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WASHINGTON TIMES
19 February 1987**INSIDE THE BELTWAY****Take this job**

President Reagan once joked that the United States had outlawed the Soviet Union and that "we begin bombing in five minutes." On another occasion, he offhandedly referred to aggressive White House reporters as "sons of bitches." In both cases he was picked up electronically.

CIA Director-designate Robert Gates was caught in a similar trap yesterday — an open mike — just before Senate Intelligence Committee hearings began. Amid a swarm of photographers flashing pictures of him, Mr. Gates said:

"You can take this job and shove it."

Mr. Gates said later the remark was "an offhanded attempt to make a joke with the photographers or with somebody standing next to me."