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

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A sewing pro
Ape-sign row
Go rap swine
Gripe swain
I gnaw ropes
I own grapes
Ignore wasp
Pawn orgies
Pig-nose war
Rasping woe
Region wasp
Sepia wrong
Sowing, reap
Swoing organ
We rip a song
Answer, O pig
A wig person
Aspire gown
Go span wire
Grow a spine
I grew a pons
I spawn gore
No wiser gap
Persia gown
Power in gas
Raw pigeons
Rig weapons
Snip raw ego
Spare no wig
Wag in prose
Ape is wrong
Gains power
Gore is pawn
I anger wops
I grope swan
I spew groan
One pig's war
Pianos grew
Prison wage
Regain wops
Sawing rope
Soaring pew
Swing a rope
We grasp ion
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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?