

1980 - THE NEW DECADE MEANS CHANGE

REAGAN HOSTAGES ECONOMY

The election results on November 4, 1980 showed that Ronald Reagan had won by a landslide over the incumbent Jimmy Carter. Reagan received 51% of the popular votes to Carter's 41%. Reagan received 489 Electoral votes to 49 for Carter's 49. Reagan received 219 more votes than he needed to win the election.

Carter received only 49 electoral votes, his own Georgia, Vice-Pres. Walter Mondale's Minnesota, Rhode Island, Maryland, West Virginia, and Hawaii. John Anderson, Independent candidate, received 7% of the votes, and Libertarian Ed Clark 1%. Even though Reagan won by a landslide, he lost in Colleton County and at WHS. The results were at WHS as follows:

Carter - 407-74%

Reagan - 98-18%

Anderson - 15-3%

County Wide

Carter - 5, 745

Reagan - 4, 719

Even more startling was the G.O.P. capture of 11 Senate seats to take over that body by a 53-47 margin. In the Republicans defeated such Democratic figures as George McGovern of South Dakota, the 1972 presidential nominee, Frank Church of Idaho, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Warren Magnuson of Washington, Pres. pro. tempore of Senate and one of the longest tenure of office, and Birch Baye of Indiana.

OPINIONS

"I was really surprised about the election results, I was really thinking that it was going to be too close to call."

— Shannon Bright

"I thought that Carter was going to win, besides the polls predicted it to be that way."

— Richard Koger

"I sure am happy that Reagan won, because Carter didn't do anything in office."

— Jim Lane

"The election results were interesting, the people have spoken and we must accept it the way it is."

— Stanley Simmons

"Reagan was the people's choice, but he sure didn't deserve to be president."

— Tina Hand

The U.S. made two sets of world history on the day January 20, 1981 as the 52 American hostages were released from Iran and Ronald Reagan was sworn as the nation's 40th President. The hostages were held in captivity for 444 days. The Americans were released about Tehran time 12:41 and 12:43 p.m.

The Americans back home rejoiced of the news of the released hostages who had been in captivity for so long, and who would be reunited with their families once again.

Nov. 4, 1979 marked the day of destruction as they were arrested at the American Embassy at Tehran. President Carter was on the alert with Congress and the United Nations. Every one back home was angry at Washington for the lack of interest they seemed to portrayed. In April of 1980, a rescue mission was sent to Iran to try to rescue the hostages, but the attempt failed as the servicemen were killed in the desert as the planes crashed. This is one of the top issues that caused Carter to lose the election to Reagan by a landslide because everyone thought that an attempt should've been made earlier prior to the event.

Although Carter did lose the election to this matter, everyone felt that Mr. Carter did his level best to try to free the hostages.

Among the captives, one of them was from the state of South Carolina. William Belk from Carolina (Columbia). The U.S. had to compensate Iran some amount of \$24 billion. Many Americans felt that the economy was not able to handle such a deficit. Also Americans felt that the U.S. shouldn't have paid Iran any more than the Shah had invested in Americans banks. Regardless of how much it cost, many were happy to have their fellow Americans back home.

The U.S. Economy, according to statistics reported that the economy had suffered one of its worst disasters since the Great Depression. The employment rate had increased from 5% to 14%. This was one of the main issues that caused Carter to lose the election. Double digit inflation continued in 1980, the prime interest rate soared over 20% and a new recession threatened. As the year ended OPEC raised oil prices again and some of Reagan's advisers urged him to consider declaring a national economic emergency.

Hardest hit was the auto industry, the victim in large part of a concern for gas mileage that many buyers seemed to think could better be supplied by imports. Layoffs were heavy throughout the industry and at year's end the Chrysler Corp., beneficiary of government loans in 1979, was in serious trouble again.

The Chrysler Corp., is still looking toward better interests in the future of the 1980's.

The U.S. Economy is still looking toward a better future throughout the decade with a new administration and better stocks and interests. Although this period will go down in the nation's history, we still believe that this is the land of opportunity; and provide better for our citizens.

BOAT - LIFT

Small boats, large boats, motorboats, sailboats; all headed from the Florida Keys to Cuba in the spring to pick up the tide of refugees Fidel Castro decided to let out of his country. The sudden chaotic influx severely strained facilities in Miami and presented political and economic headaches to the U.S.

Some of the refugees were convicts the Cuban government thought it could expedite to get rid of. For all resettlement was a slow and sometimes painful process, and many still remained in refugee camps at year's end. The migration involved more than 100,000 Cubans, augmented by a smaller number of Haitians who fled poverty and they said political oppression in their homeland. The Americans here back home think that we ourselves need help rather than helping allies from a communist nation. The U.S. agreed that the refugees should be given help, and also at the same time they would not spend any more money.