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KEY POINTS

On August 4, 1986, President Reagan announced "six major goals of what we hope will be the final stage in our national strategy to eradicate drug abuse" and "lead us toward a drug-free America."

A National Crusade: The President called, not for another short-term government offensive, but for "a national crusade against drugs, a sustained, relentless effort to rid America of this scourge -- by mobilizing every segment of our society against drug abuse."

Individual Involvement: The President added, "If this battle is to be won -- and it must -- each and every one of us has to take a stand and get involved. Leadership and commitment must be evident, not only in the White House and State House, but also in the pulpit, at the work place, in the union hall, in our schools, and in the media. If we are to defeat this enemy, we've got to do it as one people, together, united in purpose and committed to victory."

The Need for Intolerance: President Reagan stated that "All the confiscation and law enforcement in the world will not cure this plague as long as it is kept alive by public acquiescence.... I believe we have come to a time when the American people are willing to make it clear that illegal drug and alcohol use will no longer be tolerated, a time when we will take those steps necessary to rid America of this deeply disruptive and corrosive evil."

User Responsibility: The President stated, "We mean to reach out to the drug user; and we mean to prevent others from becoming users. Our goal is not to throw users in jail, but to free them from drugs. We will offer a helping hand; but we will also pressure the user at school and in the workplace to straighten up, to get clean. We will refuse to let drug users blame their behavior on others; we will insist they take responsibility for their own actions."

WORKING

GOAL #1 - DRUG-FREE WORKPLACES

The first goal is to seek a drug-free workplace for all Americans. Progress in this area will increase productivity and protect the public and the workforce. It is particularly important that workers in sensitive occupations are clear-minded and free from the effects of illegal drugs.

Action 1A: To create a drug-free workplace for all Federal employees.

Action 1B: To encourage state and local government to follow the Federal government's example.

Action 1C: To solicit commitments from government contractors to establish drug-free work environments.

Action 1D: To mobilize management and labor leaders in the private sector to fight this problem.

GOAL #2 - DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

This goal is to have every educational institution drug-free, from grade schools through universities.

Action 2A: Enlisting the help of local educators and school officials.

Action 2B: Making certain that Federal laws against distributing drugs in or near schools are known and enforced in cooperation with local authorities.

Action 2C: Encouraging local school districts to expand their drug abuse education as part of an overall health curriculum.

Action 2D: Seeking a commitment from local and state government to require schools within their jurisdiction to be drug free.

GOAL #3 - EXPAND TREATMENT

The health dangers posed by drugs are increasingly evident. Our third goal is ensuring the public is protected and those involved in drugs are treated.

Action 3A: Encouraging states and communities to develop programs to treat specific drug-related health problems.

Action 3B: Improving research in health-related areas, including drug testing.

Action 3C: Bolstering medical and health programs aimed at prevention.

GOAL #4 - EXPAND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We must built on what we have already accomplished and move forward. Earlier this year, the President raised the priority of drug abuse by declaring it a threat to our national security. Now our goal is nothing less than the full and active support and cooperation of every country with which the United States must work to defeat international drug trafficking.

Action 4A: Take additional steps to expand our joint efforts in attacking drug and narcotic traffickers at the source.

Action 4B: Continue Vice President Bush's initiatives to increase the support given by the United States military to drug law enforcement operations whenever it is appropriate.

Action 4C: Intensify efforts with other nations to hit the traffickers where it hurts, in the pocketbook, by further clamping down on money laundering and other transactions conducted with drug money.

GOAL #5 - COORDINATE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Here again, much has been accomplished, but we can build upon existing programs to hit drug traffickers with "the force and power of a renewed sense of purpose."

Action 5A: Insisting that the criminal justice system give prompt and severe punishment to drug peddlars, the big guys and the little guys.

Action 5B: Directing law enforcement coordinating committees and U.S. Attorneys to prosecute those who sell drugs in or near school property to the fullest extent of the law.

Action 5C: Instructing the Vice President and Attorney General to expedite a comprehensive new effort on our southern border, complementing current programs, to stop illegal drug entry into the United States.

GOAL #6 - EXPAND PUBLIC AWARENESS & PREVENTION

This goal is primary. We have come a long way on this front. Attitudes are changing, so now is the time to enlist those who have yet to join the fight.

Goal 6A: Reaching out to all Americans and asking them to join the First Lady's drug abuse awareness and prevention campaign.

Goal 6B: Taking a stand in every city, town, and village in this country and making certain drug users fully understand their fellow citizens will no longer tolerate drug use.

Goal 6C: Disseminating credible and accurate information about the danger posed by drugs. Users should know we are concerned, and understand there is a legitimate reason to be concerned.

Needling AIDS

A startling proposal

While looking into the causes of the spread of AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), New Jersey health experts discovered a deadly correlation.

Nearly 60% of New Jersey's AIDS cases were drug related, a greater percentage than in any other state. While 53% of the 1,385 AIDS victims identified were drug users, an additional 7% were children or sexual partners of drug addicts. Studies indicate that more than half the drug users in northern New Jersey have been exposed to the virus, so anyone sharing a needle even once has a better than 50% chance of being exposed as well.

Those alarming numbers spurred a top state health official to offer a controversial proposal for curbing the spread of the fatal disease. Called "needle exchange," it would supply free sterile syringes to addicts in return for the dirty needles they have been using.

Trying out the idea in New Jersey occurred to Dr. John Rutledge, deputy commissioner of the state department of health, after a visit to Amsterdam, where such a program exists. A needle-exchange program would necessarily have to start small. Only about 15% of the state's estimated 60,000 addicts are in registered treatment programs or in touch with public-health street workers, who periodically enter "shooting galleries" to warn users of the dangers of AIDS. An initial research study would be inexpensive, said Rutledge, and could be paid for out of the state health department's existing budget.

Even so, the idea immediately ran into opposition when it was publicly suggested last week. Some fear that by providing clean needles, the state would only encourage drug use, a greater threat to public health than AIDS itself. Rutledge's proposal would attempt to guard against this by requiring tests to ensure that people who accept the needles are in fact hooked on drugs and not simply casual experimenters.

State law currently forbids sale of syringes without a prescription, and another regulation prohibits doctors from prescribing needles for anyone who may use them for illegal drugs. Because of the legal obstacles, the program would require approval from the state legislature. That does not seem likely right now, but Rutledge hopes attitudes will become more enlightened. As he notes, it is a sobering fact that addicts find it easier to get drugs than clean needles. That means the AIDS threat will grow every time an addict shoots up with a dirty needle supplied by a friend or a drug dealer. ■



Harvesting Pot: A Letter From CAMP

Where has all the marijuana gone? A sweep of California's national forests in May turned up six plants in an area that yielded—12,000 two years ago. A pound of high-grade California sinsemilla, available on the East Coast for \$2,000 last year, currently sells for \$5,000. And that's for those who can find any at all. "There is nothing anywhere," laments a Chicago computer consultant who has been a heavy consumer of California pot for 10 years. "It was like they threw a switch and turned it all off."

Unlike the annual preharvest lull, drug officials say this siege of reefer sadness is here to stay thanks to the efforts of the Campaign Against

Marijuana Planting (CAMP). A three-year-old combined effort by federal, state and local agencies, CAMP may be the most sophisticated antidrug effort ever mounted—as well as the most successful. Last summer CAMP eradicated 817,000 pounds of marijuana, a stunning 92 percent of the known crop in California. "We're not ready to say that we won," says CAMP commander Jack Beecham, "but we're making fast gains. In a few years you'll see the marijuana problem as a thing of the past."

CAMP is backed by tough new laws that impose stiffer fines—judges have levied \$500,000 in fines, up fiftyfold since 1984—and strip convict-

ed growers of their land. Faced with that risk, many growers choose retirement. "Three of the six growers I know have been arrested," says a young northern California woman who stopped growing sinsemilla two years ago. Others are growing indoors, where yields are lower and costs four times higher. Critics say driving the price of pot up and the supply down may create more problems than it solves. "It's easier to find crack and coke than it is marijuana," says Kevin Zeese, director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "I'm not sure that's an improvement."

