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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1988

TO: ✓ ELAINE CRISPEN
JIM MANNING
LANDON PARVIN

FROM: JACK L. COURTEMANCHE *JLC*

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA

Attached are some transcripts from the Conference.

File

STEVE GARVEY
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1988

It is a pleasure for me to be with you. After seeing the size of this crowd, you have set a record. Never have so many people come to see a short, retired first baseman who doesn't smoke, drink or use snuff. So, I want to thank all of you. There will be one stock in the new Washington Senators franchise for you in the back of the room if we can ever get it. I am an advocate of it, by the way.

It is a pleasure to be with you. When I was contacted by Neil Romano, initially we were scheduled for Albuquerque, then New York, and one thing and problem led to another and I said well gosh I . . . I just want to get there. Where's the last conference? He said, "Washington." I said that I will be there, regardless of what I have to do. I was fortunate to spend a few days at Calgary in the Olympics over the weekend which was truly a special experience. Seeing athletes from all over the world perform and not necessarily always with the thought of a medal. You have heard of "Eddie the Eagle" who turned out to be the real hero of the games simply because of the simplicity of his dedication to just participating. Thinking about coming here that is the essence of this Conference and each and everyone of you. The simplicity of your caring, your dedication is what is so very, very important. And each of us together is part of this team.

When I talk about teams, I have been part of one ever since I was the age of 7. Way back in 1965, 1966, that far enough back, I know. Back when Little League was first starting, my dad felt that it was important that I get involved with a team and team work and baseball was the natural way since baseball was traditional. It is American. It is a game that before Little League was played by young boys in cutoff pants in dirt fields around America until dusk and they would go home and they would dream about being Major League players. Well, that progressed to the fifties when we had Little League and we had uniforms and we still played till dusk and we got them dirty and there was still no grass on the infields, but our dreams were of becoming Major League players. And I, fortunately, have been blessed to become a Major League player over the last 20 years, to see my dreams comes true, and to know that hard work and commitment and a dedication to something does pay off, but as part of a team. Back in the fifties and sixties teams were popular. Then, back in the seventies tennis and golf became much more the vogue and I think we are swinging back more to team sports now than ever. And again, it goes back to the idea of team work.

That is why all of us are here from all parts of the country. Different races, different genders, but with a common denominator and that is a concern for this society. A drug free society in which we can live with our families some day without the fear of having drugs infect that, that family core and the individual core which corrupts

our society. All of us are blessed, I think, to be here in Washington, in America, part of a democratic society in which we have free speech and also a society that cherishes volunteerism, of giving our time to causes that are important to us. Nothing is more important than, I think, the reason we are here today. Because it reaches all of us at whatever depth of the society we live in, whatever width of that society. For those of us who have a high profile and a high visibility in whatever, it could be politics, it could be business, it could be religion; but in my case, sports, which is the focus of the youth of this country because the youth plays sports. They don't have too many entrepreneurial businesses at the age of 6, 7 and 8. Not too many reverends or preachers or rabbis at a young age. But sports is that common denominator that the children understand.

When they see those of us that are the professionals, they look up to us and they relate to us. And regardless of what we think as individual athletes, we have a responsibility. As we all do in life. A responsibility and then a commitment to set an example. A lot of guys and gals in sports don't necessarily want to do that because they feel I train, I practice, I participate and then I want my life. I want to be on my own. I don't want the pressures of having to be a leader or the responsibilities of setting example, but it is there regardless of whether they want it or not. Those of us . . . it goes even back farther than my 20 years to individual athletes who set example through the ages. That responsibility has to be taken up, it has to be assumed and I have always used the terms when I am talking to the press that I conduct my life as if a little boy or girl were following me and at all times they were right behind me listening and watching me. I would never want to take away from that adulation or the feeling of being a hero to those kids, but also on a rudimentary basis of setting an example as a person, even more than an athlete so as I keep that in mind sometimes I am by myself and I say, "Well, I am by myself. Gosh, I can let it all hang out now. What a day. It has been terrible, I am going to just cuss at myself or something like that." Then I say to myself, "Well if I do that, it might become a habit. So I had better not do that so that little boy or girl that is following me doesn't catch me once in a while letting myself have it." But it is part of being a responsibility. Part of being a dues paying member in this society we live in.

I have an opportunity to speak a lot throughout the country to a variety of different groups. It could be the Chevron dealers, or it could be a group of executives from American Express or could be a group of Little Leaguers wherever. What I try to emphasize to them is that in this society we live in it is just difficult to have a daily life without having the need for responsibility, but if we don't realize it and we don't become a leader whether it is as a mother or father, as a grandmother or grandfather, as a baseball player, as a business person, as a law enforcement official, as a teacher, then we are being remiss. We have to assume that each of us if we commit ourselves to being a leader in our society, will be that

link in a very strong chain that sets an example.

We have heard a lot about what the problem is here. We have heard that it is a monumental problem. We have also heard that there is optimism and that on different fronts in this war against drugs progress is being made, but more important I think we have to continue to reinforce that each of us is a foot soldier in this war and if we shun the responsibility of being an example, then that is where the weak link starts to cause the problem. So as a professional athlete when I talk to the kids or have an opportunity and am so very fortunate to share with you I try to emphasize what my commitment is and ask you to join me. There is an old saying about when we come on to this earth we bring nothing with us and when we leave, we take nothing with us, but in that interim, that time we spend on this earth, if we can make it a better place, then we are truly winners and I think what is so very important to us is to assume the roles of leaders, assume the responsibility that we have in whatever roles of life and continue toward that commitment throughout our lives.

I would say the last two or three years in talking about the problems of drugs, I have seen a lot of young people emerge as viable spokespersons. In other words, not reserved as all of us used to be when we would have to give a speech in school and just dread it, but a lot of kids willing to get up and say, hey, I take the pledge, you know, I am going to do everything I can to influence others and I am going to avoid drugs and alcohol whatever it takes. That is inspiring because those are the future leaders of this country.

Then, I see our senior citizens who unfortunately, I feel, are neglected much more than we realize. Our senior citizens who have spent a lot of time on this earth and who have learned and are pretty astute at watching our society in the cyclical sense through the years the causes and the leadership and what we have gone through. Our senior citizens are starting to take a stand now and say that it may not effect us a whole lot. There is a problem there, but it may not effect us, but maybe we as elder leaders can make a statement.

So from 6 to the 60's, I think we have higher visibility than ever. Higher awareness and a sense of our society working together. Is there an end? Well, as we say in the Multiple Sclerosis Society, that I am National Chairman of, there is an end. There will be an end. There will be a cure. Let's just keep focusing and keep working hard and we will find a cure for it.

A drug free society seems monumental. You say there is no way it can happen, but if we don't think there can, it won't happen. So use that as the goal. Keep striving for it on a daily basis. Keep reaching for it. Each of us, men and women together, children, senior citizens, all of us together. I get serious about this some times and I try to keep it light some times, because it does get heavy and it does get to be a cloud that we are in there trying to

fight against, but you can also have fun out of it, too.

We should never have more fun than when you do things together and you come together as a group, as a team. That has been one of the blessings that I have had through the years. And at this time of the year it is a little nostalgic for me because I retired about a month ago and I always loved spring training, because everybody started the game and the season the same. There were no losses. Everybody was in first place. Kind of a utopia there for a second, but . . . We all started out the same and that first two weeks of spring training before we had exhibition games. We came from all parts of the country doing whatever in the off season and we would go out and we would spend four or five hours a day sweating and fielding and exercising and hitting, and doing all of the things that we had to do to get ready, but we did it together. We sacrificed together. Then the exhibition games would start and we started putting that sweat and toil to work out in the field, and then when the games were over and we started fine tuning that team, the season was ready and the battle was ready.

Then we had that long road to Camelot so to speak, to the World Series, that lasted seven months through some cold weather in Chicago or New York in April to hot weather in Los Angeles and San Diego in August to the cool days of that stretch pennant run. It was a long mission, but it was one where we set our goal and we went after it. In some seasons we won and in some seasons we came close, but we made that commitment every year to being the best that we could be and each of us as individuals doing the best job that we could do. As a first baseman, catcher, pitcher, outfielders, manager, coach to the president of the organization. So we constantly worked together with a goal and within that goal worked as individual leaders representing a team.

You have heard it before. You may have heard it in different words. You may have heard it from different people, but you are hearing it from somebody who has been blessed to go out and entertain people throughout this country and other countries. In Japan, South America, and Canada. Entertain them by playing a sport. Sports is the common denominator whether we want to realize it or not. So, I emphasize to all of you when you have an opportunity to support someone or some team in your area that is in this battle against drugs, I urge you to do it. Because all of us, regardless of how confident we feel, how much success we have had, need that reinforcement. We need to reinforce each other to keep the machine rolling so that we can fight the battle and win the war.

REMARKS BY
REGGIE WILLIAMS
AT THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 3, 1988
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT IS INDEED MY PLEASURE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU ON THIS VERY, VERY UNIQUE OCCASION. THIS WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING A FUNDAMENTAL IMPACT ON HOW WE WILL APPROACH THE FUTURE. AS A PARENT OF TWO SMALL BOYS, THIS IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT.

THIS MORNING WE'VE REALLY HAD A VERY INSPIRING, VERY EXCITING SERIES OF EVENTS, AND WHAT I AM HERE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IS HOW DO WE CARRY THAT MOMENTUM MORE SPECIFICALLY INTO THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR DAYS, TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS THAT WE ARE GOING TO GET OUT OF THE SESSIONS THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK INTO. BUT, BEYOND THAT, HOW DO WE CARRY THE MESSAGE BACK TO OUR OWN HOMES, COMMUNITIES, AND WHERE WE CAN REALLY MAKE AN IMPACT.

BEING A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE AND HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIT IN ON THE YOUTH PANEL, I MUST, HOWEVER, MAKE A COMMENT ABOUT WHAT I FEEL IS THE VERY IMPORTANT ROLE WE AS PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES DO TO THE POPULARITY OF THE SPORT, THE PROFESSION THAT WE ARE A PART OF, THE INNATE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A RESPONSIBLE ROLE MODEL TO YOUNG PEOPLE, AND I PERSONALLY FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THIS. LATER THIS AFTERNOON I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING INVOLVED WITH THE WORKSHOP DEALING WITH PREVENTION, AND IT WILL BE AT THAT TIME THAT I WILL SPEAK MORE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HOW SPORTS ARE INVOLVED AND SHOULD BE MORE INVOLVED.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT WHILE THERE ARE A GREAT MANY INDIVIDUALS, ATHLETES, OFFICIALS, THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE, THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, AND A LOT OF THE COLLEGES AND HIGH SCHOOLS WHO ARE TAKING A VERY STRONG STAND AGAINST DRUGS, I PERSONALLY FEEL THERE IS A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY YET BEING UNTAPPED. HOPEFULLY THIS CONFERENCE WILL CONTINUE TO FERTILIZE THAT NEED FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE AND THE AMATEUR ATHLETE TO BECOME MORE PRODUCTIVE, AND BE THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND IN THEIR SCHOOLS IN TAKING A STAND AGAINST DRUGS.

ONE OF THE THINGS I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT IS THE ASSUMPTION THAT SO MANY ATHLETES ARE DRUG USERS. THE THING THAT OBVIOUSLY BRINGS THIS TO THE ATTENTION TO EVERYONE IS WHENEVER AN ATHLETE IS CAUGHT IT IS FRONT PAGE NEWS. ONE OR TWO ATHLETES WILL DOMINATE TELEVISION NEWS, THE NEWSPAPERS, FOR WEEKS ON END. WHEREAS THE 90% OF THE OTHER PLAYERS, WHO ARE DRUG FREE, VERY CONSCIENTIOUS MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY, YOU NEVER HEAR ABOUT. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I AM VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN IS SPEAKING UP FOR THAT MUCH MALIGNED MAJORITY.

