

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: PRIDE Conference
March 20, 1986
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/>

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference

March 20, 1986

-- I'm delighted to be back once again and visit with you.

-- At every PRIDE Conference there are lots of mothers, so some of you will find this familiar. But there's a book out about the funny things mothers always say. Things like:

- ° Put that down, you don't know where it's been.
- ° Don't cross you eyes or they'll freeze that way.
- ° The more you scratch it, the more it's gonna itch.
- ° Or, the ever-enduring: It will never get well if you pick it.

-- Well today, mothers and fathers have much more serious warnings to give their children...warnings about drugs and the terrible destructiveness they can cause. But even before we could teach our children about the dangers of drugs, we ourselves had to learn about them. We parents were as innocent -- in some ways more innocent -- than our kids. Young people taught us about drugs through their own suffering.

-- And one of the biggest lessons everyone learned was that drugs are never content. They aren't content with destroying the body, they want the heart and the spirit and the mind -- the whole individual. But drugs aren't content even with devastating the entire individual, so their destructiveness spreads to the family, and the community and the nation. And, not just our nation, but many nations. And drugs aren't content to be just one problem; so they encourage other problems from runaways to crime to teenage suicide.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference
Page Two

-- A character in a Graham Greene novel once said, "The vodka gave me a dream, and then the vodka took it away." Drugs take away so much. They take and they take, until finally every time a drug goes into a child, something else is forced out -- like love and hope and trust and confidence. Drugs take away the dream and they replace it with a nightmare. I've heard many, many of those nightmares. Many of you have lived through them.

-- And yet no matter how much drugs expand their power, the truth and light of education can defeat them. And that is what all of you here today represent. You, young people know that I believe in you. I respect you for the individuals that you are and for the purposes you're pursuing. And I know at times it must not be easy. Yet you now hold the truth, and by sharing it you're not only educating others; you're saving them. Although sometimes you may hurt because of what you know and what you see, you should feel very good inside.

-- Let me add a final note about why this Conference is so important. It's been said there's always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets in the future. Well, for too many of our children that future has meant drugs. The door was wide open because we didn't know and we didn't understand. Nothing's more valuable than our children's future, and yet we had no alarm to tell us it could be stolen. Now we know, and we're fighting to keep drugs out.

-- I know how hard you're fighting to close the door to drugs,

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference
Page Three

and I know how tough it can be, but you know I'm with you --
always have been -- always will be. And the reason I came here
today was to tell you that whatever strength and support I have
is yours. I love you and I'm very proud of you. So, hang in
there and we'll win. Thank you for inviting me, along with the
others, to be part of your Conference.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference

March 20, 1986

-- I'm delighted to be back once again and visit with you.

-- At every PRIDE Conference there are lots of mothers, so some of you will find this familiar. But there's a book out about the funny things mothers always say. Things like:

- ° Put that down, you don't know where it's been.
- ° Don't cross you eyes or they'll freeze that way.
- ° The more you scratch it, the more it's gonna itch.
- ° Or, the ever-enduring: It will never get well if you pick it.

-- Well today, mothers and fathers have much more serious warnings to give their children...warnings about drugs and the terrible destructiveness they can cause. But even before we could teach our children about the dangers of drugs, we ourselves had to learn about them. We parents were as innocent -- in some ways more innocent -- than our kids. Young people taught us about drugs through their own suffering.

-- And one of the biggest lessons everyone learned was that drugs are never content. They aren't content with destroying the body, they want the heart and the spirit and the mind -- the whole individual. But drugs aren't content even with devastating the entire individual, so their destructiveness spreads to the family, and the community and the nation. And, not just our nation, but many nations. And drugs aren't content to be just one problem; so they encourage other problems from runaways to crime to teenage suicide.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference
Page Two

-- A character in a Graham Greene novel once said, "The vodka gave me a dream, and then the vodka took it away." Drugs take away so much. They take and they take, until finally every time a drug goes into a child, something else is forced out -- like love and hope and trust and confidence. Drugs take away the dream and they replace it with a nightmare. I've heard many, many of those nightmares. Many of you have lived through them.

