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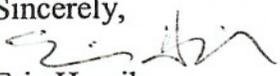
Dear Curtis:

I finished your wonderful book, *Reagan, What Was He Really Like?* You certainly delivered on the title – I felt as if I were part of an “insiders club” reading the various interviews and anecdotes. I am sure those who read the book tell you they especially liked this chapter or that (and I will do the same.) As a whole, the book is a great addition to the scholarship on Reagan. It is especially important as I think you really capture the compelling essence of Reagan’s character and political convictions. What comes through in all the chapters is what a close bond Reagan inspired in those who worked with and for him. It is rare (and likely rarer today than ever before) that the wide range of individuals covered in the book have such warm feelings for the man. You can perhaps expect that from the closest confidantes, but Reagan inspired a loyalty and affection from everyone. At base, Reagan comes across not as an ambitious political zealot – which many liberal critics assert – but a man of genuine beliefs and personal warmth. It is no wonder Reagan’s “stock” is on such a rise as the accomplishments of his career are assessed.

OK, and I had my favorite sections. I liked all the chapters, but the story about the parade in LA where Reagan goes via horseback is great. The chapter from the Amerines captures a different time in American politics and campaigning. (And the story makes me nostalgic for such honest campaigning as opposed to the focus-group media blitz approach of today.) I think I was most impressed, though, by the chapter interview with Officer Rowlee. As much as anything it is this chapter that captures what Reagan was “really like.”

Your book was a pleasure to read and I’ll have to figure a way to incorporate it into a class. It was great to meet you and your wife in Gardnerville and I look forward to volume 2.

Sincerely,


Eric Herzik
Professor and Chair

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