

TABOO OPINIONS #10

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For Adults Only!

6-10-04 God died last week. His name (at last we know!) was Ronald Reagan. All of the United States has been in a media frenzy of adulation, sorrow and retroactive deification. As I write this mild, sarcastic rant I console myself that this national (some might say International) exhibition of Republican hyperbole and abuse of a dead Republican president is to finally end with His actual burial in California.

I would say that Reagan is spinning in his grave because of the shameless Republican/Bush 'spin' of His death.

I note that the two living Democrat presidents---Carter and Clinton---were not invited to His Republican Funeral to give even a short eulogy however sincere, and expect them to be equally absent from the final California burial ceremonies.

Since I am old enough to actually remember Ronald Reagan as a young actor in B-movies and as President of the Screen Actors Guild and as Governor of California and as President of the United States, my opinion of him as a man and as a politician is---for what it's worth---as follows:

I liked Ronald Reagan---the man and the movie actor---for his charm, his humor and for his ambition and drive.

His public self, however, was a faux image composed of his acting skills, his charm, his humor, and his simple-minded "philosophy" of Freedom, Democracy and Limited Government.

He was a walking, talking lie---as of necessity are all modern-day presidents, let's say from the turn of the 20th Century. The American public doesn't want the truth. The public wants lies and illusions from their maximum leader to help them get through their desperate, ignorant lives.

Ronald Reagan served his super wealthy sponsors, backers and corporate bosses very well. Politics at the presidential level is a dirty, savage, murderous business in which immense power and wealth is at stake. Image is everything. He went along with the necessities of power and position. He made the Faustian deal with his billionaire 'handlers'---he was PRESIDENT--- and did what he was told.

But I tend to think the illegal, unconstitutional act of war against Libya in 1986 (remember the surprise night bombing raid which killed Ghadafi's child?) and the "preventive" (illegal, unconstitutional) invasion of Grenada in 1983 were pure Reagan, along with his disastrous interventions in the Middle East---Lebanon, for instance, and probably the secret hostages 'deal' with Iran, the aiding and abetting of Saddam Hussein...

Well, enough. The memory hole is a filthy place.

So goodbye, 'Dutch'. May you rot in peace.

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