

NEA VIEWPOINT

Carter tries to undo Reagan legacy

By William A. Rusher

I have previously noted in this space how busy our liberal media are, rewriting the history of the 1980s. They were notably unsuccessful in their efforts to defeat Ronald Reagan, but that has only whetted their appetite for trashing him retroactively.

So we are constantly belabored with the Big Lie that the 1980s were a decade of greed, corruption and self-preoccupation, and that Reagan was the symbol and cause of its alleged defects.

That isn't the way most people remember the 1980s, nor should it be. Those were the years in which the federal strangulation of America was slowed to a near halt, launching the longest economic boom in modern American history. Eighteen million new jobs were created. Our defenses were rebuilt and our free-world alliances intensified, with the result that the Soviet Union simply stopped trying to compete with us and threw in the sponge. Above all, perhaps, our self-respect was restored, after its battering in Vietnam and the Iranian hostage crisis.

But the media tell us otherwise, and now they are moving to shore up another wall of their filmy revisionist lean-to. They are actually trying to rehabilitate the reputation of Jimmy Carter.

In this, they have had considerable help from Carter. In the years since the American people threw him out of the White House, he has been busy with a whole series of activities calcu-

lated to ingratiate him with the liberals who dominate the media.

He has associated himself with all sorts of "human rights" causes and campaigns. Whenever there was an election in some Third World country, Carter was on hand to "observe" it and decide whether it was fair. When there was nothing else to do, he would go up to New York and be photographed making, with his own two hands, a simple wooden chair for some welfare project.

In return, the grateful media thoughtfully overlooked the costly junkies that he and the Steel Magnolia were constantly taking at the expense of the American taxpayer — such as their million-dollar expedition to Nepal in 1983, to trek in the Himalayas with an entourage of 16 American attendants.

Now Carter evidently judges it time to join the attacks on the man who brought him down. In a television interview, all the bile and bitterness comes pouring out — a great wave of hatred, withheld for a whole decade. It says a lot about the difference between the two men that nobody could possibly imagine such a vicious attack emanating from Ronald Reagan.

Carter blames Reagan, without any evidence whatever, for everything from the savings and loan fiasco and the federal budget deficits to the alleged energy shortage. Weirdly, he even accuses Reagan of giving America "a reputation of being the world's worst warmonger, with the possible exception of Saddam Hussein." In support of this charge he cites our

military operations in Lebanon, Tripoli, Grenada and Panama (forgetting, in his fury, that it was President Bush who ordered the invasion of Panama).

Carter is probably still smarting because all of these, save Lebanon, were successful military operations, thoroughly approved (according to the polls) by the American people. No doubt in the back of his mind is the pitiful disaster he presided over in the Iranian desert, when a poorly planned helicopter rescue of our hostages collapsed.

You can be sure that neither Carter nor his media admirers ever mentions the state of this nation when he is relieved of executive responsibility for it by a disgusted electorate. Shall we remind them? Interest rates were 21 percent. Inflation was in the double digits. Unemployment was higher than it is even today, when those same media insist we are in the midst of a recession.

Let's hear it for Ronald Reagan!
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By Taylor Michaels

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Without funds, your vacation could turn into complete chaos. That's why you should take steps to guard against theft before you leave and while you're away to keep your credit cards, cash and documents safe.

* First and foremost, purchase traveler's checks. They cost relatively little, and if they're not used while you're away, they are accepted by most merchants at home.

* Keep cash separate from credit cards and other documents. This way, if your pocket is picked, you won't lose everything in one fell swoop.

* If you're traveling with a companion, the two of you should split up the cash, as well as passports, visas and other important papers. If one of you loses her passport, at least the other has proof of citizenship and can identify herself to the consulate where you will need to go to get another passport.

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