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POTUS BH 3/2/98

"DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE" SPEECH
SANTA ANA BOWL, CALIFORNIA
FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1990, 12:20 P.M.

THANK YOU JIM. I'M ALSO GLAD TO HAVE WITH ME HERE TODAY, GOVERNOR DEWANE JIAN AND BILL BENNETT. AND THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE UP HERE WITH ME THAT DESERVE OUR THANKS FOR MAKING THIS DAY POSSIBLE: SHERIFF BRAD GATES, MIKE HAYDE [HAIDI], PRESIDENT OF "DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE," AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THAT GREAT ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING DR. ROBERT SCHULLER AND GEORGIA FRONTIERE [FRUN-TEER-EE]. ALSO UP HERE IS SOME OF ORANGE COUNTY'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: BOB DORNAN, BILL DANNEMEYER, DANA ROHRBACHER AND CHRIS COX. AND I ALSO HAVE TO SALUTE ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST TEACHERS: MY OLD FRIEND AND HERO JAIME ESCALANTE.

THANK YOU FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION, JIM. I HEAR SOMEONE ASKED JIM IF HE WAS EXCITED ABOUT BEING WITH THE PRESIDENT TODAY, AND HE SAID: "NOT AS EXCITED AS I'LL BE NEXT YEAR -- WHEN WE'RE INVITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER THE RAMS WIN THE SUPER BOWL!" \ \ \

NO MATTER WHAT TEAM YOU LIKE, YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT GEORGIA FRONTIERE HAS BUILT ONE OF THE TOUGHEST TEAMS IN PRO FOOTBALL. WHO SAYS THERE'S NO ROLE FOR WOMEN IN COMBAT?! \ \

ALTHOUGH I FOLLOW FOOTBALL, MY FIRST LOVE IS PRO
BASEBALL. AND IF THE ANGELS ARE LOOKING FOR
REPLACEMENT PLAYERS TO GET THE SEASON STARTED -- I HOPE
THEY'LL REMEMBER THAT I USED TO PLAY FIRST BASE! \\\

SINCE MY OLDEST SON IS NOW A PART OWNER OF THE
TEXAS RANGERS, I ASKED HIM IF I COULD COME TRY OUT FOR
THE CLUB. HE SAID: "SURE DAD. YOU CAN COME DOWN AND
THROW THE BALL AROUND. BUT DON'T GIVE UP YOUR DAYTIME
WORK!" \\\

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN ORANGE COUNTY.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS A PLACE OF BOTH BEAUTY AND
BOUNTY, BLESSED WITH SOME OF THE GREATEST WONDERS OF
NATURE AND SOME OF THE MOST WONDROUS WORKS OF MAN.
IT'S HOME TO MANY OF AMERICA'S OLDEST TRADITIONS AND
NEWEST IDEAS, THE COMPUTERIZED PIRATE SHIPS OF WALT
DISNEY, THE REAL-LIFE COWBOYS OF THE IRVINE RANCH. AND
ORANGE COUNTY IS A SPECIAL PLACE, A PLACE THAT BOASTS
PRODUCTIVE LANDS, PRODUCTIVE MINDS, AND PRODUCTIVE
PEOPLE -- ONE OF THE YOUNGEST AND HARDEST WORKING
POPULATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

AND STANDING HERE TODAY IN ORANGE COUNTY --
LEADING THE WAY INTO A NEW DECADE AND A NEW CENTURY --
IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LOOKING TO
THE FUTURE WITH A NEW SENSE OF HOPE -- AND SEEING A
WORLD OF LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD. SOMETHING
NEW, SOMETHING POWERFUL, SOMETHING WONDERFUL.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S VACLAV HAVEL -- WHO BEGAN THE YEAR AS
A PRISONER AND ENDED IT AS PRESIDENT -- SUMMED IT UP IN
HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST MONTH. THINGS ARE
HAPPENING SO FAST, HE SAID, THAT "WE HAVE LITERALLY NO
TIME EVEN TO BE ASTONISHED."

