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Folder Title: Nancy Reagan: Governors' Wives
Luncheon. Feb. 22, 1982
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(Parvin/AB)
February 19, 1982
9:40 a.m.

MRS. REAGAN: GOVERNORS' WIVES LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 22, 1982

-- After your gracious hospitality of last year, I am happy you could join us here at the White House this year -- so a warm welcome to you all. But in the Washington tradition of there being no such thing as a free lunch, I have an ulterior motive inviting you today.

-- Since I met with you last, I've been learning a great deal about a plague that is riddling the minds and bodies of our children. The things I have seen and heard are enough to make the strongest heart break. The personal tragedies I've become aware of are too sad and too numerous to mention. There is a secret war in this country -- a war on our young people. The enemy is drugs and it is taking captive millions of our children, and even killing them.

-- Drugs rip apart not only individual lives but families as a whole. At a rehabilitation center in New York, a mother told me how the discovery that her child had been stealing money from her purse was tearing apart the family and shattering the trust and love that are essential for a family to exist. Just last week I saw confused and heartsick families trying to reweave the fabric of their lives that drugs had destroyed.

-- Sometimes I get so angry at what drugs are doing to our kids that I feel like following the example of Carrie Nation -- and taking a hatchet to the drug paraphenalia shops and all they represent. Needless to say, there are more rational and productive ways of dealing with the drug problem.

-- I've just returned from a two-state trip that showed what can be done to combat drugs. Our first stop was Florida's Pinellas Park elementary school to visit Alpha, an experimental drug prevention program. Alpha is geared toward children who, without help, might drift into drugs as a means of escaping from life's problems.

-- That evening we attended a drug treatment facility called Straight, where for 3 hours teenagers and their parents spoke of their experiences in the fight against drug abuse. The emotion of that night was nothing less than riveting. Kids told how they lied and cheated and stole for drugs, and parents told of the pain in realizing their children were on drugs. You could not attend one of those sessions without learning that drugs kill love -- the love of an individual for himself, as well as for others.

-- In Dallas the next day, we met with Governor and Mrs. Clements and the Texas War on Drugs Committee. The committee has worked with PTA's, Junior Leagues, Lions and

Exchange Clubs and others to organize parent groups in every school. It aims not only to educate parents, but to mobilize them; and Texas recently enacted a five-law package to crack down on dealers. I also met with members of the Families in Action of Richardson, Texas, which is a parent group dedicated to removing drugs from the community. Texas is a model for what can be accomplished on the state level to combat youthful drug abuse.

-- Governor Clements suggested that I enlist the help of the other governors in the drug battle. I have a better idea. I have decided to seek the help of those with the real influence -- the governors' wives. And you can do so much. By taking an active interest in your state's drug problem, you will draw increased attention to it. You can turn the spotlight on drug abuse and what concerned citizens are doing in your state to answer the problem. I know Rita Clements would be anxious to tell you more about what is being done in Texas.

-- As we sit here today, countless young people are fighting with their every ounce to free themselves of drugs. Countless others are losing the battle. Our role as women, as mothers, must extend beyond worrying about our children and trying to nurse them back to health. We must organize to defend our young people against drugs. When you return home, I hope you will help us fight drug abuse. I hope you will help us fight for our children. Thank you.

(Parvin) AB
February 19, 1982
8:45 a.m.

MRS. REAGAN: GOVERNORS' WIVES LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 22, 1982

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-- Since I met with you last, I've been learning a great deal about a plague that is riddling the minds and bodies of our children. The things I have seen and heard are enough to make the strongest heart break. The personal tragedies I've become aware of are too sad and too numerous to mention. There is a secret war in this country -- a war on our young people. The enemy is drugs and it is taking captive millions of our children, and even killing them.

-- Drugs rip apart not only individual lives but families as a whole. At a rehabilitation center in New York, a mother told me how the discovery that her child had been stealing money from her purse was tearing apart the family and shattering the trust and love that are essential for a family to exist. Just last week I saw confused and heartsick families trying to reweave the fabric of their lives that drugs had destroyed.

-- Sometimes I get so angry at what drugs are doing to our kids that I feel like following the example of Carrie Nation -- and taking a hatchet to the drug paraphernalia shops and all they represent. Needless to say, there are more rational and productive ways of dealing with the drug problem. X

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(Parvin)

MRS. REAGAN: GOVERNORS' WIVES LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 22, 1982

--After your gracious hospitality of last year, I am happy you could join us here at the White House this year--so a warm welcome to you all. But in the Washington tradition of there being no such thing as a free lunch, I have an ulterior motive inviting you today.

4-2-82

--Since I met with you last I've been learning a great deal about a plague that is riddling the minds and bodies of our children. The things I have seen and heard are enough to make the strongest heart break. The personal tragedies I've become aware of are too sad and too numerous to mention. ~~As we sit here today countless young people are fighting with their every ounce to free themselves from a poison in their systems.~~ There is a secret war in this country--a war on our young people. The enemy is drugs and it is taking ^{stat} captive millions of our children, ^{and} even killing ~~many~~ them.

--Drugs rip apart not only individual lives but families as ^{a whole} ~~one~~. At a rehabilitation center in New York, a mother told me how the discovery that her child ^{had} ~~was~~ been stealing money from her ^{purse} ~~purse~~ was ^{tearing apart the} ~~tearing apart the~~ family and shattering ^{the} ~~the~~ trust and love that ^{are essential} ~~are essential~~ for a family to exist. ^{Just} Last week ~~I saw~~ ^{reweave} I saw confused and heartsick families trying to ~~reweave~~ the fabric of their lives that drugs had destroyed.

