Anderson supports SALT II favors Israeli military aid

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in federal spending that absorb an increasingly large share of total GNP... I'm trying gradually to bring down the percentage and do that by using growth in the economy as a measuring rod against, which to measure how rapidly government expenditures increase. So that is not really a prescription for a balanced budget although certainly that's the goal.

Q: It has been said that the Soviets bargain for advantage in a treaty and the U.S. bargains for equality. Do you feel that the SALT II accord gives the Soviets an unfair advantage and do you still support ratification of the treaty in light of recent developments?

A: As I still support it, and it seems to me that even though SALT II would indeed provide that the Soviets would have a certain advantage in megatonnage, I don't think that's a deciding feature of the treaty. It would require them to dismantle up to 275 existing weapons systems in order to come down by 1981 to the launcher limit of 225... I think it introduces a measure of control that was lacking in SALT I and therefore is an improvement on the present situation... I think it makes good sense now, even as it did before Afghanistan.

"I believe that Israel is the staunchest, most reliable ally that we have in the Middle East."

Q: You have supported the recent arms sales to both Egypt and Israel. But you've just said that you are in favor of limiting arms buildup between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, so why are you in favor of an arms buildup between Egypt and Israel?

A: Well, I believe that Israel is the staunchest, most reliable ally that we have in the Middle East, and I do believe that it is necessary given the state of their economy and an inflation rate that was about 133% last year that we continue to provide them with the necessary defensive weapons that will enable them to preserve their independence. I did not approve the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia. I have some very definite constraints in mind on arms sales... but I do believe that in view of our special relationship with Israel that we should continue to support her, and also I think in view of the contribution that Sadat has made to peace and the fact that he is clearly demonstrating I think a reasonable and restrained position in the Middle East that we should give him reasonable defensive support.

Q: You say that you are in favor of special income supplements for the poor to meet rising energy costs that would result from deregulation rather than holding prices down for everyone. How does this affect the middle class, which presumably would not receive such supplements yet will sometimes be hard pressed to pay rising costs?

A: Well it's true. I think the middle class today is feeling the brunt of higher energy prices, but the fact of the matter is, that I think we have to give some priority to the needs of those who are on the very low end of the economic ladder... I think with all due respect to the middle class that they do have an opportunity to try to achieve certain economies that will soften the impact of those rising energy prices whereas the very poor are not in a position to do that.

Finally I asked Congressman Anderson about his prospects in the New Hampshire and Massachusetts primaries. While he wouldn't say that a win was necessary, he did say that at least third place was a necessity to keep his campaign going.

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