AND TODAY THE WIND RUSHING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS
IS NOT THE HOT FIERCE MENACE CALLED THE SANTA ANA WIND,
BUT THE NEW BREEZE I SPOKE OF WHEN TAKING OFFICE A YEAR
AGO. IT HAS SWEEPED AROUND THE WORLD, BRINGING NEW HOPE
IN EUROPE, NEW HOPE IN AFRICA, NEW HOPE IN THE
AMERICAS.

VACLAV HAVEL, FREE AT LAST. NELSON MANDELA, FREE
AT LAST. NICARAGUA AND PANAMA, FREE AT LAST. \\\

AND JUST AS PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD ARE CASTING OFF THE OPPRESSION OF DICTATORS, SO PEOPLE ACROSS AMERICA ARE CASTING OFF THE OPPRESSION OF DRUGS. \\\

WEEK BY WEEK, DAY BY DAY, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS IN THOUSANDS OF TOWNS ARE STANDING UP TO MAKE THE SAME COURAGEOUS CHOICE: DRUG-FREE NEIGHBORHOODS. DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS. DRUG-FREE KIDS. \\\

AND ANYONE WHO THINKS AMERICA LACKS THE WILL TO WIN THE DRUG WAR BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THE SPIRIT WE HAVE HERE TODAY IN ORANGE COUNTY. \\\

I KNOW WE'LL WIN THE WAR ON DRUGS BECAUSE YOU HAVE WHAT A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF ORANGE COUNTY, JOHN WAYNE, HAD -- TRUE GRIT.

IN ONE OF HIS CLASSIC WESTERN MOVIES, JOHN WAYNE SPELLED IT OUT IN HIS SIMPLE, ALL-AMERICAN, POINT-BLANK STYLE. HE SAID:

"THERE'S RIGHT, AND THERE'S WRONG. YOU GOTTA DO ONE OR THE OTHER. YOU DO THE ONE, AND YOU'RE LIVING. YOU DO THE OTHER, AND YOU MAY BE WALKING AROUND, BUT YOU'RE AS DEAD AS A BEAVER HAT."

AS HE DID IN THE CONDUCT OF HIS OWN LIFE, IN THAT MOVIE JOHN WAYNE STOOD FOR RIGHT, HE STOOD FOR LIFE.

AND TODAY IN ORANGE COUNTY, THOUSANDS OF YOU HAVE MADE THAT SAME CHOICE. YOU'VE STOOD UP FOR RIGHT. YOU'VE STOOD UP FOR LIFE. AND YOU SUM IT UP IN A PHRASE: "DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE." \\\

THE SLOGAN IS POWERFUL IN ITS SIMPLICITY. AND THE LOGO ITSELF IS APT: IN IT, THE WORD "LIFE" IS LITERALLY TORN APART, JUST AS THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG ARE TORN APART AND DESTROYED BY THE NIGHTMARE CALLED COCAINE.

* WHILE VISITING ORANGE COUNTY LAST SPRING, I
COMMENDED THE L.A. RAMS FOR HAVING EVERY PLAYER WEAR A
"DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE" PATCH ON HIS UNIFORM -- A MOVE
THAT WAS COPIED BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LOCAL FANS AND
STUDENT ATHLETES HERE.

THE RAMS WORE THE PATCHES FOR A YEAR. AND A RAMS
SPOKESMAN SAID: "IF IT DISSUADED ONE YOUNG MAN OR
YOUNG GIRL FROM DOING DRUGS, IT WAS WORTH THE WHOLE
YEAR."

