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May 13, 1987
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REMARKS FOR "JUST SAY NO" RALLY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1987

-- THANK YOU! THIS SHOW HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL AND I HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING IT AS MUCH AS I AM. I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO PUT IT TOGETHER AND FOR YOUR COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO "JUST SAY NO" WEEK, BUT FOR JUST SAYING "NO" TO DRUGS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

-- SEEING ALL OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE HERE TODAY MAKES ME VERY PROUD. YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE -- 84 YEARS AGO -- KIDS USUALLY LISTENED TO EVERYONE BUT THEIR PARENTS. SO, INSTEAD

2

OF TRYING TO LECTURE YOUNG PEOPLE, I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS LISTENING TO THEM AND ASKING THEM QUESTIONS, AND LET ME SAY, I HAVE LEARNED A LOT. I'VE LEARNED HOW YOUNG PEOPLE GET STARTED ON DRUGS AND I'VE LEARNED HOW VERY DIFFICULT IT IS TO BREAK FREE OF DRUGS ONCE YOU'RE ON THEM.

-- I'VE ASKED THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HOW I COULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM, AND WHO THEY WOULD LISTEN TO THE MOST -- A DOCTOR, TEACHER, A CELEBRITY, AN ATHLETE? THEIR ANSWER IS ALWAYS

A FRIEND, AN ATHLETE OR A CELEBRITY. WITH THAT IN MIND, I'VE
ASKED PEOPLE LIKE LARRY GATLIN, SOLEIL MOON FRYE, CHERIE JOHNSON,
STARMAN, THE VOYAGER CREW AND ALL OF THE WONDERFUL ENTERTAINERS
HERE TODAY TO HELP GET THE MESSAGE OUT. THERE ARE SOME OTHER
PRETTY TOUGH GUYS OUT THERE WHO SAY NO TO DRUGS TOO. EDDIE
MURPHY SAYS "NO" TO DRUGS, SO DOES SYLVESTER STALLONE AND MR. T.
SO AS YOU SEE, WHEN YOU SAY "NO" TO DRUGS, YOU ARE IN GOOD
COMPANY.

-- ALSO, REMEMBER TO LET YOUR FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES KNOW
HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT DRUGS. BECAUSE WHEN YOU STAND TALL AND SAY
"NO," YOUR FRIENDS WILL LISTEN. POSITIVE PEER PRESSURE WORKS
TOO. WE WANT YOU TO STAY JUST LIKE YOU ARE. YOU ARE OUR HOPE
AND PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE, AND WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU. AS I'VE
SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, WHEN YOU SAY NO, YOU ARE SAYING YES TO A
WHOLE LOT MORE!

-- NOW I WANT TO LISTEN TO YOU FOR A MOMENT. THINK HOW

LOUD IT WOULD SOUND IF ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD SAID "JUST SAY NO" AT THE SAME TIME. THAT'S HOW LOUD YOU SHOULD SAY IT IF SOMEONE OFFERS YOU DRUGS. SO, LETS PRACTICE. WHAT WILL YOU DO IF SOMEONE OFFERS YOU DRUGS? (JUST SAY NO!) LOUDER! (JUST SAY NO!) ONE MORE TIME. (JUST SAY NO!)

-- AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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