PAMELA ABRAMSON

NEWSWEEK: AUGUST 4, 1986

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 4, 1986

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH REPORTERS

The Briefing Room

3:01 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. During one of my first press conferences as President, I pledged that fighting drug abuse would be a major goal of our administration. Nancy had already made it her major role. I am proud of the enormous effort that's been made in these last 5-1/2 years to follow through on that pledge. We've waged a good fight. The military forces have dramatically reduced drug use by 67 percent. We've been on the offensive attacking the peddlers, the transporters, the smugglers, the growers -- everyone who is a part of the international network that channels drugs into America's neighborhoods and communities. Arrests are up, confiscations are up, cooperation with other nations has increased.

So, much has been accomplished and I am encouraged that so many others from every walk of life are now joining the struggle. And yet drug use continues and its consequences escalate, claiming so many victims including promising young athletes, and bringing sorrow and heartbreak into homes across our country. Drug use threatens the health and safety of millions of Americans, it extracts a high cost; the cost of crime stemming from drugs; the cost of drug-related health problems; the cost in productivity; the cost in the quality of American manufactured goods as we compete on the world market. But most of all, the cost in lives. Drugs, in one way or the other, are victimizing all of us.

And that's why I am here today: To announce six major goals of what we hope will be the final stage in our national strategy to eradicate drug abuse.

I should point out that each of these goals includes a number of federal policy options that I will mention as we go along. But as you know, I've always insisted that such steps be the subject of a full discussion and debate within the administration before any final decisions are made. So, I will talk today of goals and a number of specific steps, and we'll have further announcements in the very near future.

But I want you to know that our announcements will not deal -- or will deal not just with what government will do, but what all of us will do -- and must do.

MORE

For the key to our anti-drug strategy -- my very reason for being here this afternoon -- is not to announce another short-term government offensive but to call instead for a national crusade against drugs -- a sustained, relentless effort to rid America of this scourge -- by mobilizing every segment of our society against drug abuse.

But, as I say, the solution does not lie simply within the realm of government, federal or state. It's time to go beyond government. All the confiscation and law enforcement in the world will not cure this plague as long as it is kept alive by public acquiescence. So, we must now go beyond efforts aimed only at affecting the supply of drugs; we must affect not only supply, but demand.

I believe we've come to a time when the American people are willing to make it clear that illegal drug and alcohol use will no longer be tolerated, a time when we will take those steps necessary to rid America of this deeply disruptive and corrosive evil.

So, starting today, Nancy's crusade to deprive the drug peddlers and suppliers of their customers becomes America's crusade. We mean to reach out to the drug user; and we mean to prevent others from becoming users. Our goal is not to throw users in jail, but to free them from drugs. We will offer a helping hand; but we will also pressure the user at school and in the workplace to straighten up, to get clean. We will refuse to let drug users blame their behavior on others; we will insist they take responsibility for their own actions. And finally, yet first and foremost, we will get the message to the potential user that drug use will no longer be tolerated; that they must learn to "Just say no." Nancy spoke those words in Oakland, California just a few years ago and, today, there are now more than 10,000 "Just Say No" clubs among our young people all across America.

If this battle is to be won -- and it must -- each and every one of us has to take a stand and get involved. Leadership and commitment must be evident, not only in the White House and the State House, but also in the pulpit, at the workplace, in the union hall, in our schools, and in the media.

If we are to defeat this enemy, we've got to do it as one people, together united in purpose and committed to victory. And victory in this case is a drug-free generation.

Those who know this country understand that once the American people set their minds to something, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Precisely because the realization is finally taking hold that drugs threaten our nation, neighborhoods, and families, the time has come for a national mobilization, one that strikes now at the heart of the problem.

In 1982 we released our first strategy -- a federal strategy. We revised it and made it a national strategy in September, 1984. Today I'm announcing six initiatives to build on what we've accomplished and lead us toward a drug-free America.

Our first goal is to seek a drug-free workplace for all Americans. Progress in this area is needed to protect working people and the public and to increase the productivity of our country. It is particularly important that workers in sensitive occupations are clear-minded and free from the effects of illegal drugs. To accomplish this we propose: to create a drug-free workplace for all federal employees; to encourage state and local government to follow the federal government's example; to solicit commitments from government contractors to establish drug-free work environments; to mobilize management and labor leaders in the private sector to fight this problem.

Our second goal is drug-free schools, from grade schools through universities. Four major steps are being considered: enlisting the help of local educators and school officials; making certain that federal laws against distributing drugs in or near schools are known and enforced in cooperation with local authorities; encouraging local school districts to expand their drug abuse education as part of an overall health curriculum; seeking a commitment from local and state government to require schools within their jurisdiction to be drug-free.

The health dangers posed by drugs are increasingly evident. Our third goal is ensuring the public is protected and those involved in drugs are treated. Three steps are under consideration: encouraging states and communities to develop programs to treat specific drug-related health problems;

improving research in health-related areas, including drug testing; bolstering medical and health programs aimed at prevention.

Fourth is international cooperation. We must build on what we've already accomplished and move forward. Earlier this year I raised the priority of drug abuse by declaring it a threat to our national security. Now our goal is nothing less than the full and active support and cooperation of every country with which the United States must work to defeat international drug trafficking. To accomplish this we can: take additional steps to expand our joint efforts in affecting, or attacking drug and narcotic traffickers at the source; continue Vice President Bush's initiatives to increase the support given by the United States military to drug law enforcement operations whenever it's appropriate; intensify efforts with other nations to hit the traffickers where it hurts, in the pocketbook, by further clamping down on money laundering and other transactions conducted with drug money.

Our fifth goal is strengthening law enforcement. Here again much has been accomplished, but we can build upon existing programs to hit drug traffickers with the force and power of a renewed sense of purpose. The following actions could be part of this: insisting that the criminal justice system give prompt and severe punishment to drug peddlers, the big guys and the little guys; directing law enforcement coordinating committees and U.S. attorneys to prosecute those who sell drugs in or near school property to the fullest extent of the law; instructing the Vice President and Attorney General to expedite a comprehensive new effort on our southern border, complementing current programs, to stop illegal drug entry into the United States.

The sixth goal is primary. We must expand public awareness and prevention. Now, we've come a long way on this front. Attitudes are changing, so now is the time to enlist those who've -- have yet to join the fight. We can do this by: reaching out to all Americans and asking them to join Nancy's drug abuse awareness and prevention campaign; taking a stand in every city, town, and village in this country and making certain drug users fully understand their fellow citizens will no longer tolerate drug use; disseminating credible and accurate information about the danger posed by drugs. Users should know we are concerned, and understand there is a legitimate reason to be concerned.

In these next few weeks, the administration will be preparing for an action campaign, based on many of the points I've made here today, to be launched when the kids start returning to school in the fall. So this is chapter one, more to come. And thank you.

Q Will you set an example, you and the administration, and take drug tests yourselves and ask the Cabinet to?

THE PRESIDENT: I've talked about that with the Cabinet and if we see that this could be a useful thing and show the way to others -- yes, we all agreed that we'd do it.

Q Well, what about the subject though of mandatory testing for federal employees? Have you decided that for all employees it's not such a good idea -- an evasion of privacy, perhaps?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, you're going to ask some questions here that are under discussion and that still we have not set out a pattern, but we're -- we're spending long hours at this. But I could say this, we believe -- I think we're pretty much agreed that mandatory testing is justified where the employees have the health of others and the safety of others in their hands. People that you're depending on for safety and things of this kind should do it -- security reasons.

On the other hand, I think we're pretty much agreed that what we should seek is voluntary -- that we should seek -- we should work with labor leaders and with our own people here in government and see if they could not see the advantage of setting a pattern and an example for all of society.

Q Mr. President, you didn't say anything today about spending more federal money on drug enforcement and, in fact, the level of spending has remained current or gone down a little bit. Is rhetoric alone enough to take care of this?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't just rhetoric alone. We're talking about a lot of people who are, right now -- organizations that are actively engaged and so forth. But let me say this -- no, we did step up as far as law enforcement was concerned -- that area.

There seems to be a little misunderstanding about a reduction out here with regard to grants and so forth about drug use and rehabilitation and so forth. Actually, what we set out to do -- based on the experience of some of us in state government and local government, was that too many federal programs are sent out to local and state levels -- just wrapped in red tape and with specific designations as to exactly how every penny must be spent. And we found that that has led to a situation in which many times the greatest part of the money was used for administrative overhead and not actually getting at the problem.

So what we did -- yes, we reduced, but we changed to block grants. And we know from that experience out of the state-level that if you give a block grant and trust to the local authorities, their freedom to do this in the most expeditious manner in their area -- treat with the problems that they see as the greatest problem -- that you have more money actually going to the task and not wasted in federal-mandated overhead.

