and taking the oath of office, the

new president swore to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, if I can remember to do so." He also swore to "faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, unless I forget what that entails." He then concluded the oath, saying, "So help me God, I hope I can remember all this."

At a Capitol luncheon later in the day, Reagan said he could not quite recall taking the oath two hours earlier. He also said he was having difficulty remembering exactly what he had said there, or if, in fact, he had been there at all.



President Reagan with the First Lady and daughter Maureen.

Hostages Released

Reagan Urges American People Not to Put Two and Two Together

WEST BERLIN— Ronald Reagan urged Americans "not to put two and two together" regarding the coincidental release of Iran's 52 American hostages on the day of his presidential inauguration.

"I do not want you to notice that something extremely fishy is probably going on here," Reagan said Tuesday. "As the leader of the free world, I urge you to believe that my hard-line stance against terrorism was Khomeini's sole motivation to free the hostages, rather than any covert dealings between the Iranian government and my new administration."

"Please," Reagan added, "do not put two and two together." Vice President and former CIA Chief George Bush, whose shady Mideast connections were not officially used to broker an arms-for-hostages deal, agreed. "With new leadership



American hostages, held in Iran for 444 days, arrive at a U.S. airbase in West Berlin Tuesday.

in the White House and the hostages free after a 444-day ordeal, this should be a time of national healing and renewal. Now is not the time for any suspicions which, however true, may reflect negatively on the new president," said Bush, speaking from his secret underground command post in Tehran.

Reagan Promises Less Bureaucratic Shadow Government

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Reagan promised an era of more streamlined, less bureaucratic behind-the-scenes double-dealing over the next four years.

"The solution to America's woes is not more and bigger government," Reagan said at a spirited Tuesday-night press conference punctuated by music, fireworks and Masonic chanting. "The solution is a smaller, leaner Shadow Government that will more efficiently feed citizens cleverly worded, vaguely patriotic assurances that everything is fine while secretly serving the economic and social agendas of our nation's wealthiest one percent."

"God bless America!" Reagan added, drawing loud cheers

from the assembled crowd.

In keeping with his anti-big-Shadow-Government stance, Reagan vowed to divert funding from social-service programs into hidden government accounts and slush funds. He said the money will ultimately be used by the U.S. Shadow Government for big-business kickbacks, funding of covert CIA operations and miscellaneous savings-and-loan bailouts.

Reagan also pledged to balance the Pentagon's Black Budget, which has been running a deficit since the Kennedy Administration.

"I will restore the Department of Mind Control, Department of Hostage Negotiating and Department of CIA Drug-Testing and

Torture to their former glories," Reagan said. "I will fully commit the State Department to prolonging the Cold War and increasing tensions in the Middle East."

"Together, Dirty-Work Vice President and former CIA Director George Bush and I will do our best to be puppets of the mega-corporations and defense industry, making our Shadow Government great once again," Reagan concluded to thunderous applause.

Inside:

Secret Album-Cover Clues Reveal John Lennon Is Dead

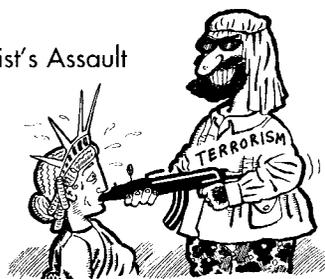
PAGE 7C

New Appetite-Suppressant Candy Takes Diet World by Storm; 'In the '80s, "Ayds" Will Be Synonymous with Fitness and Health,' Say Makers

PAGE 4A

Op-Ed:

The Arab Terrorist's Assault on Lady Liberty



CARTOON, PAGE 7C

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