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(Parvin/AB)
February 24, 1982
11:00 a.m.

LETTER FROM MRS. REAGAN FOR WHITE HOUSE GUIDEBOOK

My husband and I are delighted you are visiting the White House today. In welcoming you we feel a little like the tenants welcoming the landlord, because this house and its history truly belong to all Americans.

Sometimes walking down these halls, I am almost overcome with history when I realize every President except George Washington has lived here. As you walk through today, I know your imagination will glimpse President Lincoln looking thoughtfully out a window or President Jefferson striding down a corridor.

Not only have the residents of this house changed over the years, so has the house itself. Laundry doesn't hang drying in the East Room as it did during Abigail Adams' day. The Diplomatic Reception Room was converted from a boiler and furnace room years ago. And Teddy Roosevelt's moosehead no longer stares down from the walls of the State Dining Room on distinguished guests and foreign dignitaries.

Yet, whatever the changes from one President to the next and from one era to the next, the White House always maintains its character and dignity. That dignity comes from the American people. This wonderful, historic house symbolizes the continuity of our democracy and the flow of freedom from generation to generation. I am glad you could visit the White House today and renew your ties to America's heritage.

(signed) Nancy Reagan

(Parvin) ^{At}
February 24, 1982
~~9:30~~ a.m.

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OK MURB 2/24/82

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*The WH in History Guide Pg. 936
The WH in History Guide Pg. 142*

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