Q Sir, if I can just follow-up -- you propose to do what you outlined today without spending any additional federal money?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no -- no, no. No. We know that there's going to be a cost and we're

going to have to look at where we are going to find that money. Because, for example, we believe that schools and workplaces -- we believe that we should -- to those people that are found to be using drugs, that if we don't threaten them with losing their jobs or kicking them out of school, what we say to them is, we want to help you get well.

Now this is going to -- if there is going to be increased testing, that is costly. If there is going to be extra burden imposed on the treatment centers and so forth, we are going to have to find funds for that, and we recognize that.

Q Margaret Thatcher has said now that she will go for limited sanctions. Have you changed your mind at all in terms of sanctions?

THE PRESIDENT: Helen, I'm not going to violate my own rule here today. I'm not going to change the subject on anything. I'll take questions on this subject alone.

Let me take you.

Q Mr. President, the supply of illegal drugs has never been more varied, more abundant, more potent, or less expensive than it is today. Isn't this new crusade just an acknowledgment that you can't do anything about the supply?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you should give up on that. You have to do that. What it does recognize is what I think many of us recognized even while we were stepping that program up, and that is, you are not going to succeed until you take the customer away from the drugs. At the same time, however, you can increase the price by cutting down on the supply, by confiscation of the means of delivery, and so forth. The government right now already owns quite a fleet of yachts and airplanes and trucks and so forth that have been involved in that trade and that we have already intercepted. And you can make it more difficult for the buyer. But at the same time the real cure is going to be turning particularly our young people off.

Q Mr. President, what will you say to your --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until I -- I'll come back there.

Q Mr. President, what will you say to your critics who say, you're five years too late -- that if you had been serious about this, you would have started it earlier, and you're doing it now only because public opinion polls show that it would be popular politically?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is not true. We stepped up the, as I say, the interdiction process very much. It takes some -- a while to find out how these things work. We may not -- we haven't before put the effort that we recognize now should be put, and that is, to create in the minds of all America -- and those in this room could be most helpful in that -- that the time has come for a nationwide crusade against this thing that is destroying and threatening so many of our young people particularly, but that is raising the cost in industry -- business is losing \$100 million a year because --

Q Why hadn't you done it before?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, maybe it took a while to see that the things that were going forward -- programs that went from just a few organizations to, as I said earlier, 10,000 organizations across the country -- that that growing thing needs -- that needs the added help that can be given by doing this.

Q Sir, would you give the Customs collector more men to work at the border? Did you give more money to the Border Patrol, more personnel?

THE PRESIDENT: You're saying as if everything of this -- that I am announcing is the past. As I said here, we are still at work on this. This is a kind of a preliminary announcement of what it is the problems and what -- the general format. These specifics are yet to come, and as I say, I'll be making further announcements.

Q Mr. President --

Q Mr. President --

Q -- danger that these voluntary programs could become coercive, and that those who refuse to take them may come under suspicion in some fashion?

THE PRESIDENT: As I've said, we're going to encourage the use of voluntarism where it is not a case of endangering someone's safety. But at the same time, I think we're pretty much agreed that we should make it plain that we're not out to get people and fire them and we're not out to get kids and kick them out of school for using it. What we're out to do is to see if they will not recognize that we want to help them, and they don't lose from that, so I don't see how that could become coercive.

Q Well, will there be any government pressure on people to take these tests -- these voluntary tests?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the only pressure that I could see is, if they see other examples and if they see groups stepping forward and saying, "Yes, we'll do this in the interest of the cause," well then there's a kind of a peer pressure put on people.

Q Mr. President, if there were two events which did this in your mind, which made you decide to do this now?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's make this the last question.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, well -- and -- because I have someone here that's more authoritative on this subject that will be speaking to you and taking your questions.

No, I think they all added to this, and some of the tragedies recently that have been so spectacular and so well-publicized. But when you see some of the increasing figures that we have seen -- and some recently. Sam, in answer to your question, not that we've known them all this time, but when we find out the percentage of children that are being approached about drugs in the fourth grade, this does not exist at -- always, but this continued stepping up of a trying to increase the market, this is very much of what has led to this, but now --

Q What about Hollywood?

Q Will you -- textile override, sir?

Q Have you heard from Hollywood, Mr. President?

Q What about Hollywood's role?

Q Have you heard from your friends in Hollywood?

Q You were tough.

THE PRESIDENT: I will take that question, because in the interview, some things were edited out. I spoke of little gratuitous scenes put in for comedy relief that made it look kind of funny, and all fun together -- drugs -- as once upon a time Hollywood did with

drinking scenes. But if you've noticed over the years recently, you rarely see a scene for straight comedy of someone being drunk.

Well, the same thing is generally happening. Now, the part that was left out of what I said is that the motion picture industry itself is talking about making sure that they don't do this. You can't police every individual who wants to go wild -- and producing a picture and put in some scene of that kind as the one that I mentioned recently, but also, Nancy has met with the head of the Motion Picture Producers Association -- and that there is a movement going on now in Hollywood as to what they can do about this.

Q Since when?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Since when?

THE PRESIDENT: Just recently. And in -- with regard to the music thing -- and we do know about the lyrics of some of those songs, plus the usage and the behavior at rock concerts and so forth -- well, you might be interested and pleased to know that a large number of the people -- the musicians in that field are organizing to see if they cannot start promoting rock concerts without drugs.

Q You're not going to take this away from Mrs. Reagan, are you? Now that your staff is working on this issue, you're not going to take this away from Mrs. Reagan, are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Do I look like an idiot? (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

3:23 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 6, 1986

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

The Hyatt Regency Hotel
Crystal City, Virginia

2:12 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you all very much. Why do I have a feeling that I'm preaching to the choir? (Laughter.)

Before I get into the subject that brought me here, maybe you'd be interested in a news note. I've been rather uptight all day because up in the House of Representatives, there has been a morning devoted to overriding my veto of a trade bill that I thought would be very destructive to our prosperity and to the things that we're trying to accomplish with regard to getting free and fair trade throughout the world. We had to get 142 votes of those present in order to prevent them from overriding my veto.

I was just handed a slip of paper here a moment ago -- we got 149. (Applause.) So your present speaker comes before you as a very happy fellow. (Laughter.)

I appreciate this opportunity to express my thanks for all that you're doing to meet one of the most serious challenges our country faces. The use of illegal drugs and abuse of alcohol can no longer be shrugged off as somebody else's business. Today it's everybody's business -- every man, woman, and child who loves his country, community, and family. It's time to stand up and be counted, and this you're doing. So it's a pleasure to be here with individuals who are doing just that.

The usual format for speeches such as this is opening with a bit of humor to get things moving. Today, if you will excuse me, I think the gravity of the problem we're discussing precludes humor. (Applause.) Drug and alcohol abuse are taking the lives of people we love. What can be more important than putting a stop to that?

On the casualty list you'll find the poor, the middle class, the rich and famous; hundreds, even thousands, per year, dead. Who has not felt the heartache of hearing the news of a friend or family member, someone who had so much to live for, but is now gone forever? Who has not felt the frustration of watching helplessly as loved ones or dear friends slide to personal ruin?

Len Bias and Don Rogers, gifted athletes who had so much more to achieve, are only two of the most recent fatalities.

One doesn't have to be a conservative to appreciate that the vitality and resilience of America flow from the strength of the American family. How many wives and husbands weep at night knowing their spouse is drifting toward disaster?

Today, we must all be as one family in tackling this problem. The young fellow down the street using marijuana must no longer be a problem just for his own mother and father. The fellow at the next desk at work who gets stoned and at times is groggy on the job must no longer be just the boss's headache. The young coed, popping pills or snorting coke, must no longer be excused for just doing her thing. If we care, we'll be firm with these members of the

MORE

American family. And if we care, we must act. And that doesn't mean, as you've been told, put them in jail -- that means help free them from drugs.

A few days ago, I called on all Americans not simply to support a government anti-drug effort, but to be an active part of a crusade against drugs. Nancy recently said -- and it isn't every day a fella gets to quote his own wife -- (laughter) -- "We must create an atmosphere of intolerance for drug use in this country." Well, that's the way to tangible progress. Intolerance doesn't mean punishing users. We are, as you've been told, against the use, not the -- we're against the use, not the user. We're talking about the pressure the rest of us who care can put on the user to mend his or her ways, get straight, and live right.

