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EMBARGOED UNTIL
2:00 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 4, 1987

MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
ASSOCIATED PRESS PUBLISHERS' LUNCHEON
WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW YORK
MONDAY, MAY 4, 1987

-- THANK YOU. I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

-- I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL. YOU KNOW HOW BUSY I AM -- BETWEEN STAFFING THE WHITE HOUSE AND OVERSEEING THE ARMS TALKS . . .

-- IN FACT, THIS MORNING I HAD PLANNED TO CLEAR UP U.S.-SOVIET DIFFERENCES ON INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES . . . BUT I DECIDED TO CLEAN OUT RONNIE'S SOCK DRAWER INSTEAD.

-- YOU KNOW, I RECENTLY READ THAT I AM AN "UNELECTED, UNACCOUNTABLE" "POWER-HUNGRY" "POLITICAL MANIPULATOR" OF "EXTRA-ORDINARY VINDICTIVENESS" WHO, "SUPPORTED IN HER POWER PLAYING BY A BLOATED, EXPENSIVE EAST WING STAFF," "EXHIBITS A ZEST FOR COMBAT" AND PRESUMES "TO CONTROL THE ACTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH."

-- AS MY SON SAID, "YEAH, MOM, THAT'S YOU."

-- I WONDERED WHAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TODAY, SO IN LIGHT OF SUCH RECENT SPECULATION, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE CURIOUS HOW I SEE THE ROLE OF FIRST LADY AND THE EFFECTS IT'S HAD ON MY LIFE.

-- I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT MY FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS WERE ROCKY. FIRST OF ALL IN LOOKING BACK, I WAS TERRIBLY NAIVE. I REMEMBER DURING THE CAMPAIGN TELLING HELEN THOMAS THAT THERE'D ALWAYS BE A PART OF MY LIFE THAT WOULD BE PRIVATE. SHE SAID, "YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE UNTIL YOU GET THERE." AND SHE WAS RIGHT. I WAS COMPLETELY UNPREPARED FOR THE INTENSE SCRUTINY -- STRANGE FOR SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AS LONG AS I HAD. I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE THAT CONCENTRATED. AND I WAS EVEN MORE UNPREPARED FOR WHAT I READ ABOUT MYSELF IN THE PAPERS.

-- I READ THAT I WANTED THE CARTERS TO MOVE OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE EARLY; THAT I BANNED SUMO WRESTLERS FROM THE ROSE GARDEN; THAT I PLANNED TO TEAR DOWN A WALL IN THE LINCOLN BEDROOM.

-- HOWEVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, THE STORIES WILL CONTINUE. SOME ARE AMUSING. SOME ARE ABSOLUTELY MADDENING. SOME HURT. WHAT I'VE LEARNED IS THAT YOU MAY NEVER STOP BEING HURT BY STORIES, BUT YOU DO STOP BEING SURPRISED.

-- BUT WHAT I FINALLY BEGAN TO REALIZE WAS THIS: AS FIRST LADY, YOU WILL BE THE OBJECT OF ATTENTION NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. SO I DECIDED I MIGHT AS WELL FOCUS THE ATTENTION ON SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERED, ON SOMETHING THAT HAD INTERESTED ME FOR A LONG TIME AND ON WHICH I'D ALREADY STARTED HAVING BRIEFINGS -- THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

-- IF THE PRESIDENT HAS A BULLY PULPIT, THEN THE FIRST LADY HAS A WHITE GLOVE PULPIT. IT'S MORE REFINED, MORE RESTRICTED, MORE CEREMONIAL, BUT IT'S A PULPIT ALL THE SAME.

-- AND I HOPE I'VE USED IT TO GOOD ADVANTAGE, TRAVELLING TO 60 CITIES IN 31 STATES AND 7 FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE DRUG PROBLEM. I'VE TRIED TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THROUGH HUNDREDS OF INTERVIEWS, TAPINGS, SPEECHES, EVENTS AND VISITS. EVERY MILE, EVERY MEETING HAS BEEN WORTH IT. MY WORK AGAINST DRUGS HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE MOST FULFILLING YEARS OF MY LIFE. AND BY THE WAY, I WANT TO THANK THE NEWSPAPERS OF THIS COUNTRY FOR THE COVERAGE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING THE DRUG PROBLEM. YOU'RE DOING A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO EVERYONE.

