



# FACTS & OPINIONS

*On Public Interest Issues*

## Quotes

Democracy is not a mathematical deduction proved once and for all time. Democracy is just faith fervently held, commitment to be tested again and again in the fiery furnace of history.  
– Jack Kemp

You can not escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. – Abraham Lincoln

The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity. - Ayn Rand

## What would Ronald Reagan have said?

**Doug Stout**

It was January 20, 1981. The United States was facing its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. American hostages had just been held for over a year by foreign terrorists. We were in the midst of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and the country was facing the highest unemployment since the 1930's. The past President said the public mood was one of "malaise" and the new President was a symbol of hope and change to the nation.

I think it is a good time to remember what President Ronald Reagan had to say to the American people that day. After brief opening remarks, the newly inaugurated President inspired the nation with the following:

"The business of our nation goes forward. These United States are confronted with an economic affliction of great

proportions. We suffer from the longest and one of the worst sustained inflations in our national history. It distorts our economic decisions, penalizes thrift, and crushes the struggling young and the fixed-income elderly alike. It threatens to shatter the lives of millions of our people.

Idle industries have cast workers into unemployment, human misery, and personal indignity. Those who do work are denied a fair return for their labor by a tax system which penalizes successful achievement and keeps us from maintaining full productivity.

But great as our tax burden is, it has not kept pace with public spending. For decades we have piled deficit upon deficit, mortgaging our future and our children's future for the temporary convenience of the present.

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## FACTS & OPINIONS

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Dr. Don Racheter

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## Focus on Iowa Wesleyan College

Iowa Wesleyan College is coming out of the Iowa winter with an eye toward a refreshing spring. The college is currently undertaking the "Tiger Conservation Challenge," a college-wide effort to reduce energy consumption for the good of the environment as well as reducing costs by eliminating unnecessary energy waste. It is a worthwhile endeavor to make students and faculty more energy conscious. Speaking of Tiger challenges, the month of March was an exciting one for the student athletes and all of their supporters in the community. Softball and baseball seasons are underway and there have already been high points in the early season. The Tiger baseball team has already played seven ranked baseball teams this season and conquered four of them, including a 13 inning thrilling 4-3 win over the number one ranked team in the nation in their division, Oklahoma City.

The real story of March is the unbelievable success of the men's and women's Tiger basketball teams. The accomplishments of both teams are "off the scale," for a school of their size. Both the men's and women's

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## What's New at Public Interest Institute?

The Public Interest Institute pushes ahead into the opening months of a new Presidential Administration and through the turmoil of an Iowa legislative session, where the past fiscal irresponsibility has made for difficult choices at the Statehouse. We have continued our efforts to improve transparency in government through our monthly series of "Transparency Newsletters" and have enhanced our website with the valuable tool "Iowa Votes," which is intended to give you far greater insight into what legislation is actually being considered by your state Legislators.

We have not been immune to the economic downturn impacting Iowa and the nation and have acted accordingly, making the difficult budget decisions that are being made by individuals and organizations all over the state. One thing we have done is to try to deliver more of our information in electronic format to those that are capable of receiving our information in that form. Our goal is to continue to provide information that will help to make for a better informed public.

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## What would Ronald Reagan have said?

*Doug Stout*

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To continue this long trend is to guarantee tremendous social, cultural, political, and economic upheavals.

You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means, but for only a limited period of time. Why, then, should we think that collectively, as a nation, we're not bound by that same limitation? We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow. And let there be no misunderstanding: We are going to begin to act, beginning today.

The economic ills we suffer have come upon us over several decades. They will not go away in days, weeks, or months, but they will go away. They will go away because we as Americans have the capacity now, as we've had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom.

In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. From time to time we've been tempted to believe that society has

become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. Well, if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? All of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.

We hear much of special interest groups. Well, our concern must be for a special interest group that has been too long neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries or ethnic and racial divisions, and it crosses political party lines. It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and factories, teach our children, keep our homes, and heal us when we're sick - professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies, and truckdrivers. They are, in short, 'We the people,' this breed called Americans.

Well, this administration's objective will be a healthy, vigorous, growing economy

that provides equal opportunities for all Americans with no barriers born of bigotry or discrimination. Putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work. Ending inflation means freeing all Americans from the terror of runaway living costs. All must share in the productive work of this 'new beginning,' and all must share in the bounty of a revived economy. With the idealism and fair play which are the core of our system and our strength, we can have a strong and prosperous America, at peace with itself and the world.

