While scholars argue the merits of former presidents, recent or otherwise, there is scant effort to determine their ratings as subjects for anagrams. Although I haven’t made a survey of anagrams found for chief executives, I’ve spent some time trying to find computer-generated anagrams for some recent ones.

In May 1984, *Word Ways* printed a large number of anagrams for RONALD WILSON REAGAN (including NO, DARLINGS, NO ERA LAW and A SWOLLEN GOD RAN IRAN). In February 1989, *Word Ways* ran an “interview” with GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH in which he answered questions with anagrams of his name. While both of these subjects do well, presidents in the recent quarter-century do not. With one exception (RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON is LAX INCURSION HID MR. HO and HUSH! NIX CRIMINAL ODOR!), nothing worth reporting was found.

Had Richard Nixon left office before SPIRO AGNEW resigned, we would have been in for an unexpected treat. With a mere ten letters, Agnew is quite a surprise. In an issue of Whole Earth Review a year or two ago, Paul Krassner pointed out that his name anagrams to GROW A PENIS. Inspired by this, I turned my program on the hapless ex-veep, to turn up

A sewing pro A wig person Answer, O pig Ape is wrong
Ape-sign row Aspire gown Gains power Gape now, sir
Go rap swine Go span wire Gore is pawn Grasp in woe
Grop swain Grow a spine l anger wops I gnaw prose
I gnaw ropes I grew a pons l grope swan I grow aspen
I own grapes I spawn gore I spew groan I swap Negro
Ignore w asp No wiser gap One pig’s war Pawing Eros
Pawn orgies Persia gown Pianos grew Pig near sow
Pig-nose war Power in gas Prison wage Raping woes
Rasping woe Raw pigeons Regain wops Region swap
Region wasp Rig weapons Searing rope Sear pig now
Sepia wrong Snap raw ego Soaring pew Sowing a rep
Sowing, reap Spare no wig Swing a rope Swing opera
Swipe organ Wag in prose Warps in ego We grasp ion
We rip a song Wig persona Wrong as pie

I’m sure there’s a body of anagram research on former presidents which I haven’t researched sufficiently.

Perhaps we should start examining candidates instead. Would MICHAEL STANLEY DUKAKIS have adopted the slogan KICK MY DULL ANAESTHESIA if he had been elected?