I AGREE. IN ORDER TO WIN, AMERICA'S WAR ON DRUGS
MUST BE TOTAL WAR. WAGED FROM THE BOARDROOM TO THE
CLASSROOM. FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE. NO
ELEMENT OF OUR SOCIETY IS IMMUNE -- CERTAINLY NOT THE
WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS. AND I THINK THE PATCHES
WERE A GOOD IDEA. \\\

FIGHTING DRUG ABUSE ISN'T A PERSONAL MESSAGE --
IT'S A PUBLIC SERVICE. "DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE" IS THE
RIGHT MESSAGE BECAUSE ITS GOAL IS NOT PUNISHING THOSE
WHO ARE HOOKED ON DRUGS -- BUT DETECTING KIDS FROM EVER
GETTING STARTED.

THAT MESSAGE IS BEGINNING TO SINK IN. BY NOW JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS SIMPLE TRUTH: DRUGS AREN'T THE ANSWER. THEY NEVER WERE. AND THEY NEVER WILL BE.

AND RECENTLY, WE HAVE SEEN SOME SCATTERED BUT HOPEFUL NEW SIGNS OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE HORROR OF DRUGS.

IT BEGAN LAST SUMMER, WHEN A MAJOR NATIONWIDE SURVEY FOUND THAT THE NUMBER OF CURRENT DRUG USERS IN AMERICA HAD DROPPED BY ALMOST 40 PERCENT IN JUST THREE YEARS. THEN JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, ANOTHER NEW SURVEY SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS USING DRUGS DECLINED AGAIN LAST YEAR, A LONG-TERM TREND THAT HAS BROUGHT SENIORS' DRUG USE TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN 15 YEARS.

THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS, VISIBLE IN EVERY CITY IN AMERICA. IN MY OLD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN HOUSTON, THE PEOPLE GOT TOGETHER AND TOOK BACK A PARK FROM THE DRUG DEALERS.

IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, I VISITED A NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE THEY HOLD ALL-NIGHT VIGILS EVERY FRIDAY TO KEEP THE PUSHERS AWAY FROM THEIR KIDS. IN THE HEARTLAND, IN KANSAS CITY, I SAW BOARDED-UP CRACK HOUSES BEARING THE SIX-WORD VICTORY BANNER OF THE LOCAL ACTIVISTS: "THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST DRUGS." \\\

AND HERE IN ORANGE COUNTY, THOUSANDS ARE DOING THEIR PART. I THINK OF HEROIC COPS LIKE SANTA ANA POLICE INVESTIGATOR HENRY COUSIN [KOO-ZEEN]. ALTHOUGH SEVERELY WOUNDED IN A DRUG RAID THREE YEARS AGO, HENRY WOULDN'T QUIT. HE JOINED A SPECIAL FEDERAL TASK FORCE, AND RECENTLY HELPED TAKE DOWN THE BIGGEST DRUG SEIZURE IN ORANGE COUNTY HISTORY.

* AND I THINK OF HEROIC MOTHERS LIKE SANTA ANA'S OWN ROSA PEREZ, WHO'S FOUGHT FOR SIX YEARS TO RID HER NEIGHBORHOOD OF PUSHERS.

BUT THE BATTLE ISN'T ONLY BEING FOUGHT IN THE STREETS. ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, I CAME TO LOS ANGELES FOR ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN -- THE 1988 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE. THEY ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY HEROES LEFT IN AMERICA. I NAMED AN ASTRONAUT. AN AIDS RESEARCHER. A FREEDOM FIGHTER. AND I NAMED A HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHER FROM EAST L.A., A TEACHER WHO HELPED HIS HISPANIC STUDENTS SEE BEYOND POVERTY AND NEGLECT TO THE REAL POTENTIAL OF THEIR OWN MINDS.

JAIME ESCALANTE. INVESTIGATOR HENRY COUSIN [KOOZEEN]. MRS. ROSA PEREZ. THREE HEROES. TWO CITIES. ONE DREAM. \ \

ALL THREE ARE HERE TODAY. AND ALL THREE DESERVE OUR THANKS.

