

PUBLIC FORUM DAILY NEWS 3/1/87

The bottom line of the Tower Commission report is that "Reagan's Failure" (Editorial, Feb. 27) is our failure.

Twice in succession we elected as president a genial oldster who promised us that we could have it all — a clean environment without controls on pollution; safety nets for the needy without funds to provide them; massive spending on the military without increased taxes. All that was necessary was to return to the laissez-faire policies of the Industrial Revolution and conduct foreign policy according to a John Wayne movie script.

This avuncular, folksy (former?) actor helped us "feel good about America" again, and we only noticed later that it cost upwards of 300 American lives in Beirut, West Germany, El Salvador and Grenada, and an unknown number who are dying at home for lack of medical care and adequate shelter.

We cannot blame the president for being who he is. Rather, we should ask ourselves why we needed such a man to lead us.

— Bill Becker  
Woodland Hills

11-10-81  
R. L. J.