I THINK BEFORE I CAN REALLY GO MUCH FURTHER, ESPECIALLY BEING HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE HOME OF THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS, THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS, I MUST TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT REGGIE WILLIAMS BECAUSE SOME OF YOU, YOU KNOW, WHO ARE NOT CINCINNATI BENGALS FANS; I KNOW THERE ARE A FEW BENGALS FANS BECAUSE I HAVE ALREADY MET THEM, AND I LOVE TO SEE YOU, LET ME ASSURE YOU. BUT UNLESS YOU KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT REGGIE WILLIAMS THEN YOU WOULD REALLY NOT UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT THAT I HAVE TOWARDS MY COMMUNITY. WHEN YOU HAVE A COMMITMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY YOU HAVE TO OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE THINGS THAT ARE CAUSING A DETERIORATION OF THE VERY FABRIC OF THAT COMMUNITY AND RIGHT NOW THAT IS DRUGS, AND IT'S ALCOHOL AND THE THINGS THAT ARE AFFECTING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

NOW, I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN FLINT, MICHIGAN, A GENERAL MOTORS TOWN. I CAME FROM A VERY HARD WORKING MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY. MY FATHER WORKED IN FISHER BODY GENERAL MOTORS DURING THE DAY AND DROVE CAB AT NIGHT. I WAS THE MIDDLE OF THREE SONS, AND FOR THE MOST PART, IN KINDERGARTEN, FIRST AND SECOND GRADE, I WAS ONE OF THOSE CLASSIC MARGINAL STUDENTS JUST DOING WELL ENOUGH TO GET BY, AND IT REALLY WASN'T DISCOVERED UNTIL THE THIRD GRADE, WHEN DUE TO A MOVE INTO A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD AND A BRAND NEW SCHOOL, I WAS TESTED AND IT WAS THEN DISCOVERED THAT I HAD A HEARING PROBLEM. AND SEE THE HEARING PROBLEM WAS CRITICAL AT THAT TIME BECAUSE IT AFFECTED MY SPEECH DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE I WASN'T HEARING THE SOUNDS, I WASN'T ABLE TO REPEAT THOSE SOUNDS, AND I DEVELOPED A VERY SEVERE SPEECH IMPEDIMENT. IT AFFECTED ME IN THE

CLASS ROOM. BECAUSE I WAS A WILLIAMS ALPHABETICALLY, I WAS ALWAYS PUT IN THE BACK OF THE CLASS. THE TEACHER CALLED UPON ME AND SOMETIMES I WOULDN'T HEAR HER, AND THE OTHER KIDS WOULD LAUGH. - IF I DID HEAR HER AFTER SOMEONE POKED ME IN THE RIBS, I WOULD ANSWER INCORRECTLY; THE KIDS WOULD LAUGH, OR I WOULD TRY TO ANSWER AND THEY WERE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND ME AND THE KIDS WOULD LAUGH. THEY CALLED ME NAMES. SCHOOL WASN'T FUN.

I WAS A VERY INSECURE LITTLE BOY LOOKING FOR ANSWERS WISHING THAT I WAS PERFECT BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT KID DIDN'T GET LAUGHED AT; THE PERFECT KIDS DIDN'T HAVE DEROGATORY NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. AND, THE FACT THAT I HAD A HEARING PROBLEM, AND THAT WAS THE CAUSE OF MY SPEECH PROBLEMS, WAS NOT A COMFORT BECAUSE THAT MEANT THAT I WAS GOING TO MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB WHICH CARRIED A STIGMA IN AND OF ITSELF. AND, FOR ME, IT WAS VERY EMBARRASSING BECAUSE NOW I WAS DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE. AND THE THING THAT REALLY AFFECTED MY LIFE AT THAT TIME WAS MY REBELLION TO ANYTHING THAT WAS GOING TO HELP ME. EVERY MORNING MY DAY WOULD START WITH A SERIES OF SPEECH THERAPEUTIC PHRASES LIKE POLLY PICKED A PACK OF PURPLE PLUMB PICKLES, OVER AND OVER AND OVER. AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE IN THESE CLASSES BECAUSE, HEY, I THOUGHT THE OTHER KIDS WERE STRANGE AND I THOUGHT I WAS OK. BUT, DUE TO THE VERY CARING ATTITUDE OF THE PROFESSIONALS WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SHAPE AND MOLD A LITTLE FRIGHTENED INSECURE BOY AND GAVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS POTENTIAL. THEY WORKED WITH ME, AND

EVEN NOW THAT THEIR FACES ARE FUZZY, THEIR NAMES LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN, THEY GAVE ME A START. AND, WHEN I THINK OF ALL THAT I AM TRYING TO DO NOW AS AN ADULT AND AS A MEMBER OF A VERY POPULAR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ENTITY, IT IS BECAUSE OF THEM.

AT THAT TIME, I ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVOLVE INTO WHAT CREATED AN EXCELLENT FOUNDATION FOR COMPLIANCE, GIVEN A HANDICAP THAT I HAD, AND THAT WAS READING. BECAUSE WHEN READING, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HEAR AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEAK, IT WAS YOU AND THE BOOK AND YOU COULD EXPLORE ANYTHING AND ANYONE. BOOKS WERE MY SALVATION; MY FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT POSSESSION WAS MY LIBRARY CARD. EVERY SATURDAY I WOULD BE AT THE LIBRARY ABSORBING SOME BOOK, SITTING COMFORTABLE IN A WELL LIT PLACE BECAUSE MY EYES WERE FINE. AND BECAUSE I COULD READ, I COULD KEEP PACE WITH THE OTHER CLASSMATES, AND I WAS ABLE TO LEARN, AND SOON I WAS GETTING THE TYPE OF GRADES ANY MOTHER AND FATHER WOULD BE PROUD OF, TO THE POINT WHERE MY EVOLUTION IN CLASS WAS TAKING ALL THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES. COURSES THAT EVENTUALLY ALLOWED ME TO GET AN EDUCATION IN ONE OF THE FINEST INSTITUTIONS, IN MY OPINION, I KNOW SOME OTHER PEOPLE HAVE THEIR STRONG ALLEGIANCES, BUT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AND IVY LEAGUE AFFORDED ME AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY. BUT, PEOPLE SAY WELL YOU KNOW THAT IS GREAT ACADEMICALLY, WHY DID YOU START PLAYING FOOTBALL? I DIDN'T START PLAYING FOOTBALL UNTIL 10TH GRADE, WHICH IS COMPARATIVELY PRETTY LATE. AND THE REAL REASON IS, GIRLS. WELL, YOU SEE THE SAME PROBLEMS THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE EXPRESSING TODAY -- THE NEEDS TO BE POPULAR; THE NEEDS TO ACQUAINT ONESELF WELL WITH THE

OPPOSITE SEX, WERE OF INTEREST TO ME WHEN SUDDENLY I LOOKED UP FROM A BOOK AND REALIZED THAT THE WOMEN I WAS READING ABOUT IN THE BOOKS WERE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT IN PERSON. AND SO I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO EVOLVE A PLAN, A GAME PLAN, A MASTER PLAN, TO GET A DATE FOR THE SENIOR PROM. SO, I WENT OUT FOR FOOTBALL.

GOING TO A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL, IF YOU WENT OUT FOR THE TEAM YOU AUTOMATICALLY MADE IT, YOU GOT A UNIFORM. I SAID, "FINE I'M GOING OUT FOR FOOTBALL". GET A CHANCE TO BE RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH ALL THE POPULAR GUYS AND ALL THE CHEERLEADERS AND ALL THE FANS WITH THE POM POMS, AND SO I WENT OUT FOR FOOTBALL PRACTICE. THE FIRST DAY, THE COACH EVALUATED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US AND ALL THE MARGINAL PLAYERS, AND OF COURSE YOUR BETTER ATHLETES. THEY WENT UP TO THE VARSITY, ALL YOUR SO-SO PLAYERS WENT TO THE JUNIOR VARSITY. HE LOOKED AT ME THE FIRST DAY, AND HE TOOK ME IN A VERY PATERNAL, FATHERLY, PATTING-ON-THE-SHOULDER MANNER AND SUGGESTED THAT I GO OUT FOR CROSS COUNTRY. HEY, I KNOW THERE IS MANY OF YOU WHO ARE FORMER CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETES, AND OR HAVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS -- CROSS COUNTRY IS A TOUGH SPORT. VERY, VERY CHALLENGING, VERY COMPETITIVE, BUT THERE WERE NO GIRLS AT MY SCHOOL GOING TO WATCH THE CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS. SO, I SAID, "NO THANK YOU, THANK YOU COACH BUT I AM GOING TO STAY OUT FOR FOOTBALL", AND HE TURNED ON HIS HEELS AND PROCEEDED NOT SPEAK TO ME BECAUSE HE WAS FORCED BY VIRTUE OF THE PROGRAM TO HAVE ME AS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM. SO, I SPENT MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AS THIRD

STRING ON THE JUNIOR VARSITY; I WAS A BENCH WARMER, DEEP, DEEP ON

THE BENCH, AND MY FRIENDS AND SOME OF MY PHYSICS, ALGEBRA, LATIN CLASSES, THEY WOULD COME UP TO ME AND SAY "REGGIE, I MEAN WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME SITTING ON THE BENCH IN FOOTBALL WHEN YOU CAN BE SPENDING MORE TIME IN DEBATE OR THE CHESS CLUB OR SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE? AND, THEY WERE GETTING THE POINT ACROSS BECAUSE THIS GAME PLAN WASN'T WORKING. I MEAN THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD GAME I HAD NOT PLAYED. FOURTH GAME, FIFTH GAME I WAS ON THE BENCH. WE ONLY PLAYED SIX GAMES AND IT WAS THE SIXTH GAME COMING UP. WELL, MY FRIENDS THEY WERE ASKING ME AND I SAID "WELL COME AND SEE WHAT THE GAME IS ALL ABOUT." SO, THEY CAME TO MY LAST GAME TO SUPPORT ME. THEY SAW ME SITTING THERE IN MY CUSTOMARY PLACE ON THE BENCH. FIRST, SECOND QUARTER I HAVE NOT PLAYED. THIRD QUARTER COMES, I HAVE NOT PLAYED. IT WAS THE FOURTH AND FINAL QUARTER OF MY SOPHOMORE YEAR. I AM NOT REALLY TROUBLED, THIS IS WHERE I HAVE BEEN ALL YEAR, I HAVE NO GREAT EXPECTATIONS. WELL ONE OF MY FRIENDS STARTED A LITTLE FEEBLE CHANT, WE WANT REGGIE, WE WANT REGGIE. WHY, I STARTED SAYING HUSH, HUSH, HUSH. BUT, THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT I SAID MORE, MORE. AND, THE MORE I DID THIS, THE LOUDER IT GOT. PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T EVEN NOW ME STARTED CHANTING "WE WANT REGGIE, WE WANT REGGIE". AND, I'M JUST SQUIRMING IN MY BENCH, AND THE COUCH IS STARTING TO STOMP BACK AND FORTH. HE IS TURNING BEET RED; HE IS UPSET, AND THE MORE HE STOMPS, AND THE MORE I SQUIRM, THE LOUDER THEY CHANT. WE WANT REGGIE. AND, FINALLY THE WHOLE HILLSIDE WAS SCREAMING, AND I AM JUST TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE. WE WANT REGGIE, AND FINALLY THE COUCH SAID, REGGIE. I GRABBED MY HELMET AND RAN UP TO HIM, AND HE SAID GO AND SEE WHAT THEY WANT.

