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Historical Association Recept. Nov. 18, 1981

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(Parvin/TD)
November 12, 1981

MRS. REAGAN: WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION RECEPTION
NOVEMBER 18, 1981

- In welcoming you to the White House, I feel a little like the tenant welcoming the landlord. But I hope this inspection tour will reassure you the house is in good hands.
- This is a marvelous, historic house. Abigail Adams hung her laundry here in the East Room. That picture of George Washington over there is the one Dolley Madison saved before the British burned the place. In these rooms Thomas Jefferson planned the Louisiana Purchase and even taught his pet mockingbird to take bits of food from his lips. In many ways the White House tells the story of our Nation itself.
- But this wonderful heritage was deteriorating. Floors and doors needed refinishing; public rooms had not been painted in 10 years; the plumbing system required repair. Some of the curtains were rotted through from the sun. And there were irreplaceable antiques falling into decay in storage.
- With your generous help we began restoring the dignity the White House deserves. There has been some criticism, but let me say, I will make no apologies for trying to

preserve this beautiful, historic house. Together we have made the improvements, repaired the upholstery and replaced the carpets. We restored the Blue Room sofa that was ordered from France by President Monroe in 1817. We repaired and cleaned many items -- a set of early 19th century New England chairs, a Benjamin Franklin clock, and much more.

-- I am especially happy to see children here today, for, after all, this house is their heritage and its contents their national heirlooms. So, again, let me thank each of you for your generosity in preserving this very important part of America's history.

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Parvin
November 12, 1981

Mrs. Reagan: White House HIstorical Association
Reception

November 18, 1981

--In welcoming you to the White House, I feel a little like the tenant welcoming the landlord. But I hope this inspection tour will reassure you the house is in good hands.

--This is a marvelous, historic house. Abigail Adams hung her laundry here in the EAST room. That picture of George Washington over there is the one Dolley Madison saved before the British burned the place. ~~In these rooms Thomas Jefferson planned the Louisiana Purchase and even taught his pet monkeybird to take a bath.~~ ~~A monkey bird used to hop up the stairs behind him.~~ In many ways the White House tells the story of our Nation, itself. ~~bits of food from his lips,~~

--But this wonderful heritage was deteriorating. Floors and doors needed refinishing; ~~public rooms had not been painted in ten years; rooms repainting; carpets, upholstery~~ ~~the plumbing system required repair.~~ ~~and plumbing replacing.~~ Some of the curtains were rotted through from the sun. And there were irreplaceable antiques ~~falling into decay~~ in storage.

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after all, this house is their heritage and its contents their
national heirlooms. So, again, let me thank each of you for

~~your generous contribution to American history and the living of it~~
your generosity in preserving ~~this great visible symbol of American~~
~~history and the life of it~~ this very important part of
America's history.

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national heirlooms. So, again, let me thank each of you for

~~your generous support of American history and the role of~~
you generosity in preserving ~~this very important part of~~
~~the past of the House~~ this very important part of
America's history.