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didn't write

MRS. REAGAN: CONGRESSIONAL WIVES LUNCHEON
MAY 15, 1985

--Thank you. I'm ^{Schappy}delighted to be back with the Congressional Wives.

~~Whether Republican or Democrat, political wives share a certain~~

~~affinity, and I think that's why I always feel so welcome here.~~ *In fact I allow,*

Think of this luncheon as a time for pure enjoyment and not speechmaking, and I hope you'll let me share with you a few of the memories of the past few months. It has been such a full

~~We all know the ups and downs of public life. I'd like to take a~~

~~minute today to tell you what I'm currently feeling very up about. For~~

me, ~~the last month has~~ ^{It's} been one of the most rewarding ^{since} since I came to

the White House; because on several fronts I ^{cause study} saw the progress we're ^{involving the wives in the discussion of} making ~~against~~ against drug abuse. Just a few weeks ago, the First Ladies of

17 countries came here to share ideas on protecting our children from

^{se great} the dangers of ~~drugs~~. I'm not sure this First Ladies Summit, ~~as it was~~

~~called~~, would've been possible only a few years ago. The conference

showed there's a growing, world-wide understanding of the drug problem

and the will to do something about it. ^{more important} ~~(Personal insights on drug~~ *This was a mother-to-mother meeting during*

When we shared our experiences and fear about this a problem that is becoming a major focus. But

~~conference.)~~ *What's most encouraging is that in the short time since the meeting reports have been pouring in about how each of these women has returned to their own country and taken up the fight in her own special way*

The day after the First Ladies left Washington, two thousand sixth

graders came to the White House as part of a "Just Say No" march

against drugs. ^{and} There were similar marches all over the ^(cont) ~~nation~~.

A few years ago most children weren't really aware of the drug threat. Drugs

were glamorized and defended, rather than denounced for threat they

are. Now, more and more of our young people are just saying no, and

they're doing it in a forceful and public way.

It was an amazing whole meeting

^{In Europe}
--And, of course, ~~we just returned from Europe, where I was further~~
encouraged by the ~~progress against drug abuse and especially by the~~ ^{deep understanding and commitment of the Holy Father}
Pope's support ^{to} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~movement.~~ ^{entirely!} His presence is remarkable. ^{He confirms that} ~~(Personal~~ ^{strength}
~~insight on what Pope said about drugs.)~~ ^{is a} ~~When I visited the drug~~ ^{gift from}
treatment center that ~~His Holiness sponsors,~~ ^{the Pope contributes to} the kids there were no
different than the kids here. They were hurting, struggling, trying to
put their lives back together.

^{Then}
--In both Germany and Portugal, I met with parents groups. To me,
these groups are the most encouraging development of the last several
years. Their numbers have been exploding, not only in the US but now
abroad. Parents have decided drugs cannot have their children without a
fight. They've learned they don't have to stand by helplessly while
drugs consume their families.

--The movement against drug abuse at one time consisted of little more
than the overworked, underappreciated professionals in the field.

Thankfully, that is no longer the case. In the past month alone I've
seen a whole ^{new} spectrum of involvement. ^{I think you can see I would} ~~And for those of us who've taken~~
~~it on and on about my experiences this past month. But I wanted~~
~~an interest in this issue, I can't tell you how satisfying that is to~~
~~to share them with you because I know you share my concern and~~
~~see. It's always nice to hear good news, and that is what I wanted to~~
~~I would you to know that I see signs of hope, signs of commitment~~
~~share with you today. Thank you for inviting me, and thank you for~~
~~to ending this year's tragedy. And now all stops with a heartfelt~~
~~your splendid hospitality.~~
of thanks to all of you for inviting me today.