-- BUT EVEN IF A FIRST LADY DOESN'T HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST SUCH AS DRUG ABUSE, THE CEREMONIAL FUNCTION ALONE IS A FULL TIME

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-- THE REASON I MENTION THE SCHEDULE IS BECAUSE IT'S EASY FOR THE PACE OF EVENTS TO CROWD OUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO A FIRST LADY AS A PERSON. I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT A FIRST LADY NOT LET HER OLD FRIENDSHIPS WITHER. AND THAT CAN HAPPEN, BECAUSE FRIENDS THINK YOU'RE SO BUSY THEY FEEL THEY SHOULDN'T INTRUDE.

-- I'M A BIG BELIEVER THAT YOU HAVE TO NOURISH ANY RELATIONSHIP. I'M STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF MY FRIENDS' LIVES AND THEY'RE VERY MUCH A PART OF MY LIFE. YOU'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT MY TRUSTY TELEPHONE -- BUT I DON'T THINK PEOPLE REALIZE IT'S MY LIFELINE TO FRIENDS, SOME OF WHOM I'VE KNOWN FOR 35 OR 40 YEARS. AND I THINK THAT A FIRST LADY WHO DOESN'T HAVE THIS SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND COMFORT CAN LOSE PERSPECTIVE AND GET ISOLATED JUST AS EASILY AS A PRESIDENT.

-- YET IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED THESE PAST SIX YEARS, THERE'S ONE THING ON WHICH I'M INFLEXIBLE. THE FIRST LADY IS FIRST OF ALL A WIFE. AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE REASON SHE'S THERE.

-- A PRESIDENT HAS ADVISERS TO COUNSEL HIM ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON DEFENSE, ON THE ECONOMY, ON POLITICS, ON ANY NUMBER OF MATTERS. BUT NO ONE AMONG ALL THOSE EXPERTS IS THERE TO LOOK AFTER HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH HUMAN NEEDS, AS A FLESH AND BLOOD PERSON WHO MUST DEAL WITH THE PRESSURES OF HOLDING THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION ON EARTH.

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-- THERE HAS BEEN CONTROVERSY IN RECENT MONTHS REGARDING WHAT OTHER INFLUENCE A FIRST LADY SHOULD HAVE IN A PRESIDENT'S LIFE. THIS IS NOT A NEW QUESTION. AS LONG AS MAN HAS LIVED IN GROUPS, THERE'S BEEN THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE BOSS'S WIFE.

-- A RECENT EDITORIAL BY THE SAN DIEGO UNION NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE SHOCKED WHEN HARRY TRUMAN CONSULTED BESS ON WHETHER TO USE THE ATOMIC BOMB AGAINST JAPAN. THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT WHAT NEARLY EVERY FIRST LADY SHARES IS AN OVERRIDING INTEREST IN HER HUSBAND'S POLITICAL FORTUNES AND PERSONAL CONTENTMENT. AND THAT'S TRUE.

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SOMETHING ELSE IS ABOUT TO BECOME A PROBLEM OR FALL BETWEEN THE CRACKS -- I'M NOT ABOVE CALLING A STAFF PERSON AND ASKING ABOUT IT.

-- I'M A WOMAN WHO LOVES HER HUSBAND, AND I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR LOOKING OUT FOR HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL WELFARE. WE HAVE A GENUINE, SHARING MARRIAGE. I GO TO HIS AID. HE COMES TO MINE. I HAVE OPINIONS. HE HAS OPINIONS. WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE. BUT NEITHER MARRIAGE NOR POLITICS DENIES A SPOUSE THE RIGHT TO HOLD AN OPINION OR THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS IT. AND IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING LESS, IT'S NOT MARRIAGE.

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-- ALTHOUGH I DON'T GET INVOLVED IN POLICY, IT'S SILLY TO SUGGEST MY OPINION SHOULD NOT CARRY SOME WEIGHT WITH A MAN I'VE BEEN MARRIED TO FOR 35 YEARS. AS PRESIDENT HAYES EXPLAINED MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, "MRS. HAYES MAY NOT HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON CONGRESS, BUT SHE HAS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH ME." AND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DON'T KID YOURSELVES, IT'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE WE'VE HAD PRESIDENTIAL WIVES.

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GOOD FOR YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS BEST FOR YOURSELF.

