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March 7, 1988

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REMARKS FOR THE MEDIA EXECUTIVES DRUG ABUSE FORUM
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1988

-- I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WELCOMED NUMEROUS TIMES TODAY, BUT
LET ME ADD MY OWN THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO BE HERE.

-- FOR SEVEN YEARS NOW, I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE TERROR
OF DRUG ABUSE. AS RECENT, DISTURBING STORIES IN THE PAPERS AND
ON TELEVISION MAKE CLEAR, THAT TERROR IS AS REAL AS EVER. IT'S
REACHED THE POINT THAT LAST WEEK A MAN EVEN ATTEMPTED TO FREEBASE
COCAINE IN AN AIRPLANE LAVATORY -- AN INCREDIBLY EXPLOSIVE FIRE
HAZARD THAT RISKED THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE ON THE PLANE.

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-- QUITE FRANKLY, DRUGS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE
THAN THEY ARE TODAY, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE'RE REAPING THE
CONSEQUENCES OF OUR NEGLECT OF THE DRUG ISSUE IN THE 1960'S AND
1970'S.

-- HAVING PRESENTED THIS GRIM VIEW, LET ME QUOTE EMERSON
WHO SAID, "WHEN IT IS DARKEST, MEN SEE THE STARS." AND I REFUSE
TO SAY WE CAN'T WIN THIS BATTLE. WE CAN. WE GENUINELY HAVE MADE
PROGRESS THAT SHOULDN'T BE DISCOUNTED.

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-- FOR YEARS WE COULDN'T GET ANYONE TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM. YET TODAY THERE IS SOLID COVERAGE OF THE DRUG PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY. TODAY, WE'RE NO LONGER DENYING THAT DRUG ABUSE HAS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES.

-- FOR YEARS DRUGS WERE GLAMORIZED; THEY WERE TREATED SO CASUALLY THAT COMEDIANS ON TELEVISION EVEN MADE JOKES ABOUT BEING HIGH. TODAY, FEW PEOPLE THINK THAT DRUGS ARE EITHER GLAMOROUS OR FUNNY. WE KNOW WHAT DRUGS ARE.

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-- FOR YEARS YOUNG PEOPLE WERE THE BIGGEST ADVOCATES OF DRUG USE. TODAY, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE AWARE OF THE DANGERS. TODAY, THE REAL ADVOCATES OF DRUG USE ARE AGING HOLDOVERS FROM THE 1960'S AND '70'S.

-- FOR YEARS, THERE WAS NO ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO DRUGS. TODAY, THERE'S A STRONG ANTI-DRUG NETWORK IN THIS COUNTRY. PARENTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE HAVE FORMED GROUPS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO COMBAT DRUG USE.

-- ALL THIS IS PROGRESS, PROGRESS THAT WILL BE SHOWING GREATER AND GREATER RESULTS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

-- MUCH OF THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PRINT AND AIR REALISTIC STORIES, YOUR ASSISTANCE IN CHANGING PERCEPTIONS. I ASK FOR YOUR HELP ONCE AGAIN, BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

-- OUR NEXT ASSAULT MUST BE ON THE ATTITUDE THAT DRUG USE IS A VICTIMLESS CRIME, THAT DRUGS DON'T HURT ANYONE EXCEPT THE PERSON

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WHO'S USING THEM. AS I SAID IN A SPEECH LAST WEEK, THERE IS A TRAIL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT LEADS RIGHT TO THE CASUAL USER'S DOOR.

-- JUST RECENTLY, A ROOKIE POLICEMAN GUARDING A DRUG WITNESS WAS MURDERED IN HIS PATROL CAR. A YOUNG GIRL IN LOS ANGELES WAS KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN DRUG GANGS. A RAILROAD ENGINEER, WHOSE POT SMOKING KILLED 16 INNOCENT PEOPLE, TESTIFIED THAT DRUG USE WAS A SAFETY PROBLEM ON THE NATION'S

RAILS. DRUG USE IN NOT A VICTIMLESS CRIME.

-- I ASK YOUR HELP IN GETTING OUT THE MESSAGE THAT THE CASUAL USER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER, THE BRUTALITY, THE CORRUPTION THAT IS PART OF THE CHAIN BY WHICH HE GETS HIS DRUGS. HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE DRUG USERS WHO ENDANGER THE PUBLIC SAFETY -- LIKE THE RAILROAD BRAKEMAN -- BECAUSE THE CASUAL USER SETS THE TONE FOR TOLERANCE AND THAT TOLERANCE HAS KILLED INNOCENT PEOPLE.

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-- IN CLOSING, JUST LET ME SAY THAT MY HUSBAND AND I AREN'T GIVING UP THE CAUSE AGAINST DRUGS WHEN WE RETURN TO CALIFORNIA. I HOPE EACH OF YOU WILL ALSO CONTINUE DOING WHAT YOU CAN TO STOP THE TERROR OF DRUGS. WE NEED YOUR HELP. WE NEED YOUR INFLUENCE.

-- THANK YOU AGAIN FOR COMING.

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