

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office
of: Speech Drafts
Folder Title: Nancy Reagan: “Just Say No” Rally
Nov. 25, 1985
Box: 436

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

"JUST SAY NO" RALLY

NOVEMBER 25, 1985

-- HELLO OUT THERE! JUST A SHORT YEAR AND A HALF AGO, A LITTLE BOY AT PERALTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS TELLING HIS FRIENDS HOW TO AVOID DRUGS. HE SAID, "JUST SAY NO" TO THEM. AND FROM THERE, THE IDEA SHOWBALLED. KIDS HERE IN OAKLAND, IN THE REST OF CALIFORNIA AND ALL OVER THE COUNTRY JOINED THE BANDWAGON TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE DRUG-FREE, PROUD OF IT AND TEACHING THEIR FRIENDS TO SAY "NO" ALSO. LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED. LOOK AROUND YOU AT ALL THE BRIGHT, HEALTHY

-1-

SMILES AND SPARKLING EYES FULL OF LIFE AND ENERGY. YOU ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL AND WE LOVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE.

-- YOU ALL KNOW, THOUGH, THAT DRUGS CAN CHANGE ALL THAT. DRUGS ARE A CRUTCH AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH LIFE DEPENDING ON A CRUTCH. AND THEY CAN MAKE YOU SICK, SO SICK THAT YOU WON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE LIVING ANYMORE. AND WHO WANTS TO FEEL LIKE THAT? YOU DON'T DO YOU? I'VE TALKED TO SO MANY CHILDREN WHO WERE MIXED UP WITH DRUGS AND THEY WERE ALL SO SAD BECAUSE THEY FELT AWFUL AND HAD LOST TOUCH WITH

-2-

THEIR FAMILIES. MORE THAN ANYTHING, THEY WANTED TO BE DRUG-FREE AND BACK WITH THEIR PARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS.

-- SOONER OR LATER, YOU MAY BE FACED WITH PEER PRESSURE TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS. SOMEONE MAY COME UP TO YOU AND SAY: COME ON, THIS IS FUN, EVERYBODY DOES IT. BUT EVERYBODY DOESN'T DO IT, IT'S NOT FUN AND IT TAKES A LOT MORE COURAGE TO SAY NO THAN IT DOES TO SAY YES. YOU ARE THE HOPE AND FUTURE OF AMERICA AND WE NEED YOU TO GROW UP FREE FROM ADDICTIONS OF ANY KIND.

-3-

-- BY JOINING THE "JUST SAY NO" CLUB AND LETTING YOUR FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT DRUGS, YOU MAY HELP SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE, BECAUSE DRUGS CAN KILL. SAVING A LIFE IS WHAT BEING A HERO IS ALL ABOUT AND THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A HERO.

-- NOW, IF SOMEONE OFFERS YOU DRUGS WHAT WILL YOU DO? (THEY SAY "JUST SAY NO!") WHAT? (THEY SAY IT AGAIN) CAN YOU SAY THAT LOUDER? AND LOUDER?

#