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-- THIRD, DON'T BE AFRAID TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HUSBAND OR TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS, EITHER TO HIM OR HIS STAFF. IN SPITE OF A WHITE HOUSE FULL OF PEOPLE TAKING CARE OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF A PRESIDENT'S LIFE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNOWS HIM BEST. YOU DON'T GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO AN OPINION JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE MARRIED TO THE PRESIDENT.

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TO DO THAT -- TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE WHO WERE UNKNOWN TO ME. AND
YET IF THEY'RE LONELY OR CONFUSED OR HURTING, THEY'RE OUT THERE
LISTENING; THEY'RE WAITING TO BE SPOKEN TO AND HELPED. AND
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-- I READ THAT I WANTED THE CARTERS TO MOVE OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE EARLY; THAT I BANNED SUMO WRESTLERS FROM THE ROSE GARDEN; THAT I PLANNED TO TEAR DOWN A WALL IN THE LINCOLN BEDROOM.

-- HOWEVER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, THE STORIES WILL CONTINUE. SOME ARE AMUSING. SOME ARE ABSOLUTELY MADDENING. SOME HURT. WHAT I'VE LEARNED IS THAT YOU MAY NEVER STOP BEING HURT BY STORIES, BUT YOU DO STOP BEING SURPRISED.

-- BUT WHAT I FINALLY BEGAN TO REALIZE WAS THIS: AS FIRST LADY, YOU WILL BE THE OBJECT OF ATTENTION NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. SO I DECIDED I MIGHT AS WELL FOCUS THE ATTENTION ON SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERED, ON SOMETHING THAT HAD INTERESTED ME FOR A LONG TIME AND ON WHICH I'D ALREADY STARTED HAVING BRIEFINGS -- THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

-- IF THE PRESIDENT HAS A BULLY PULPIT, THEN THE FIRST LADY HAS A WHITE GLOVE PULPIT. IT'S MORE REFINED, MORE RESTRICTED, MORE CEREMONIAL, BUT IT'S A PULPIT ALL THE SAME.

-- AND I HOPE I'VE USED IT TO GOOD ADVANTAGE, TRAVELLING TO 60 CITIES IN 31 STATES AND 7 FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE DRUG PROBLEM. I'VE TRIED TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THROUGH HUNDREDS OF INTERVIEWS, TAPINGS, SPEECHES, EVENTS AND VISITS. EVERY MILE, EVERY MEETING HAS BEEN WORTH IT. MY WORK AGAINST DRUGS HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE MOST FULFILLING YEARS OF MY LIFE. AND BY THE WAY, I WANT TO THANK THE NEWSPAPERS OF THIS COUNTRY FOR THE COVERAGE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING THE DRUG PROBLEM. YOU'RE DOING A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO EVERYONE.

-- BUT EVEN IF A FIRST LADY DOESN'T HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST SUCH AS DRUG ABUSE, THE CEREMONIAL FUNCTION ALONE IS A FULL TIME

JOB. I NEVER DREAMED I WOULD BE AS BUSY AS I AM. TO GIVE YOU JUST ONE BRIEF IDEA: IN SIX YEARS, I'VE HOSTED 84 CHRISTMAS PARTIES. THERE ARE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF OFFICIAL DINNERS, LUNCHESES, TEAS, RECEPTIONS, AND POLITICAL EVENTS TO ATTEND. THERE REALLY ARE NOT ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY.

-- THE REASON I MENTION THE SCHEDULE IS BECAUSE IT'S EASY FOR THE PACE OF EVENTS TO CROWD OUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO A FIRST LADY AS A PERSON. I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT A FIRST LADY NOT LET HER OLD FRIENDSHIPS WITHER. AND THAT CAN HAPPEN, BECAUSE FRIENDS THINK YOU'RE SO BUSY THEY FEEL THEY SHOULDN'T INTRUDE.

-- I'M A BIG BELIEVER THAT YOU HAVE TO NOURISH ANY RELATIONSHIP. I'M STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF MY FRIENDS' LIVES AND THEY'RE VERY MUCH A PART OF MY LIFE. YOU'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT MY TRUSTY TELEPHONE -- BUT I DON'T THINK PEOPLE REALIZE IT'S MY LIFELINE TO FRIENDS, SOME OF WHOM I'VE KNOWN FOR 35 OR 40 YEARS. AND I THINK THAT A FIRST LADY WHO DOESN'T HAVE THIS SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND COMFORT CAN LOSE PERSPECTIVE AND GET ISOLATED JUST AS EASILY AS A PRESIDENT.

