

ANAGRAMMING SPIRO AGNEW

MIKE MORTON
Honolulu, Hawaii

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
Grope swain	Grow a spine	I anger wops	I gnaw prose
I gnaw ropes	I grew a pons	I grope swan	I grow aspen
I own grapes	I spawn gore	I spew groan	I swap Negro
Ignore wasp	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	Sawing rope	Sear pig now
Sepia wrong	Snip 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?