I DIDN'T PLAY THAT YEAR. IT WAS AT THAT TIME WHERE THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION TO MY MASTER PLAN WAS TO CHANGE GEARS. IF I COULDN'T BE A FOOTBALL PLAYER, THEN MAYBE I WOULD CHANGE MY WARDROBE. I WASN'T INTO ANY NOTHARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT THAT TIME, SO I HAD TO GET A LEGITIMATE JOB. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS THE SAME TEMPTATIONS THAT ARE THERE TODAY TO GET THE QUICK AND EASY MONEY IN THE STREETS, I TOOK A JOB AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL WORKING IN THE GYMNASIUM. I WAS A JANITOR; I HAD TO OPEN THE DOOR IN THE GYMNASIUM FOR THE REAL ATHLETES TO COME IN, SWEEP THE FLOOR, CLEAN UP THE WASTE AFTER THEM, AND LOCK UP WHEN THEY WERE GONE. AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS OF THIS, I WAS SO BORED THAT I DECIDED TO JOIN IN. I STARTED RUNNING FOR THE FIRST TIME. I STARTED LIFTING FOR THE FIRST TIME. I STARTED DOING DRILLS FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND LOW AND BEHOLD, A FRIEND OF MINE AND THE COACH CONVINCED ME TO TRY AGAIN FOR THE FOOTBALL TEAM. AND, THAT NEXT YEAR, I EARNED A STARTING POSITION ON THE VARSITY. AND, FOR ME IT WASN'T JUST THE AGE OLD RAGS TO RICHES SUCCESS STORY OF WORK HARD AND EARN A JOB ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM. IT WASN'T JUST THAT I NOW HAD A VERBAL RELATIONSHIP ATLEAST WITH PEOPLE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX NOW, AND THAT EVENTUALLY I DID GET A DATE FOR THE SENIOR PROM. IT WAS MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT I LEARNED SOMETHING THAT HAD A FUNDAMENTAL IMPACT ON MY LIFE. A FUNDAMENTAL LESSON WHICH WAS, IF YOU HAVE GOALS, IF YOU HAVE DREAMS THAT ARE UP THERE, BUT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE AND THIS IS WHERE YOU ARE, TO

BRIDGE THAT GAP BETWEEN THE TWO THAT SOMETIMES IT TAKES A LITTLE TIME, A LITTLE SWEAT, SOME EFFORT, A LITTLE PAIN, A LITTLE PERSONAL SACRIFICE. AND, THAT WAS A FUNDAMENTAL LESSON FOR ME.

AND, RIGHT NOW WE ARE ALL AT THIS CONFERENCE WITH A GOAL OF A DRUG FREE AMERICA. AMERICA IS A GREAT, GREAT COUNTRY, AND I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN. AND, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS A LOFTY GOAL.

ON A RECENT OCCASION TO VISIT WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE IN RECEIPT OF ONE OF THE SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS, I WAS ONE OF EIGHT ATHLETES WHO WERE NOTED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT REALLY STUCK IN MY MIND. WHAT REALLY GAVE ME AN IMPACT WAS HOW HE, AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THIS COUNTRY, HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SO MANY HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER DIGNITARIES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THE ONE THING THAT COMES UP TIME AND TIME AGAIN IN THEIR REMARKS ABOUT AMERICA AND AMERICANS IS THAT COMMUNITY CARING SPIRIT. YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE DO FOR EACH OTHER ARE SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH THE CAPITALISTIC SOCIETY. WHERE THERE IS BIG FISH SWALLOWING SMALLER FISH, WHERE IS THERE IS SO MUCH PIE, AND I AM GREEDY. I WANT IT ALL. I WANT PROFIT. I WANT WHAT IS GOING TO ALLOW ME TO BE SUCCESSFUL TO SURVIVE. AND, IF WE DIDN'T HAVE A CARING FOR EACH OTHER, WHAT A DOG EAT DOG WORLD, WHAT A DOG EAT DOG COUNTRY AMERICA WOULD BE. AND, A LOT OF THE NICE THINGS THAT OTHER

PEOPLE DO IN OTHER COUNTRIES FOR EACH OTHER -- THAT IS A PART OF THE CULTURE, THAT IS A PART OF PROTOCOL.

THE THINGS THAT I LIKE TO THINK THAT WE DO FOR EACH OTHER BECAUSE WE GENUINELY ARE CONCERNED, ARE GENUINELY CARING, WE LOVE OUR FELLOW MAN. AND, NOW AS A PARTICIPANT IN THIS EFFORT, I CAN ONLY LOOK AT MYSELF AND SAY WHAT AM I DOING? YES, I HAVE RECEIVED SOME NICE AWARDS; YES, I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A VERY POPULAR SPORT. BUT, IS THAT ENOUGH? AND, I SAY NO. THE THING THAT I AM COMMITTED TO IS USING EVERY RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND ME AS PART OF A PROFESSION AND, HOPEFULLY, SIMPLY AS A PARENT, TO BE A PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROCESS THAT WILL REDUCE THE FEAR OF MY KIDS GOING INTO SCHOOLS, GOING INTO THE COMMUNITY, GOING INTO THE PLAYGROUND AND BEING CONFRONTED WITH DRUGS.

LAST YEAR WAS A VERY TUMULTUOUS SEASON FOR THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT AND THE UNION. IT RESULTED IN A WORK STOPPAGE OR A STRIKE AS PEOPLE LIKE TO CALL IT. IT IS A VERY, VERY TOUGH TIME FOR A LOT OF OWNERS, A VERY TOUGH TIME FOR A LOT OF PLAYERS. REGGIE WILLIAMS FOR THE FIRST WEEK WAS A STRIKING NFL BALL PLAYER. I WAS NOT ACTIVELY ON THE PICKET LINE. IN FACT, I WASN'T ON THE PICKET LINE AT ALL. BUT, THERE WAS NO GAME TO PLAY SO I WAS SITTING AT HOME. BUT I WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN WHAT WAS GOING ON, AND THE THING THAT CAME BACK TO ME, AND THE REASON THAT I MADE A PERSONAL DECISION TO CROSS THE PICKET LINE AND PLAY FOOTBALL, WAS BECAUSE,

ONE I FEEL THAT TALK IS CHEAP. WE MUST BE PEOPLE OF ACTION. AND THE THING THAT MOVED ME TO ACTION WAS THE STRONG SENSE OF NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE THAT WAS BEING PLACED ON THE INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE. VERY SIMILAR TO THE TYPE OF PEER PRESSURE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FACING IN THEIR SCHOOLS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PLAYGROUNDS. I PERSONALLY WASN'T VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN BEING PARTY TO EGG THROWING, NAME CALLING, TAUNTING, THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, SHAKING THE BUS, WAVING SHOT GUNS AROUND. I WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN BEING PARTY TO PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES SNATCHING AUTOGRAPHS THAT THEY HAD ALREADY SIGNED FOR LITTLE KIDS AND TEARING THEM UP BECAUSE THE KIDS JUST WANTED TO ENJOY A FOOTBALL GAME.

AND, SO FOR ME, IT WAS MY PERSONAL ACTION ORIENTED STEP TO SAY "KIDS, I BELIEVE IN THE INDIVIDUAL WILL TO SAY NO." AND WHILE MANY OF US ADULTS CAN PREACH THAT TO OUR KIDS, THERE ARE TIMES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE MUST TAKE ACTION ON THAT STATEMENT. AND THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR DAYS REPRESENT THAT TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR US. IT IS GOING TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LET YOUR INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS BE EXPRESSED. I AM NOT HERE TO SAY EVERY QUESTION IS GOING TO HAVE AN ANSWER BECAUSE THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS FOR THE TOUGH, TOUGH QUESTIONS WE HAVE TO ASK. BUT WE HAVE TO INITIALLY GET THE ISSUES ON THE TABLE, PUT THEM BEFORE A GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT CAN ACT UPON THEM, LET THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA BE HEARD, AND LET THEIR CARING AND CONCERN FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOR THIS COUNTRY GENERATE THE TYPE OF MOMENTUM THAT CAN ACHIEVE THIS LOFTY GOAL OF A DRUG FREE AMERICA. UTILIZE THESE

NEXT FEW DAYS, GO HOME WITH THE ANSWERS THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO
BEGIN WORK NOW. AND HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE AS A PEOPLE, AS A
CONGRESS, AS A COMMISSION AND CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA
WILL BE THERE TO ASSIST YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Mother & Dr. Hale
White House Conference for a Drug Free America
Thursday, March 3, 1988

Good morning. If you think that my mother at 82 is going to sit down, she will stand right here. She stands right here for a couple of reasons. First of all, if I say something with which she utterly doesn't agree, she kicks me in the shins; and therefore, I sort . . . if you will notice I will move further and further away from her as the talk proceeds . . . progresses.

It is certainly a great pleasure to greet you today, the final day of the White House Conference for a Drug Free America. I want to thank Mrs. Lois Herrington from whom I have really learned graciously -- for she is indeed a gracious lady. And ... a very special thank you to Dr. Arvel Tharp who has been supportive, a friend in need, when necessary, a confidant. And with deep, deep respect I thank all the other members of your staff, Mrs. Herrington, for they have each been helpful and considerate. I say this because Mother and I were fortunate to be able to attend the conferences in Omaha, Nebraska; Jacksonville, Florida; Los Angeles, California; and New York City; and now we are here. So, we have gotten to know them a little bit and I admire them so much.

Mrs. Herrington, you gave us an opportunity to speak about the problems of drug addiction and you told us that we were free to speak our minds and our hearts and that this would not be a partisan conference -- it was a non-partisanship conference and we should remember it. I was particularly pleased with your remarks, because my style of interacting is to be fairly direct and straightforward. I come from a community where we don't have time to play games, where our lives are always on the line. So, I will report my story with truth and honesty as I see it. I have always tried to accurately portray the feelings, attitudes and concerns of those of us who have lived with the problem of illicit drugs and drug abuse in the Harlem community for over 30 years. I have tried to help you see the world of drug addicts and drug addiction as we see it and finally, I have tried to help you see the plight of the female drug user because she is truly the person at the bottom of the ladder that is underground. She has, as the kids say, she's got no juice. She has but only problems. We know her as the woman who, when pregnant, gives birth to a baby who is addicted. The baby is addicted inutero and she is so guilty. We know her as the woman who is now passing the AIDS virus to her baby in the womb or at birth. We know her guilt and we know her shame.

It is because of these men and women that at each of the conferences I asked the same question. Why should a woman or man

living in Harlem stop using drugs? Why? Because you say so? I don't think so. Because I say so? Not really. Why should they?

As you ponder this question, let me give you a few demographics about the Harlem community. Harlem is an area located in central Manhattan accessible to three subway lines and six bus routes. There are over 100,000 inhabitants. The median income in Harlem is \$6,487.00 annually. 34.9% of the population live below the poverty line and 36.7% of all families receive some form of public assistance. The unemployment rate is 15.6%, approximately three times as high as the national rate. Additionally, 64% of men between 18 and 24 are either unemployed or unemployable. 21% have been in prison because of some drug-related crime.

School in Harlem is not the place where all children go to learn. When very young, some attend because they have to. As they get older, they choose friends and companions who are also uninterested. Patterns of truancy develop. Schools cannot compete with the continuous action in the street; however, youngsters not interested in the educational system are learning. They are learning street-smarts. They are learning street coping mechanisms and behaviors. They are learning the language of drugs and drugers. They learn about drug use and, above all, they are learning at a very early age about the entrepreneurship, about the lucrative economy of the drug world. The drop-out rate, while not above national average, is statistically more significant when population sizes are compared. The continuing rise in teenage pregnancies has contributed to the high rate of school dropouts.

Over 1/4 of the buildings in Harlem are boarded and substandard. Many of the habitable buildings are rat, mice and roach infested. Hallways are unsafe and break ins frequent . . . local criminals break in and steal the prize possessions of every household: the television set and the VCR.