So, as we begin, let us take inventory. We are a nation that has a government - not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government, which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed.

It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the

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## What would Ronald Reagan have said?

*Doug Stout*

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distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government.

Now, so there will be no misunderstanding, it's not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work—work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it.

If we look to the answer as to why for so many years we achieved so much, prospered as no other people on Earth, it was because here in this land we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price.

It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel and are proportionate to the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government. It is time for us to realize that we're too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams. We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline. I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope.

We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. You meet heroes across a counter, and they're on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They're individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet, but deep. Their values sustain our

national life.

Now, I have used the words 'they' and 'their' in speaking of these heroes. I could say 'you' and 'your,' because I'm addressing the heroes of whom I speak - you, the citizens of this blessed land. Your dreams, your hopes, your goals are going to be the dreams, the hopes, and the goals of this administration, so help me God.

We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your makeup. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen; and loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they're sick, and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal in fact and not just in theory?

Can we solve the problems confronting us? Well, the answer is an unequivocal and emphatic 'yes.' To paraphrase Winston Churchill, I did not take the oath I've just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy.

In the days ahead I will propose removing the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government. Progress may be slow,



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measured in inches and feet, not miles, but we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. And these will be our first priorities, and on these principles there will be no compromise.

On the eve of our struggle for independence a man who might have been one of the greatest among the Founding Fathers, Dr. Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans, 'Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of . . . . On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves.'

Well, I believe we, the Americans of today, are ready to act worthy of ourselves, ready to do what must be done to ensure happiness and liberty for ourselves, our children, and our children's children. And as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbors and allies who share our freedom, we will

strengthen our historic ties and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.

As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever.

Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act. We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail if need be, knowing that if we do so we have the best chance of never having to use that strength.

Above all, we must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.

I'm told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I'm deeply grateful. We are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting and good, I think, if on each Inaugural Day in future years it should be declared a day of prayer.

This is the first time in our history that this ceremony has been held, as you've been told, on this West Front of the Capitol. Standing here, one faces a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history. At the end of this open mall are those shrines to the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

Directly in front of me, the monument to a monumental man, George Washington, father of our country. A man of humility who came to greatness reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood. Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence flames with his eloquence. And then, beyond the Reflecting Pool, the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

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## "Jack Kemp"

*Doug Stout*

Ronald Reagan may deserve to be on Mount Rushmore with the other giants, but Jack Kemp doesn't want to be there. He is just a blue-collar football player from Buffalo, New York. He would never admit he helped to transform a nation. But he is defined by his intellectual curiosity and his unbridled and irrepressible enthusiasm and belief in the future of the American spirit. We may only get one Ronald Reagan in our history, but every generation desperately needs a Jack Kemp; a man who inspires people not to carve his face on a mountain, but to roll up their shirt sleeves and labor on his behalf; a man who does not ask us to believe in him, but asks us to believe in ourselves and the power of ideas.

I had my first real job in politics with Jack Kemp and I was hooked the first time I heard the Congressman from upstate New York proclaim: "The American Dream is not about money...the American dream is about an idea, the idea that every man, woman and child should be able to reach as high and as far as their hopes, dreams, aspirations and God given talents can take them. That my friends, is the American Dream." It still defines my political ideals. He expressed the same sentiment on numer-

ous occasions, including the night he announced his candidacy for the Presidency of the United States in 1987. George Bush won the nomination and chose to ignore the waves of Bush/Kemp banners at the convention and picked Dan Quayle as his Vice-President. We will never know what might have been. Although, Jack Kemp may not be a good fit for a back-up role. I remember the tag line of one of his Presidential commercials in the Iowa caucuses. We filmed it on the Adel square in the shadow of their historic courthouse and beside their brick-lined streets. Jack Kemp, the former Buffalo Bill quarterback with the ever-youthful appearance, drilled a pass 40 yards downfield to one of our college interns...with the over voice saying..."Jack Kemp has been the quarterback of every team he has ever played on..." He was always a leader. Jack Kemp did go on to serve as President Bush's Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs to pursue his agenda of hope and opportunity for all sectors of American society. But even then he thought outside the box. He used to joke that he was the only HUD Secretary in history that had his own foreign policy!

