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REMARKS FOR THE SECOND GENESIS DINNER
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1988

-- THANK YOU FOR THAT WARM RECEPTION. AND THANK YOU FOR THIS AWARD. YOU KNOW, THIS AWARD REPRESENTS WHAT SECOND GENESIS IS ALL ABOUT AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO MEANINGFUL. IT WAS CREATED BY SOMEONE WHO WAS IN SUCH DESPAIR, HE WAS READY TO END HIS LIFE. BUT SECOND GENESIS TURNED BARRY RICHMAN'S LIFE AROUND AND NOW HE'S AN ASPIRING DESIGNER. I THINK HE DESERVES OUR RECOGNITION AND OUR APPLAUSE.

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-- SECOND GENESIS WAS THE FIRST DRUG TREATMENT CENTER I VISITED AS FIRST LADY AND IT IMPRESSED ME MORE THAN I CAN TELL YOU -- I WAS GENUINELY TOUCHED BY WHAT I SAW. I'D NEVER FELT SO COMPELLED TO DO SOMETHING, SO COMPELLED TO BECOME INVOLVED. MY DECISION TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS WAS NEVER MORE CLEAR.

-- TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE, JUST LET ME SAY -- I'VE BEEN SO REWARDED BY JUST KNOWING YOU. I ADMIRE YOU AND THE EXAMPLE YOU'VE SET FOR OTHERS. AS YOU KNOW, YOUR FAMILIES WORKED AND PRAYED FOR

YOUR SUCCESS. YOUR COUNSELORS GAVE THEIR ALL. YOUR FELLOW RESIDENTS OFFERED YOU THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT. BUT THAT DOESN'T DETRACT FROM WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED OR ARE ACCOMPLISHING. THIS MOMENT BELONGS TO YOU. YOU CHOSE TO GET WELL; AND YOU WORKED LONG AND HARD TO MAKE IT COME TRUE. YOU DESERVE THESE MOMENTS IN THE SUN BECAUSE YOU STRUGGLED SO LONG IN THE DARKNESS.

-- AS FIRST LADY, I'VE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF MEETING MANY

GREAT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DONE TREMENDOUS THINGS WITH THEIR LIVES. I DON'T THINK THEIR DREAMS OF GREATNESS ARE ANY MORE REMARKABLE OR ADMIRABLE AS YOUR DREAMS OF JUST BEING NORMAL AND HUMAN AGAIN. PERSONAL GREATNESS ARISES NOT SO MUCH FROM WHERE YOU ARE BUT HOW FAR YOU'VE TRAVELLED. AND YOU HAVE TRAVELLED VERY FAR WITHIN YOURSELVES. I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU.

-- AND TO THE REST OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE, WE ALL KNOW THAT SECOND GENESIS COULDN'T EXIST IF IT WEREN'T FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU

WITH GENEROUS HEARTS. I'M REMINDED OF THE SCENE IN THE WIZARD OF OZ WHERE THE THE WIZARD PRESENTS THE TIN MAN WITH AN HONORARY HEART AND EXPLAINS, "BACK WHERE I COME FROM, THERE ARE MEN WHO DO NOTHING ALL DAY BUT GOOD DEEDS . . . AND THEIR HEARTS ARE NO BIGGER THAN YOURS. BUT THEY HAVE ONE THING YOU HAVEN'T GOT: A TESTIMONIAL. THEREFORE IN CONSIDERATION OF YOUR KINDNESS, I PRESENT YOU WITH A TOKEN OF OUR ESTEEM AND AFFECTION."

-- WELL, YOUR TESTIMONIAL IS THE WONDERFUL WORK OF SECOND

GENESIS AND THE RESULTS, THE GRADUATES HERE TONIGHT. A NEW LIFE, A NEW BEGINNING -- I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER GIFT IN THE WORLD. THE PROBLEM OF DRUGS WON'T GO AWAY QUICKLY, BUT ONLY WITH THE PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU. I THANK YOU FOR HELPING THOSE WHO NEED YOUR HELP SO BADLY.

-- I FEEL HONORED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF SECOND GENESIS FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. IT'S BEEN VERY SPECIAL TO ME. AS YOU KNOW, I'LL ONLY BE IN WASHINGTON FOR A FEW MORE MONTHS, BUT I WANT YOU

TO KNOW THAT I'LL BE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT AS YOU CONTINUE MENDING
LIVES, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PART OF THE ANTI-DRUG
MOVEMENT.

-- THANK YOU.

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