

The Letters Page

Well, finally the truth is surfacing. Ronald Reagan and his aides will soon discover that there is not \$100 billion "waste and abuse" in the U.S. budget.



Taylor Jones — Charleston Gazette

Ronald Reagan promised to balance the budget — \$30 billion — increase defense spending — \$30 billion — and reduce taxes — \$30-40 billion — by MERELY abolishing waste and abuse.

Ronald Reagan started the cut and trimming at home — he spent an extra million dollars on his transition effort and has given no indication that he will cut and trim the number of political cronies that he will hire for 1981. In fact when you peruse how much he spent on transition and how many people he will hire for his personal pleasure and service, you'll be looking at a man who has taken no steps at all to "cut and trim"; on the contrary he is spending four times more than the previous Republican presidents spent and he has no intention of reducing spending.

But will Ronald Reagan cut and trim? You bet your sweet life he will, but not from the number of people who will be serving him personally or the amount of money needed for his transition team. He will start cutting and trimming programs for those who government was meant to serve, according to Lincoln — the poor people of America.

But will that balance the budget, increase spending and provide for a tax cut to stimulate productivity by making the rich richer? NO. So what will Reagan need to do? He came to a fast realization that the federal government only spent \$24 billion a year on the aged, blind, disabled and families with children. Thus after you cut all aid to the needy you have not even balanced the budget. You still have increased defense spending and the tax cut to go.

The new idea that Ronald Reagan and his aides have is to cut programs serving the non-poor of America — he wants to cut social security benefits, military retirement benefits, student loans and scholarships.

Now the very people who voted for Mr. Reagan will be the ones who will pay for balancing the budget, increasing defense spending and giving a tax cut to make the rich richer. I don't think they voted for that, but then when did they vote intelligently anyhow? I hope the American people realize how they were deceived by Reagan and the rest of the Republicans — the servants of the rich — and do something about it.

— Kevin M. Aslanian
San Jose