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Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
National Commission Against
Drunk Driving Award Luncheon
J.W. Marriott Hotel

Thursday, December 18, 1986

-- Thank you for this award. I'm very honored.

-- You know Graham Greene once had a character in a novel say,
"The vodka gave me a dream, and then the vodka took it away."

-- This time of year is an especially sad time for dreams to be
taken away. But from now through Christmas and New Year's, we're
going to see some very sad stories about stolen dreams. They
will appear in newspapers across the country, and the cause will
be drug or alcohol abuse.

-- Anyone can predict what the stories will be, because they are
the same every year. We're going to read of a mother returning
from the shopping center, where she'd gone to pick up some last
minute stocking stuffers, and as her car crosses the
intersection, it's hit broadside by a car operated by an impaired
driver. And several small children will not feel the joy of
Christmas for many years to come.

-- We're going to see the news photo of a wrecked automobile --
only it won't look like an automobile, but a mass of twisted
metal. A father coming home from the video store, where he was
picking up tapes for the kids to watch on New Year's Eve, will be
rammed by a driver who began celebrating a bit early.

-- These stories may be imaginary now, but they can soon be as
real as the problem of drunk and drugged driving. They can be as
real as the pain and sorrow so many will be feeling this holiday
season.

Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
NCADD Award Luncheon
Page Two

-- It is so fitting that we are kicking off the holidays with National Drugged and Drunk Driving Awareness Week. Let's hope and pray that this effort will help keep these fatalities down on our highways.

-- The commission's goal of making impaired driving socially unacceptable has my deepest support. One of the points I make when I speak about drugs is that we must be intolerant of drug use anywhere, anytime, by anybody.

-- We must be just as intolerant of those who would drink or use drugs and drive. And if we have to make ourselves unpopular to prevent someone from endangering lives, well, that is what we must do.

-- We have a direct moral responsibility to prevent an intoxicated person from getting behind the wheel; we can't pretend that he or she is simply feeling good or "feeling no pain" as they say -- because the pain to others could be enormous.

-- This commission is taking the initiative to let people know of their responsibilities. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your commitment. And thank you very much for this award.

-- Please, let's all work together to have a happy and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas!

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