

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office
of: Speech Drafts

Folder Title: Nancy Reagan: Remarks for the
National “Just Say No” Walk. May 11, 1988

Box: 438

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

REMARKS FOR THE NATIONAL "JUST SAY NO" WALK
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

-- THANK YOU. I'M SO HAPPY YOU ALL ARE HERE AND SO PROUD OF YOU. AND TO THINK THERE ARE MILLIONS OF OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AT GATHERINGS LIKE THIS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

-- BY SAYING NO TO DRUGS, YOU ARE TELLING THE PUSHERS AND THE USER THAT YOU CAN'T BE BULLIED. YOU'RE SAYING, "STAY AWAY FROM ME." YOU'RE TELLING THEM THAT YOU ARE YOUR OWN PERSON AND THAT YOU MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS. YOU HAVE MADE UP YOUR OWN MINDS ABOUT DRUGS AND YOU HAVE SAID NO.

2

-- YOU'VE SAID NO -- YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR LIVES.

-- YOU'VE SAID NO -- YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, WHO LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

-- YOU'VE SAID NO -- YOU DON'T WANT TO BE WEAK AND TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT BY ESCAPING INTO DRUGS.

-- IN THE YEARS AHEAD, YOU WILL BE MAKING MORE AND MORE DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR OWN LIVES, AND YOUR PARENTS WILL MAKE FEWER AND FEWER DECISIONS. SAYING NO TO DRUGS IS THE BIGGEST DECISION

YOU CAN MAKE IN YOUR LIVES RIGHT NOW. IT IS THE BIGGEST STEP YOU CAN TAKE TOWARD BEING TREATED LIKE ADULTS. BY SAYING NO, YOU'RE ALSO SAYING, "HEY, LOOK, MOM AND DAD, I'M GROWING UP. I'M RESPONSIBLE. I CAN BE TRUSTED TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR ME."

-- COMMITMENT IS A WORD THAT ADULTS USE A LOT, AND IT MEANS A PROMISE YOU WILL STAND BEHIND. YOU'VE MADE A COMMITMENT AGAINST DRUGS. THAT IS AN ADULT DECISION AND YOU DESERVE ADULT RESPECT. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MY FULLEST RESPECT, NOT TO

MENTION AFFECTION.

-- THIS AUTUMN THERE WILL BE A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN TO GET OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS. I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN IN THIS DRIVE TO RENEW THE PLEDGE AGAINST DRUGS AND TO GET NEW PEOPLE TO JUST SAY NO.

-- AND NOW THERE IS MORE OF THE SHOW TO COME, SO JUST LET ME SAY AGAIN HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU. THANK YOU FOR COMING AND THANK YOU FOR BEING SO STRONG AGAINST DRUGS.

#