

## **My View**

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### **Only in America ...Hey!**

Truly, it is the land of dreams, where anyone is free to pursue and become whatever and whoever they aspire to become. A fine example is **Ronald Regan**, who at best, was a made-for-TV actor, then aspired to become Governor and then later rose to be the President of the United States of America. That was then. Now we have another successful actor turned politician ... **Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mr. Universe**, better known as the **Terminator**, to his credit has done very well in all respects. Although, I must say that all of his movies kind of look and sound the same. I also question how he will be able to relate to common Californian constituents' daily trials and tribulations. This is yet to be seen. Maybe in furnishing his third home, which he recently purchased for thirteen million US dollars ... will he experience some everyday frustrations.

Governor Schwarzenegger is a person who came from humble beginnings and through sheer determination and lots of name recognition, has managed to become the Governor of the State of California. California has a population base larger than all of Canada and, I believe, it surpasses our entire country's annual Gross Domestic Production level as well. It is also the fastest growing state in the U.S.

In our own area we have seen *individuals of humble beginnings*, who possessed *clear vision and ironclad determination* reach important and powerful political positions. This is not to take away from corporate leadership, but let us focus on political aspirations for the time being.

How about our own beer-guzzling reporter, turned Calgary Mayor then Premier of Alberta. Of course I am referring to none other than the **Honorable Ralph Klein**. No nonsense, straight shooting, *"like me or not"* leader of our province. Although mistakes were made when budget cutting was first being done; cutbacks went too deep in certain areas such as education and medical care. However, he had the right idea and more important, the moxy to implement his vision, or should I say his political election promises. *Who ever heard of a politician keeping his electoral campaign mandate?*

Ralph entertained and enlightened us during his times as a reporter, then as our fearless Mayor and currently as our Premier. Ronald entertained and enlightened us during his times as an actor, Governor, and then as the most powerful political leader in the world.

We also have another entertainer who we should not forget. This honorable statesman has turned the world's attention towards Canada and has shown in no uncertain terms that *his representation and leadership of this great country could well be highlighted as the main comedic performance on the hilarious Montreal Comedy Club Improv Review*. Oh well, two out of three isn't too bad...I guess.

We are all quick to criticize, myself included. However, it takes a special kind of person to enter the political arena and survive, let alone prosper and elevate oneself to the commander and chief of whatever city, province, state or country you represent.

Arnold, my hat goes off to you, certainly you have your work cut out, so ... let's see what you can do with all the real life bad guys in the land right of center, we affectionately call, Lotus Land.

*That is my view.*

Victor