MIT professors assess the state of the union

(Continued from page 1)

been predicted from the policies being followed in Washington, some of which were inherited," he added. He said that the President had "plenty of opportunities to avoid the recession."

The President's primary economic accomplishment, according to Solow, was "to actually start transferring income from the poor to the rich." Samuelson compared Reagan's tax policy to that of a cash-rich leprechaun, saying that he had "just given a Santa Claus present in the form of Keono-Keth to the rich and was about "to offset his generosity to the higher half of the income distribution with taxes on the poor and middle-income people."

Excise taxes, mentioned in a potential funding source for both state and Federal governments, are sharply regressive and fall most heavily on the poor, according to Ferguson. He added, "...firing with an employment or unemployment is not a very good thing to do." Professor of Political Science William Griffith said the Administration's economic policies led to a "social state of the country of increasing tensions on the part of the poor, unemployed, and disadvantaged."

Reagan's policies to stimulate capital formation and productivity are not likely to work, according to the MIT analysts, Ferguson said the Federal Reserve Board's tight monetary policy would prevent the tax cuts from stimulating investment. Samuelson said the cuts were "not well gauged to increase capital formation." As for supply-side economics, Solow wondered that "no one with any intelligence ever took any of that seriously.

Neither Samuelson nor Solow expressed concern about the Administration's projection of a $100 billion budget deficit for the next fiscal year. "A modern economist should not bealarmed at a recession deficit," according to Samuelson. With a $3 trillion economy, the deficit constitutes only three percent of the Gross National Product, he noted. Solow claimed that most of the current deficit results from the recession, although deficits will continue past the end of the economic downturn. "...fiction is just like me," Solow commented, "there is great entertainment in watching Republicans get trapped in their own rhetoric about deficits."

Samuelson concluded that the President's economic policy was intended to achieve his social goals. He said the President was "using the persuasive symbols of fighting inflation and increasing capital formation and, down the road, reducing unemployment, to slow down and even reverse and perhaps even reverse and reduce the forty-year New Deal march toward a welfare state." The President's performance on national security and foreign policy issues received equally mediocre ratings. "The general national security stance of the United States has shown modest improvement," according to Political Science professor Lin- coln Bloomfield. Reagan has, however, squandered much of the Carter Administration's progress on restoring the country's reputation in Africa and Latin America, he added.

Bloomfield, who worked on global issues for Carter's administration, expressed concern about the Ad- ministration's new TI-40 and TI-55-II calculators have angled displays for easy-to-see answers.

Get a new slant on math.

"The Texas Instruments new TI-40 and TI-55-II calculators have angled displays for easy-to-see-answers."

National Security Council would give the President "a cat best on integrating foreign policy goals. Griffith also cited inconsistencies in Reagan's approach, noting that the strongest aspect of his foreign policy is his "plain intention of building up defense, and the weakness is that it's mostly talk."

Bloomfield said the "Soviets have a definite message, which is probably helpful if followed up by serious negotiations." He warned, however, that the Reagan Administration has not yet realized that "third-world issues will contribute to a real erosion of the Western alliances" in the near future. The resulting "strain run the risk of prematurely shaking the alliance in ways I would not want the Soviets to misconstrued," Bloomfield said.

...there is great entertainment in watching Republicans get trapped in their own rhetoric about deficits.

Bloomfield and Griffith noted that the Presidents had not adequately emphasized arms control and disarmament issues during his first year in office. According to Griffith, Reagan has been slow in realizing the importance of negotiations and "too many people in the Administration are even slower than the President on arms control."

Bloomfield said Reagan needs to gain "...for far more urgent sense of arms control."

Professor of Political Science William Kaufman cited defense spending as Reagan's most pressing foreign policy problem. "Not only is the planning to spend too much, too soon," he noted, "but he is spending it on the wrong things." Kaufman is currently working for the Brookings Insti- tution to develop a list of defense budget cuts designed to save $10 billion over three years. The Administration's spending plans are not aimed at addressing the problem of the window of vulnerability, according to Kauf- man. "I don't even think they believe their own rhetoric" on vulnerability, he added.

The Administration's early problems with economic, domestic, and foreign policy agenda have dimmed the Republicans' prospects for the mid-term elections this year, claimed Burnham. He noted that the President remains popular, but his personal appeal will not prevent his party from losing "between one and two dozen seats in the House of Representatives."

Further predicted that the Republicans will retain their control of the Senate, and perhaps gain one or two seats.

Get a new slant on math.

The Texas Instruments new TI-40 and TI-55-II calculators have angled displays for easy-to-see-answers.

"The Texas Instruments new TI-40 and TI-55-II calculators have angled displays for easy-to-see-answers."

Get a new slant on math.

The Texas Instruments new TI-40 and TI-55-II calculators have angled displays for easy-to-see-answers.

Get a new slant on math.