On or near 125th Street in Harlem, the only commercial strip in the area, are eight methadone maintenance clinics whose clients hangout near the centers causing population congestion. They are usually loud and vulgar, selling and buying drugs. 46% in methadone maintenance programs abuse alcohol; 38% abuse cocaine. Additionally, they abuse other things . . . pills, whatever they can get.

In Harlem, there are many small shops and stores. Some mom and pop stores, majority owned by organized groups of newly arrived Americans. They sell overpriced, inferior merchandise and do not hire the locals. Drug trafficking in Harlem provides the most employment opportunities for the young, ambitious, Harlemites, both men and women. The business acumen of these young entrepreneurs is outstanding when one remembers that many of them

are high school and junior high school drop-outs thought to be uneducatable or, at least, learning disabled.

Harlem is isolated from the other areas of Manhattan for some of the residents. Often the ominous presence of police represents the only visible outsider. There is an invisible wall which keeps the residence in and outsiders out. There are many latch-key youngsters in Harlem. Younger children receive day care services, some private home services, and there are few, very few, after school programs. Despair, disillusionment, detachment are often etched on the faces of those shuffling along the streets. I give you this brief, very brief view of Harlem and I again ask why should a young man or woman in Harlem stop taking drugs? Unfortunately, there are no incentives, no brownie points nor are there any rewards for being either drug free or a recovered addict. The Harlem youngster who was addicted, but now recovered, will not be asked to write a book, or get a television contract, or open a treatment program, or get a treatment center named for him. It doesn't happen. Drug free, recovered, or high, Harlem youth remains anonymous. Part of the faceless masses without voice or advocacy living in an area of individuals observing territorial turfs, not unity affiliations. Children without the support which makes life livable are lost, bored, seeking a place where they will be appreciated, respected and valued, and you know where that is -- in the drug community. The drug community is an equal opportunity destroyer. These children dwell in every town and in every city and state in America today. They come in all colors, shades and hues and represent all income classes. The drug trip from Harlem to main street America took 30 years and when it arrived, it arrived with an explosion that has rocked this nation. What shall we do? How can we stop the spread of drugs? That is why we are here. Shoot them, someone said at the New York conference, because they are going to spread AIDS anyway. Jail the dealer and the addict, others have said.

Do you really know how much it costs to process a case, convict a criminal and jail him for long, long terms or even short terms? Do you know how much that costs? And are we willing to spend monies in that way? We say yes, but are you really willing? Do you know how much less it costs to increase drug treatment facilities, how much less, much, much less, I assure you. I certainly support punishment of all crimes for the pusher of illegal drugs, but what penalty will you extract from those pushing addictive drugs that we are not here to discuss: Alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs? What penalties will be given to the distiller, the distributor, the ad man, the salesman of the seemingly innocuous wine coolers so attractive to junior high schoolers and women? What penalty? These drugs are being deliberately marketed for the woman and child population. What penalty are you going to extract from them? Certainly all of us here today know that cocaine use is decreasing among high school students. We are told that. Alcohol consumption has not

decreased and is steadily increasing as well as cigarette smoking. What penalties will be given to physicians who indiscriminately prescribe illegal. . . legal psycho-active addictive drugs to patients? What penalty? To limit the inspection of the problem of drug use to illegal drugs can be seen as either supporting use of legal addictive and deadly drugs or failing to recognize the potential for destruction of these drugs. What messages are we sending?

It seems to me that the first thing I heard in Omaha, Nebraska, was that we are not having a problem with cocaine and heroin, we are having a problem with alcohol and that came from the youngsters. I do indeed support appropriate punishment. When Senator Dole was talking here about punishment, my mother was just applauding, oh yea, we want to punish . . . yes . . . because we believe that. It is . . . but, I also believe that drug testing should be a routine part of all students yearly regular check-up. Now, I say this because of the social aspect of drug use. It appears almost to be contagious. We would recommend that schools, you see schools or poor schools, . . . we talk about the teachers, we talk about the principals, we talk about everybody in the schools . . . Do you know why schools were developed? To teach children, to teach them to read and to write, to be better citizens. We taught them, they are called social studies now, when I was in school it was history and geography, but we were taught that so that we would know what it meant to be an American. Now we are asking the schools to give breakfast, lunch, to give dinner, to keep the children when the parents are not around and we are asking them to monitor children who use drugs and I say that is not fair. It is not fair to the schools.

It seems to me that in schools that if there is a suspicion of drug use, parents should be notified and the matter discussed with them. Testing should be recommended in the same way that Principal Clark walked around with his bullhorn and bat. That kind of recommendation. If a youngster, is found to be positive for any drug, he should be removed from the local school and placed in an appropriate treatment center, with an educational component. I say that because, although I know when you are using drugs you are hardly learning, but it is still important to have it there. And they should be confined to that school setting . . . treatment setting. . . for the length of time needed for rehabilitation. If drug use continues when that youngster is removed, is taken out of that program and put back in the regular classrooms and if drug use constitutes a criminal act, and we have to be very clear on that, then recidivists should be remanded to a rehabilitation camp for as long as necessary to become drug free. This facility, and I will make my mother very happy, should have a strong emphasis on therapy and a stronger emphasis on work. They need to learn how to work. We have children whose parents, well, the children have never seen a

parent get up in the morning and go to work. They do not know what it is. So how can we expect children to get up and go to school. Getting up is not part of their lifestyle. Staying up till one or two o'clock in the morning is their lifestyle. Work is what people need. Workfare, not welfare.

The recovering addict . . . I am sitting here and I am thinking about, as I am talking, about the woman. . . the female addict. We did not emphasize enough here the plight of the addict. We are talking about working with and helping children 8, 9 and 10 years old, but we have babies who are born addicted. We have got to go further back. We can't start at 8. We need to start in the womb. We need to begin to help women to understand that having a baby who is drug addicted, is not the way that child is going to grow and be normal. Because I say to you, having lived with over 600 of these children, they are not all right. They do not learn well. They have short attention spans. All of the things that are necessary to be successful in school, these children don't have in sufficient amounts, they just don't have it. We need to focus on women and children, on pregnant women and that is why we are starting a program for the pregnant addict. Because we want to know honey why are you having a baby when you know you have AIDS. I don't understand that. Why are you doing this? Why isn't someone saying to you, tie your tubes while you are doing that type of thing? That is not fair to a baby.

It does not help our country. How many substandard children can we afford to care for? No country can be strong with that kind of deficit. But we need to do more with our women. We need to provide every addict, every recovering addict, with an opportunity to becoming a valuable citizen.

I taught at a college in Harlem, but I was not impressed with the suggestion that all ex-addicts should go to college. I didn't think a lot of them were ready, and I felt that it was going to be me or them, so I left. They don't need that, there are other jobs that people can have. I think that we stress college so much, yes college is alright, but it is not for everybody. Work is for everybody. I cannot emphasize, work is for everybody. If those methadone maintenance folks weren't considered patients, they would be working somewhere and I am really tired of my tax dollars being spent watching them stand in the street getting high. That is not what I want to see.

Imprisonment will not accomplish the goals we are looking for. I am thinking about a young man that I talked with not too long ago, I always mention to my husband that I spoke with one of the boys on the corner, and he laughs, but I do talk to the boys on the corner. And I said to a young man, I was talking to him and I was telling him about the conference, and he wasn't impressed. I said I have been here and I have been there and he wasn't

impressed, he was looking around for his pusher. You know that was more important. "Look, you know they are really thinking about putting you guys in jail. Those of you . . ." He said, "I ain't done nothing." I said, "Yea, I know, but using drugs is going to be considered doing something and they are going to throw you in jail. "That ain't no big thing. I can do ten." What did he say? "I can do a dime on a toe." That means I can do ten years very easily. What does it mean to him? What did it mean? What . . . in many of their lives, they have a clean bed, they have a bed that they don't have to share with several other people, they have linen, linen. You know, you take it for granted, but some of them don't know what linen is. They have linen on their beds. They are guaranteed, in jail, three meals a day, and you don't have the hassle of having to pop drugs. So you are not doing to them what you think you are. You are seeing them out of your eyes. Your way of seeing things, you don't want to go to jail. But my dear, in New York when it gets cold, the jails are filled up, because many of them want to get off the street, so you have got to see them and see their world more through their eyes than through yours. So when you talk about punishing, the only person you are punishing is your own pocketbooks, cause you have got to pay for that and are you willing? Are you ready?

We have to treat people humanely in order to get back what we want, though I think my mother may have overdone it a little bit when I walked in her room one day and there was a full-grown drug addict sitting in her lap. I walked out and she said to me a little bit later on, well, you know she needed love and affection also. Well, you know we all have our limits, that was not quite mine. But I understand, I understand how we feel, I understand it very well, we get so frustrated. Because we have solutions and unlike aspirins, they don't work immediately and we get upset and so we respond by saying, well let's be punitive, let's really do something. That is not the answer, that is not going to get you what you want. Treat a man like a human being and he will respond like a human. Treat him like a dog and he will respond like a dog.

To be an American, one must be respected and valued as a citizen with all of the related privileges. The national aim, in our opinion, should be to move toward a more egalitarian society, not contributing to the widening schism between the haves and the have nots. Where will you fall? How many of us here, if fired, are only one or two payrolls from unemployment checks? How many of you truly do not realize that drug addiction could have occurred in your neighborhood? How many of you really thought that it would never reach your neighborhood? Think on that.

To the youngsters here, let me say to you that it is a dream of almost every family to pass on to the youngsters a more perfect world, a world in which your dreams can be realized. That is the

American way, but instead, today, we pass on problems of great enormity, drugs, social agitation, and unsolved medical issues, such as AIDS. We are here, and by being here, we have lit the torch. You will not have to stumble in darkness, but we apologize for leaving you, our 21st centuries, with myriads of problems to solve. Just remember, America is a country of people, and the people, when well informed, can and will make it all work for everyone of us. It is in this belief that we have gathered here in Washington for the last four days. Keep America strong and beautiful, love it as we do. Make it work for all of us. Thank you very much.

Senator Robert Dole
White House Conference for a Drug Free America
Thursday, March 3, 1988

First, I want to thank all of you for being here and taking time out of your busy schedules. You are the ones out there trying to make it all happen, make it work; and thank Lois and all the others for this outstanding Conference. I certainly want to thank President and Mrs. Reagan for coming and making their statements. Much of the progress we are seeing today is directly through the untiring efforts of Nancy Reagan and so I am very proud to be here just to say at some time to my grandchildren that I was on the same program as the President and Mrs. Reagan, because they have done a lot of good work in this area.

I must say as you travel around the country as many of us are doing, when you have questions and answers sessions, town meetings, whatever the forum may be, I have been surprised that I haven't had more questions on drugs. You have to almost raise it in many meetings. I think there is a feeling that somehow it can't be as serious as everyone here knows it is. If there is one problem that touches the lives of all Americans, young and old, rich and poor, black, brown, yellow, white, it is the cancer of drugs. The cancer that has metastasized so rapidly, so seriously, there isn't a single community in America, not a family on the block that hasn't been touched by it. So again it is kind of surprising. I just say as one candidate, there are Democrats and Republicans and we are running in to each other all over the country. Now, maybe they are having a different experience, but I doubt it. I have seen war and I have seen suffering, but for sheer horror and destruction nothing can match the drug epidemic. Make no mistake about it, we are battling a social evil so contemptible, so devastating, so all pervasive, that there is only one way to win and that is by declaring war, total war on drug abuse. That is what this Conference is all about.

