

EPIDEMIC...

Welcome Back, Mrs. Nancy Reagan

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

First Lady Nancy Reagan visited the Cincinnati branch of Straight Inc. on Monday, September 17th, as part of her personal crusade against teenage drug abuse. This was her second visit to a Straight facility (she visited the St. Petersburg, Florida branch in February, 1982), and she joined 160 young people and their parents for 3 hours at a regular Monday night Open Meeting. It was an emotional evening, as Mrs. Reagan listened to young people tell of their lives of drug use and despair and parents cry as they spoke of the worry and fear they had felt for their children and families.



Mrs. Reagan is greeted by William D. Oliver, Executive Director of Straight, Inc. National (left) and Jerry Rushing, Director of the Cincinnati branch.



Mrs. Reagan, with tears in her eyes, said, "As one parent to another, I know there's no hurt a parent can be given that can equal that that your child can give you...But I'm proud of you because you have supported your children and given them the love they need. They showed that need tonight." "We need you," she told the young people. "You'll be taking over this world. We need you to be strong and quick. I want you to know that I'm proud of you for having the courage to face up to your problems."



Mrs. Reagan joins in applauding the Straight young people as they speak of the hurt and despair they experienced and the hope and joy they now have for their future.

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Mrs. Reagan met Robin Page at Straight and invited Robin to accompany her to Indianapolis the next day to speak at a junior high class about the dangers of drug use. Robin joined Mrs. Reagan on Tuesday morning and sat with her on the Presidential plane where they discussed Robin's personal experiences with alcohol, marijuana and speed. "She was really nice," Robin said. "I was, like, amazed at how honest she was. She asked what she could do to become more involved in helping people with drug problems."



Jerry Rushing presents Mrs. Reagan with a small bronze figure of a child reaching out. It was sculpted by a parent of a Straight teenager.



Mrs. Reagan joins with bowed head and clasped hands as the Straight Open Meeting ends with the Lord's Prayer.



Just before leaving the Open Meeting, Mrs. Reagan walked over to the front row of Straight's young people and hugged each of them. "I love you all," she told them.