-- YET IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED THESE PAST SIX YEARS, THERE'S ONE THING ON WHICH I'M INFLEXIBLE. THE FIRST LADY IS FIRST OF ALL A WIFE. AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE REASON SHE'S THERE.

-- A PRESIDENT HAS ADVISERS TO COUNSEL HIM ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON DEFENSE, ON THE ECONOMY, ON POLITICS, ON ANY NUMBER OF MATTERS. BUT NO ONE AMONG ALL THOSE EXPERTS IS THERE TO LOOK AFTER HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH HUMAN NEEDS, AS A FLESH AND BLOOD PERSON WHO MUST DEAL WITH THE PRESSURES OF HOLDING THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION ON EARTH.

-- AFTER MY HUSBAND'S OPERATION IN JANUARY, THE MEDICAL TEAM SAID HE NEEDED SIX WEEKS OF RECUPERATION. I'M A DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER, AND I TAKE A DOCTOR'S ADVICE SERIOUSLY. YES, THERE ARE THE DEMANDS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT THERE ARE ALSO BASIC PERSONAL RIGHTS EVERY PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT BE DENIED. AS A WIFE, I BELIEVE MY HUSBAND HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO A NORMAL RECUPERATION AS ANY OTHER HUSBAND. AND I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT, LEGITIMATE ROLE FOR A FIRST LADY TO LOOK AFTER A PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. AND IF THAT INTERFERES WITH OTHER PLANS, THEN SO BE IT.

-- THERE HAS BEEN CONTROVERSY IN RECENT MONTHS REGARDING WHAT OTHER INFLUENCE A FIRST LADY SHOULD HAVE IN A PRESIDENT'S LIFE. THIS IS NOT A NEW QUESTION. AS LONG AS MAN HAS LIVED IN GROUPS, THERE'S BEEN THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE BOSS'S WIFE.

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SOMETHING ELSE IS ABOUT TO BECOME A PROBLEM OR FALL BETWEEN THE CRACKS -- I'M NOT ABOVE CALLING A STAFF PERSON AND ASKING ABOUT IT.

-- I'M A WOMAN WHO LOVES HER HUSBAND, AND I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR LOOKING OUT FOR HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL WELFARE. WE HAVE A GENUINE, SHARING MARRIAGE. I GO TO HIS AID. HE COMES TO MINE. I HAVE OPINIONS. HE HAS OPINIONS. WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE. BUT NEITHER MARRIAGE NOR POLITICS DENIES A SPOUSE THE RIGHT TO HOLD AN OPINION OR THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS IT. AND IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING LESS, IT'S NOT MARRIAGE.

-- YOU KNOW IN THE FIRST ROLE I EVER HAD ON STAGE, I PLAYED A CHARACTER WHO'D BEEN KIDNAPPED AND KEPT UP IN AN ATTIC. IN THE SECOND ACT, I RAN DOWN THE STAIRS AND SAID MY ONE LINE; WHEREUPON THEY CAPTURED ME AND TOOK ME BACK TO THE ATTIC. RECENTLY THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK FIRST LADIES SHOULD BE KEPT IN ATTICS, ONLY TO SAY OUR LINES, POUR OUR TEA AND THEN BE PUT AWAY AGAIN.

-- ALTHOUGH I DON'T GET INVOLVED IN POLICY, IT'S SILLY TO SUGGEST MY OPINION SHOULD NOT CARRY SOME WEIGHT WITH A MAN I'VE BEEN MARRIED TO FOR 35 YEARS. AS PRESIDENT HAYES EXPLAINED MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, "MRS. HAYES MAY NOT HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON CONGRESS, BUT SHE HAS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH ME." AND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DON'T KID YOURSELVES, IT'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE WE'VE HAD PRESIDENTIAL WIVES.

-- SOMEONE ASKED ME THE OTHER DAY WHAT ADVICE I WOULD GIVE THE NEXT FIRST LADY, AND I SUPPOSE I HAVE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS:

-- FIRST, BE YOURSELF. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF SMART ADVISORS TELLING YOU THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU OR THAT WILL BE

GOOD FOR YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS BEST FOR YOURSELF.

