

# Mrs. Reagan vows to keep up drug battle



Nancy Reagan

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WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan promises to “move out” in her fight against youth drug abuse, but warns parents not to lean too heavily on government because “that child is your responsibility.”

Mrs. Reagan returned to Washington Tuesday after a two-day visit to four drug programs in Florida and Texas. She said she hopes her trip stirs up family involvement.

“Last year it was difficult to do anything,” Mrs. Reagan told the Texans’ War on Drugs Committee in Dallas, referring to the attempt on her husband’s life that curtailed travel outside Washington. “But this year I can start to move out.”

The Texas group successfully lobbied for tough anti-drug laws including a ban on “head

shops,” which sell drug paraphernalia. Mrs. Reagan said, however, legislation alone will not solve the problem.

“I think the idea of always turning to somebody else or some other agency, that’s not the answer,” Mrs. Reagan said in an interview with KXAS-TV. “You can’t always turn to things like the school board or the government.

“In the final analysis, you gave birth to that child and that child is your responsibility and you’ve got to do something about it,” she said.

“They have to spend more time with their kids,” Mrs. Reagan said. “They have to learn the warning signs (of drug abuse) but if they’re not there to see . . .”

Of the president’s interest in drug pro-

grams, she said, “He’s just as concerned as I am.”

Asked if her drug program tour was aimed at deflecting attention from accounts of her elegant lifestyle and purchase of new White House china, she replied, “That’s not true, so I don’t respond to it.”

Mrs. Reagan walked by about two dozen sign-carrying protesters concerned about cuts in a child lead poisoning program on her way to lunch with the War on Drugs Committee.

Industrialist H. Ross Perot, who chairs the War on Drugs Committee that now is financed with a \$500,000 government grant, urged Mrs. Reagan to keep up her newborn crusade.

“I hope this is a long-term interest of yours,” Perot said.