--Sometimes I get so angry at what drugs are doing to ^{our kids} ~~our kids~~ that I feel like ~~Carrie Nation~~ following ^{example} ~~the footsteps~~ of Carrie Nation--^{and taking} ~~and taking~~ a hatnet to the ^{drug paraphernalia} ~~headshops and~~ shops and ^{needless to say} ~~But, of course~~ there are more rational ^{drugs} ~~drugs~~.

--Sometimes I get so angry at what drugs are doing to ^{our kids} ~~our kids~~ I feel like ~~Carrie Nation~~ following ^{the example} ~~in~~ the footsteps of ^{and taking} ~~and taking~~ a hatnet to the ^{drug paraphernalia} ~~feetsteps~~ shops and all they represent. ^{Needless to say} ~~But, of course~~ there are more rational and ^{productive} ~~effective~~ ways of dealing with ^{drug} ~~the~~ problem.

-- Governor Clements suggested that I enlist the help of ^{the} other governors in the drug battle. ^{I have a better idea -} ~~Instead~~, I have decided to ^{reach the} ~~talk~~ ^{help} to the ~~governor's wives~~ ~~who are the real influence~~ ^{for} those with the real influence -- the governor's wives. And you can do so much. By taking an active interest in your state's drug problem, you will draw increased attention to it. You can turn the spotlight on drug abuse and what concerned citizens are doing in your state to answer the problem. I know Rita Clements would be anxious to tell you ^{more about} what is being done in Texas.

-- As we sit here today countless young people are fighting with their every ounce to free themselves of drugs. Countless others are losing the battle. Our role as women, as mothers, must extend beyond worrying about our children and ~~simply~~ trying to nurse them back to health. We must organize to defend our young people against drugs. ~~I hope you will go back to your states and do what you can to help us.~~ When you return home, will you help us fight drug abuse? ~~Will you help us fight for our children? Thank you.~~

--I've just ~~returned~~^{returned} from a two-state trip that showed what can be done to combat drugs. Our first stop was ~~the~~^{Florida's} Pinellas Park elementary school ~~in Florida~~^{Alpha,} to visit the ~~Alpha~~^{Alpha} program, an experimental drug prevention program. ~~Alpha~~^{Alpha} is geared toward ~~children~~^{children} who, without help, might drift into ~~drugs~~^{drugs} as a ~~means~~^{means} of escaping from life's problems.

--That evening ~~we~~^{we} attended a drug treatment facility called Straight, where for 3 hours teenagers and their parents spoke of their experiences in the fight against drug ~~abuse~~^{abuse}. The ~~emotion~~^{emotion} of that night was ~~nothing~~^{nothing} less ~~than~~^{than} riveting. Kids told how ~~they lied~~^{they lied} and ~~cheated~~^{cheated} and stole for drugs, and parents told of the ~~pain~~^{pain} in realizing their ~~children were~~^{children were} on drugs. You could not ~~attend~~^{attend} one of ~~those sessions~~^{those sessions} without ~~learning~~^{learning} that drugs kill love--~~the~~^{the} love of an individual for ~~himself~~^{himself}, as well as ~~and~~^{and} for others. ~~This program was about the~~^{This program was about the} ~~spirit of the family and it was a marvelous sight to witness.~~^{spirit of the family and it was a marvelous sight to witness.}

--In Dallas the next day we met with Governor and Mrs. Clements ~~to discuss the~~^{and the} Texas War on Drugs ~~program, and what a~~^{Committee. The committee has worked with} PTA's, Junior Leagues, Lions and Exchange Clubs, and others ~~to organize parent groups in every school.~~^{to organize parent groups in every school.} ~~remarkable program it is.~~^{remarkable program it is.} It aims ~~not~~^{not} only to educate and ~~to mobilize them; just Texas~~^{to mobilize them; just Texas} ~~recently enacted a five-law package~~^{recently enacted a five-law package} to organize parents, but ~~to make Texas the worst state in the~~^{to make Texas the worst state in the} ~~Union for pushers.~~^{Union for pushers.} ~~While there~~^{While there} I also met with members of the Families in Action of Richardson, Texas, ~~which is a parent group dedicated~~^{which is a parent group dedicated} ~~to removing drugs from the community.~~^{to removing drugs from the community.} ~~families about drug abuse.~~^{families about drug abuse.} Texas is a model ~~for~~^{for} what can be ~~accomplished~~^{accomplished} ~~the~~^{the} ~~level~~^{level} ~~accomplished~~^{accomplished} on ~~the~~^{the} state ~~level~~^{level} to combat youthful drug abuse.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Landon Parvin
FROM: Ann Wrobleski *aw*
RE: Governor's Wives luncheon
DATE: February 11, 1982

On Monday, February 22, Mrs. Reagan will be hosting a luncheon for the wives of the Governors who will be in town for the National Governors' Conference. Mrs. Reagan would like to make remarks at the luncheon centering around drug abuse and the parents' movement. I think you probably need to sit down with Sheila and I when we return from Florida and Texas, but I wanted you to know that the request is coming.

I think we should try to sit down on the 17th and get the draft to Mrs. Reagan by the close of business on the 18th. I regret the short time you'll have to work on it, but feel that her most recent experiences should be part of the speech.

Thanks!

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cc: Mike Deaver
Jim Rosebush
Aram Bakshian