Having quoted Nancy, I just want to say how proud I am that she has been an outspoken crusader on this serious national problem. We couldn't be more pleased -- (applause) -- We couldn't be more pleased that others, at long last, are joining the fight.

When it comes to curing this plague that ravages our land and infects our loved ones, there are no Democrats or Republicans -- just Americans. Nancy, over these last five years, has shown how much one individual with commitment can accomplish. She was out in Oakland speaking to some young people about drugs and she mentioned that perhaps -- and said this in answer to a question -- that the most important thing young people could do to fight drugs is "Just say no." Well, today, "Just Say No" is a national organization with 10,000 chapters across this country.

Nancy, with her tireless efforts, I think, has contributed to an overwhelming change in consciousness that is taking place in America. The flippant attitude about drugs is changing. Even in my old business, the film business, there seem to be hopeful signs that they are now recognizing their responsibility to do something about this.

Historically, the film industry has been a responsible force in our society, something well understood by those in the corporate office, as well as those of us in front of the cameras. I would hope that in the months ahead we will hear public expressions of support for those in the entertainment world who use their enormous influence, especially on the young, to oppose drugs. This is especially true of rock stars, who should be encouraged to have courage and to give a public thumbs down to drugs. As a matter of fact, you would be interested to know that among that musical group or groups, right now there are some who are trying to plan and organize drug-free rock concerts. (Applause.)

Sports figures have a tremendous influence. I hope that every athlete will reflect on the impressions he or she gives as a role model to young, adoring fans. All those in the sports world should understand what a great force for good they can be. And you know, in that area, that would be a return, because I was a sports announcer at the beginning of my career -- broadcasting major league baseball and the big university football and so forth, and you might be interested to know that back in that era no sports figure would endorse cigarettes or beer. Drugs weren't a problem at that time because they knew they were role models and felt that they had an obligation to be the right kind of role model for all of our young people. So we are asking for that to be returned. (Applause.)

And I want to thank Dr. Bowen and his team over at HHS for the leadership they are providing on this issue. One example is the enlistment of major league ballplayers, like Mike Schmidt of the Philadelphia Phillies, to participate in an education program against cocaine, the killer drug.

And a special word of thanks to Dr. MacDonald of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration who is a real champion in our crusade. (Applause.) Mac was actually active with Nancy's campaign long before joining our administration.

The number of crusaders is growing. We mean to create an anti-drug environment in this country, an environment that will strengthen those who are making the right decisions and will cast the scowl of disapproval on those who would use drugs and misuse alcohol.

Early on in the administration, we focused on interdiction and eradication, on hitting the growers, the transporters, and the sellers. Well, our assault on supply has had some notable success and will continue. But what we've launched in the last few days has been what I think is the real answer, an offensive against demand. This, in the long run, is the answer: Let's take the customers away from the drug peddlers. (Applause.)

It is clear that our domestic drug demand fuels international drug trafficking and cuts at the social, political, and economic fabric of friendly countries.

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Today I am announcing that, in September, I will be calling back for special consultations our ambassadors from other countries which may face major drug production, transportation, or consumption problems. I'll outline the steps we're taking to strike at the heart of this monster by curbing domestic demand so they can take the message back with them to their own -- or, to their -- the countries where they serve. Together, all countries must send the message: "No drug networks will remain alive. (Applause.) We mean to have a drug-free country, and the world should know we mean business.

There are already reasons for optimism. In our armed forces in general, drug use has been cut by 67 percent since 1980. The daily use of marijuana among our high school students is down, as is the use of a variety of drugs for high school and college students.

The sum total of this can be looked at as a good first step. One of the joys of my presidency is getting to meet and know this generation of American youth. I think it's one of the finest we've ever had. If he hadn't said it first, back at the beginning of World War II when someone asked General George Marshall what was our secret weapon, and he said, "The best blankety-blank kids in the world." (Laughter and applause.) Well, I think it would well be that this generation will lead America out of the swamps of illegal drugs. Drug use is a pervasive problem that afflicts all ages, all races, and all income levels. Today's young people, with their energy and ideals, with their commitment to a better future, could well have a greater impact on the rest of us than any generation before. I say we should give them every bit of support that we can.

Earlier this week, I announced six goals for us to focus our attention on, goals that will end America's drug epidemic. And the first is a drug-free work place. It's particularly vital that those in sensitive occupations have clear minds. But we're looking for a drug-free work place for every working person, in government and out.

Number two is drug-free schools, from grade schools through universities. Local authorities, parents, and educators can do it, and the time is now. This fall everyone should be made aware from day one that drugs on campus, used or sold by anyone, are a thing of the past, and that strong action will back up that pronouncement. (Applause.)

Our third goal is tackling the health dangers stemming from drug abuse. Research can find better treatments, more effective prevention, and better methods of drug testing.

Our fourth goal is nothing less than a total international commitment to defeat this evil. And now that other countries know we're attacking the demand side, this should be made much easier.

Fifth, we plan to strengthen our enforcement effort; that means building upon what we've already done, including, where appropriate, increasing the support that is given by the United States military in this effort.

The sixth goal, and the one that is essential if the others are to have a chance for success, is increasing the public's awareness and involvement in the fight against drugs.

This is not just a fight for government. It's not just leadership from the White House and the state house, but leadership from the pulpit, the union hall, the corporate office, the school board, and from the media that will permit us to rid our land of this scourge.

Consistent with the theme of your conference, "Sharing Knowledge For Action," we must make drug use the top item in

MORE

the national dialogue, so that every citizen realizes what the stakes are, for the individual and for the country. Plato said long ago, "For our discussion is on no trifling matter, but on the right way to conduct our lives."

Well, we must determine how we, as free people, will conduct our lives, what our standards are, what behavior we will and will not tolerate. The time has come to decide on this issue and act, each of us. I want to thank all of you for the magnificent work you are doing, and will continue to do, to ensure that America meets this challenge.

Our goal is to do everything we can to help you have an awful lot of allies added to your ranks in the immediate time ahead. So thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

2:28 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript

August 1, 1986

INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT
BY
NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

Oval Office

11:33 A.M. EDT

Q Well, last time Mort and I were here, we were talking about SALT and arms control, and now we're here to talk about another war -- another --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and a very vital war.

Q We've followed, of course, the First Lady's interest in the drug problems for years, but now it seems as if you and the White House staff and the fellows on Capitol Hill are all beginning to move at the same time on this. What prompts the activity now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me say, it isn't just a recent thing. Nancy would have never sat back doing what she was doing and let us get away with doing nothing. But we've felt from the very first in 1981 when we came here that the obvious, legitimate job of government was the interception of -- or the interdiction of the drugs, and preventing them from getting to the users.

Nancy, of course, had approached from what I've always believed is the real way if we're ever to get control of this, and that is to take the users away from the drugs instead of the other way around. And she had been interested in this before we even got here.

Finding out how many parents weren't aware of there being a threat to their children, whether they were unwilling or just unaware that -- didn't know that this was happening in the schools and so forth, and she had started along that tack, and we knew that the great inflow of drugs -- when we first came here, Florida had been targeted, I suppose, because of its position down there and the inflow by sea and air for drugs.

And so we put together a task force under the Vice President that, for the first time, I believe, in our history, really put together every agency that could be interested at every level of government -- complete cooperation between federal, state, county, local, and it was tremendously successful. The inflow through Florida decreased greatly. And as a result of that, we then followed

MORE

with further units for border interdiction under the Vice President because of the border across the Southwest and our two sea coasts. What had actually happened is, you began to stop the flow in Florida and they just started diverting and finding other places to land.

But as this has gone on, and this increasing problem, we have all begun to come to the conclusion -- and looking what has happened. For example, look at Nancy's Just Say No idea. That came out of a simple answer to a question before a bunch of young people in Oakland, California when she was asked about what could they do. And she said, "Just say no." And now there are 10,000 Just Say No clubs among young people throughout the country.

And I think it is just the increasing problem has made us finally aware that what is really needed is a nationwide campaign -- not just government. But as we've done so many times in the past, when you take a problem to the American people and they have -- they now are concerned about it. The polls show that this is, in most people's mind, the number-one problem in the country. And we are going to very shortly be going public with soliciting the help of everyone on both sides, because it is not only necessary to step up our efforts to make it difficult to get the drugs, but the main thrust has got to be to get the people themselves to turn off on it.

