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William Bennett Resignation 11/8/90 [OA 6027]

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(McNally) Nov. 7, 1990
Draft One (B:ENNETT)

**PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: WILLIAM BENNETT RESIGNATION
WED., NOV. 7, 1990**

- o I am announcing today that Bill Bennett, America's first Director of the Office of National Drug Policy, has offered his resignation and I have, with much regret, accepted it.
- o Bill's decision to return to private life is welcome news to his family. But there is no doubt that his energetic contributions to public life will be sorely missed.
- o When we took office, Bill Bennett took on one of the most important initiatives of our Administration -- the National Drug Control Strategy -- our blueprint for the War on Drugs.
- o He confronted the problem head on, helping lead America's determined effort to "Take Back The Streets." And his hard work has paid off.
- o We devoted unprecedented new resources to the fight -- new money, new materiel, new manpower. For law enforcement. For treatment. For prevention. Never before has so much effort, involving so many people, been applied to the battle against drugs.
- o Bill's efforts have helped spark a fundamental change in attitude, an awareness that drugs can take away your family, your job, your health, your freedom and your very life. As we've seen on the road firsthand, he's inspired communities across the country to get involved in this battle.
- o Both Bill and I are encouraged by recent, very promising signs that suggest the drug problem is diminishing. And I know he believes, as I do, that we are on the road to victory. So we are going to stick to our comprehensive drug strategy. We're going to renew our call for Congress to pass a true crime bill -- one that's tough on criminals -- not on police. And my Administration will remain on the front lines until this scourge is stopped.
- o On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank Bill for his leadership on this issue and express my gratitude for all he has done to unite the Nation against the scourge of drugs.
- o **Block by block. School by school. Child by child. We will "Take Back The Streets." And we will never surrender. Thank you Bill for a job well done.**

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WILLIAM BENNETT RESIGNATION \ PRESS ROOM
NOVEMBER 8, 1990 \ 11:00 A.M.

0 I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT BILL BENNETT, AMERICA'S FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICY, HAS OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION AND I HAVE, WITH MUCH REGRET, ACCEPTED IT.

0 BILL'S DECISION TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE IS WELCOME NEWS TO HIS FAMILY. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIS ENERGETIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC LIFE WILL BE SORELY MISSED.

- 2 -

0 WHEN WE TOOK OFFICE, BILL BENNETT TOOK ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVES OF OUR ADMINISTRATION -- THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY -- OUR BLUEPRINT FOR THE WAR ON DRUGS.

0 HE CONFRONTED THE PROBLEM HEAD ON, HELPING LEAD AMERICA'S DETERMINED EFFORT TO "TAKE BACK THE STREETS." AND HIS HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF.

- 0 WE DEVOTED UNPRECEDENTED NEW RESOURCES TO THE FIGHT -- NEW MONEY, NEW MATERIEL, NEW MANPOWER. FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT. FOR TREATMENT. FOR PREVENTION. NEVER BEFORE HAS SO MUCH EFFORT, INVOLVING SO MANY PEOPLE, BEEN APPLIED TO THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUGS.

- 0 BILL'S EFFORTS HAVE HELPED SPARK A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE, AN AWARENESS THAT DRUGS CAN TAKE AWAY YOUR FAMILY, YOUR JOB, YOUR HEALTH, YOUR FREEDOM AND YOUR VERY LIFE. AS WE'VE SEEN ON THE ROAD FIRSTHAND, HE'S INSPIRED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS BATTLE.
- 0 BOTH BILL AND I ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT, VERY PROMISING SIGNS THAT SUGGEST THE DRUG PROBLEM IS DIMINISHING.

AND I KNOW HE BELIEVES, AS I DO, THAT WE ARE ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY. SO WE ARE GOING TO STICK TO OUR COMPREHENSIVE DRUG STRATEGY. WE'RE GOING TO RENEW OUR CALL FOR CONGRESS TO PASS A TRUE CRIME BILL -- ONE THAT'S TOUGH ON CRIMINALS -- NOT ON POLICE. AND MY ADMINISTRATION WILL REMAIN ON THE FRONT LINES UNTIL THIS SCOURGE IS STOPPED.

- 0 ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, I WANT TO THANK BILL FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE AND EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR ALL HE HAS DONE TO UNITE THE NATION AGAINST THE SCOURGE OF DRUGS.
- 0 BLOCK BY BLOCK. SCHOOL BY SCHOOL. CHILD BY CHILD. WE WILL "TAKE BACK THE STREETS." AND WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER. THANK YOU BILL FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

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(McNally) Nov. 7, 1990
Draft One (B:ENNETT)

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