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**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: Palmer Drug Abuse  
Conference. August 5, 1982  
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MRS. REAGAN: PALMER DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 6, 1982

- Thank you, Governor. You know, seeing Governor Clements and Roger Staubach together makes me think how similar politics and football are -- both can certainly be very rough and tumble. As my husband says, the only difference is that in football you get to wear a helmet.
  
- Not long ago I received a letter from a girl who wrote, "I happen to be 13. I am not on drugs, don't smoke, drink, or steal. I'm a darn good kid." Well, I want to tell you how happy I am to be here today surrounded by the darn good kids of the Palmer Drug Abuse program. And there are some darn good parents out there also . . . parents who had the courage to face reality and bring their children to Palmer.
  
- But it's to you young people that I want to speak most directly. I know you have lost much as a result of drugs. In many cases, you've lost friends and family, maybe even your identity for a while. I know you're working to rebuild those basic elements of life. And I can't tell you how proud I am of what you're accomplishing. You've had to struggle so hard for what you've gained. But there is one thing you've gained without even trying . . . credibility. When you speak about drugs and alcohol, other young people listen. They believe you. They trust what you have to say because of what you've been through.

-- You can use that credibility so other kids won't have to suffer the way you have. Perhaps you don't realize it yet, but the pain you've endured has transformed you into a force for good. You are a moral force. You are truth. There are kids out there who desperately need the truth. Help them. Let them know the dangers of drugs. Let them know the truth you've seen.

-- There's an old movie, which some of you may have seen on the late show, called "The Inn of Sixth Happiness." It's about a woman who faces many challenges and struggles, some even threaten her life. She is alone in an environment she doesn't understand; yet, she perseveres. In one of the scenes, someone tells her she is beautiful in all the senses of that word, and she says, "Once in her life, every woman should have that said to her. I thank you for being the one who said it to me." Well, you here are beautiful. And I thank you for letting me be the one to say it to you today. I am so proud of you all. Thank you for inviting me and God bless every one of you.

(Parvin) AB  
~~July 29, 1982~~  
12 noon

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