

Mrs. Meagan (step)

OA 1699:

Ha

THE WHITE HOUSE

6-6-86

Dear Estelle,

Thank you very much for the photos.
Bill Utz and I will remember you
and your kindness thru your photographic
works.

Come see us.

Carlton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ms. Estelle Stoltz
Office of the Social Secretary
East Wing

gill

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

15 April 1986

Memorandum to Carlton Turner

~~10 APR 1986~~

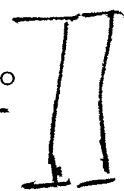
From: Ken Barun *KB*

17 APR 1986

Subject: Attached letter

3545

C.T., you have probably received a copy of the attached letter. Would you be so kind to accept this award on behalf of Mrs. Reagan if possible. She would very much appreciate it.



If you cannot, please let me know.

[Handwritten scribbles]

Brazil is beyond
its range.

OR maybe Bennett
Adm. Poindexter

Who are other
countries sending?
Rtn give
open
April 22
18

PR 11

(914) 682-9100

21 BLOOMINGDALE ROAD, WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. 10605

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

WESTCHESTER DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
WESTCHESTER DIVISION

April 8, 1986

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

As President of the American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions I am honored to announce that you will be the recipient of our first Founders Award given to a public figure who has made significant contributions in the area of prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol dependency. Your efforts on behalf of children and families in communicating the problem of addictions, have been effective in so many ways.

As psychiatrists interested in prevention, treatment, education and research in the addiction field we are grateful to you for your enthusiasm, energy, time and commitment to these issues.

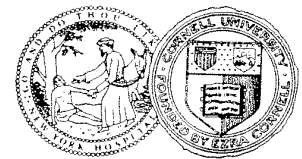
This year, on May 11, we will be holding our first annual meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions to coincide with the annual American Psychiatric Association meeting. This is the first time that a group of psychiatrists have formed together in a subspecialty society in the area of alcohol and addictions. We would be delighted if you or a representative could come to our meeting on May 11, at noon at the Massachusetts Room at the Capitol Hilton to accept the award. At that time, we will also be presenting an award to John Ewing, M.D. a psychiatrist who has made significant contributions in treatment, education and research in alcoholism over many years. Since May, 1985 approximately 450 psychiatrists have joined as founding members of AAPAA. We have been gratified by the interest and enthusiasm that the field has shown for an Academy devoted to the problems of substance dependency. It is our goal to work closely with other professional and lay groups to further public awareness and support for treatment, training and research in the addiction field. Again, I want to thank you on behalf of the American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions for all your efforts on behalf of our patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Frances M.D.

Richard J. Frances, M.D., President
American Academy of Psychiatrists
in Alcoholism and Addictions

RJF:rn
cc: Carlton Turner, Ph.D.



THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
TEXANS' WAR ON DRUGS
AUSTIN, TEXAS - OCTOBER 12, 1984

Thank you so much. It's wonderful to be here. On the way in from San Antonio, I was remembering my first conversation about drug abuse with Ross and Robbie at the White House back in May of 1981. I was meeting with all kinds of experts in the drug field in those early months, but that afternoon really sticks in my mind.

Ross was so full of his hopes and dreams for Texans' War On Drugs that he talked nonstop for nearly forty minutes. When he finally stopped for air, I remember thinking, "Only in Texas."

And if ever there was a problem which called for a Texas-sized solution -- drug and alcohol abuse is it. It is our most pressing problem and it holds our whole next generation hostage. It's going to take everything we've got to free them.

I know that the numbers are familiar to you: more than half of all crimes committed in America are drug-related; the annual cost to society in lost work time; accidents, thefts, law enforcement and related expenses is estimated to be close to fifty billion dollars a year. And as heartbreaking as those numbers are, they can't even begin to convey the human tragedy that each drug user represents.

There is the wreckage of families, the despair of parents, and the pain of the users themselves which can only be understood by looking at each individual. And I know that's what the Texans' War On Drugs is committed to doing.

During the past three and a half years, I've spoken with hundreds of kids who've been involved with drugs and they've told me about the pain and agony they went through -- and the pain and agony of their parents and brothers and sisters. As one mother of a drug user put it, "The drug culture is a selfish culture." And it's so true. Drugs become the center of the user's life and before long they become their whole life. So many kids have told me how they'd do anything to get drugs -- lie, steal, become dealers -- and how everything else in their lives which they used to cherish had to take second place. Parents couldn't compete with PCP. Brothers were less important than booze.