By now, I am certain that you have heard all the figures. But I keep looking and I have asked, I have said to go back and make certain that this is not a typographical error that last month twenty-three million Americans used illegal drugs. That is more than ten percent of the population of the United States. Cocaine, or its derivative Crack, is available in two-thirds of America's school. The average age for first time drug use has dropped below 13 years of age. It is frightening. The drug epidemic is certainly robbing our citizens, especially young people, of their intellect. We are around talking about the deficit and the impact it is going to have on our children and our grandchildren, and it will have, but this is one that is having an impact right now. It spawns prostitution, theft, assault, murder. It contributes to the spread of AIDS; turns our schools into detention centers and causes untold slaughter on our

highways. That is why the only answer is total war, wiping out the drug epidemic, root and branch, supply and demand. And half-measures though maybe well intended aren't going to be the answer. Sometime they do more harm than good, sending mixed signals.

Giving clean needles to addicts may be intended to prevent disease, but it also endorses addiction, and I think it is a big, big mistake. I remember visiting with Cardinal O'Connor just a few weeks ago in New York, and this is a very sensitive issue in New York as some know. He indicated over breakfast that why should we surrender, and we are surrendering when we say, "Oh yes, we want to furnish clean needles." We ought to be trying to raise the standards in America and not come down to the standards of those who have the problem, and those who have addiction. Cardinal O'Connor is taking a lot of heat, but he is right. When any of us in public life start advocating lowering standards in America, then we ought to be on our way out and I think that is the way it is going to be viewed by many, many across the country. The government that gives clean needles to addicts is telling them to shoot up as long as you don't catch anything or get caught and, in my view, that is just plain wrong. We can't tolerate that in America. That is part of the problem. We tolerate too many things in America.

The problem is here, now and everywhere and some may think that they are insulated, but they are not. Whether you know it or not, you or your friends have felt the effects of drug traffic. Consider the high crime rate and the direct correlation between drugs and crime. I am asked a lot about crime as I travel around the country. Very few people understand the direct relationship, so I think if you would realize, as certainly this Conference does by now, that the vast majority of arrested criminal suspects, between 70 and 90 percent in the cities like New York and Washington, test positive for drugs, and their victims, some five millions victims of violent crime in the United States last year, were usually innocent bystanders. Now this isn't a big city problem, or a minority problem. It cuts all the way across our society; in fact, national drug abuse on a per capita basis is highest in communities of from ten-thousand to twenty-five thousand persons.

Too many Americans have been told that Cocaine is OK, harmless, recreational. It is a lie. We know, you know, that coke is incredibly addictive and it can trigger heart attacks, strokes, angina, rupture the coronary arteries and liver damage. Seizures and death can result from a single use. Some of our best young athletes discover this too late. Some people also use to claim marijuana was a mild and harmless drug. Whatever the case before, the marijuana being sold today is on average nine times more potent than a decade ago. It is often spiked with chemicals like PCP and taking a dose of that stuff is playing Russian roulette with your body chemistry. Even taken alone, marijuana effects the brain, can damage the memory and harm the immune and

reproductive systems. So the problem is a big one and we have to address it.

Those are some of the questions you have been kicking around. Where are the solutions? What would Bob Dole do about it? What would somebody else do about it? There are no easy answers, but there are some tough and realistic steps that I think we can take.

In 1986 I was proud to co-author comprehensive anti-drug abuse legislation. It targeted more federal resources for fighting the drug problem. It stiffened penalties for drug offenders and beefed up the federal drug education effort, but that is only the beginning and we need to do a lot more.

First, we have to attack supply. Oh yes, we manage some interdiction successes such as the seizure of 140 tons of Cocaine in 1988, but let's face it, that is just a drop in the bucket of the multi-billion dollar criminal empire. The fact is the narcotics task force has been a well intended, but ineffective effort. It isn't working. We need more action and more results.

I was in New Orleans yesterday and a man came up to me and said I want to give you a check for your campaign. I grabbed it, of course, gave it to my local treasurer and I haven't seen him since. In any event, he was a very concerned American. Somebody I have never seen before, just in a crowd shaking hands. He handed me a card, because he didn't think I had understood what he was talking about and he put some little notes on the back and I read those little notes on the way back last evening. His name was Robert Handley. I don't know what Robert Handley does, but I know he is a concerned citizen. He approached me about the drug problem. He suggested we should seal off our borders and let nothing pass without inspection. Now, that is his answer. Nothing should come into America without inspection by land, sea or air. Now that may not be totally practical, but why not a drug defense initiative. We have got a strategic defense initiative, why not a drug defense initiative. A concerted effort by our military and law enforcement officials to shield this country against the relentless flood of illegal drugs from abroad. It is time to bring the full force of our military and intelligence communities into this war. And as I said, it is a war. It is time to really treat the drug problem as a national security problem that we defined in the 1986 bill that I co-authored with Senator Byrd on the Senate floor. We declared it to be a national security problem. It is. Now, we just have to follow up on it.

Now some have suggested the appointment of a cabinet level czar. Sort of a four star general to ride herd on the federal drug operation, but the answer to the drug threat is not another federal office building full of desks and bureaucrats. The answer, in my view, and I am looking at it as not a candidate now, but as somebody in the Congress, we kind of believe that the

answer sometime just as we have problems from time to time, that sometimes the federal agency . . . agencies, it is plural, who have the responsibilities spend more time fighting each other than they do fighting the war on drugs. So we have got to bring them together. We have to stop the factions. We have to stop the warring. The real enemy out there is the smugglers, the distributors, and all the other criminal cords. I must say that we are making some progress.

As you travel around out there, as I have indicated, trying to find out what you really ought to be doing and saying what is really important in America and what the people have on their minds, you also think about national problems because one of those candidates out there is going to be the next president. I don't know who it is going to be, but I can tell you since I am the one that is here right now, I hope that it is me. If it happens, and maybe the others would say the same, but if it happens, as president, I would probably have to knock a few heads together to win the war against drugs. Sometimes you have to do it, sometimes you have to be tough in the business. Sometimes you have to bring the people together. Maybe its Congress, maybe its the agency, maybe its law enforcement, maybe . . . whoever's out there trying to help in this struggle for survival. That's what it almost is. We have to get tough. Every year thousands of convicted drug dealers are let off on probation. Two out of three are not caught or not sent to prison. That is a disgrace. How can we say we are going to be tough if two-thirds walk away after committing a crime and loading up your children with drugs. We have to be tougher. We have to appoint judges who understand that drug pushers, money launderers, and distributors are taking human lives and that they belong off the streets and out of our schools permanently. That is what we need to do and that is the example the President of the United States has to set. I say as we said on the Senate floor two years ago when we passed the 1986 drug bill, for the drug kingpins, the overlords who exploit massive drug running operation, restore the federal death penalty for the drug kingpins and for the overlords. And where are these master criminals? They are thousands of miles away. When some young addict dies, maybe somebody on your block or somebody in your town, dies of a drug overdose, they could care less. They have all of the money in the world. Your money. Somebody dies, they are just as guilty as if they had injected that young child themselves. And it is time we recognize it, and I must say to credit to the House of Representatives, they had the death penalty in their bill. We couldn't get it done on the Senate side. We were near the end of the session and we couldn't defeat a filibuster.

I would say for all those foreign leaders who are fattening their pocketbooks on drug traffic, America's foreign policy has no business tolerating drugs, thugs, or the likes of General Noriega. We don't need him around either and we don't need his drugs. So we can talk about strict enforcement. We have to attack the demand side as well as the supply side. We have to

reverse 20 years of insufficient attention to the drug problem. Twenty years of mixed messages to our children resulting in drug users being seen as trendy or in.

The war on drugs must start with education and education has to start at home and in our school classrooms where the problem really begins. Not in college, not in high school, but in elementary school. Substance abuse education, dealing with drugs and alcohol, should be made a standard part of every grade school curriculum. Eight, nine and ten year olds. When the average age is twelve and one-half, you know that eight, nine and ten years olds are falling prey to drug pushers in school yards across the country. They should start learning about the danger of drugs at the same time they start learning their 3 R's.

We also have to stop tolerating, sometimes even glamorizing drug use in our society. Too often, pop culture helps to perpetuate the myth that drugs are fun, drugs are fashionable. Let's face it, when public figures, politicians, athletes and entertainers, talk about, joke about, or flaunt their drug use and when they get away with it, what happens then? They are trashing time, money and effort we spend on formal education programs that send the right message. When role models say yes to drugs, it doesn't do much good for teachers to say no. That is why Nancy Reagan has had such a positive impact with her Just Say No campaign. She started it and we owe her a great deal of credit as I said at the outset. She is a powerful celebrity out there saying just say no, just say no, just say no. She is not going to give up this year or next year, or the year after. We have to say no more to the lifestyles and personalities that infect our children with the most dangerous virus of all -- the drug toleration virus. The national toleration of drugs is deeply, dangerously, ingrained. The war on drugs cannot be won alone by soldiers in the jungles of South America or police officers, some who are here, in the alleys of our cities, or lab technicians in our health departments where we can win some skirmishes. The war must be won in the conscience, attitude, and the character of the American people. So long as we tolerate drugs, or think they are fashionable, we will never rid ourselves of this national curse.

The next president, just as this president, will provide more leadership needed to reduce drug abuse and strengthen law enforcement. The next president must not only lead the drug enforcement attack, he must also be the moral leader in drug abuse education, treatment and deterrence.

We all know, as I said, that it is a tough world out there for young people. Tough enough without having to face addiction of drugs or alcohol. They need our help. They are young children. They are eight, they are nine, they are ten, twelve, thirteen years of age. They need our help, they need our understanding. They deserve it. They are not only our pride and joy, they are the future. All of us go around, all of us candidates, talking about how the future belongs to the children. The future is

theirs.

We talk to high schools, we talk to colleges, we talk to grade schools, and we say with great pride, it is your future and some day one of you will be standing up here before a conference of some kind saying I want to be President of the United States. It is their future. What are we going to do about it? There isn't anything the grandparents or parents wouldn't do for their children. What you have to do now is support those of us who are willing to stick our neck out and we are going to support those of you who are willing to stick your neck out. We have a problem on our hands and it is a big, big problem. For the sake of your children and your grandchildren we have got to wage, as I said at the outset, total war against drug abuse and we don't need all generals, we need a lot of soldiers too. I just suggest that this is a commitment that, I think, is bi-partisan. It has no party lines. This isn't a partisan problem. There aren't partisan answers. It is an American problem and we have to find an American answer. That is why you are here today. So I am ready to enlist. If I can't be the general, I will be a private.

So I just suggest to all of you who have come and given of all of your time, and to Lois Herrington, who has done such an outstanding job, I don't know of a more important meeting in America today than this one. There isn't any more important meeting in America than this one. I have been to a lot of meetings that I thought were important, but I have never been to a meeting that I knew was so important. Oh what happens to all of these candidates is important. See we are talking about four years or eight years. You are talking about 20, 30, 40, 50 years. You are talking about that eight year old becoming 21 years old or 30 years old or 40 years of age and having a real chance in America. So, I just thank you again, on behalf of all the candidates. It is not possible for everybody to be everywhere. This is an important meeting and I know that every candidate, Republican or Democrat, would thank you. Thank you for helping save America's children from drug abuse.

ROBERT MERKLE, ESQUIRE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA

Thank you very much. It is a distinct honor and privilege to be here and if anybody is still awake after that introduction, I just want to say about the Ledher trial, I do have one thing to be thankful for, I guess. If it weren't for that trial, I am sure I would have ten children by now. I have been away from home, it seems, for about a year. In fact, I got home recently for a one day weekend, which is a rare occurrence and I knocked, and I went to the door and one of my little girls who is about six years old came to the door and said, "Mom, that man's here again." You think that is bad, when my wife got to the door, she said, "Yes, what can I do for you?"

I want to try to give you a little bit of a perspective, not only as a prosecutor, who has been prosecuting major crimes and drug crimes for most of my professional career, but I want to speak to you also as a father, a parent, and a citizen. And I want to give you, hopefully, a perspective which you may not have heard before on my view of the drug problem in that context. I recognize that in many respects I think I am preaching to the choir here but, hopefully I will have something new to say to you.

