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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS

NOVEMBER 7, 1985

1st draft

-- THANK YOU. IT'S ALWAYS SO GOOD TO HAVE ALL OF YOU HERE IN WASHINGTON. IN A WAY, WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER SO LONG IT'S LIKE A HOME-COMING WHEN YOU'RE IN TOWN.

-- WILL AND ARIEL DURANT SAID, "THE FAMILY IS THE NUCLEUS OF CIVILIZATION." AND IF THEY'RE RIGHT, AND I THINK THEY ARE, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS FOR DRUG-FREE YOUTH IS HELPING TO SAVE CIVILIZATION--BECAUSE IT'S SAVING FAMILIES. I

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CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT. AND I THINK YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'M ROOTING FOR YOU AND HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

-- SINCE WE'RE ALL IN THIS FIGHT TOGETHER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I SEE SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS. I AM BEGINNING TO MEET YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTIVELY RESISTING DRUGS. PEER PRESSURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS IS TOUGH BUT YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WITH THE HELP OF NFP AND "JUST SAY NO" EFFORTS ARE REVERSING IT. NOW

-2-

WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE PEER PRESSURE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS. YOUR PROGRAM TO TRAIN OLDER STUDENTS TO TEACH YOUNGER ONES ABOUT DRUGS AND SERVE AS ROLE MODELS IS BADLY NEEDED. THE AVERAGE AGE OF CHILDREN GETTING INTO DRUGS IS TWELVE YEARS OLD! WHEN THAT TWELVE YEAR OLD SEES A SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD WHO'S VERY COOL AND DRUG-FREE, HE'LL IMITATE HIM. BEING DRUG-FREE CAN BE A PART OF THE WHOLE SCENE. THE REVERSE PEER PRESSURE TREND IS ONE WE SHOULD ALL ENCOURAGE. IT'S A VERY HOPEFUL SIGN.

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-- IN YOUR FEW YEARS YOU'VE DEVELOPED THE TOLL-FREE HOTLINE, THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU, AND THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM. ANOTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS GETTING ANTI-DRUG PARAPHERNALIA LEGISLATION INTRODUCED INTO EVERY STATE -- AND GETTING IT PASSED IN THIRTY NINE. NOW THAT'S GOOD LOBBYING! AND IT SAYS CLEARLY -- DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A DETERMINED PARENT.

-4-

-- BUT THERE IS MUCH, MUCH MORE WORK TO BE DONE. PRO DRUG LITERATURE AND LYRICS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE AND OUR CHILDREN ARE TURNING MORE OFTEN TO MORE AND MORE SOPHISTICATED DRUGS. WE'VE GOT TO REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS!

-- I'D LIKE TO SHARE A LETTER I RECEIVED RECENTLY FROM A VERY LOVING, BUT VERY DESPONDENT PARENT. SHE WROTE ABOUT HER DAUGHTER WHO MOVED OUT OF THEIR HOME AND WAS ON DRUGS. "GUT-INSTINCT," THE MOTHER WROTE, "TELLS ME WE NEED HELP. I

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LOVE HER AND DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER -- PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY. HOW MUCH EASIER LIFE WAS WHEN THE WORST PROBLEM WAS SPILLED ORANGE JUICE AT BREAKFAST." THEN SHE CONCLUDES IN FRUSTRATION, "I NEED HELP FOR MYSELF, MY GUILT, MY ANGER AND MOST IMPORTANT -- MY FAMILY."

-- THAT WOMAN NEEDS YOU. HER DAUGHTER NEEDS YOU. AND WE NEED TO KEEP HELPING OTHERS LIKE THEM. SOME PARENTS DON'T WORRY UNTIL THEIR CHILD ISN'T AT THE DINNER TABLE A COUPLE OF NIGHTS

-6-

BUT THEN IT'S TOO LATE. LET'S GET TO MORE PARENTS NOW, AND
OFFER THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE FACTS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
SAVE THEIR CHILDREN.

-- I THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING AND REMEMBER, I'M
WITH YOU ALL THE WAY -- ALL THE TIME.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS

NOVEMBER 7, 1985

-- THANK YOU. IT'S ALWAYS SO GOOD TO HAVE ALL OF YOU HERE IN WASHINGTON. IN A WAY, WE'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER SO LONG IT'S LIKE A HOME-COMING WHEN YOU'RE IN TOWN.

-- WILL AND ARIEL DURANT SAID, "THE FAMILY IS THE NUCLEUS OF CIVILIZATION." AND IF THEY'RE RIGHT, AND I THINK THEY ARE, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS FOR DRUG-FREE YOUTH IS HELPING TO SAVE CIVILIZATION--BECAUSE IT'S SAVING FAMILIES. I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT. AND I THINK YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'M ROOTING FOR YOU AND HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING. -- IN YOUR FEW YEARS YOU'VE DEVELOPED THE TOLL-FREE HOTLINE, THE SPEAKER'S BUREAU, AND THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM. ANOTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS GETTING ANTI-DRUG PARAPHERNALIA LEGISLATION INTRODUCED INTO EVERY STATE -- AND GETTING IT PASSED IN THIRTY NINE. NOW THAT'S GOOD LOBBYING! AND IT SAYS CLEARLY -- DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A DETERMINED PARENT.