Recently, I met with four hundred kids and their parents at Straight, Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio -- a drug rehabilitation center. If any of you have ever visited a Straight center, you know that it's not easy to sit through an evening there.

As you may know, the kids all sit at one end of the room, and the parents sit opposite them. The only time these kids get to see their parents is at the public meetings held twice a week where they can talk to each other from across the room. One after another, the kids come to the microphone to tell what drugs had done to their lives and to the lives of their families.

Let me tell you about Beth. She has just turned sixteen -- a pretty girl. Just last year, she tried to kill herself with an overdose of "downers."

When Beth first got to the microphone she was calm and relaxed. But the more she talked, the more difficult it became for her.

"I just wanted to be liked," she began. "I wanted the boys to like me and I wanted the girls to like me. I told myself that I would never actually buy drugs -- I'd just use them at parties and with friends so I wouldn't be thought of as one of the 'nerds.' That didn't last long. Within six weeks, I was buying pot by the ounce. In a year, I was stealing money from my step-father's wallet to get cocaine. In a year and a half, I was selling my my body."

Beth almost didn't make it. She took an overdose at the age of 15 because, as she put it, "I hated myself so much that I just didn't want to keep living." If her parents hadn't found her in time, she would have died.

Beth wanted to be liked. Don't we all?

Let's face it, there are a lot of people out there making a lot of money off our kids. They are feeding off the normal insecurity that is part of growing up -- or, more accurately, that is part of life.

When I have spoken with professionals in this field, they always tell me that -- next to knowledge -- the best protection

against the lure of drugs is self-esteem. If a child likes himself, he's much less vulnerable to drugs -- his self-image becomes his shield and his armor. I think Professor Alvin Price said it best, "Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes in it to drain it dry."

The Texans' War On Drugs is helping to man those buckets. By getting entire communities involved: from parents, to clergy, to the police, to teachers, to drug-free peer groups for kids, to doctors and other professionals, you aren't leaving a single stone unturned. You aren't leaving a single place for drugs to gain a foothold.

And after I leave here today, if I should ever get gloomy or pessimistic about beating this problem, I'll think back on the Texas way of fighting drugs -- and I'll know that we will win!

Thank you and God bless.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS

LIONS CLUB LUNCHEON

LANSING, MICHIGAN - SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

Thank you so much. I'm so delighted to be here today.

You know, they say the lion is the symbol of courage. Well, from everything I've seen -- all the wonderful work you're doing -- the lion is turning into something else as well: a symbol of compassion and love.

I'm especially glad to be here at the time when you are just starting your drug awareness campaign. I know that in the beginning the problem can seem almost overwhelming. But I also know that when Lions get involved, it's like seeing the cavalry come riding over the hill in an old western. Believe me, there are lots of troubled kids in Lansing who may not know it yet, but their lives are about to be changed forever by what you will do for them. If you can just save one life, your effort will be a success. I would never tell you that what you've set out to do will be easy, but I know how hard you will work at it so I want you to have my deepest appreciation in advance.

I don't think I'll ever forget the line from a movie called "The Dark At The Top Of the Stairs." It touches me every time I think of it because it's so true. In one scene, a mother -- echoing the feeling of every parent -- says of her children, "I always thought I could give them life like a present, all wrapped in white -- with every promise of happiness." Well, I

think all of us wish we could do that for our children. And then, too, there is the hope that we'll be among the lucky ones. That somehow this problem will pass us by. But no one seems to be exempt from this national epidemic. It reaches into homes in every community. It touches all ages, all races, all regions -- it's our most democratic problem.

Recently, I received a letter from a mother of a 12-year-old drug user. She said something else I think we can all identify with. She wrote, "We think that if we raise our children right: love them, give them the best of everything, and cross our fingers, that everything will turn out alright. We think it's only the neglected kids who develop problems. Sadly, that isn't true."

No, it isn't true and that's one reason I'm such a big believer in knowledge -- knowledge about drugs and about their danger both for kids and for parents. This is one area where many Lion's Clubs have been doing so much wonderful work. They're really pioneers.

