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(Parvin/AB)
March 11, 1982
4:30 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUM TRUSTEES
MARCH 15, 1982

-- Thank you and welcome to the White House. I don't need to tell you that this house is a museum in itself -- the paintings, the bronzes, the furnishings. The American people are the owners. The Federal Government is the trustee. And my husband and I are the nice caretaker couple who look after the place.

-- You know, just before the British burned the White House, Dolley Madison saved that picture of George Washington over there. Someone asked me the other day, if like Dolley I had to grab just one thing before I left, what would it be? I really didn't know what to say so I told them Ronnie. Anyway, the painting of Washington was fastened firmly to the wall, so with the British approaching, Dolley ordered the frame broken and the canvas taken out. She preserved an important part of our heritage for future generations.

-- Well, in a way, that's what museum trustees like yourselves do. You preserve the present and the past for the future. Through your unselfish, voluntary efforts, you contribute much to enriching our lives and advancing our knowledge. I want to thank you for what you're doing to expand the horizons of so many Americans, and thank you for this handbook.

(Parvin^{AB})
March 11, 1982
11:30 a.m.

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