

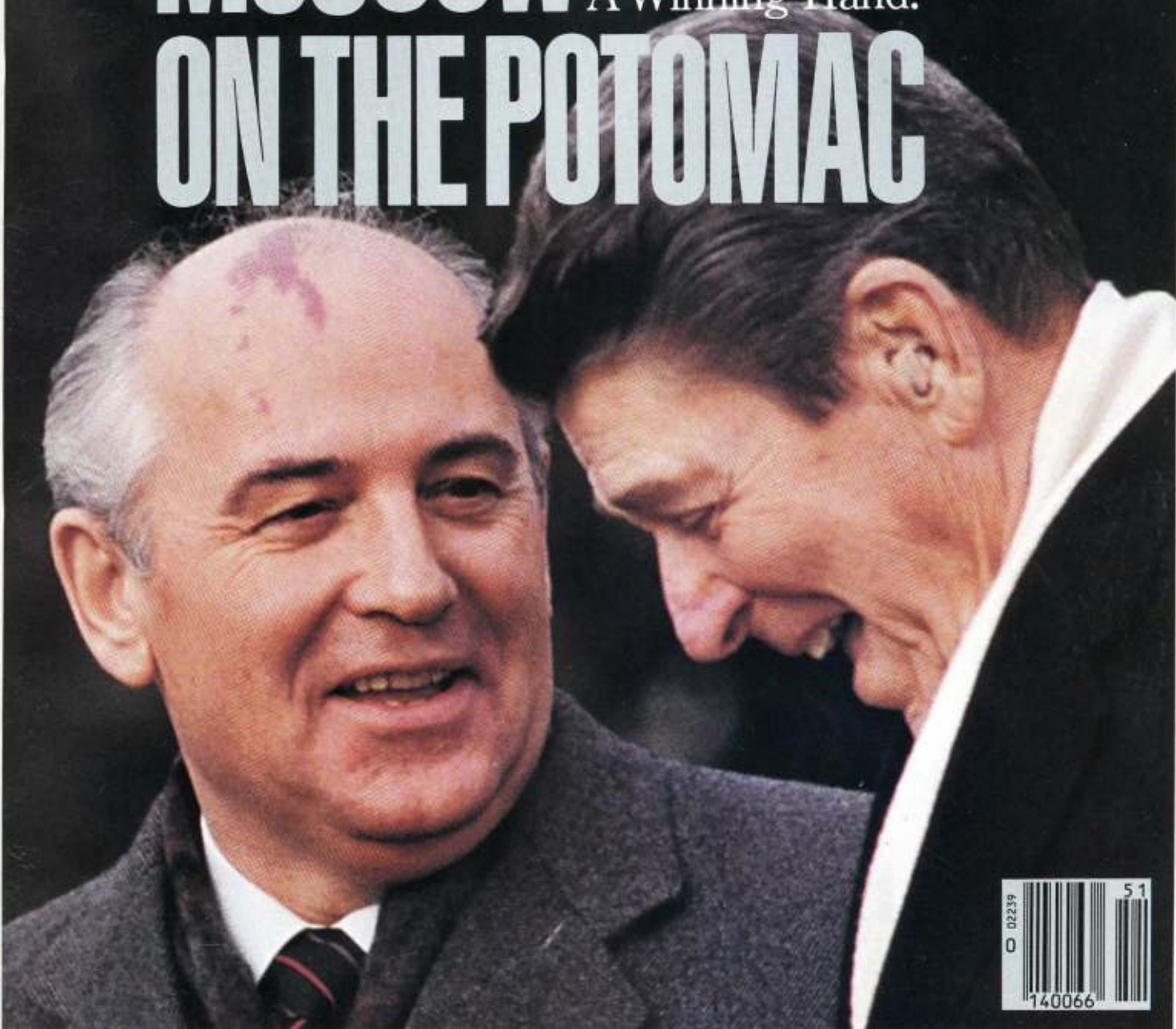
THE YEAR'S BEST
MAYORS, GOVERNORS AND CONGRESSMEN

