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MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
RNC CONVENTION FIRST LADY'S LUNCHEON
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1988

-- THANK YOU.

-- LET ME THANK THE SPEAKERS FOR THE VERY KIND THINGS YOU SAID, AND LET ME THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING. THIS CONVENTION IS A VERY WARM AND NOSTALGIC ONE FOR MY HUSBAND AND ME. WE CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS AND ALL THE REMARKABLE PEOPLE WE'VE MET OVER THE YEARS. SO MANY MEMORIES COME FLOODING BACK -- KANSAS CITY, DETROIT, DALLAS. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS GIVEN RONNIE AND ME THE MOST EXCITING, WONDERFUL YEARS OF OUR LIVES -- OF COURSE, SOMETIMES THEY WERE FRUSTRATING AND FRIGHTENING -- BUT STILL WONDERFUL. WE CAN NEVER ADEQUATELY EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN US.

-- BUT THERE ARE CYCLES AND RHYTHMS TO LIFE. THERE ARE TIMES TO ENTER, TIMES TO STAY AND TIMES TO EXIT. TODAY THE CURTAIN BEGINS TO CLOSE ON THE REAGAN ERA OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. WE'VE HAD A WONDERFUL RUN. BUT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE BUSHES TO STEP INTO THE LEADING ROLES AND FOR THE REAGANS TO STEP INTO THE WINGS.

-- AND THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

-- DURING OUR TWO TERMS TOGETHER, GEORGE AND BARBARA HAVE BEEN TOTALLY SUPPORTIVE AND HELPFUL AND GRACIOUS. AND THEY HAVE MY GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION. MY HUSBAND COULDN'T HAVE SELECTED A BETTER VICE PRESIDENT THAN GEORGE BUSH. HE IS A MAN OF INTEGRITY AND CONSCIENCE AND LOYALTY -- QUALITIES THAT AREN'T ALWAYS IN GREAT ABUNDANCE IN WASHINGTON. AND I KNOW I COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A WARMER, MORE CONSIDERATE, MORE CARING COUNTERPART THAN BARBARA BUSH. AND I THINK SHE WILL BE A REMARKABLE FIRST LADY.

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-- SO I WANT TO THANK GEORGE AND BARBARA. AND I WANT TO
THANK ALL OF YOU HERE AND SO MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE STOOD BESIDE US
OVER THESE LAST EIGHT YEARS. I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT IT
IS TO KNOW YOU HAVE FRIENDS.

-- SO TO MY FRIENDS, I SAY A VERY HEARTFELT -- THANK YOU.

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MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1988

-- THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

-- EIGHT YEARS AGO IN DETROIT, I STOOD UP HERE WITH MY FAMILY WHEN MY HUSBAND WAS NOMINATED FOR THE FIRST TIME. FOUR YEARS AGO, I SPOKE TO YOU AND THANKED YOU -- NOT KNOWING I'D HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO DO SO.

-- YOU'VE GIVEN US SUCH A WONDERFUL LIFE -- A LIFE I NEVER DREAMED. IT'S THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY FEELING TO REPRESENT A NATION AND ITS PEOPLE. I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL THE EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES THAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE.

-- THESE LAST EIGHT YEARS HAVE BEEN THE MOST FULFILLING ONES OF MY LIFE. TOM MENTIONED THE DRUG LETTERS AND THE PROGRAM WHICH HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME. YOU GAVE ME THAT CHANCE TO BE MORE AND DO MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT WAS WITHIN ME, AND YOU HELPED ME AND FOR THAT I THANK YOU TOO.

-- AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR US. IT'S TRUE THERE WERE SOME ROUGH TIMES FOR MY HUSBAND AND FOR ME. BUT AS I SAID TO YOU FOUR YEARS AGO, I ALWAYS FELT YOU WERE HERE AND I COULD DRAW ON YOUR SUPPORT AND AFFECTION WHICH I DID MORE OFTEN THAN YOU KNEW. AND I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL.

-- I'M SURE THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER SPEAK BEFORE A REPUBLICAN CONVENTION. MY HUSBAND'S AND MY TIME ON CENTER STAGE OF REPUBLICAN POLITICS IS PASSING. ONE ERA IS ENDING, ANOTHER IS BEGINNING. AND SO BEFORE I GO, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YEARS YOU'VE WORKED ON OUR BEHALF. I WILL MISS YOU AND I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU. AND NOW, GOODNIGHT, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOODBYE.

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Revised 10/12/88