-- SECOND, DO WHAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN. NO ONE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MY GETTING INVOLVED IN THE DRUG PROBLEM. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS TOO GRIM AND DEPRESSING. BUT DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER AGAIN BE IN THIS UNIQUE POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION.

-- THIRD, DON'T BE AFRAID TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HUSBAND OR TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS, EITHER TO HIM OR HIS STAFF. IN SPITE OF A WHITE HOUSE FULL OF PEOPLE TAKING CARE OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF A PRESIDENT'S LIFE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNOWS HIM BEST. YOU DON'T GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO AN OPINION JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE MARRIED TO THE PRESIDENT.

-- FOURTH, ONCE YOU'RE IN THE WHITE HOUSE DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A GLAMOROUS, FAIRY TALE LIFE. IT'S VERY HARD WORK WITH HIGH HIGHS AND LOW LOWS. SINCE YOU'RE UNDER A MICROSCOPE, EVERYTHING IS MAGNIFIED, SO JUST KEEP YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND YOUR PATIENCE.

-- AND FIFTH, MY LAST PIECE OF ADVICE IS THIS: NEVER WEAR A RING ON YOUR RIGHT HAND IN A RECEIVING LINE -- IT'S ALWAYS A LITTLE OLD LADY WHO WILL SQUEEZE SO HARD SHE'LL BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES.

-- I DO, ACTUALLY, HAVE ONE LAST THOUGHT FOR THE NEXT FIRST LADY. A FIRST LADY GENUINELY HAS THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IS WHAT ALL OF US WANT IN OUR LIVES. THE FIRST TIME I RECEIVED A LETTER SAYING THAT I HAD SAVED A PERSON'S LIFE, I WEPT. I NEVER DREAMED I HAD THE ABILITY

EMBARGOED UNTIL
2:00 P.M., MONDAY,
MAY 4, 1987

TO DO THAT -- TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE WHO WERE UNKNOWN TO ME. AND
YET IF THEY'RE LONELY OR CONFUSED OR HURTING, THEY'RE OUT THERE
LISTENING; THEY'RE WAITING TO BE SPOKEN TO AND HELPED. AND
THAT'S THE WONDERFUL THING -- A FIRST LADY CAN REALLY, TRULY
REACH SOME OF THEM.

-- THERE'S SOMETHING ALBERT SCHWEITZER SAID. HE SAID, "ONE
THING I KNOW: THE ONLY ONES AMONG YOU WHO WILL BE REALLY HAPPY
ARE THOSE WHO WILL HAVE FOUND HOW TO SERVE."

-- WELL, I AM VERY HAPPY, BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE
CHANCE TO REALLY SERVE. THE PEAKS ARE WORTH THE VALLEYS A
HUNDRED TIMES OVER. AND I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW I AM
HONORED TO BE THEIR FIRST LADY.

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REMARKS FOR ASSOCIATED PRESS PUBLISHERS' LUNCHEON
MONDAY, MAY 4, 1987

-- THANK YOU. I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

-- I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL. YOU KNOW HOW BUSY I AM -- BETWEEN STAFFING THE WHITE HOUSE AND OVERSEEING THE ARMS TALKS . . .

-- IN FACT, THIS MORNING I HAD PLANNED TO CLEAR UP U.S.-SOVIET DIFFERENCES ON INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES . . . BUT I DECIDED TO CLEAN OUT RONNIE'S SOCK DRAWER INSTEAD.

-- YOU KNOW, I RECENTLY READ THAT I AM AN "UNELECTED,

2

UNACCOUNTABLE" "POWER-HUNGRY" "POLITICAL MANIPULATOR" OF "EXTRA-ORDINARY VINDICTIVENESS" WHO, "SUPPORTED IN HER POWER PLAYING BY A BLOATED, EXPENSIVE EAST WING STAFF," "EXHIBITS A ZEST FOR COMBAT" AND PRESUMES "TO CONTROL THE ACTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH."

-- AS MY SON SAID, "YEA, MOM, THAT'S YOU."

-- I WONDERED WHAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TODAY, SO IN LIGHT OF SUCH RECENT SPECULATION, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE CURIOUS HOW I SEE

THE ROLE OF FIRST LADY AND THE EFFECTS IT'S HAD ON MY LIFE.

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8

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