I don't pretend to have the expertise of anybody in this room in your various disciplines. I know that this is a very distinguished gathering. I know the purpose of this Conference and I know the recommendations that you make will be good, solid recommendations. I don't presume to tell you how to do your business. What I want to do is give you a little bit of a philosophical reflection if I can, which might hopefully assist you in your deliberation and in the manner in which you proceed in this very noble endeavor in the future. I think gatherings such as this are very edifying in the sense that they signify a very real and emerging change in the way our nation is thinking about itself and about its problems. You know we have acted like an ostrich for twenty years, and we are starting to pull our heads out of the sand. But we had better do it fast because we don't have a lot of time remaining to us.

You know, a few years, rather a few weeks ago, a young mother in Miami left her three year old daughter with her sister to go to work, and told her sister to keep the drug dealers out of the front yard. This is a true story. She got home that night to find out that her sister followed her advice; in fact, chased a young crack dealer right out of her front yard. She also found out that the crack dealer returned in a rage with a machine gun and sprayed the house killing her three year old daughter. Two 16 year old boys in Pinellas County, Florida, last week, went to school armed with weapons, shot and killed the assistant principal.

It is becoming almost humdrum in a sense of being exposed to violence that we learn and hear of the violence associated with drugs. Yet, I don't think we can ignore the irony of the fact that the reason we are in the situation today is because we, as a society, have abstracted ourselves from the reality of drug use, the reality of drug trafficking. Drugs equal suffering. Drugs equal destruction. Nothing less.

You know, 200 years ago John Jay wrote in the Federalist Paper in promoting the idea of the Constitution and he said, "I wish it could be as clearly foreseen by every good citizen that when the dissolution of the Union occurs, America will have the opportunity to say in the words of the poet 'Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness.'" In that context, I want to try to bring to your attention something that we've seemed to have forgotten as a country. The founding fathers in Philadelphia when they wrote our Constitution stated among its principle purpose was to form a more perfect Union. It seems to me that this country arose because we as a people desired unity. Union derives not from national boundaries. It derives from commonly shared values, commonly shared culture, heritage. And we recognized as a young people in this country, 200 years ago, that we did have fundamentally shared values and it was those values that allowed us to unite and to be strong. In fact, we have lost sight of both the reality of those values and the necessity of those values in carrying on a responsible social intercourse among ourselves and among the community of nations.

Twenty years ago our courtship with drugs began in earnest. That courtship blossomed into a romance and it bloomed into a wedding in the 1970's. A wedding which was not marked by any real love. A wedding between the consumer and the drug. There were a lot of people in this country throwing rice at that wedding. In fact, a lot of people in this country encouraged the courtship and precipitated the wedding, and I speak of the media; I speak of the government; I speak of medicine; I speak of education; I speak of lawyers; and I speak of courts. And we did it in such a way as not to overtly call attention to the fact that we were condoning drug use. We did it in a much more subtle way, which made the choice of drugs inevitable in our society and yet, we did it in such a way as also to prevent us from realizing that what we were doing was a violent act, inherently violent. And, can it be doubted today that drug trafficking is violent from the beginning to the end of the chain? Drug trafficking is inherently incompatible, it is fundamentally antithetical, to the very idea of rational discourse among nations. We have seen that the power of drug money can purchase governments. This is unprecedented in human history. And when governments are controlled by the narco-dollar, governments cannot and will not act in true national self-interest. And drug trafficking on the scale that we see it today is a fundamental and direct threat to the stability among nations, and to the community welfare among nations and the violence it does to that social fabric moves down into the chain into our own country. The violence of drug use on the consumer itself. The violence the

drug use inflicts incidentally in the communities, and you all are aware of the correlation between drug use and crime. The less bloody, but equally real violence of drug use is the corrupting power of the narco dollar on our social institutions. And, no institution in this country is immune from that influence.

We have in our District alone prosecuted judges, sheriffs, former Federal prosecutors, and in one recent prosecution, I prosecuted the the division head of a district attorney's office who had been dealing cocaine and marijuana for years to assistant district attorneys. I was criticized roundly in the press and among the legal profession for suggesting, having the audacity to suggest that this man go to prison. The Federal judge roundly scolded me for the prosecution and put this gentleman on probation. It is that type of an incident which exemplifies the fact that we have conveyed to our youth and to our society the notion that drug use is something to be tolerated.

Now, I do have a few notes here, I may look at them occasionally. I mention that we have been involved in a process in this country whereby we have facilitated the current crisis. Let me tell you what I mean. If, in fact, fundamentally shared values are necessary to union, then we must recognize that we are at war with ourselves as a people and those places where our unity and our strength begin.

Let me give you some examples of social schizophrenia which makes it difficult for any parent to look his child in the eye and say plausibly, "say no to drugs."

As I moved through the Jacksonville Airport on my way up here last night, I noted in the local book shop, which is run by a governmental authority, a magazine called High Times which promotes the use of drugs. I also noted a magazine called Family Fun which promotes sexual promiscuity between mother and son and father and daughter. I also noted several magazines which commercially advertise hard core pornography. Now, to be sure the magazine called Family Fun is very careful because all of the children in the magazine are 17 years old. As we all know, it is not child abuse and it is not child pornography unless the child is under 16 years old because we, in our infinite wisdom, have declared that someone who is 16 is somehow more valuable than someone who is 17. The point is that we have promoted institutionally through our court system a notion that a human person is something to be degraded is something less than an authentic combination of a physical, spiritual, psychological being. We have seen arising in our judicial system, a comprehensive philosophy of pure utility.

Justice Felix Frankfurter, over 50 years ago, said, "The waters of law run wantonly alive and it becomes increasingly apparent that judicial decisions are made on the basis of judicial philosophy responding to changes in circumstances and advances in technology." In fact, our Supreme Court has gone so far as to redefine the human

being according to whether that person is meaningfully alive or not. Once again, the concept of how useful are you to others before you have the right to call yourself the son or daughter of God.

In the area of our education, we have not only asked God to depart from our schools, but we have kicked out and abandoned even a semblance of an ethical construct of human behavior in our educational programs. Is it any wonder that what our children are being taught by every level of society is that they are first and foremost consumers, and that their value as human beings is measured by how much they can gain or how much they can consume or accumulate that we have an unprecedented rise, not only in drug abuse, but in fraud against the government, white collar crime. Men and women with good educations and good backgrounds are turning to conduct which is criminal because the conduct is self-aggrandizing and because those people do not have any kind of a moral framework against which to measure their conduct.

The legal profession in its turn has sold out the ABA to the drug interest, and I don't claim any originality to that thought. Those are the remarks of the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals last year at the ABA Conference in Florida. And he is right and it took guts for him to say it, and it is about time a judge said something like that. Our criminal justice system has been designed and tailored by the courts to be a win or lose proposition. A Federal District Court judge in New York several years ago said that truth is the value least served in the adversary process. The normally acute and cynical eye of the lawyer becomes at strategic moments a demurely averted and filmy gaze. Our system tells criminal defendants that they don't have to come to terms with their conduct, that anything goes. A criminal trial is no longer a search for the truth but who can outlast whom. And we see our court systems absolutely backlogged and jammed up by knowledgeable and proficient defense attorneys who use anything at their disposal, any means at their disposal to delay the birth of a just verdict, hoping that the lengthy labor process will kill the baby. If you want to see an example of that in action, come to Jacksonville where I have been for the last five months.

Now, we have as a society, and I realize that many of you may not agree with what I am saying, we have institutionally across the board fostered a sense of alienation among ourselves. We have fostered the idea that choices should be made without any moral reference. We have basically cultivated the very ground in which drug abuse and drug use will arise.

Now, let me give you another example of the schizophrenia and I don't mean to demean legitimate drug awareness efforts. You are sitting with your family in front of the television on a Sunday afternoon and you are watching the NFL game of the week and here comes jocko number one who says, "hi kids. I can run fast and I can run far and I am

making thirty million dollars this year and I say to you, don't do drugs." Flip to the commercial. What do you see? Alex the dog. You know Alex. He is the dog that orders a truck full of Stroh's beer, a side of beef, and a pink poodle and, forgive me, if the children watching that who know that they are not going to be able to run fast enough or throw hard enough to make thirty million dollars a year if they are more likely to look to Alex the dog as role model than the jock. And what is Alex the dog telling them very subtly? That life is all about food, sex, booze. I don't mean to deprive the Stroh beer company of the right to advertise and I think they manufacture a very decent product and I don't mean to deprive the right of the NFL to engage in public service messages. Everything has its part and place.

You can't raise up panaceas to this problem. You have got to understand that it is a full spectrum problem which requires a full spectrum approach.

Now, together with the notion of false values, we have seen a corollary proposition at work and that is a diminution of the idea of charity in both public and private life. There is a temptation when the bodies fall in the streets as we see today to engage in finger pointing. I heard recently that everybody is climbing on President Reagan as being somehow insensitive to the drug problem. Balderdash. I happen to be a Reagan appointee. I don't know the man personally, but I give him credit for a lot of sense in putting me in my job. And I say this without hesitation, that the President and the First Lady, in my view, have done more to foster public awareness of the drug problem, and the President through his own programs has done more to reinforce and reinvigorate drug law enforcement than anyone in history, at a period of time when a substantial part of this country had their fingers in their ears or were putting cocaine up their nose and that is a fact.

That is not to say that I wouldn't urge the President to do more because we need more help. It is not a question of throwing dollars at problems. It is a question of financing the ideas which are already in place. Good ideas. Ideas which have allowed us to indict a General Noriega, to apprehend a Carlos Ledher, or to indict the major cartels that operate or have operated in the past with impunity. But for God's sakes we are absolutely swamped and we need to double our enforcement budget at the very least in narcotics enforcement and we cannot afford to put a price tag on it. It is critical to the survival of our country.

You know, but when you are tempted to finger point like that, anybody -- whether they be in Congress and the media -- I'd harken them back to a novel, 19th century novel called Crime and Punishment. In that novel, Dostoyevski who was very much preoccupied with the idea of injustice, particularly the suffering of children, describes what is referred to in literary circles as the dream of the suffering horse and I think this dream illustrates our contemporary problem in many

ways. In that dream a young child and his father are outside of a tavern in Russia and a group of revelers come out and they are drunk and they seek to have a taxi driver who has a horse-drawn cart carry them off. The horse is old and it is tired -- an old mare. She can't pull the load. And the revelers urge the owner to beat the horse. The owner does and the child begs his father to please help and his father says it is none of our business and, urged on by the drunks and absolutely overborne with his own sense of dominion over this creature which is useless you recall, the owner ultimately strikes the fatal blow and the child runs from its father's arms to cradle the dying horse's head in its arms, crying.

It seems to me that there are several lessons in that story. The first is that nobody is measured by how useful they are. The second is that we are our brother's keeper in many respects and particularly in law enforcement we have a shared responsibility as citizens. It is not just up to the cops. It is not just up to the judges. It is not just up to the prosecutors. When we embark on the programs that we embark on, we must do it with the concept that we are a sharing people, we are a caring people and we avoid pointing fingers at Colombia and avoid pointing fingers at Panama and avoid pointing fingers at a budget last year or this or that or the other. None of that is productive. To be sure, we must look to our history to see where we may have made errors, but we must do it in a constructive fashion.

The media needs to grow up. Just to give you an example. I got a call from a national news magazine a couple of weeks ago asking me when would be a good time to come to Jacksonville to cover some of the trial. I said five months ago. They said, "When is anything sexy going to happen?" I said they are barking up the wrong tree.