Q We understand that there are going to be some initiatives involving federal employees and the use of drug tests for certain federal employees. Is that true?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there has to be, when you stop to think of some people in some very -- well, the type of work that they are doing. For example, you can't have people in law enforcement who carry weapons, you can't have air traffic controllers and so forth have this be a possibility. So we've always been in agreement on keeping tabs on people in those positions -- using testing.

But we are still discussing the ways of getting at this, not only in government, but out in business and industry, where it is estimated that the cost now to business and industry in America of drugs and alcohol abuse is about \$100 billion per year.

Q Would you favor drug testing for all federal employees?

THE PRESIDENT: I have great concerns -- other than the type of people I was just mentioning, where I feel that it is justified to be mandatory -- I think you've got a right to say that if I'm entrusting my life to someone's care, I've got a right to know. But I would rather see a voluntary program in which we can say to them

-- and say to people who might be detected in such a program, or that if they want to come forward and simply say this, that they won't lose jobs and there won't be punishment. What there would be is an offer of help, to tell people, no, if this is your problem, let us help you cure yourself of addiction.

Q Will you be --

THE PRESIDENT: And --

Q Oh, I'm sorry. Will you be asking your department heads, though, to select those jobs that they consider safety or national security-related enough -- to ask the people who hold those jobs to take these tests?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, and in some instances, I think it's all right to have it mandatory. That, as I say, people who have other people's safety in their own hands -- I don't think that they should complain about mandatory testing. But in the other, I believe through, down all the way -- and this is why a nationwide movement and one at the civilian, the civilian sector -- to again have that same approach, in business and industry. Let the executives volunteer themselves and let -- say to others, you know, do this.

But with that assurance -- we're not out to find you and destroy you, punish you in any way. We're out to help you.

Q You had a little problem with George Shultz on the question of polygraph testing. Do you think you might have that problem if you ask the Secretary of State and State employees to take drug tests?

THE PRESIDENT: No. If it would help -- it would help, I would be very much in favor of volunteering to start at the top, and not only in government, but in business, industry, the professions, everywhere else as an example to others and be willing to do it.

Q Do you think that people with security clearances fall in that category?

THE PRESIDENT: I would think yes, that that's legitimate.

Q Are you, in fact, going to ask your Cabinet officers to submit to testing on a voluntary basis themselves and ask their subordinates to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Mort, while we're still -- I can't -- there's going to be some of your questions that I can't answer because we're still in the process. And I'm afraid that any announcements that we have will come after this interview has been printed. But, yes, this is under discussion right now and I have already suggested such a thing to our top people.

Q Are you at all concerned about the privacy issue that is raised by mandatory drug testing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as I say, if the mandatory is only in those areas where you can show the kind of responsibility for national security, for people's lives, and so forth -- there I don't think there can be a quarrel.

On the other, I feel that it might be far more productive to go the voluntary way.

Q Could I ask a question about the money connected with all this? If these people turn up or even volunteer themselves and come forward is there going to be the money available for rehabilitation required and also is there going to be added money for prevention, you know, education programs and that sort of thing? How

MORE

much more money is going to be spent?

THE PRESIDENT: This, of course, is again one of the things that we have under discussion and we know the problem we have to meet.

I think one simple thing could add to the money right now without an additional penny being spent. Having come from being a Governor, one thing that was very much in my mind with getting a lot of federal grants to local and state governments converted into what we could call block grants. For example, I have to tell you that as Governor of a state, I found out that federal grants that came to us, totally wrapped in red tape and restrictions and absolute directions as to how the money must be used, every dollar of it, that the amount that went into administrative overhead was far in excess of the amount that was then left to do the job.

So we sought to combine some of these into block grants and then let the people at the local and the state level use this money where it met their problems the most. For example, to say nationwide to a state, you must use "x" amount of money in an alcoholic treatment, you must use "x" amount of money in drug treatment -- well, you can't believe that everyplace in the country had the same ratio of problems. One of them might have a very great problem over here, another one over here.

So we introduced this idea of block grant and to put all this money together. But when the Congress approved it, what they did was add amendments that put all the red tape and all the directions, specific directions back in, so out there, too much of that money is being spent on administrative overhead.

Now, what we would like to do as a part of this program is ask that those restrictions be taken off and see how far the money goes if it isn't all being spent on bureaucracy.

Q But does that mean that there won't be any additional money -- and the question you get from a lot of people involved in this is if this is a real war are we going to devote the resources to it, the money to really fight it or are we going to try to nickle and dime it or handle it by rhetoric?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not going to be rhetoric. And it's possible that there will be more need for money. On the other hand, you can't underestimate what can be done at the private sector without government intervention. When you look at the amount of money right now that is being spent and being raised privately by people in the private sector, that -- and is being administered by the private sector because of the help of volunteers -- no one can estimate the amount of money it would take to replace these volunteers with bureaucrats. And I don't mean to denigrate the people that work in government, but I -- they would be legitimately doing the job. But they can't afford to be volunteers.

So we will have to look at this other and then it has to be a matter of priorities.

Now in the budget that I submitted and which the Congress -- it wasn't dead on arrival, they stabbed it right after arrival -- had to do with spending cuts we had proposed in the domestic sector. And those cuts weren't just off the top of our heads. Those came from hours and hours of meetings, day after day in the Cabinet Room with the people who would be in charge of these programs. And they were the ones who were willing to say that they could do this program for less money than it had been done before, and so forth. Then you sent it up to Congress and they who have nothing to do with the administration of the program say, oh, no, sir, you've got to spend twice as much money.

There -- as I say, we have listed at least 40 programs that we don't think are needed at all that are not serving any useful purpose. So, once again, if -- this is the primary problem, and we are talking about human beings and lives and a whole generation of young people that I think we're entitled to go back and say, isn't this more important than some of these other things that you insist we keep on doing?

Q Mr. President, if you talk to the people who run treatment programs, rehabilitation programs, they say they are swamped -- they are turning people away. And yet they also say that it has been under your administration that there has been less money for rehabilitation and treatment.

THE PRESIDENT: The less money was because when we switched to block grants we figured that that had eliminated -- and we know this from the return on block grants in other areas -- that added so much money to the actual work that could be done rather than to administrative overhead that we didn't feel we needed quite as much. But then, when the Congress put back in all the red tape and the restrictions that we had tried to eliminate, why, of course, that left less money for the actual program.

But, once again, this is part of what we believe when we start appealing for this national drive -- and I've talked to leaders in the private sector of many areas on this very subject -- they're rearing to go. They want to -- and some of them are already involved in this with programs. So maybe we'll find that that can be a good part of the solution.

Q On the law enforcement side of things, what can be done or should be done to try to stop drug use? Should drug users go to jail?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think we should offer help for them. I can tell you, however, what the military did, and this is very encouraging. Early on, when we first came here, then the military started taking up this problem within the ranks and found, yes, there was widespread use of drugs, just as there is on some of our prestigious educational campuses and so forth. And the military put into effect a program, and it wasn't one of, hey, you're out if you were found using them. It was a case of offering treatment and help.

And then there have been very few that have been ousted. They had a system of the junior recruits. New people were given a couple of chances if they -- you know, if they came forth and said, okay, yes, I will take the treatment. Then if they backslid and didn't -- we gave them two chances. Then the next grade up and junior officers and so forth -- you've only got one more chance. And that is what it is at the very top. And so there have been very few -- a very small number who have been removed from the service.

But the usage of drugs has been cut by 67 percent in the uniformed services.

Q It sounds odd to say, but should drug dealers go to jail?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I'm --

Q Should they be executed, as Malaysia did?

THE PRESIDENT: Here again, while we haven't come to final decisions on this, I would tell you that my own personal view is that if you're talking about the death penalty, I know they deserve it. But no, I would think that we might be taking on then something that would divide our ranks, because there are so many people who don't believe in the death penalty for anything.

So no, I think the stricter penalties and all of this and law enforcement -- but my own view is that a death penalty would be counterproductive.

Q Doesn't that imply that if the commitment is to put drug dealers in jail, doesn't that imply a substantial new commitment to build new prisons and to step up the enforcement procedures?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we've got a problem of whether we have enough -- we have one locally in Washington, a problem with whether we have enough confinement facilities now. So we have to do whatever is necessary there.

