On October 29, 1984, President Ronald Reagan made a campaign stop in Parkersburg.

CSO: SS.8.7, SS.8.26, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Parkersburg News, October 30, 1984)
1. What two issues did Ronald Reagan choose to focus on during his speech in Parkersburg?

2. Who was Reagan running against in the 1984 Presidential Election?

Think Critically: From what you gathered from the article; how would you describe the economy during the 1980s? Be sure to use economic terminology. Elaborate on Reagan’s presidency and how policies impacted West Virginia, socially, economically and politically?
Parkersburg Hails Reagan

By CHUCK POLJAPIC
Of The News Staff

A chanting, flag-waving and screaming Parkersburg audience cheered President Reagan Monday afternoon as he focused on his opponent's tax plan and the nuclear war issue, adding humor to his speech.

"If he is to keep all the promises he has made during this campaign, he will have to raise taxes by the equivalent of $3,000 for every household in the United States," Reagan said of his Democratic rival Walter Mondale in a 29-minute speech before a crowd of about 3,000 at the Parkersburg High School fieldhouse.

"That's more than $30 a month," Reagan said. "It's like having a second mortgage, a Mondale mortgage."

"His basic plan has two parts, one raise your taxes, the second, raise them again," he said. "Well, I've got news for him, the American people don't want tax increases and they're not going to get this tax increase."

Reagan said Mondale's tax plan would bring this country's recovery to a reeling halt.

"One of the key, most significant things in the recovery we're having was the tax cut," the president said.

Reagan said during his final debate with Mondale, Oct. 31 in Kansas City, Mo., his opponent told the country to trust him.

"The last time we trusted the administration in which he was a part, they took five -- you can count them -- five different economic plans and nearly tripled inflation," Reagan said.

"By contrast, we trusted the people -- you and I -- and with just one economic program we cut inflation by two-thirds."

Reagan said if Mondale's campaign program was a television show it would be "Let's Make a Deal.

"We would trade your prosperity with his surprise behind the curtain," he said.

"If his campaign was a Broadway show it would be called Promises, Promises. If his administration were continued on Page 4, Col. 1.

Chants, Cheers Abound

By RON LEWIS
Of The News Staff

By the time President Ronald Reagan took stage Monday, anticipation was at a fever pitch among the 1,500 occupants of the PHS fieldhouse.

Reagan was introduced to the boisterous, flag-waving crowd at 4:20 p.m. -- nearly 15 minutes after Clyde Geist of Parkersburg became the first person in line to see the California Republican, and about 300 hours after the first spectators entered the fieldhouse.

The activities in the fieldhouse began at 2:31 p.m. with Republican West Virginia attorney general candidate John McCuskey urging the crowd to "give President Reagan the clear message that West Virginians are on the way back.

Enthusiasm swelled as the Parkersburg Peace Project band, a local senior citizens' group, Country Junction, a bluegrass band from Pleasants County, and the Parkersburg High School band entertained the audience prior to the president's arrival.

The crowd gave a rousing, standing ovation to Country Junction for its rendition of "Country Roads." By 3:15 p.m., the fieldhouse was packed.

At 3:31 p.m., McCuskey, the emcee, told the jubilant audience that..."continued on Page 4, Col. 4."
Streets Come Alive
As Caravan Passes

By ANDREA NOEL
Of The News Staff

Chants of “four more years” and “we want Reagan” echoed in the streets as 15,000 to 16,000 Reagan and non-Reagan supporters lined up to catch a glimpse of the president Monday afternoon.

Draped in red, white and blue, sporting Reagan-Bush, All-American and Raise signs, Republicans and Reagan supporters streamed down every street from Huntington, Charleston and Wheeling to hear the president speak on his first visit to West Virginia.

The crowd began lining both sides of Dickey Avenue at 11 a.m., hoping to catch a glimpse of the president’s motorcade as it traveled from the airport to the Parkersburg High School fieldhouse. Children waving American flags sat on the curbs or the shoulders of their parents, while others held signs endorsing various Republican candidates.

By 1:30 p.m., an air of excitement filled the air, with the approaching presidential appearance.

The crowd was permitted only by the exchange of banks between groups of Reagan and Mondale supporters. This exchange was stopped with the appearance of the Parkersburg South High School band, which set the motorcade in motion.