Kids need to be shown the dangers associated with drug and alcohol use. There's some encouraging new evidence which suggests that when awareness about the harmful effects of a drug increases, use declines. For example, in 1983 a survey of high school seniors showed that eight out of ten thought that marijuana was harmful. The same survey found that the rate of daily marijuana use had dropped to its lowest level since the survey was begun in 1975. So we can make a difference. We must.

For parents, knowledge can take many forms: from knowing the slang terms for drugs and alcohol to recognizing the symptoms of use. A very important kind of knowledge may be just knowing that if their child is on drugs, it isn't necessarily their fault. They can't look upon their children as a report card on themselves. No, the key for parents is to get involved and to have all the information they can about drugs. All across the country, parents have talked to me about how they're keeping closer tabs on their children -- getting more involved in their lives. If their son says he's going to a party at Jimmy's house, they'll call Jimmy's parents and ask: Is there really going to be a party? Who will be there? Who will chaperone?

And there's something else that's so important for parents. I can best describe it by telling you what I heard a little girl in Oakland, California say to her classmates recently. She said the reason she was never tempted by drugs was that she liked herself just as she was and didn't want to do anything that might change that. Self-esteem and self-respect are very important and can't be learned too early because they become a child's shield and armor.

Whenever I talk to professionals in this field they, too, stress the importance of self-esteem. The children who don't like themselves are the most vulnerable to the allure of drugs. I think Alvin Price said it best: "Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes in it to drain it dry."

So, let's man those buckets and try to fill our children, grandchildren, neighbors, students or any children we have contact with, full of self-esteem and respect.

Thank you and God bless.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
HARSHMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - SEPTEMBER 18, 1984

Thank you. I'm very happy to be here and I'd like to congratulate you on your new speaker's program. I'm very flattered to be the first one you asked to participate -- and I hope you're as happy with your choice when I'm finished.

As you all know, I am very concerned about the problem of drugs and our young people. It's the most democratic of the problems facing us today -- it crosses all lines -- social, economic, color, political, geographic -- and it's slowly (perhaps not so slowly) eating away at our next generation -- your generation -- and the age at which kids start is getting younger and younger. It's frightening when I find myself hearing even second and third graders tell how they have been offered drugs. But that's when you really should start educating young people about drugs anyway.

I've talked to young people and their parents too because it's important they become involved and knowledgeable also -- all across the country. If you ask -- which I always do -- how they got started -- of course one of the most common answers is peer pressure. It seems so strange -- when I was in school (84 years ago) peer pressure meant your saddle shoes always had to be dirty and I can remember suffering when I got a

new pair until I could dirty them up -- but now of course the pressure is ugly, dangerous, damaging to the person emotionally, physically and it tears families apart. The bright side of the picture is that different kinds of peer groups are now forming among the young and that to be part of these groups you don't do drugs. I think that's a very good, healthy sign when kids themselves start to fight back. Let's face it -- someone is making a lot of money off young people and they couldn't care less what happens to their lives.

I was on a TV show recently when one young girl said, "Well, we have a lot of problems -- it's hard to be a teenager and we have to study for exams, etc., so sometimes we have to take something to get us thru -- and help us cope." I said to her what I'm now going to say to you. Life is full of problems and no one ever told us it wouldn't be. There's an old saying, "Little children, little problems, big children, big problems." No one ever promised us a rose garden and as you get older, the problems you'll be faced with will be much more serious and difficult -- if you don't learn how to face problems now and solve them without a crutch of any kind, you're going to be in for some very rough sledding. There's a wonderful exciting world out there waiting for you -- and we need you -- we need your vitality, energy, enthusiasm -- but we need you clear-eyed and clear-headed. We only make this trip once so let's make it count.

Last night I was with some wonderful young people at Straight where they're facing up to their problems and changing their lives. I brought one of my friends from there with me because I thought it might be interesting for you to hear her story and when she finishes, we'll have a little time if you'd like to ask her some questions. So I'd like to introduce Robin.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS FOR DRUG-FREE YOUTH CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. - SEPTEMBER 28, 1984

Thank you so much. It's wonderful to be with all of you again the third year in a row. We've come so far together that it feels like we're a family now and there will always be a special bond. And oh, by the way, before I go any further I want to give Shirley a little surprise. Do you think the NFP could use a check for \$500,000? I was asked by the Sultan of Brunei to give it to my most special cause -- and here it is for your use.