Q And spend whatever is necessary to expand prison capacity?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. We're talking about human lives at stake. I think that the -- I actually believe that the prime effort, however, if we're to succeed, has to be in turning off -- the thing that Nancy's been doing so much of is to getting the young people themselves, and not only the young people, but the others, to come forward and want to turn off. In other words, want to just say no.

Q What's your view, in a mood when you've described America as "upbeat, optimistic," why is it such -- why are drugs such a problem now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how do you relate that? For one thing, we've had some of our modern-day things of interest to young people in the music world that has stimulated this, that it made it sound as if it's right there and the thing to do, and rock and roll concerts and so forth, musicians that the young people like, and that make no secret of the fact that they are users. And many times, when they're performing, the lyrics of songs. Show business, itself.

I must say this, that the theatre -- well, motion picture industry, was started down a road that they'd been on before once with alcohol abuse. I can remember when it was rather commonplace in films, particularly if you wanted some laughs in a comedy, to portray drunk scenes and so forth as being very humorous. And the motion picture industry decided sometime ago that that wasn't right for them to do, that that was encouraging and painting the wrong picture, and they stopped.

And yet, recently, there have been some pictures in which there was a gratuitous scene in there just for a laugh of drug use that made it look kind of attractive and funny, not dangerous and sad.

Already, Nancy's been working with the head man, and meeting with the head man of the motion picture industry, and there is now a movement there in that part of the entertainment world to stop any examples of that.

Just recently, there was a picture where there was a scene, and you had to say it was a good picture. But there was a scene of two people, an elderly couple driving a pick-up truck. They had no part in the movie other than this, just a gratuitous scene in which they're stopped at a roadblock by a trooper. And the only line is, Mama says to Papa, "Is the grass still in the glove compartment?" These two old people. Well now, you know, that was dragged in by the heels for a laugh. Got a laugh, but it shouldn't have.

And I could name other instances of that kind. But that is one thing to stop it, and work on, also.

Q Well, let me ask you about enforcement. A lot of people say that your war on drugs is all rhetoric. You're spending half of one percent compared to -- of the defense budget on drug enforcement and education -- talking about \$2 billion, compared to \$300 billion-plus for the defense budget.

You have about 300 more DEA agents than you had in 1974. You, personally, have increased DEA agents -- numbers to about 500. But there's still --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- a few hundred. How can you fight a war with a few thousand people and with this very limited --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is in that one agency. But I don't think that counts all the other people that we've organized into these task forces, and the dozen-such forces under the Attorney General that have other personnel from other agencies plus the local and the military and all the others that have been banded together in this.

In other words, the job is just not in the hands of the DEA agents alone. So I think that's been exaggerated in the way it's been portrayed. We've -- as I say, when you've got a team that comes from local law enforcement and you have access to them to state legal or law enforcement people to military to federal, and that kind of cooperation such as is in these groups under the Attorney General, why, you've -- we have added to the personnel that are fighting this.

Q But some of the congressional Republicans are talking about raising taxes to fund the war on drugs. Would you support that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't believe it's necessary. But let's go at this program that we're going to announce and this effort that we're going to try to get going throughout the nation and see. Incidentally, on the question a moment ago on

music, when I was talking about that -- here, again, I think you should know that there is a movement now among those musicians and the musical groups for drug-free rock concerts and so forth, that they're working within the trade themselves to help clean up.

Q Mr. President, some members of your own party, in addition to talking about the need to spend more, are saying that your policies toward drug-producing countries contain only carrots and not enough sticks.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's a limit to what you can do with regard to another sovereign nation. You can't stand in there and whip their law enforcement authorities now. But I don't think that's a fair charge. We have been working -- and here again, the start came from Nancy, when she had the idea of inviting a whole, a large group of First Ladies from all the other countries and speaking to them as mothers and wives and so forth, and together. And they went back to their own countries and it started.

And I saw the effect of it subsequently at a -- at one of the economic summit conferences where, suddenly, the heads of state sitting around the table -- their wives had been a part of this group that Nancy had put together. And suddenly, they said, hey, what are we doing? Let's us do something. And we are working and working hand-in-hand with foreign ministers.

As a matter of fact, Secretary Shultz just said the other day that he, as a result of this First Ladies' thing and what Nancy has done, is getting actual inquiries from other foreign ministers. So we're trying to work with them and help them. And, yes, there will be problems of non-cooperation. And where there are, then I think that we'll have to take what action we can.

Q What kind of leverage would that include? Economic sanctions?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know as yet. Again, as I say, there's so much of what we're, right now, talking that -- and so many facets to it that I can't tell you what we would --

Q Would covert action in any sort of way be a possibility to go to the source of drug --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't answer that one. I really can't.

Q No Contras against drugs in South America?
(Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can't answer that.

Q Well, let me ask a specific question on Mexico. When you came in, everybody said Mexico had a model program. Now it's the number one supplier of heroine in the United States. According to your own State Department, it's the leading either one or two supplier of marijuana; that a third of the cocaine now comes -- is thought to come through Mexico. You're meeting with President de la Madrid shortly.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you going to bring this up, and how hard a line are you willing to take with Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me tell you from the President's level there, we have been having cooperation. We are working with them, trying -- they recognize, they know that -- and it isn't all just from them, it's through them -- a large portion of this. And that's a 2,000-mile border. And, obviously, they do not have all the forces that would certainly be equal to ours or not.

But, yes, there are problems there and within the country, as there are in some of the other countries that we deal with in which the drugs czars have been able to infiltrate and to gain allies in a great many places because they have the means to buy. And so --

Q Would you consider closing the border as President Nixon did in the late '60s?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know whether that would do it or not because the people that are crossing that border and bringing in much of this now are not going through the normal border stops. They're crossing the border surreptitiously and --

Q No, but it is an economic sanction. It hurts trade and it got the government of Mexico's attention in 1969. Are you willing to go that far if necessary to force them to deal with the problem --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but this if you feel that they are not dealing up to their capacity, that they're shutting their eyes to it and letting it happen. But you have to recognize that, as I say, some of these countries are limited in their means and their ability, their personnel in handling a problem as big as this. And it wouldn't do any good to punish them for not being able to do more. It would be up to us to find ways where there could be better cooperation and where we can all be helpful to each other.

Q Could I go back to the consumption side --

MR. SPEAKES: We're just about out of time. Maybe we can get one more question. There's one of your answers that you might want to amplify because it could be subject to misinterpretation. That was the one where they said, do you favor jail sentences for drug users? And just sort of --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. SPEAKES: -- an emphatic "no," but many states have laws already --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we can't overrule states and their laws, but I do think that as a part of a campaign of the kind that we're talking, to -- where you're going to want to identify the users in order to be of help to them, in this program now of turning them off on drugs, why, then, I think that we're going to be, my own view is, far better off if we do as the military did and offer them -- you can come in and you can ask for help and you won't be punished if you will agree to take the help to try and cure you.

Q Can I just follow up on that?

MR. SPEAKES: This business of the jails, too -- you talked about the -- if you reduced the use of drugs, then many people who are using drugs have resorted to crime in order to get money to pay for the habit --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh.

Q -- and then you're reducing --

THE PRESIDENT: It's such a complex problem. Let me just, along that tack, just tell you something. One community in California that I know of -- know very well, where -- and they're trying and they're getting the street hustlers peddling drugs as fast as they can -- and they conducted an experiment. One weekend, they just went out -- and because they're pretty sure of who the users are now -- they see them on the streets buying. And they rounded up

all the users they could identify, and they just threw them in the jug. And they left them there for a few days, and it was an experiment. They didn't hold them beyond that.

Q Do you like that idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me tell you what happened. In that period they wanted to find out something about -- this was local law enforcement. In that period robbery and burglary was virtually zero while they were off the streets, which was what they wanted to find out, and that is that, yes, a lot of the crime -- particularly the robbery-type crime -- is coming from the people that need it to feed the habit -- the pay for the habit. And when they shut them up for a few days, the police didn't have any crimes.

Q But what do you do about kids in schools that are found to be taking or selling drugs?

THE PRESIDENT: Now hear again, this is the one above all. I think first of all we want to sit down with the teachers, the principals, the school boards and so forth to make sure that they recognize that it is no -- in this war it is no reflection on them.

You know, sometimes school officials can be a little reluctant to report something because it makes -- they're afraid the school board will think, well, they're derelict in their duty. But we want to deal with them and then, yes, we want to get at the students. And it is just like the Just Say No thing -- we're going to do everything we can to let them know, again, come tell us -- we'll help. There won't be punishment.

