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(Parvin)
December 15, 1982
10:30 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: SHARE/ECF DEDICATION
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1982

-- Thank you. I'm very happy to be here today for the dedication of this building for the Exceptional Children's Foundation. Some exceptionally generous work went into making this dedication possible, and I'm talking about the generosity of SHARE, which since 1953 has devoted itself to helping the mentally retarded.

-- I don't think there are three sadder words in our language than the three words -- "might have been." Overlooking a child's potential is such a deep human loss. Well, the Exceptional Children's Foundation doesn't deal with what might have been. It deals with what can be. ECF is helping mentally retarded individuals realize their potential.

-- The exceptional individuals who come here learn motor development and control; they learn communication and social skills; they learn independent living and job skills. They learn how to fulfill themselves. The women of SHARE have also been fulfilling themselves by working for ECF. As the SHARE members know, and I once was one, you cannot give of yourself without the gift returning to you many times over.

-- You know there is an old English proverb that says, "If it were not for hope, the heart would break." The Exceptional Children's Foundation gives hope to those exceptional children and their families. And I guess you could say, SHARE gives hope to those who give hope to others. So congratulations to you all on this dedication, and thank you for inviting me.

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