There are so many kids out there whose lives have been literally saved by what you've done for them. But then even if you save just one child, it's all worth it. I am often asked how anyone keeps going when the statistics on drug and alcohol abuse, and the wreckage of families that those numbers represent, keep coming at us like a non-stop avalanche. Well the numbers are heartbreaking and I think all of us have private moments when we despair a little, and cry a little. Moments when we close the door behind us, and in privacy, where we don't have to keep up a front, admit that we're afraid, or pessimistic. More than twenty million Americans have tried cocaine. One million are addicted.

Five thousand try it for the first time every day. Six out of ten teenagers between 13 and 18 use alcohol at least occasionally. And standing behind those figures are the thousands of highway deaths, and countless injuries which are the direct result of drug and alcohol abuse.

So yes, there are times when you just can't blink back the tears of frustration and fear. And it's at those times, I always try to remember the story of the starfish man:

One morning at dawn, a young man went for a walk on the beach. Up ahead, he noticed an old man stooping down to pick up starfish and fling them into the sea. Finally, catching up with the old man, he asked why he was bothering to do this. The old man answered that the stranded starfish, if left out on the beach until the morning sun, would die unless they were returned to the water.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," protested the younger man. "How can your efforts make any difference?"

The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

That's the spirit that keeps us all going. Of course we long for a drug-free society -- but the way to get there is by saving one starfish at a time.

I wish all of you could have been with me in Cincinnati two weeks ago where I met with four hundred teenagers and their parents

at Straight. If any of you have ever visited a Straight center, then you know that it's no easy thing to sit through an evening there.

As you may know, the kids all sit at one end of the room, and the parents sit opposite them. The only time these kids get to see their parents is at the public meetings held twice a week. One after another, they come to the microphone to tell what drugs have done to their lives and to their families. One young man, who had started drugs when he was twelve and had used nearly everything conceivable by the time he reached sixteen, spoke very fast when his turn came. And he told of the self-hatred he had felt. How he had lied to and stolen from his parents. How he had tried to hurt himself with knives and burning cigarettes. When his mother tried to confront him, he would slam his bedroom door, turn up the volume of his stereo and swallow whatever he could find. He felt ashamed and disgusted, but yet kept turning to drugs.

When his mother's turn came to speak, she told the group of her agony at seeing her family fall apart. "I blamed my husband for being too strict," she said. "I blamed myself for being too weak. I blamed my son for being too rebellious. I saw my family being destroyed but I couldn't see why. It seemed like the shouting never stopped. And then, one day, we received a call from the police. Dan had been arrested for possession of drugs. And I thought, 'Oh no God, not drugs too.' Only several weeks later did I realize that it wasn't 'this too,' but 'because of this' that all the other problems were happening."

The most painful story came from the boy's father. He tried to be calm but that was obviously difficult for him. "This just wasn't what I thought my family was going to be like," he said. "I coached little league and soccer. I loved my wife and my boy. I thought a father and son should do things together. But he just seemed to hate us. I couldn't stand the language he used to his mother and me. His whole attitude. I guess the worst, the lowest point came on Father's Day. I thought a father and son should be together, but he was out the door. A few hours later I got a call from the police. Of course, my first thought was fear that he'd been hurt in some kind of accident. And then they told me that he'd been arrested for drug possession. When I went down there to get him, and saw him sitting in handcuffs in the back of the police cruiser -- something inside me snapped. I hated myself. I felt worthless. And I wanted to hurt him as much as he had hurt me. I started pounding on the car. If they hadn't stopped me, God only knows what I would have done."

When that family finished their story and then embraced and kissed each other, it was an unforgettable moment. I felt as if I'd been through an emotional wringer. And at that moment, they asked me to speak! It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. But somehow, the words came, and I think the same words apply to you now: I'm so proud of all of you. You are taking control of your lives. You are giving so much hope to other families who are now suffering what you've come through. There is no hurt which can equal what a child gives a parent. It's a

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
NFP Conference Luncheon
September 28, 1984
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a very special one and the hurt is very deep. You feel so helpless.
But all of you, with your wonderful courage, are a beacon of hope,
and a shield against despair.

