Therm is "continuity," he said, Ronald Reagan. If, in 1988, the country wanted a liberal, Thurow explained that in 1984, if they are not ready to lend it, then interest rates will have to rise to make up the difference, passing it out in the investment in this country. "That’s called a recession," he said.

Thurow noted that there is no standard prediction for what presidents will do when they inherit a very large deficit from a previous administration, because that has never happened before. But he thinks that Dukakis would be wary of raising taxes immediately after entering office if he won the presidency, because in 1978 he felt restraint in Massachusetts after he raised taxes to cut the state deficit in 1974. A Las Vegas gambler, Thurow said, would probably predict that an incoming president would not do anything about the deficit in January. But, according to Solow, a panel of distinguished economic advisors that has just been created by Congress may be able to take some heat of the next president, in terms of getting action on the budget deficit. Solow said a president would be much more willing to act on the deficit if he does not have to take the blame for the decision, if he can use an economic council as a cover.

Similarly, the Congress needs protection in the way of presidential support, Thurow said. Congress would easily pass a 260/gallon gasoline tax, he argued, if only they could be assured the president would sign it. Solow noted that there was a tax on money to be saved in defense, not just from the interest cost overruns, but from programs that “aren’t actually buying us any national security.”

The single most important issue facing the electorate is productivity, according to Solow. The slowdown in productivity in the late 15-20 years has been responsible, he said, for a gradual worsening of social problems and social tolerance, because of a curb in the redistribution of wealth. But the productivity problem is hard for candidates to tackle, and little has been said about it. Environmental concerns have also received far too little attention in the election so far, according to Sevaro. USSR, Libya, and China, or so the third speaker at the forum. Although Senator Albert Gore, Jr. has addressed the ozone depletion problem, Thurow said, other candidates are not saying much about the environment, and a Republican president would have to do it. Solow said he thought that the growing tendency, especially in the present administration, “to make statements of national and international law” was also an extremely important issue, though he doubted that it would actually control the election. Speaking in terms more general on specific incidents, Menand said that there was a growing sense in government of power without accountability.

An extremely important issue for the Democrats, Menand noted, is the problem of image. Whether he is or off the election ticket, the circumstances of his status will be very important. Jackson must be in agreement with whatever position he ends up with, and he must support the party ticket for the Democrats to win.

Thurow observed that, even if Jackson is on the off tonight, his followers may not be, and it will be crucial to the Democratic party that Jackson’s followers are not alienated. If there are only white males voting in the presidential election, Thurow said, Bush will certainly be elected. There is a technical question as to whether someone can be pertinent before the election in any one of three crimes. An extremely important issue for the Democrats, Menand noted, is the problem of image. Whether he is or off the election ticket, the circumstances of his status will be very important. Jackson must be in agreement with whatever position he ends up with, and he must support the party ticket for the Democrats to win.

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