We recently indicted 142 crack dealers under Federal laws providing for mandatory minimum penalties in Tampa. We recently went after a major crack-cocaine distribution ring in Ft. Myers, which we believe has resulted in the murder of a state trooper and we were criticized in the press. I was asked here this morning, "What about the price of cocaine, isn't it going down? What good does it do to prosecute Carlos Ledher?" And the response is simply this, it is too bad that law enforcement has fostered the notion, through our own errors of holding a press conference and announcing how many tons we have seized or how many people we have arrested, that you can place this problem into the context of statistics. You can't do it. If Winston Churchill had stood in the streets of London in World War II and complained that the rubble was just getting higher, we would have lost the war. He didn't do that because he recognized that war and this, ladies and gentlemen, is a war and it is not a war of convenience and it is not a war because a politician says it is a war. It is a war because our national survival is at stake. Wars are won or lost primarily and fundamentally by whether you can subjugate and control the will and mind of your opponent and so I say to the press, it is irrelevant what the price of cocaine is. So long

as we do our jobs and we get out there in our communities and begin to educate the will and mind of our people and let them know that they are in fact in a war then they will have the strength, the intestinal fortitude, the inner courage to do what has to be done to cut us off as a consumer nation of drugs. The Carlos Ledher's of the world could stack cocaine on our shores until it blotted out the sun and it couldn't hurt us, because they can't make us take it if we don't want to take it.

Now, I would like to see an increase in resources. I would desperately like to see that. I would like to see and I speak for my own personal perspective. I do not speak for the administration. I want to make that clear. I have recommended for sometime that drug assets or drug forfeitures that we engage in fair law enforcement be immediately and directly channeled back into the local communities into drug treatment and drug prevention efforts. I would like to see more progress made in resolving inter-agency conflict and I think this is a lesson that would behoove all of us to learn. It seems that no matter what happens in human life the ego tends to rise up and rear its ugly head in certain ways. I would not like to see the drug prevention, drug education movement fragmented by egos anymore than I would like to see Federal law enforcement fragmented by egos, but the fact of the matter is that today we still have a considerable problem in the duplication of effort and a waste of effort because everybody in the various agencies is highly motivated and they also have a very strong identity and those identities are good and we need to work together more. We must not panic. Our debate must be rational and reasoned. We must recognize, as I have said, that crime is everybody's problem.

Now you know, consider if you can . . . I've got a couple of quotes for you. This man said it better than I could ever hope to say it. This is Alan Bloom. He wrote the book Closing of the American Mind. In talking about that alienation, that fragmentation of our community, he says "We have left the souls of our youths spiritually unclad. Country, religion, family, ideas of civilization all the sentimental and historical forces that stood between cosmic infinity and the individual, providing some notion of a place within the whole have been rationalized and have lost their compelling force. America is experienced not as a common project, but as a framework in which people are only individuals where they are left alone. Free choice has become rampant while we remove any motive for choice, but personal whim." It seems to me that Alan Bloom is right on target. And I think that illustrates what I have been trying to get across is that we cannot compartmentalize this problem. That we can say no to drugs until our faces turn blue and if we continue as we have done in other areas, it is not going to help.

Finally, I want to give you the words of, I think, someone who is a hero to anybody and a hero to all. I recall when I was a young boy in a southern state I use to go out with my father on house calls. He use to . . . we use to drive sometimes 50 miles out into the country. Poor blacks in the area lived in tar paper shacks. They

might not have any food in the house. They might not have any heat in the house. I did this from the time I was 11 years old until I was 16. There are two things you could always find in those little shacks. A picture of Christ on the wall and a picture of Abraham Lincoln.

I am sure that you would be surprised to know that in Lincoln's first inaugural address he announced that he had no intention, no intention of abolishing slavery. Why did he say that? Because he liked slavery? No, he hated it. He hated it, but he recognized first of all the force of law, the necessity of law, and the need for our country to come to the right decision on that issue through the collective Constitutional process and, in fact, he urged that in his first inaugural. And at the conclusion of that speech addressing the seceding southern states, he gave a message which I think I would like to share with you and I think you should share with your children and with those you come in contact with in your communities across the country including those who disagree with you. Lincoln said, "I am loathed to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth stone will yet swell the course of the Union when again touched as surely as it will be by the better angels of our nature."

Thank you very much.

REMARKS BY
PETER BELL
AT THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE
FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 3, 1988
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FIRST, LET ME SHARE WITH YOU SOME STATISTICAL INFORMATION
THAT WILL FRAME THE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. ABOUT 6.6 MILLION AMERICANS UNDER THE AGE OF 20 HAVE AT LEAST ONE ALCOHOLIC PARENT. (THIS IS KEY POINT)
5. 91% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HAVE TRIED ALCOHOL.
6. 39% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ARE INVOLVED IN HEAVY PARTY DRINKING AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE EVERY WEEKEND.
7. CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS COMPRISE ABOUT 25-50% OF SPOUSE ABUSERS AND 13-33% OF CHILD ABUSERS, ALTHOUGH THEY MAKE UP ONLY ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.
8. ALCOHOL IS THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF BIRTH DEFECTS.
9. A TENTH OF THE DRINKING POPULATION CONSUMES HALF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SOLD.
10. ALCOHOLICS COMMIT SUICIDE FROM 6 TO 15 TIMES MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION.
11. MINORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY DRINK LESS THAN THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS ON A PER CAPITA BASIS. HOWEVER, MINORITIES SUFFER MORE FROM ALCOHOL RELATED PROBLEM EVENTS, I.E. CIRRHOSIS, GASTRITIS, PANCREATITIS, DEATH BY MURDER, DEATH BY ACCIDENT.
12. IF ALL AMERICANS DRANK THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT IDENTIFIED FOR A

IN RESPONSE TO THE ALCOHOL/DRUG PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY,
MOST COMMUNITIES HAVE DEVELOPED A CONTINUUM OF CARE WITH THE
FOLLOWING COMPONENTS. (SHOW FIRST SLIDE)

1. EDUCATION/TRAINING
2. PRIMARY PREVENTION
3. DIAGNOSIS/INTERVENTION
4. PRIMARY TREATMENT/AFTERCARE

EDUCATION AND TRAINING HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS.
(SHOW SECOND SLIDE - EDUCATION/TRAINING)

YOU KNOW WHEN I THINK ABOUT EDUCATION/TRAINING ISSUES I AM
REMINDING OF THE MAN WHO WAS ASKED WHAT THE DIFFERENCE WAS BETWEEN
EDUCATION AND APATHY. HE RESPONDED "I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T
CARE"--TOO OFTEN THAT IS THE GENERAL PUBLIC VIEW.

1. INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT WHAT ALCOHOL/DRUG
ABUSE IS? (SHOW MY DEFINITION OF DEPENDENCY) (SHOW THIRD SLIDE -
DEFINITION OF CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY).

2. INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT STRATEGIES TO
ADDRESS ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

- A. 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR
- B. ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS PER DAY VS. \$40,000
- C. FOCUS ON YOUTH (NIAAA STUDY - DENISE CANDELL)
- D. FOCUS ON MINORITIES (ALCOHOL/TOBACCO ADS IN

PUBLICATION AND RADIO)

- E. STAKE IN EXCESS CONSUMPTION
- F. WHO IS DRINKING LESS
- G. AFRICA

(SHOW SLIDE) THE SECOND AREA OF THE CONTINUUM OF CARE IS PREVENTION. HISTORICALLY, PREVENTION HAS BEEN DESCRIBES AS PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND TERTIARY. I FEEL A BETTER DESCRIPTION IS:

- A. SOCIAL COMPETENCY
- B. SOCIAL POLICY
- C. LAW ENFORCEMENT (SUPPLY/REDUCTION)
- D. NUTRITIONAL/GENETIC APPROACH

(SHOW SLIDE) SOCIAL COMPETENCY PREVENTION

SOCIAL COMPETENCY PREVENTION CAN BE DEFINED AS THE

5. NON-SCHOOL BASED.

(SHOW SLIDE) SOCIAL POLICY PREVENTION CAN BE DEFINED AS "THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMMUNICATION OF CLEAR AND FUNCTIONAL CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY RULES, NORMS, STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES REGARDING ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE AND ABUSE."

WE NEED TO LOOK AT COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES WITH LOW RATES OF CHEMICAL ABUSE AND COPY WHAT THEY DO RIGHT.

(SHOW SLIDE) A. IT IS BASED ON ESTABLISHING CLEAR CULTURAL NORMS IN SIX SPECIFIC AREAS:

1. WHAT CHEMICALS ARE LEGITIMATE FOR THE COMMUNITY, CULTURE OR FAMILY TO USE?

(SHOW SLIDE) 2. HAS THE COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED RULES REGARDING CHEMICAL USE? (WHERE, WHEN, WHY BEHAVIOR: WHERE IS IT LEGITIMATE TO USE? WHEN IS IT LEGITIMATE TO USE? WHY IS IT LEGITIMATE TO USE: WHAT BEHAVIOR SHOULD WE TOLERATE FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO USE CHEMICALS?)

(SHOW SLIDE) 3. HAS THE COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED A METHOD TO COMMUNICATE THE AFORESAID RULES?

OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES AND HAS LESS IMPACT ON THE HARDENED ADDICT.
HISTORICALLY THERE HAS NOT BEEN CLOSE CONTACT OR COOPERATION
BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE REST OF THE PREVENTION COMMUNITY.
THIS MUST CHANGE AND THIS CONFERENCE IS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.

THE FINAL PREVENTION STRATEGY IS THE NEWEST. IT IS A
NUTRITIONAL/CHEMICAL/GENETIC IMBALANCE APPROACH TO BOTH
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE THEORIZED THAT THE TRAITS OF ADDICTION CAN
BE PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENES. IF THIS IS BORN OUT, IT WILL
HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES.

THE PARENTS MOVEMENT CAN ALSO BE DESCRIBED AS A PREVENTION
STRATEGY COMBINING ELEMENTS OF BOTH SOCIAL COMPETENCY AND SOCIAL
POLICY STRATEGIES. THIS MOVEMENT STARTED OUT AS A GRASSROOTS
EFFORT BY PARENTS CONCERNED WITH ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE.
MUCH OF THEIR CONCERN WAS AS A RESULT OF PROBLEMS IN THEIR
IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. MORE RECENTLY, THEY HAVE BECOME THE DOMINANT
FORCE IN THE PREVENTION FIELD WITH THE ENERGETIC SUPPORT OF THE

2. NEED TO INTEGRATE RESEARCH REGARDING A GENETIC LINKAGE INTO CURRENT PREVENTION STRATEGIES; (THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT)
3. EXPANSION OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS FROM SCHOOLS TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND AGE GROUPS;
4. THE GENERAL PUBLIC OFTEN CONFUSES ALCOHOL/DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION WITH THEIR OWN DEEPLY PERSONAL INTERVENTION NEEDS. OFTEN WHEN A COMMUNITY GATHERS TO EDUCATE ITSELF REGARDING ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE, A HIDDEN AGENDA FOR MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE IS GETTING IMMEDIATE HELP FOR ALCOHOL/DRUG PROBLEMS OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND CLOSE FRIENDS. (I HAVE NEVER DONE A COMMUNITY ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE TALK WHEN AFTERWARDS, SOMEONE DID NOT ASK FOR ME FOR HELP REGARDING AN ALCOHOL/DRUG PROBLEM IN THEIR FAMILY. WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THIS.)
5. FOCUSING ON CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND OTHER HIGH RISK GROUPS;
6. LIMITATION OF IMPACT OF THE PARENTS MOVEMENT ON NON-WHITE POPULATIONS.

BECAUSE ADDICTION CAN BE DETECTED EARLY AND THERE IS A POSITIVE SUPPORT SYSTEM TO RETURN TO.