God bless.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA - JUNE 25, 1984

Thank you. It's such a delight to be with you here for so many reasons. Phoenix holds a special place in my heart. I started to come here with my family for yearly vacations when I was 12. My family eventually built a home and retired here and my husband and I honeymooned here! And the Kiwanis Clubs are like a second family to me because the work we have done and continue to do together is of enduring importance to all of us.

Your leadership in the Chemical People campaign has been one of the most gratifying aspects of the entire project. You'll be interested to know that WQED, our flagship station, took an informal survey which concluded (and I quote), "Kiwanians were one of the support organizations which demonstrated the strongest leadership locally." That means a great deal to me personally -- and I think you know what it means to those kids.

It's said that if you want something done, ask a busy person. I think the same can be said of organizations. Despite its countless other commitments, Kiwanis didn't allow the momentum of Chemical People to flag. The marvelous billboard campaign -- I've developed a new fondness for long car trips these days -- will reach millions. And the radio spots should reach and educate just as many Americans. By the way, this marks the first time in history that a First Lady has had her own syndicated radio program . . . I know another Reagan who started out on radio and he didn't do too badly for himself. Who knows

where it might take me?

Frequently, when I speak to groups around the nation, I feel that my role is to acquaint people with the enormity of our drug and alcohol problem. But in this company, I know that I'm among crusaders. You know very well the dimensions of the challenge we face. You first began to address the issue in 1969.

Drugs have done more than besiege our schools, add to the tragedies on our highways, clog our court calendars, magnify the crime problem, and tear families apart. They've done something deeper; a more spiritual damage to our psyches.

The other day, after hearing a 15-year-old recite to me the number of different chemicals she had been pouring into her system -- and they ran the gamut from vodka to LSD -- I was reminded of the book Brave New World by Aldous Huxley that people spoke so much about several years ago. It was a dark fantasy about what the future would look like -- the future that we are currently living.

I remember thinking that one of the least believable among Huxley's predictions was the notion that people could be brainwashed to actually enjoy taking a mind-altering drug called "Soma." In the novel, whenever life became difficult for one of the characters, they would just pop a Soma in their mouths and take a little Soma holiday. Then the ghostlike people would recite to one another, "One cubic centimetre cures ten gloomy sentiments."

How we have changed! Once we were horrified by the possibility that people could be brainwashed into taking a drug which would dull their senses and give them a false feeling of euphoria. Today, millions of Americans, and especially our

children, are voluntarily taking drugs just like Soma. And no brainwashing is required.

When you think about it that way, it becomes clear that the epidemic of drug and alcohol abuse in our nation isn't really a political problem. No single piece of legislation, no committee, and no convention is going to solve it. Every drug user is a little universe of suffering. That pain is so personal, so intimate, that only those who are closest to the victim can really know what is needed.

If a child is hooked on drugs and has fallen into that pit of self-hatred and desperation from which he can see no exit -- a horrible syndrome I have now seen time and again -- what can we say to bring him comfort? Shall we tell him that the Senate such and such committee plans to hold hearings on this very issue next week? Should we tell him that Governor so and so's investigation has found that his type of problem tends to be most acute between the ages of 12 and 18? Or shall we tell him that voluntary community groups, which include his best friend's dad, the soccer coach, the pastor who christened him, and others, stand ready to see him through this?

That child would know, as we know, that there's nothing wrong with government attention to this issue. On the contrary, it's vitally necessary at some points. But at the most personal level, it's simply not enough. Who will sit up all night at the kitchen table and just listen? Who will sponsor drug and alcohol free parties? Who will arrange a ride service to make sure that those who do get drunk won't get behind a steering wheel?

Some take the view that the bigger and more serious a problem is, the bigger the entity required to fight it must be.

But I think exactly the opposite is true. The really serious problems -- like the skeletal cocaine addict who has lost sight of any reason to live, or the 12-year-old alcoholic unable to face even the smallest of life's troubles without a chemical crutch -- these require the kind of love and concern which can only come from those closest to the sufferer; the family, the neighborhood, the community -- the foundations of the country my husband speaks of so often.