WE'VE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND IN THE DRUG WAR. BUT TOUGH CHALLENGES REMAIN. IT'S LIKE WHEN THE RAMS OFFENSE CROSSES THE 50 YARD LINE: WITH EVERY YARD YOU GAIN, YOUR OPPONENT DIGS IN AND PROGRESS GETS THAT MUCH HARDER, NOT EASIER.

MAKE NO MISTAKE. DRUG ABUSE IN THIS COUNTRY IS STILL FAR TOO WIDESPREAD. THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH SUFFERING -- FAR TOO MANY WASTED LIVES. BUT WE'RE GOING TO BEAT DRUGS THE SAME WAY THE RAMS BEAT MANY OF THEIR OPPONENTS: RELENTLESS OFFENSE. A DEFENSE THAT REFUSES TO GIVE UP A SINGLE YARD TO THE OPPOSITION -- OR A SINGLE CHILD TO THESE MERCHANTS OF DEATH. \\\

AGAINST DRUGS, A GOOD DEFENSE MEANS REDUCING DEMAND -- THROUGH EFFORTS LIKE THE RECORD FUNDING MY ADMINISTRATION HAS DEVOTED FOR INCREASED DRUG EDUCATION, TREATMENT, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

AND A TOUGH OFFENSE MEANS AN ATTACK ON ALL FRONTS.

LAST MONTH'S DRUG SUMMIT IN CARTAGENA MARKED A GOOD DAY FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND A VERY BAD DAY FOR THE COCAINE CARTELS. PRESIDENT BARCO'S COURAGEOUS CRACKDOWN HAS SEIZED OR DESTROYED THEIR CASH, THEIR HOMES, THEIR LABS, AND THEIR DRUGS. AND 14 ACCUSED TRAFFICKERS HAVE BEEN EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES AND NOW FACE AMERICAN JUSTICE IN COURTROOMS IN MIAMI AND TULSA, ATLANTA AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE DAYS OF THE DRUGLORDS MAY NOT BE OVER YET.
BUT THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED. \\\

HERE AT HOME, MY ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY NAMED THE LOS ANGELES ORANGE COUNTY AREA AS ONE OF THE NATION'S FIVE "HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS," A DESIGNATION THAT MEANS INCREASED FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT MANPOWER FOR THE REGION. AND NATIONWIDE, CONGRESS HAS APPROVED FUNDING FOR THE NEW AGENTS, NEW PROSECUTORS, AND NEW PRISONS WE ASKED FOR TO CATCH, CONVICT, AND CONTAIN AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS DRUG OFFENDERS. \\\

BUT CONGRESS ALSO NEEDS TO ACT, AND ACT SOON, ON MY NEW ANTI-CRIME PROPOSALS. CONGRESS NEEDS TO PROVIDE TOUGH LAWS TO DEAL WITH A TOUGH PROBLEM. \\\

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN -- WE WILL -- DEFEAT THIS SCOURGE.

★ AMERICA HAS EARNED HER VICTORIES -- THROUGH DETERMINATION AND DESIRE.

* WE WILL WIN THE WAR ON DRUGS BECAUSE WE MUST.
JUST TWO NIGHTS AGO, RIGHT IN ORANGE COUNTY, TWO CARS
WERE PULLED OVER CARRYING NEARLY 900 POUNDS OF COCAINE.
THANKS TO YOUR COURAGEOUS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS, 4
MILLION DOSES, WITH A STREET VALUE OF \$30 MILLION,
WON'T POISON OUR KIDS. THAT'S DESIRE. THAT'S
DETERMINATION.

AND LET NO ONE DOUBT THE COMMITMENT WE HAVE IN
WASHINGTON AS WELL. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DECLARED WAR
ON THE CRACK HOUSE. AND THE ONLY ENEMY RESPONSE WE'LL
ACCEPT IS CALLED "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER." \\\

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING. GOD BLESS YOU.
GOD BLESS CALIFORNIA. AND GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

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