By 2 p.m., the crowd turned into chants, waving flags and signs and calling out to the president who waved from the back of his limousine.

Edith Beach and her grandchildren began their trip from Edisto County at 3 a.m. to see the president. Parkersburg police had to be stationed to control the crowd.

Monday afternoon, the majority of those who attended were at the younger generation. Students from all West Virginia high schools were invited to attend the rally at the Parkersburg High School fieldhouse.

President Reagan was to arrive at 11 a.m. to meet with the students. By 11:05 a.m., the students had already arrived at the fieldhouse, some of them waving flags.

Dr. William Staats, superintendent of the public schools, said the students were given ample notice about Reagan’s visit.

At 11:10 a.m., Parkersburg South High School students present, said he was impressed with Reagan’s speech.

“There was a lot of people we can handle it,” said a student. “He made a lot of sense.”

Airport Discovered
Job’s Easy

By JEFF GALLATIN
Of The News Staff

President Reagan’s arrival at the Parkersburg Regional Airport Monday morning left workers at the facility happy, but some of the city’s mayor who arrived to catch a glimpse of the president executive were less enthusiastic.

Reagan’s visit added to the airport’s activities, according to airport manager, “It was very exciting and challenging to have the president coming in,” Allen said.

One of the challenges was seeing if the airport could handle the landing of Air Force One (the president’s plane) and a U.S. Air Force C-141 transport, which is larger than Air Force One, landed at the airport Tuesday to test the runway.

“We can handle that large an aircraft,” said Allen. “It showed a lot of people who can handle it.”

President Reagan landed at the Parkersburg South High School band, the presidential motorcade moved directly to Memorial Fieldhouse Monday afternoon. Secret Service agents walked beside the limousine carrying the president while Parkersburg Police and Parkersburg Police controlled the crowd estimated to be between 25,000 and 35,000.

“Presidential Visits” - Led by the Parkersburg South High School Band, the presidential motorcade moved directly to Memorial Fieldhouse Monday afternoon. Secret Service agents walked beside the limousine carrying the president while Parkersburg Police and Parkersburg Police controlled the crowd estimated to be between 25,000 and 35,000.

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Movie Buff Meets Idol After Presidential Talk

By ANDEE A. NOVAK.
V The News Staff

For Virginia Rapp, President Reagan's visit to Parkersburg was the thrill of a lifetime.

"I'm so close now," said Mrs. Rapp, who had been a fan of Reagan for 30 years. As a child, her mother had collected 113 autographed pictures of old movie stars. Two of these photos are of Reagan, the first movie star she ever wrote to.

"I received a letter from President Reagan only once in the room because some photographs," said Mrs. Rapp, who got her photo taken with the president. She also received an autographed letter from the president that was delivered. "To Virginia Rapp, I thought it was the best letter ever," wrote the president.

Receiving a hug from the president, Mrs. Rapp described the president as a "very, very nice man."

"He was glad I had stayed a fan of his for as many years and he told me I received an autographed photo," she said. Mrs. Rapp received her first autographed photo from the president in 1958. "I used to send him Christmas cards as a kid," she said. "The Reagans also sent the president a get well card when he was shot during an assassination attempt in 1981."

"I got a thank you response from the president," she said. "Our movie star collection was so large that we had to hand carry it along with her whenever her family moved. Describing herself as a movie buff, her favorite being "Bedtime for Bonzo," the meeting with Reagan was a complete surprise to Mrs. Rapp who was unable to get tickets to hear the president speak. However, she received a phone call from a member of the Reagan team asking her to come to the rally where she was to have her picture taken with the president.

"I don't know if I can talk to him," she said. When the woman returned with a message to Parkersburg from Reagan's personal physician, John M. Blumen, "He said he never heard a better than his like the Parkersburg High Band," she said. "I was so glad I was finally getting to meet him."
PARKERSBURG

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Airport

Continued from Page One

A novel or a book you would have to cut it in half to get a happy ending,” he said.
Reagan said there are pictures in his

We see an America in which every
day is Independence Day, he said.

“Seriously, we need to lower your
takes job and his family in the

Asghar added that the airport didn’t

Their lives are in danger and

He added that the airport don’t hav

The airport workers in general did

They’re put in a lot of work,”

Asghar said. “And I’m proud to say
due date April 11.

We see an America in which every
day is Independence Day, he said.

“Seriously, we need to lower your
takes job and his family in the