As one high school sophomore put it, "When I saw how my parents and friends banded together to fight my addiction, I resented it at first. I thought they were joining forces against me! But gradually I began to see that I was part of something -- that I belonged to something above and beyond cocaine."

This is our challenge: to fight the epidemic of youthful addiction in America by showing our children that they are a part of something larger. And we can only convince them that this is true by getting involved ourselves. Our children know us better than anyone and I'm certain we've all learned that you can never fool them. Our own actions and our own sincerity will be far more eloquent testimony than any speech or any government program.

No segment of our society -- no region, no age-group, no race, no profession -- is untouched by the terrible effects of drug abuse. Without trying to lay blame, we need to recognize the challenge this represents to our families and our communities. It's also, I think, a challenge to our culture.

Motion pictures, television, popular music, music videos, and other vehicles of American culture have a great influence on our society and with that influence should go a responsibility

which can be awesome. All too often, drug taking has been treated as humorous or trivial. In the worst cases, it's been presented as glamorous and chic. It doesn't take too much imagination to see what this does to an impressionable youngster. During their early teens, especially, kids are painfully eager to be "in," to be accepted. They don't want to do anything which is harmful to themselves or others -- but that ache for acceptance will propel them in fearful directions if it isn't channeled into healthy ones.

We do have some wonderful well-known people who are helping. Sports figures like Roger Staubach, Mark Mosely, and Joe Washington have generously leant their prestige and their time to deglamorizing drug and alcohol use. I was fortunate to work with the wonderful cast of the television series Diff'rent Strokes. Michael Landon has worked tirelessly to get the message that drugs aren't "cool" to kids. Brooke Shields, Rita Moreno, Bruce Weitz and many, many others have added their voices to the "Just Say No" chorus. The movement is beginning, but we have a long way to go. We need rock songs that sing the drug blues, movie heroes who disdain cocaine, and football players who will say that real men don't need booze. Cultural messages like those will have a far more profound impact on children than all the scare tactics in the world, because what kids fear most is that they won't fit in.

It's up to us to see that they do fit in -- into the loving embrace of an active and concerned community and not into the nightmare grasp of addiction.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 1, 1986

*changed
By [signature]*

Carlton:

Attached is a proposed Op-Ed piece by Mrs. Reagan for The Washington POST. Please let me have your thoughts and any changes or additions you think should be made.

I will need this back as soon as possible (like yesterday) since time is of the essence.

Thank you

Elaine Crispin

File

*cc: Dick
Sharon*

See list
copy of list
James

Draft
Nancy Reagan
OP-FD -- Washington Post

*Mrs Reagan's Draft
First OP-FD
piece - Hoped 7-7-86
All*

Public Enemy No. 1 -- Drug Abuse

The month of June has always been a month to rejoice in happy occasions. Graduations. Weddings. Family picnics and vacations. June of 1986 certainly provided many Americans with those joyful celebrations and memories. But, it will be a long time before the tragedies of this past June ~~will~~ become faded memories.

The tragic and senseless death of Len Bias, which shocked our community, the nation and the entire world of sports, will and should be remembered forever. Those wounds were still open and raw and we learned of the sudden death of Don Rogers and the sad news of a June wedding that would never be. Young, vital, talented men plucked from our arms at the very prime of their existence. Taken from their families and their friends and their many fans by an enemy so vicious and deadly that we should all be terrified of it.

However, we must not forget that other lives were also _____ taken. Their names may not be as familiar to us as were Len's and Don's, but when their families wrote to me in June to tell me of _____ their grief and their terror the pain was just as familiar. These families were destroyed by that very same enemy. This enemy will continue to destroy us until we destroy the enemy and rid our society of the monster known as drug abuse.

Nancy Reagan
Op-ED -- Washington Post
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I have been actively pursuing this goal for the last five years and am very gratified by the progress that has been made. I felt in the beginning the main task was to raise the level of awareness of the problem and make people more knowledgeable. I think we've accomplished that. There has been a tremendous growth in the number of parents groups, Just Say No Clubs, associations and service clubs who have been working hard to increase the awareness of drug abuse. Their efforts have been tireless and the results have been significant. However, we must now move on to the next step as I see it. We can not rely on groups and clubs and associations to do all of our work for us. I feel very good that we've succeeded in raising a level of awareness. We're more aware of drug abuse than ever before.