JOB AND SCHOOL ARE SOMEWHAT LESS EFFECTIVE AS AN ACCESS POINT FOR MINORITIES/BLACKS BECAUSE MANY OF OUR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSING POPULATIONS ARE NOT IN THE WORK FORCE OR ATTENDING SCHOOL. FURTHERMORE, POSITIVE PEER AND FAMILY SUPPORT HAS OFTEN DISINTEGRATED BY THE TIME ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROBLEMS SURFACE IN THE SCHOOL OR WORK SETTING.

THE COURT SYSTEM IS THE LEAST PREFERABLE POINT OF ACCESS WHERE THE ADDICTION PROCESS OFTEN IS AT ITS LATER STAGE. TOO OFTEN, PERSONS ACCESSING TREATMENT FROM THE COURTS ARE NOT IN A STABLE SUPPORTIVE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT; OFTENTIMES THESE PERSONS ARE UNEMPLOYED AND UNDER-EDUCATED. (THIS IS HOW MINORITIES ACCESS TREATMENT).

(SHOW SLIDE) FINALLY, IN LOOKING AT TREATMENT, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CLEAR AND SIMPLE GOALS:

1. ABSTINENCE FROM ALL MOOD CHANGING CHEMICALS;
2. FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL

POOR JOB OF KEEPING THEM SOBER.

B. BUILD MORE SOBER SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

C. THE BRILLIANCE OF AA IS THAT IT IS AN ALTERNATIVE CULTURE WITH ITS OWN RULES, CUSTOMS, LANGUAGE, AND HISTORY.

3. THE PUBLIC TREATMENT SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE PRIVATE TREATMENT SYSTEM (MAJOR CONCERN).

4. DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY TO COPE WITH THE CHRONIC TREATMENT RECIDIVISTS. THIS IS ALSO A KEY ISSUE IN DETOX. IN MY HOME COUNTRY, 5% OF THE CLIENTS IN DETOX (ABOUT 500) CONSUME 30% OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S ALCOHOL/DRUG RESOURCES - OVER 3 MILLION DOLLARS. IN MANY COMMUNITIES, DETOX IS BECOMING A DEFACTO EXPENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS.

5. WE MUST CONTINUE TO CREATE A HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR RECOVERY IN OUR (A) FAMILIES; (B) COMMUNITIES; (C) SCHOOLS (CAUTION: DON'T OVER-GLAMORIZE RECOVERY.)

6. MULTI-PROBLEM CLIENTS AND FAMILIES: (A) FAMILY SYSTEM THEORY? (B) WHICH IS PRIMARY?

7. OUR SYSTEM WAS BUILT TO REHABILITATE AND INCREASINGLY

AND FRANK ANYWAY.

6. THE BIGGEST MEN AND WOMEN WITH THE BIGGEST IDEAS CAN BE SHOT DOWN BY THE SMALLEST MINDS: THINK BIG ANYWAY.

7. PEOPLE FAVOR UNDERDOGS BUT FOLLOW ONLY TOP DOGS: FIGHT FOR A FEW UNDERDOGS ANYWAY.

8. WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS BUILDING MAY BE DESTROYED OVERNIGHT: BUILD ANYWAY.

9. PEOPLE REALLY NEED HELP BUT MAY ATTACK YOU IF YOU DO HELP THEM: HELP ANYWAY.

10. GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND YOU'LL GET KICKED IN THE TEETH: GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA

SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. NELBA CHAVEZ

MARCH 2, 1988

Thank you, honored guests. Your presence, in my view, mirrors your concern and willingness to back it up with real, personal effort. For that, I applaud you. I consider it a personal honor simply to be in the company of commitment.

I also consider myself somewhat out of place at the podium. Traditionally, luncheon speakers are recruited for their ability to entertain. I'm not here to entertain. I'm here to beg.

On behalf of the one out of six of our nation's high schoolers who've snorted cocaine, the one out of two who've taken hits off joints of marijuana or substances, the 90% plus who've experimented with alcohol, I'm here to beg.

So, too, on behalf of the Joe and Jane Does who spend the most productive years of their lives trying to struggle back from addiction, and the Len Biases who'll never get the chance, I'm here to beg you to open your eyes even wider, to help us rearrange our priorities, and redouble our efforts to put the cap on the needle and control - if not end - the bottomless madness of substance abuse.

We (were) and (are) involved in a war, and nobody seems to be getting excited. A real, shooting war, where our finest young men and women, the future of our nation, are literally going up in powder and smoke and nobody seems to be getting excited. Young people and heads of families from Wilshire Boulevard to Wall Street are dropping like flies - and nobody seems to be getting excited.

Am I exaggerating? Just another person blowing the problem out of proportion?

Not if what the 200 members of the staff at La Frontera Center tell me is true. Not if what I read in the news media and here on the evening news is true. Not if what many of us have heard at the public hearings at the six regional conferences on a drug free America is true.

True? We're just beginning to comprehend. Forget for a moment law. Forget morality. Forget deeply ingrained national concepts of right and wrong. You can call what we have before us what you will - a blight, a plague, a national tragedy, an omen. You can harbor your view and dispute the contentions of others. We cannot dispute the facts.

The facts are that, increasingly the problem is measurable in numbers - and the numbers and the casualties add up to war.

Not semantic war. Not parables. Not bureaucratic rallying cries. Real war, measurable in real war terms. Economic disaster. Shell shock. Brain death. Lives lost. Bodies broken. Minds broken. Families destroyed. Hope shattered.

And yet, on a national basis, until now, our drug problem didn't seem to be our drug problem. It seemed to be their drug problem. And therein lay the problem.

We visualize someone out there - not someone in my family, my business, my life, my neighbor (pause)

It is a nightmarish indictment of where we were, where we, as a society, had pigeonholed the people whose very description defined them as unable to help themselves: Addict.

"Begone, Satan" is a saying that may work in some quarters. It doesn't work on the streets of San Francisco, the Chicago docks, on university campuses or even the boardrooms of some of our most respected commercial institutions. Increasingly, sayings don't work at all - we must act.

That is not a political statement. It is, undeniably, the assessment of a member of a special-interest group.

By virtue of the name of this conference, and our attendance, we are all members of such a group. And that "interest" lies not nearly so much in means as in ends.

We are living in a pragmatic world. The words "White House" on the conference brochure does not constitute a key to the National Treasury. We have not, and cannot and will not have access to unlimited resources. We can and we will mold the resources we have into plowshares, and plant the seeds of prevention among those for whom the term "addict" still describes others.

Prevention. Focusing at least as much on demand as supply. Because the demand fuels the supply. Because it is a pragmatic world, and nothing short of unlimited resources or a national mobilization will be able to effectively combat an "industry" whose captains reap over \$140 billion every year by ruining the lives of our children. Because it's one hell of a lot easier to keep a fire from starting than it is to put it out once it's started leaping from tree to tree.

Let me put that in perspective for you.

The Drug Enforcement Administration has some 5,000 agents. That many cocaine and crack dealers were arrested in Florida alone, in a single year. An estimated 3,000 shipments of illegal drugs enter the United States daily. Marijuana consumption in 1986 exceeded 27 million pounds. The dam has broken. You don't halt the flow by tossing sandbags into the breach. You go upstream - and slowly squeeze off the water.

For the past quarter century or so, I have been a professional observer by trade. Some of the behavioral patterns I've observed leave me more confused today than they did when I started. Others have reinforced premises formulated over the years, and continue to become clearer as the observations continue.

Drug use is one of those.

Addiction has been called a disease. I believe the definition is appropriate. Use, on the other hand, is not a disease. It is a symptom. A harbinger of emotional trauma.

Users do not use to preserve the status quo, to stave off change. They use to affect change - in feelings, perceptions, levels of awareness. The stronger that urge to change, the greater the potential for another recruit in the growing army of emotional zombies being assembled by the pushers and drug barons of today.

The answer? I don't have the answer. There are over 3,000 attendees at this very prestigious conference who may or may not have the answer.

As a participant at this conference and a professional in the field, I can relate to you the thinking of some of the most dedicated and creative observers of the problem, but even that isn't the answer.

We are not dealing with human actions here. Those are objective and relatively simple to define, (even if the resources to control them are more elusive.)

We are dealing with human motivations. Those are subjective, and not at all easy to define. Let alone - in this free society - control.

What moves some among us to cease trying to affect our destinies with actions and rely on chemicals instead? To what depths do some of us emotionally fall in - between periods of drug-induced euphoria, when it dawns on us that our problems are endlessly patient, and are always there, waiting for us when we return? Why do young people, who from our perspective couldn't have a serious problem, provide so vast and continuing and avid a market for the dream-sellers?

That, in reality, is why we're here. Not to study addicts, like specimens in a jar. Not to conduct a cerebral witch-hunt, flushing out transgressors against our ordinances and behavioral guidelines. Not to point fingers or shift responsibility. In my opinion, these conferences have been most productive because they have provided a framework - coated with a sheen of urgency - for us to look at ourselves, as representatives of the body of Americans who have yet to renounce responsibility for our own actions.

Why children? It could be that the family structure in which many of us were raised has been relegated to the stuff of Dick and Jane books. Today fewer than 4% of the traditional dad-works-mom-takes-care-of-the-kids families are left. Basic patterns of family life have changed due to skyrocketing divorce and remarriage rates, and the virtual elimination of extended family systems to help guide children through an entire range of real-world situations.

Why the willingness to ingest some foreign chemical into our bodies, with no evidence of integrity in the supplier, no assurance of the contents, and no knowledge of the chemical reactions even if the contents were known?

It could be a particularly dangerous melding of desperation and ignorance, one to be neutralized only through a combination of access, counseling and factual education.

We can understand dolphins! Surely, with perserverence and personal dedication, we can begin to understand each other.

All too frequently, it is in the area of understanding, of communication, that the seeds of discontent are first planted.

If it were only the negative messages that are sent between us each day that were the negative messages received, it would be traumatic enough. Frequently, however, even the positive or neutral messages we send are picked up, from the perspective of the receiver, as negative. The expectation of negative input can have a devastating impact on effort...on initiative...on the predisposition to rely on substances for the emotional recharging so necessary, and so often withheld, by our fellow humans. Without it we turn the flowering of hope into brambles of despair.

Too often, it is the gap between response desired and response received that initially rends our emotional fabric.

The bear in the zoo who spends hours in one spot swinging his head from side to side isn't trying to catch the breeze. His attempt to reach his own equilibrium, to restore what he perceives to be his natural environment have been incessantly rebuffed - if not by his

keeper, then by painful reminders that bears are not equipped to overcome stone walls.

Neither are we. Particularly if we are children.

Let us heed the children, and begin with them, in the context of the family, in our efforts to "slowly squeeze off the water" that the suppliers so eagerly supply. Let us deal as much with motives and needs as with symptoms. Let us deal with the fact that drugs alter minds. Content minds, challenged minds, minds intellectually and emotionally fulfilled, do not seek alteration. Let us help to form appropriate perceptions when perceptions themselves begin to form.

Let us remember that people are less likely to abuse substances if they have positive feelings about who they are. If they can solve problems and if they can express their thoughts and feelings.

Let us train the trainer, counsel the user, educate the non-user, and fill the minds of the untainted with emotional antidotes before those who would poison our most precious resource have the first opportunity.

Above all, let us not impede the momentum created by this series of conferences by inactivity. When we return to our offices, and to our communities, we will once again feel the pressures to set aside the crisis of the decade for the crisis of the moment. The intensity of the emotions raised here will begin to soften with time and distance. When that happens, we must force ourselves to tune in once again to the big picture, to set aside our boxes of band-aids and reach for the tools that will really work - our appointment books, our checkbooks, our phones, our pens -- our car keys -- and our families -- community.

"They" are doing, have done, what they can. It is our problem.. We- and only we - will prove its ultimate solution.

A drug free America? Yes! And we start with one drug free home. There are more of "us" than there are of "them". If we join together, -- and begin at the beginning, we cannot fail. We must not fail.

Thank you.