-- SINCE WE'RE ALL IN THIS FIGHT TOGETHER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I SEE SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS. I AM BEGINNING TO MEET YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTIVELY RESISTING DRUGS. PEER PRESSURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS IS TOUGH BUT YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WITH THE HELP OF NFP AND "JUST SAY NO" EFFORTS ARE STARTING TO REVERSE IT AT EARLY AGES. NOW WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE PEER PRESSURE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE. YOUR

AND DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER -- PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY. HOW MUCH EASIER LIFE WAS WHEN THE WORST PROBLEM WAS SPILLED ORANGE JUICE AT BREAKFAST." THEN SHE CONCLUDES IN FRUSTRATION, "I NEED HELP FOR MYSELF, MY GUILT, MY ANGER AND MOST IMPORTANT -- MY FAMILY."

-- THAT WOMAN NEEDS YOU. HER DAUGHTER NEEDS YOU. AND WE NEED TO KEEP HELPING OTHERS LIKE THEM. SOME PARENTS DON'T WORRY UNTIL THEIR CHILD ISN'T AT THE DINNER TABLE A COUPLE OF NIGHTS BUT THEN IT'S TOO LATE.

-- WE MUST, AS PARENTS, CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS TO HELP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SURVIVE. BUT I AM CALLING ON YOU TO DOUBLE, REDOUBLE AND TRIPLE YOUR EFFORTS IN 1986. WE SIMPLY MUST DO MORE. AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE I HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF TOTALLY TO THIS PROBLEM AND HAVE CALLED UPON OTHER FIRST LADIES OF THE WORLD TO DO THE SAME. LET'S GET TO MORE PARENTS NOW, AND OFFER THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE FACTS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND CONQUER DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

-- I THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING AND REMEMBER, I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY -- ALL THE TIME.

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PROGRAM TO TRAIN OLDER STUDENTS TO TEACH YOUNGER ONES ABOUT DRUGS AND SERVE AS ROLE MODELS IS BADLY NEEDED. THE AVERAGE AGE OF CHILDREN GETTING INTO DRUGS IS TWELVE YEARS OLD! WHEN THAT TWELVE YEAR OLD SEES A SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD WHO'S VERY COOL AND DRUG-FREE, HE'LL IMITATE HIM. BEING DRUG-FREE CAN BE A PART OF THE WHOLE SCENE. THE REVERSE PEER PRESSURE TREND IS ONE WE SHOULD ALL ENCOURAGE. IT'S A VERY HOPEFUL SIGN, HOWEVER, I HAVE ALSO SEEN SOME FIGURES THAT ARE NOT AS ENCOURAGING. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE LATEST FIGURES FROM OUR ANNUAL SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MI*CHIGAN.. AS YOU KNOW THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE SEEN A DECREASE IN THE REGULAR USE OF MARIJUANA BY SENIORS. THIS YEAR WE HAVE SEEN A DECREASE TOO, BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY. OTHER DRUG USE HAS LEVELLED OFF, BUT WE HAVE RECEIVED FRIGHTENING STATISTICS ABOUT THE USE OF COCAINE. REGULAR USE OF COCAINE BY OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HAS INCREASED BY 11% OVER LAST YEAR. COCAINE RELATED EMERGENCY ROOM ADMISSIONS WERE UP 51%, ALONG WITH A MARKED INCREASE IN DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH COCAINE USE. HEROINE USE REMAINED AT STABLE LEVELS, HOWEVER HEROIN RELATED DEATHS INCREASED BY 31%. IN GENERAL KIDS VIEW REGULAR USE OF DRUGS AS DANGEROUS, BUT EXPERIMENTATION IS STILL TAKING PLACE AT ALARMING RATES.

-- BUT THERE IS MUCH, MUCH MORE WORK TO BE DONE. PRO DRUG LITERATURE AND LYRICS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE AND OUR CHILDREN ARE TURNING MORE OFTEN TO MORE AND MORE SOPHISTICATED DRUGS.

-- I'D LIKE TO SHARE A LETTER I RECEIVED RECENTLY FROM A VERY LOVING, BUT VERY DESPONDENT PARENT. SHE WROTE ABOUT HER DAUGHTER WHO MOVED OUT OF THEIR HOME AND WAS ON DRUGS. "GUT-INSTINCT," THE MOTHER WROTE, "TELLS ME WE NEED HELP. I LOVE HER