Bob Dole tried to bottle the Kemp magic by putting him on the ticket as VP in 1996, but it wasn't a good match. Bob Dole came from the GOP school of hard work; you get up earlier and work harder than everyone else. He was an American war

hero, but not a visionary. Bob Dole wants to drive the car to where he needs to go...Jack Kemp wants to redesign the engine. Today the GOP needs more of both kinds of leaders.

Now we hear the sobering news that Jack Kemp is battling cancer. Anyone who knows Jack Kemp knows he has never backed away from a fight. I know I am joined by millions of Americans around the country in praying for his speedy recovery. Jack Kemp has never stopped writing and speaking; always with his voice filled with the eagerness and an earnestness that jumps out of his mouth, and that always seems to have him on the edge of his seat. We need that now. We need that more than ever. We need his hope, his optimism, and his belief in the American ideals...his belief that we are the party of Lincoln...Jack Kemp in his campaign days would have never let the Lincoln banner be flown uncontested over the Democratic convention. He will always believe that the Republican Party is the best hope for the future, the party of opportunity, the party of destiny, and the best steward of the American dream for all the world's people.

Right after the 2008 election, he wrote a "Letter to my Grandchildren" which appeared on Townhall.com. It was to his 17 grandchildren.

He indicated his disappointment in the loss of his friend John McCain, but went on to express his view that it was a monumental event in the life of our nation:

"My first thought last week upon learning that a 47-year-old African American Democrat had won the presidency was, 'Is this a great country or not?'...When President-elect Obama quoted Abraham Lincoln on the night of his election, he was acknowledging the transcendent qualities of vision and leadership that are always present, but often overlooked and neglected by pettiness, partisanship and petulance. As president, I believe Barack Obama can help lift us out of a narrow view of America into the ultimate vision of America where, if you're born to be a mezzo-soprano or a master carpenter, nothing stands in the way of realizing your God-given potential...My advice to you all is to understand that unity for our nation doesn't require uniformity or unanimity; it does require putting the good of our people ahead of what is good for mere political or personal advantage...President-elect Obama talks of Abraham Lincoln's view of our nation as an 'unfinished work.' Well isn't that equally true of all of us? Therefore let all of us strive to help him be a successful president, so as to help make America an even greater nation."

***Doug Stout is a Research Analyst at Public Interest Institute.***

## What would Ronald Reagan have said?

*Doug Stout*

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Beyond those monuments to heroism is the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery, with its row upon row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David. They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno, and halfway around the world on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under one such marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small town barbershop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We're told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, 'My Pledge,'

he had written these words: 'America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.'

The crisis we are facing today does not require of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does require, however, our best effort and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds, to believe that together with God's help we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us.

And after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans.

God bless you, and thank you."<sup>1</sup>

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Public Papers of President Ronald W. Reagan. Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. <http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/1987/061287d.htm> (accessed 18 March 2009)

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## Focus on Iowa Wesleyan College

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basketball Tigers qualified for the NAIA national tournament. Iowa Wesleyan was one of just 11 schools in the nation to send both of its basketball teams to the national tournament. Of the 11 schools that did manage that feat...Iowa Wesleyan was the second smallest school to achieve the honor.

This achievement came after both teams won their respective Midwest Collegiate Conference end-of-the-year tournaments. Women's head coach, Steve Williamson was named coach of the year in the conference. Rachel Mitchell was the first woman ever to be named to the

All-conference team for the third year in a row. She was joined on the first team by Ali DeVries; receiving Honorable Mention was Heather Larson. On the men's side, Brett Humpal was named Conference Player of the Year and was joined on the first team squad by Da'karl Shelby. Also receiving conference recognition were Jason Garber and Keenan Stanbridge.

The successful student-athlete, one who can excel in the classroom and in the sports arena, is one who is equipped to be a well-rounded and contributing member of our communities after their graduation. Along with the College's commitment to Service Learning as part of their curriculum, IWC strives to turn out good

citizens as well as successful graduates.

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## What's New at Public Interest Institute?

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At the Public Interest Institute we continue in our belief that ideas have consequences, and that involved individuals can make a difference. We will continue in our efforts to provide valuable information and to spark informed debate on the public policy issues of the day at all levels of government.