Now, it's time to let people know that they have a moral responsibility to do more than simply recognize a problem. They have an obligation to take a personal stand against drugs. The drug problem is an individual problem and is the responsibility of each and every one of us and until we recognize that and face up to our responsibility our problem won't be solved. It will take every parent, every nonparent, every educator, every businessman and woman, every factory worker, every ^{lawyer} doctor and nurse, every housewife, every serviceman and woman, every celebrity, every member of the media, every sports figure, every member of the clergy, every man, woman and child to rid our streets, our schools, our businesses and our society of this killer.

Nancy Reagan
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Schools have to face up to their responsibility. They owe our children a drug-free environment in which to grow and learn. I think there are schools who haven't made this commitment, because they believe that drug abuse is society's problem. Yet, schools can be made clean with a no-nonsense approach that simply says drugs will not be tolerated. Such measures have proven successful time and again. Schools need to set up uncompromising, no-drug, no-alcohol policies, like Northside High School in Atlanta. Each school needs to find and develop its own tough policies.

Corporations have to take a greater responsibility, too. Employees have a right to a drug-free work place. Workers on drugs are a danger to fellow employees and they certainly are a danger to the public. Too many companies don't know how to deal with drugs. So, like certain parents and schools, they pretend it's not a problem. Yet, all the research tells us it is a problem. And corporations need to set up their own, tough no-drug policies.

I recently addressed the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and I pointed out to them the importance of individuals making a commitment to be intolerant of drug use no matter where or when or with whom it was happening. I told this group that it would take courage to stand up as individuals and speak out against the use of drugs at their businesses, at a neighbor's home, at a private party or at a public gathering. You cannot separate so-called "polite" drug use at a chic party from drug use in a

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back alley somewhere. They are morally equal. We have the responsibility to be intolerant of drug use anywhere, anytime, by anybody. We have the responsibility of forcing the issue to the point of making others uncomfortable and ourselves unpopular.

I warned my audience that they might risk their popularity or a friendship by speaking out against drug use, but they had a lot more to risk by being tolerant of it. If you don't stand up and take a position you are giving tacit approval. Individuals have turned their backs and closed their eyes to this problem long enough and they have allowed it to fester and to become a disease of epidemic proportion the likes of which we have never seen before. In fact, for too long, our nation denied that a problem even existed. We denied that drug abuse has health and social consequences, we denied that anything could be done to counter widespread drug abuse. There was almost a stigma in trying to take on drugs. It was unfashionable, it was illiberal and narrow-minded in our live and let live society. Movies and television portrayed drugs as glamorous and cool. We heard a lot about -- quote -- "recreational use of drugs" as if drugs were as harmless as "Trivial Pursuit." Even law enforcement was weakened by the moral confusion surrounding drug abuse. It was as if all the people who sought to fight drugs had to justify their actions.

We, as individuals, each and every one of us, must become involved in the battle against the drug producers and the drug

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pushers. This is a moral issue and you have to make a decision. By accepting drug use, you're accepting a practice that's destroying lives. Those who believe that people who use drugs aren't hurting anyone but themselves are wrong. Drugs hurt society. The money spent on drugs goes into the hands of ~~one of~~ the most ruthless, despicable louts ever to breathe: the drug producers. They're often murderers, they're sometimes terrorists, they're always criminals. They represent man at his most debased. They're the people who are financing the death and destruction of our young people. Len Bias, Don Rogers, _____, _____, _____, were their June victims. By doing nothing when you know of drug use, you are conspiring with them as they line their pockets with even more blood money.

I ask that you join me in a message to the drug dealers and producers and pushers and the message is this: Individuals throughout the world are going to drive you out of business. We are the ones who are going to be the pushers from now on. We are going to push you out. Push you out of the schools, out of our neighborhoods, out of our communities and out of existence! And, we are going to do it through individual responsibility. We are going to dry up the dealers' markets. We are going to make the poison you push as worthless as you are. We are going to take the customer away from the product.

We must let the pushers and the producers know that for

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every individual that we lose in their deadly game, we will have
an army of individuals ready to do battle until this war is won.
We will let them know that Len and Don and _____,
_____, and _____ have not died in vain.