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Wives Club Luncheon (Maseng) Research: JC
Nov. 6, 1981
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MRS. REAGAN: TALKING POINTS FOR ANNUAL JOINT OFFICERS
WIVES CLUB LUNCHEON, NOVEMBER 6, 1981

- I have been especially looking forward to this lunch because it isn't often I meet so many women with whom I have so much in common: We're all married to men with rank in the military, we've spent a great amount of time in Government housing and we moved here because the Government told us to.
- Although, I must say, if you married somebody from a military academy, you had a little better idea of what you were in for than I did. I never thought I'd be a Governor's wife, let alone First Lady.
- I expected to have children and lead an "ordinary" life, except that being a wife and mother is never really "ordinary" -- it is an extraordinary and fulfilling way of life. And because I believe strong families make strong societies, I have always believed that is an important contribution to make to our country.
- But your contribution is something special. When we were in California last summer, my husband visited the crew of the U.S.S. Constellation. He told them he knew that sacrifices and frustrations and family strains go hand in hand with military service.

- But he also said -- and I think you'll agree -- their service is the greatest gift they could offer their loved ones and their country. Those Americans in uniform are the peacemakers. Because of what they do every day, we can be sure our Nation and our homes are secure. I think we've got real reason to be proud of them.
- I know you have a deep feeling about America, and I think that's something else we have in common. Your groups reach out to help those around you. Wherever you go, you do much to better the lives of your neighbors. In many ways you are a great example of my husband's effort to bring back the American volunteer spirit.
- That spirit is part of our heritage. Because it was such a part of us, fields were cleared, barns were raised and cities were built that otherwise never could have been. We must encourage more Americans to get involved as you have.
- Most people want to help. But it's only when they decide to do something that things begin to change. We just can't sit and expect Government to take responsibility if we really want things to get better.
- I congratulate you on all you have done, and urge you to continue. Your contributions are manifold. You are

touching people's lives -- many you may not even realize --
and by doing so you are making America a better place
to live.

-- Thank you very much.

Mari sounds nice to really me -- my suggestions are of the take'em or leave'em variety.

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I don't really feel strongly. T.J.

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-- I expected to have children and lead an "ordinary" life, except for ^{that} me being a wife and mother is ^{never really} not ordinary -- it is an extraordinary and fulfilling way of life. And because I believe strong families make strong societies, I have always believed ~~I had a~~ ^{that is an important} contribution to make to our country.

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CLUB LUNCHEON, NOVEMBER 6, 1981

Brimser McCasid
typical letter:
women married to military officers from all states, now in DC.
p. 46
Mil. Office: Chunn

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D Public --
any committee
47-5737
% officers: grad 6ades
p. 47, 45
Nancy - p. 19

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Nancy -
p. 19
140

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D's - 8/20/81
p. 890
p. 175
p. 519

-- But your contribution is something special. When we were in California last summer, my husband visited the crew of the USS Constellation. He told them he knew that sacrifices and frustrations and family strains go hand/in/hand with military service.



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Handwritten signature and notes in the right margin.

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "Tried (lots) activities (Charity, etc.)"

I know you have a deep feeling about America, and I think that's something else we have in common. Your groups reach out to help those around you. Wherever you go, you do much to better the lives of your neighbors. I think you'd agree with my husband's effort to bring back the American volunteer spirit.

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "D's 10/5/87 AB Speech: Volunteering"

-- That spirit is part of our heritage. Because it was such a part of us, fields were cleared, barns were raised and cities were built that otherwise never could have been. We must encourage more Americans to get involved as you have.

Handwritten notes on the left margin: "1st of U.S. 1877 p 525"

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Handwritten note on the left margin: "p. 46"

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(Maseng)

November 3, 1981
First Draft

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