-- And yet no matter how much drugs expand their power, the truth and light of education can defeat them. And that is what all of you here today represent. You, young people know that I believe in you. I respect you for the individuals that you are and for the purposes you're pursuing. And I know at times it must not be easy. Yet you now hold the truth, and by sharing it you're not only educating others; you're saving them. Although sometimes you may hurt because of what you know and what you see, you should feel very good inside.

-- Let me add a final note about why this Conference is so important. It's been said there's always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets in the future. Well, for too many of our children that future has meant drugs. The door was wide open because we didn't know and we didn't understand. Nothing's more valuable than our children's future, and yet we had no alarm to tell us it could be stolen. Now we know, and we're fighting to keep drugs out.

-- I know how hard you're fighting to close the door to drugs,

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
PRIDE Conference
Page Three

and I know how tough it can be, but you know I'm with you -- always have been -- always will be. And the reason I came here today was to tell you that whatever strength and support I have is yours. I love you and I'm very proud of you. So, hang in there and we'll win. Thank you for inviting me, along with the others, to be part of your Conference.

(Parvin-3/13/86)

MRS. REAGAN: PRIDE CONFERENCE
MARCH 20, 1986

--Thank you, you make me feel so at home. It's always nice to receive applause, but the applause from a PRIDE conference always seems to mean a little more. And I'm delighted to be back once again in your warmth.

--At every PRIDE Conference there are lots of mothers, so some of you will find this familiar. But there's a book out about the funny things mothers always say. Things like:

- Put that down, you don't know where it's been.
- Don't cross your eyes or they'll freeze that way.
- The more you scratch it, the more it's gonna itch.
- Or, the ever-enduring: It'll never get well if you pick it.

--Well, today, mothers and fathers have much more serious warnings to give their children. . . warnings about drugs and the terrible destructiveness they can cause. But even before we could teach our children about the dangers of drugs, we ourselves had to learn about them. We parents were as innocent--in some ways more innocent--than our kids. You young people taught us about drugs through your own suffering.

--And one of the biggest lessons everyone learned was that drugs are never content. They aren't content with destroying the body, they want the heart and the spirit and the mind--the whole individual. But drugs aren't content even with devastating the entire individual, so their destructiveness spreads to the family and the community and the nation. And not just our nation, but many nations. And drugs aren't content to be just one problem--no matter how heart-breaking and widespread; so they encourage other problems from runaways to crime to teenage suicide.

--A character in a Graham Greene novel once said, "The vodka gave me a dream, and the vodka took it away." Drugs take away so much. They take and they take and they take, until finally every time a drug goes into a child, something else is forced out--like love and hope and trust and confidence. Drugs take away the dream and they replace it with a nightmare. I've personally heard many, many of those nightmares. Many of you have lived through them.

--And yet no matter how much drugs expand their dark power, the truth and light of education can defeat them. And that is what all of you here today represent. I'm especially proud of the young people. I want you to know I believe in you. I respect you for the individuals that you are and for the purposes you're pursuing. And I know at

times it must not be easy. Yet you now hold the truth, and by sharing it you're not only educating others; you're saving them. Although sometimes you may hurt because of what you know and what you see, you should feel very good inside.

--Let me add a final note about why this conference is so important. It's been said there's always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets in the future. Well, for too many of our children that future has meant drugs. The door was wide open because we didn't know, we didn't understand. Nothing's more valuable than our children's future, and yet we had no alarm to tell us it could be stolen. Now we know, and we're fighting to keep drugs out.

--I know how hard you're fighting to close the door to drugs, so hard that it sometimes feels as if your heart's going to burst. I understand what a toll that takes, and I want you to know that I am with you. And the reason I came here today was to tell you that whatever strength and support I have is yours. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your conference.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

PRIDE LUNCHEON -- DRAFT STATEMENT

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ROBERTO, FOR YOUR REMARKS.
COCA-COLA'S SUPPORT OF PRIDE IS A SHINING EXAMPLE
OF WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP PRIDE'S GOOD WORK GOING
YEAR AFTER YEAR. THE COCA-COLA CO. REALIZES THAT
OUR CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION. AND
I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR TAKING AN ACTIVE
PART IN PROTECTING THEM FROM THE HAZARDS OF DRUG
USE. THOUSANDS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN HAVE FELT
YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO
SO. ON BEHALF OF THEM ALL AND PRIDE, I THANK YOU
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR CARING.