



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Ronald Reagan

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

The woman was discussing Reagan, whom she had come to admire, though as a young Democrat she had been taught to hate him.

That hatred was a relatively new phenomenon back then. Roosevelt had been revered. Truman had been admired by many but came to be violently hated by those who preferred that 100 to 150 thousand Americans die assaulting Japan, as opposed to our ending the war with an atomic bomb. Aggressive revision of history has increased the number of Americans who think that way today.

Eisenhower was loved, respected and trusted. Though he couldn't handle the economy, he gave Americans a sense of security and stability.

Kennedy and his family were the darlings of America. Westerners weren't too taken with the Camelot baloney, but they admired, respected, and loved him. He knew what was wrong with the economy, this powerful engine that was dragging more deadweight than Gulliver ever envisioned. He broke the shackles of taxation holding it captive, and the economy practically exploded. Unfortunately, he got us into Vietnam and was assassinated before he could either make it a success or get us out. He would probably not have micro-managed the war as Johnson did, nor have cut off the South Vietnamese army as Congress did.

Johnson handled that war disastrously and little else any better.

Nixon wasn't the villain he was made out to be, but he, too, had no clue about economics. He was truly a brilliant man, but fell back on Keynesian theory, and predictably, it was a disaster.

Ford was a good man who was portrayed as a klutzy dunce by the media. He was an accomplished athlete, but no one could have guessed that by the nastiness of the press.

Carter was a good man but dumber than a box of rocks. The media rhapsodized over his brilliance, then quietly downplayed his lack of good sense—probably a natural consequence of their own lack of good sense. He

handled the Soviets like a pansy, and they loved it. He handled the economy like an economics school dropout, and we hated it, as inflation and interest rates went through the roof.

He handled OPEC incompetently and OPEC loved it, but Americans paid a heavy price. He told us we would never again have adequate energy. We were using it all up. Conservation was all we had left.

He handled Iran like a ninety-pound weakling. They loved it, but our hostages hated it. He presided over the disarmament of America and the near annihilation of our military, while the Soviets, their rapacious cohorts, and our press cheered him on.

Reagan cut taxes, cut regulations, backed the Soviets down, told us America was great, a shining city on a hill. He was brave, and he reminded us that we were both brave and strong. We could accomplish anything we were willing to work to attain. And America smiled again. By 1983, when the tax cuts took effect, the economy rocketed into the stratosphere.

Soon the Soviet Union went belly up, and half the western world stopped cringing in fear and/or whimpering in cowardice. The other half became free of grinding brutality.

Neither the media nor the intelligentsia could destroy him with the American people, but it was not for lack of trying. There was nothing they didn't try, no lie they didn't tell, as they aided and abetted those who taught naive young people to hate him.

Even Alzheimer's couldn't take away his gentle graciousness. Neither can it reach into the eternities. Now he's young, handsome, and strong. And those who loved him will be eternally grateful for what he gave us. He gave us America back.