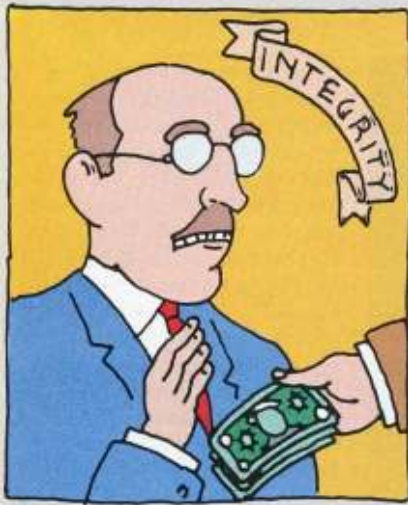
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MOSCOW Is Gorbachev Playing
A Winning Hand?
ON THE POTOMAC





Those who do the spadework of local government face tough problems and tougher critics. Still, some triumph

THE BEST OF CITY HALL



Carlson:
Jamestown, N.Y.



Sanders:
Burlington, Vt.



Caliguiri:
Pittsburgh



Green:
Rochester, N.H.



Carlson:
Buffalo



Young:
Detroit



Maier:
Milwaukee



Voinovich:
Cleveland, Ohio



On the fast track: Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn has seen the city thrive as racial tensions ease

As much as summits, stock-market crashes and budget battles tend to spotlight the political actors on the national stage, for most Americans the real business of government—that is, the things that directly affect the quality of their lives—goes on right in their own back yards. In the '60s and '70s, many of the nation's mayors—beset by problems of declining industry, deepening poverty in inner-city neighborhoods and increasing racial unrest—felt themselves forced to end-run recalcitrant city councils. The result was a new alliance, shaky at first, but increasingly firm over time, with Washington. Today, at the end of the Reagan era, many of the programs that saw America's cities through their toughest times are still in place—albeit in much diminished form. But the bonds with Washington are sundered, and the 1980s have found the nation's mayors, not unlike governors, forced to rely more and more on their own devices for solutions to problems that have not gone away. In this situation, some mayors have, by dint of cunning and clever management, triumphed. A *U.S. News* survey of more than 100 mayors, regional experts and public-policy authorities has identified the standouts of 1987. Though women mayors rated high in some categories—particularly Kathy Whitmire of Houston and Diane Feinstein (whose tenure in San Francisco came to a close with the election of her successor last week)—they are relatively few in number. And most have not been in office long enough to effect major change. The profiles of the “best,” by region, follow:

THE EAST

Just about a month ago, **Raymond Flynn** was re-elected to a second term as the mayor of Boston, collecting an unprecedented 67 percent of the vote. It was the capstone for the “working man's mayor” who presided over the eradication of a \$40 million deficit, the easing of racial tensions and unemployment and

the embarkation on a five-year, \$500-million capital-improvement program.

In Pittsburgh, which has endured one of the worst economic dislocations of any American city, three-term Mayor **Richard Caliguiri** is now turning things around. Rand McNally has named the city one of the most livable in America, and Caliguiri's ability to wed public and private interests in downtown development projects is keeping many of Pittsburgh's largest employers in town, contributing to steady improvement in the neighborhoods.

When he ran for re-election last March, many in Burlington, Vt., still didn't quite know what to make of **Bernard Sanders**, their Socialist mayor now in his fourth term. What they do know is that they like him. Sanders is credited with preserving affordable housing, keeping property-tax increases to a minimum and—in a state where cities enjoy little autonomy—sparking a statewide push for greater home rule.

In Rochester, N.H., and Jamestown, N.Y., two small cities with big-city problems, the mayors have made a difference. **Richard Green** has put Rochester's once rocky finances on a sound footing and, for the first time ever, put a master plan for development in place. In Jamestown, south of Buffalo, **Steven Carlson** has used grants and loans to help expand existing businesses, revitalizing the economy. The plan has worked so well, the city has been chosen for study by graduate students of government at Harvard.

THE MIDWEST

The old joke about Indianapolis is that it was really “Indian-no-place.” Mayor **William Hudnut** changed that. From luring the Hudson Institute think tank to attracting the Pan American Games, Hudnut has put the city on the map, infusing new life into business and civic institutions.

The rap on Cleveland is that it was the “mistake on the lake.” But there, too, change is afoot, and Mayor **George**