Now if you get the recalcitrant who is just --he's going to continue regardless, then we've got some wonderful examples where school principals here and there in our country have taken over schools that were really out of bounds, that were running wild, and the kind of principal that just starts -- well, I know of one that had over 350 expulsions -- just expelled that many students and now has a school that is a model for everyone to follow.

Q Are you in favor of cutting off federal aid to school systems that don't have good drug programs, and if so, how do you enforce that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you're talking there about secondary education -- colleges and so forth.

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: My concern there is, wouldn't you be punishing a lot of non-users, because a lot of those federal funds are going to individual students in the form of grants and loans so they can go to college. Well, you shut off the grant and you shut off the ability to go to college for a lot of kids who are not users. And I don't think that's the way to go.

MR. SPEAKES: You're pushing your schedule about ten minutes behind.

Q I was going to ask another Hollywood question, if you --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm tempted. Go ahead. Go ahead.

Q Okay, the question is, to what extent is the problem with Hollywood that a lot of people out there are using it themselves, and what do you do about that? I mean, as a person who used to be a resident?

THE PRESIDENT: That again -- and that is at a level of society also where we know that, you know, they have a dinner party and they

feel they have to put the drug out on the coffee table, as like a cocktail party. And yes, that has to be dealt with -- that particular problem.

Q Did that happen when you were there, when you were enter such parties?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the drug thing hadn't hit Hollywood. There had been a time in the past, and I guess in that golden era when -- as I call it -- of pictures, we were in the afterwave of the reaction to all of that. And as a matter of fact, if you will recall -- or maybe you didn't know -- in those days, you had a contract with a studio, were under contract as a performer, there was a morals clause in that contract. And if you violated what was commonly accepted as public morals, your -- you were out, your contract was cancelled.

Q No one ever tempted you?

THE PRESIDENT: What? No, but -- and -- but all the things that are going on today, it's a different industry.

Q Thanks, Mr. President.

Q Thank you very much.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Well --

Q Thanks a lot, Mr. President.

Q Thanks a lot.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you.

END

12:11 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 30, 1986

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT BRIEFING FOR
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The Roosevelt Room

11:29 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Charlie, and thank you all for being here today and for all that you're doing to help America. Drug abuse has been a major concern of Nancy's and mine, as you've just been told, dating back to a time long before we came to the White House.

Our concern, of course, was not shared by everyone. And during the late 1960's, and into the last decade, a flippant and irresponsible attitude toward drug use permeated too much of our society. The gurus of hedonism and permissiveness were given a respectable hearing back in those days -- the heartache and misery came along later.

Pundits and commentators have said a great deal about the positive changes that America has gone through these last five and a half years. I think one of the most heartwarming -- and one of which I am exceptionally proud -- is the change in attitude toward drugs. I'm particularly proud of the role that Nancy has played in this. As you probably know, she's made the fight against drug abuse a national crusade. From one line that she used out in Oakland, California, answering a young person's question when she was speaking to them about what to do about it, and she said, "Just say no." And today, Just Say No is a nationwide organization of young people that are pledged to say, "Just say no."

Well, just the other day in a Cabinet meeting, Secretary Shultz told me something that we hadn't been aware of -- that how often foreign ministers praise her for the work she's doing and the example that she is setting. And all of this came from an idea she had -- and ladies, you can be proud -- she decided to have some meetings of the First Ladies from a number of other countries. And they picked up the baton there and have been doing it ever since. And I had the exciting experience at one of the recent economic summits with our major allies to mention something of this kind that -- tell them that she had sent greetings to their wives, and so forth. And all of a sudden, a certain lady Prime Minister spoke up and said, "Well, what are we doing? Why don't we start in?" And it suddenly became on the agenda of the economic summit.

But because of people like her and these people that I've just mentioned, a new and dynamic consensus is emerging. The good and decent people of this country, and, yes, as I say, the world now, are coming together in active opposition to the evil of drug abuse. More and more people are realizing how crucial it is to deal with this insidious problem. Those who smuggle and sell drugs are as dangerous to our national security as any terrorist or foreign dictatorship.

In 1981, we began our efforts to mobilize America against this danger. We operated under the assumption -- and I remain convinced this is true -- that a major effort to stop drugs from flowing into the country is only one element in an overall solution. As with most perplexing problems, to rely totally on government is to fall prey to an illusion. What we need is the development of private sector initiatives -- community-based solutions to the drug problem.

MORE

Commitment from the men and women and children of this country, from businesses, labor unions, sports and public figures, and civic groups, to get tough and to get involved is a prerequisite for success.

Nancy recently said that -- and I'll quote -- "we must create an atmosphere of intolerance for drug use in this country." Well, I don't think I can say it any better than that.

The time has come to give notice that individual drug use is threatening the health and safety of all our citizens. We must make it clear that we are no longer willing to tolerate illegal drugs, or the sellers, or the users. Our object is not to punish users, but to help them; and not to throw them in jail, but to free them from dependency; not to ruin their lives by putting them behind bars, but to prevent their lives from being ruined by drugs.

MORE

The first step, of course, is making certain that individual drug users, and everyone else, understand that in a free society we're all accountable for our actions. If this problem is to be solved, drug users can no longer excuse themselves by blaming society. As individuals, they're responsible. The rest of us must be clear that, while we are sympathetic, we will no longer tolerate the use of illegal drugs by anyone. The time has come for each and every one of us to make a personal and moral commitment to actively oppose the use of illegal drugs -- in all forms and in all places. We must remove all traces of illegal drugs from our nation.

You and your organizations, not only in the United States but internationally, can be proud that you're leading the way in this noble endeavor. I simply don't have ample opportunity here and now to mention all of your organizations and all that you've done, but I must mention a few.

The Lions Clubs -- of which I'm -- happen to be a lifetime member -- met with me in 1982. You made your anti-drug program a priority and went to work -- not just in the United States, but in 155 different countries.

The Kiwanis Clubs -- you've been terrific with the work that you've done with Nancy and your billboard campaign.

The Elks -- you have one and half million people involved in fighting drug abuse. I also want to applaud you for helping the people of Oregon fight a misguided minority that would legalize marijuana. That would be the worst possible message to send to our young people.

You might be interested to know that Nancy, in speaking to young people in schools and so forth, treatment centers, asks them about that. And you'd be amazed -- the kids are ahead of us. They almost all together shout, "No, don't do that."

The Junior League -- your "Gate" program to educate the young people of this country is exemplary.

The Girl Scouts -- your new patch for drug education and prevention is a good example of what can be done. I can't tell you how appreciative we are, here, of your efforts.

All of you and your magnificent organizations, in many ways, represent the best hope for America's youth. John Locke, a great intellectual, whose ideas greatly affected those who laid the philosophical foundation of American freedom, once wrote, "A sound mind in a sound body, is a short but full description of a happy state in this world."

Well, our goal is to make certain that illegal drugs do not deprive any American of a happy state of sound mind and body. I want each of you and the members of your organizations to know how much Nancy and I, and your fellow citizens, appreciate what you're doing.

We have a long way to go. But there's ample room for optimism. International cooperation is increasing. This is no longer looked at as just a problem for the Americans. And you've already heard from my good friend, Charlie Wick, on what's going on in the international arena.

Nevertheless, we must continue to prove we mean business at home. And now is the time to show drug users that we mean to reach our goal of a drug-free generation in the United States.

I know you have myriad demands on your time. And everyone seems to have a pet project they would like your help on. Well, there's no doubt about our pet project -- and no doubt as to how seriously we take our commitment. We 'll do everything in our

MORE

power to achieve our goal. And I'd like to call on you to help us out.

Go back to your organizations and have your membership work towards drug-free schools. Our children deserve no less.

Get your local television stations to air public service announcements, and I mean at a time when most people are watching TV, not burying them in the middle of the night with re-runs of "Bedtime for Bonzo." (Laughter.)

By the way, I've been asked at times what it is like to sit and watch the late, late show and see yourself, and I have one answer. It's like looking at a son you never knew you had. (Laughter.)

Talk to your local and district prosecutors about getting tough on the low-lives who are selling drugs to our kids.

Talk to your local religious leaders about what they can do about drug abuse. This is a moral, as well as a health and safety issue.

Meet with the business and labor leaders in your community. You may find that many are working on getting drugs out of the working place. You have much in common.

