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BOY SCOUTS' DIAMOND JUBILEE JAMBOREE

JULY 30, 1985

-- THANK YOU ALL FOR THAT WARM WELCOME.

-- I'M SORT OF PINCH-HITTING HERE TONIGHT FOR MY FAVORITE SCOUT. THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO BE HERE TONIGHT VERY MUCH, BECAUSE HE FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT THE BOY SCOUTS. AND HE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE KNOWS, AS I DO, THAT SCOUTING IS MORE IMPORTANT TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. THERE IS A SPECIAL NEED FOR IT---BECAUSE WE NEED YOU AS YOUNG LEADERS, AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS MOST POSITIVE ABOUT AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY.

-- FIRST AND FOREMOST THOUGH, I REALLY WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU ON YOUR DIAMOND JUBILEE. SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF BOY SCOUTING IN AMERICA--AND THEY HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN FULL YEARS. THE BOY SCOUTS ARE PART OF AMERICA'S STRONGEST TRADITIONS, AND THE WORLD'S--AND I KNOW WE HAVE SCOUTS HERE TODAY FROM AROUND THE GLOBE. THERE ARE ALMOST ONE MILLION ACTIVE SCOUTS TODAY AND SINCE ITS BEGINNING OVER 70 MILLION BOYS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SCOUTING. THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE! AND THAT MEANS A LOT OF PEOPLE HELPING OTHERS.

-- AND NOW, SCOUTING IS TRULY INTERNATIONAL. IN FACT, IT WAS STARTED BY AN ENGLISHMAN, A LIEUTENANT IN THE BRITISH ARMY. BUT THE IDEA WAS REALLY TAKEN UP IN AMERICA AND ORGANIZED BY THREE MEN. TWO OF THEM, ERNEST SETON AND DANIEL BEARD WHO SCOUTS CALLED "UNCLE DAN" AND WHO WORE BUCKSKIN AND RACON HATS--LOVED THE OUTDOORS--THE COOL WOODS, THE SMELL OF A CAMPFIRE, THE REFRESHING FEEL OF COOL STREAMS AND LAKES. YOUR THIRD FOUNDER, JAMES WEST, WAS A GREAT HERO TOO. HE WAS AN ORPHAN WHO WAS CRIPPLED, BUT HE OVERCAME IT ALL AND DEVOTED HIMSELF TO YOUTH WORK. WHAT MARVELOUS EXAMPLES FOR YOU ALL--BY WORKING TOGETHER--BY SHARING WITH EACH OTHER WHATEVER KNOWLEDGE OR SKILL YOU HAVE--YOU TOO CAN BEGIN TO CHANGE THE WORLD. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING---YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

-- AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS SO IMPORTANT NOW. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FACED WITH A PROBLEM THAT PAST GENERATIONS HAVE NEVER HAD--ONE SO DESTRUCTIVE THAT A WHOLE GENERATION COULD BE LOST. AS I'M SURE YOU'VE GUESSED ALREADY I'M TALKING ABOUT DRUG ABUSE. THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE ENDED IN TRAGEDY ARE MANY. WITH THE THOUSANDS OF YOU HERE TODAY, I'M SURE MANY HAVE

ALL I DID WAS SIT IN MY BEDROOM AND CRY."-- MAYBE IF HIS BROTHER HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SCOUTING THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED. THIS BOY NEEDED A HELPING HAND. HE NEEDED LOYAL FRIENDS, TRUE FRIENDS, HONEST FRIENDS TO TELL HIM TO STAY OFF DRUGS. KIDS WHO INVOLVE OTHER KIDS IN DRUGS ARE NOT FRIENDS.

-- BOY SCOUTS ARE VERY MODERN AND THEY DEAL WITH MODERN PROBLEMS. BUT YOUR VALUES AND STRENGTH ARE YOUR POWER, YOUR SECRET--THAT'S WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING STRONG. SCOUTING IS GETTING STRONGER EACH YEAR AROUND THE WORLD BECAUSE YOU ARE GIVING AND SHARING. PLEASE, BE STRONG AND HELP FIGHT AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS. SAY NO. AND THEN HELP OTHERS TO SAY NO.

-- THERE'S A WONDERFUL AND EXCITING FUTURE WAITING FOR YOU, YOU CAN BECOME ASTRONAUTS, WRITERS, BUSINESSMEN, ACTORS, FARMERS, LAWYERS, A FILM DIRECTOR OR A PRESIDENT. BOY SCOUTS HAVE HELPED IN WAR TIME AND PEACE. THEY'VE ASSISTED THE ELDERLY AND THE YOUNG. THEY'VE VOLUNTEERED FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES. YOU ARE ALL PART OF OUR HISTORY. SO WHY NOT MAKE ANOTHER GREAT HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE TOO? AND HELP TO SAVE NOT JUST YOUR GENERATION, BUT GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW.

-- THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING ME HERE. AND THANK YOU
VERY MUCH FOR MAKING ME ONE OF YOU--AN HONORARY SCOUT. IT MAKES
ME AWFULLY PROUD. I MEAN REALLY, VERY PROUD.

-- GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND HAVE A VERY SAFE TRIP BACK TO
YOUR HOMES. THANK YOU.

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HAD TO COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE PROBLEM. IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU NOT ONLY JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS, BUT INFLUENCE YOUR FELLOW SCOUTS--YOUR CLASSMATES, YOUR TEAMMATES, YOUR BROTHERS, SISTERS, COUSINS AND FRIENDS. AND WHAT EXCELLENT EXAMPLES YOU CAN ALL BE. NOBODY CAN USE DRUGS AND REMAIN A TRUE BOY SCOUT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, NOBODY CAN USE DRUGS FOR TOO LONG BEFORE THEY CAN NO LONGER BE OR DO ANYTHING.

-- THE VALUES YOU LEARN IN SCOUTING ARE THE SAME VALUES YOU NEED TO HELP OTHERS INVOLVED WITH DRUGS. AND THESE ARE ALSO THE THINGS YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF WHY KIDS GET INTO DRUGS. WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND CLEAR-THINKING YOU CAN ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF KEEPING OTHERS OFF DRUGS. DON'T EVER FORGET -- DRUG-FREE IS THE BEST WAY---THE ONLY WAY--- TO LIVE.

-- RECENTLY, I RECEIVED A HEART-RENDING LETTER WHICH PROVES THIS, IT'S FROM A YOUNG BOY WHO LOST HIS BIG BROTHER TO DRUGS. HE TOLD ME OF HOW HIS BROTHER STARTED BY SMOKING CIGARETTES THEN WENT ON TO POT, THEN SPEED AND DOWNERS. HE SAID: "HE WAS FOUND DEAD ON JUNE 19. [WHEN] HE LEFT [HOME] HE SAID HE WAS GOING FISHING, BUT [HE] NEVER CAME BACK... FOR THREE DAYS AFTER THAT