

This is Anthony Mantova with your Community Comment

Over 10 years ago I was in a different line of work. I worked for Dr. Donald Devine, who was president reagans Office of Personnel Management Director. At that time he was basically in charge of the Washington Bureaucracy. It was a post that must have amused Regan, because Donald is a huge libertarian.

Devine was effective, cutting costs, cutting jobs and as reagan told him "make those guys work harder."

I'll always be thankful to Donald for giving me a chance. My job was to recruit and event plan for these Leadership Seminars that we would hold around the country. The Events taught students about the history of Federalist principles, individual freedom and limited government. The class was two hours and to keep students interested we brought in keynote speakers like Michael Reagan and the late Robert Novak. We covered a lot of territory, texas nebraska ohio and others.

Part of what made these talks so engaging were the Reagan stories, and that is the reason for this comment.

According to Devine, Reagan was sitting at the table with his cabinet. An issue involving the national debt had come up. Around the table, men like devine were arguing amongst themselves about just how serious the national debt and monetary policy were. After discussion continued, Reagan finally spoke (paraphrase)

"In all of history there is no nation that has gone as far, or as deep into debt as we have, and managed to make it out alive.:

Reagan paused and glanced around the room: " but I think we can be the first."

Donald told that story many times, and he predicted the year 2016 to be the one where the government wouldn't be able to pay its bills. We've passed it now and somehow things keep chugging forward.

The government is a poorly run business, but as long as the economy keeps the cash flow strong, maybe there really isnt anything we cant do.

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