And lastly, set up a partnership, get others involved in this fight. Now may be the time for communities across America to launch an offensive against drugs. In Boston, for example, The Boston Herald, the electronic media, the Bank of Boston, the police, and the sports teams are launching a long-time effort to fight drug abuse.

I can't tell you how strongly Nancy and I feel about getting you involved in reaching these goals. We need your help, and I hope you'll take me up on the challenge.

You should know that I'll be inviting each of your organizations back to the White House one year from now so that I can hear about the progress you've made, the programs you've established, and any results you've achieved -- in your communities as well as internationally. As I said earlier, please pass on my thanks to all your members who are doing much to make this the kind of country and the kind of world that God intended it to be.

And one last thought. We've been talking about what you'll be doing. Well, I'll announce what I'll be doing. And now is the time for everyone to do their part.

The only thing that remains for me to say now is, thank you and God bless you all for what you are doing. Thank you for being here. (Applause.)

END

11:40 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN A. SVAHN

FROM: CARLTON E. TURNER

SUBJECT: Responses for President's Initiatives

In reviewing the responses for the President's initiatives it is clear that the public believes the time is right to get tough on drugs. The letters and phone calls are overwhelmingly positive. A sampling of the remarks are as follows:

- o The International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the largest police union in the country with a membership of 50,000, supports and fully endorses the President's drug program.
- o The National Association of Government Employees, embracing approximately 100,000 local, state and federal employees are in the President's corner for drug testing.
- o The Federal Managers Association of 2,000 members, representing mid-level managers in the Federal government, expressed their desire to work with the President and assist his efforts to eliminate drug abuse from the public sector.
- o The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the President's approach.
- o The Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands sent his support in a telegram to the President. Included in his message was notification that he submitted a bill to the legislature to test government employees for drugs and his commitment to push for further legislation to curb drug use.
- o The Olympic Committee telephoned to see how to become involved in the President's drug abuse campaign.
- o Ann Landers, national columnist, sent her support via telegram and ask what she could do to get involved.
- o Beth Polson, ABC Producer, has offered to do a two-hour special with rock stars who are drug-free and do not use obscene lyrics.

- o An editorial in The Christian Science Monitor on August 6, 1986 states, "The President is on the mark when he says strong action is needed."
- o Peoples Drug supports the President and has asked how they play a role in the President's initiatives.
- o There has been many phone calls and letters from private citizens who want to be involved with the President's drug program.

Jack, we have received no negative comments. The public supports the leadership of the President in eradicating drug abuse and directing us towards a drug-free America.

FYI: Mayor Koch is organizing a conference of city mayors on August 26 in New York to put pressure on the President to financially support the cities in their drug efforts.
(Thought you would want to know before the headlines tomorrow.)

FOR MY OWN PART, THE WORDS OF GRATITUDE WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME HERE TONIGHT, WILL ECHO IN THE MEMORY OF MY HEART WITH EVEN GREATER MEANING, AFTER WE HAVE BECOME ASSURED THAT WE HAVE ANCHORED MEHARRY'S SECURITY, GROWTH, VITALITY AND CONTINUED OUTREACH ON A BASIS WHICH IS PERMANENT AND FOREVER. ^{And} WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS MOST WORTHWHILE OF OBJECTIVES THROUGH OUR COMMON EFFORTS. THANK YOU.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 31, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR CARLTON TURNER

FROM: PHIL BRADY *PHB*

With respect to the President's Newsweek interview scheduled for Friday, August 1st, it would be appreciated if the substance of pertinent points set forth below on the Vice President's role in our anti-drug effort could be included in the President's briefing materials:

- In 1982 the Vice President was asked to establish a South Florida Task Force responding to the narcotics trafficking emergency in that area. The interagency effort combined enhanced interdiction capability (i.e. Customs, Coast Guard) with additional investigators and prosecutors.
- The success of the South Florida Task Force led to the creation in 1983 of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS) headed by the Vice President and, with respect to the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking organizations, thirteen Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces under the Attorney General.
- NNBIS has been successful in achieving unprecedented agency coordination in drug interdiction operations (i.e. Hat Trick I & II) and in involving the Department of Defense and the intelligence community in supporting our War on Drugs. That support will be further facilitated by the recent National Security Decision Directive on the national security implications of drug trafficking (announced by the Vice President in Houston on June 7, 1986).
- The Vice President will be significantly involved in our proposed Southwest Border drug interdiction initiative through NNBIS coordination of interagency operations.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and don't hesitate to ask if I can provide further background on any of these points.

cc: Craig Fuller
Boyden Gray

GENERAL

Every Administration has had a "war on drugs" -- what distinguishes your effort?

What is policy?

Progress in last 5 years?

Do you believe we can win the "war on drugs"?

Response to criticism of no Federal dollars in demand effort?

Mrs. Reagan's contribution?

STRATEGY QUESTIONS

Does this signal "new" policy?

How different from previous efforts?

Why now to come to forefront? (Mrs. Reagan as only Administration figure doing anything.)

Mrs. Reagan's reaction to plan?

Does this signal restructuring? "Drug czar"? Who's in charge?

Rumors: Commission? \$500 million?

ISSUES

Bolivia a success? Portend increased military use in drug effort?

SW border?

De la Madrid visit?

Federal education program?

Crack? Drug priorities?

Drug testing: violation of rights?

Len Bias convictions: what should be done?

Response to NYC?

Response to Congressional calls for White House conference?

AIDS?

MD

DRUG INITIATIVES

OPERATION BLAST FURNACE

- o BLAST FURNACE is a joint DEA/Government of Bolivia operation targetting cocaine production in Bolivia and is the result of a Bolivian government initiative. Unlike our eradication programs, which are aimed at destroying drug crops, the objective of BLAST FURNACE is to disrupt the labs which transform coca leaves into cocaine.
- o U.S. armed forces personnel are assisting the Bolivian government in a support role by providing helicopter transportation for Bolivian special anti-drug police.
- o Of nine targets which have been hit so far (cocaine labs, airstrips and chemical storage facilities), two have yielded major labs. DEA/CIA are working to improve quality, timeliness and coordination of intelligence.
- o Bolivian and U.S. representatives are doing well at resolving emerging problems inherent in any "first of a kind" operation.
- o U.S. military forces have received high praise for discipline, flexibility, and sensitivity to Bolivian concerns. They have also gained excellent training.
- o BLAST FURNACE has signaled that both the U.S. and Bolivian governments are serious in their commitment to hit narcotraffickers.
- o Independent of BLAST FURNACE, Bolivia has undertaken its own operations against cocaine laboratories and trafficker networks in other areas of the country.
- o Although initial results are mixed, expect long-term effect to be significant disruption of Bolivian cocaine production. Reports from Bolivia are that cocaine production has essentially shut down, and that prices for raw coca have fallen drastically. Cocaine traffickers have fled the country or are in hiding.
- o Despite criticism of BLAST FURNACE from Bolivian left wing and nationalist groups, much of the Bolivian public appears to support the crackdown. This is reflected in an unprecedented number of recent walk-in informants to DEA agents and Bolivian police.

~~OLD VERSION~~
NEW VERSION

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FACT SHEET

On April 8, 1986, the President signed a National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) on Narcotics and National Security. That document assessed the threat from the international narcotics trade and directed specific actions to increase the effectiveness of U.S. counter-narcotics efforts. Some of its major points are:

- Criminal drug trafficking organizations can corrupt political and economic institutions and weaken the ability of foreign governments to control key areas of their own territory and populace.
- Some insurgent and terrorist groups cooperate closely with drug traffickers and use this as a major source of funds.
- It is the policy of the United States, working in cooperation with other nations, to halt the production and flow of illicit narcotics, reduce the ability of insurgent and terrorist groups to use drug trafficking to support their activities, and strengthen the ability of individual governments to confront and defeat this threat.
- Among the actions directed by the President were:
 - o Full consideration of drug control activities in our foreign assistance planning.
 - o An expanded role for U.S. military forces in supporting counter-narcotics efforts.
 - o Additional emphasis on narcotics as a national security issue in discussions with other nations.
 - o Greater participation by the U.S. intelligence community in supporting efforts to counter drug trafficking.
 - o Improvements in counter-narcotics telecommunications capability.
 - o More assistance to other nations in establishing and implementing their own drug abuse and education programs.
- The Attorney General, as Chairman of the National Drug Enforcement Policy Board, shall submit a report to the President giving the status of plans and accomplishments under the Directive.