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Unsupervised "Furloughs" for John Hinckley Undeserved, Reagan Legacy Group Says

Attempted assassin's "unsupervised leave" plan flies in the face of justice and common sense.

WASHINGTON- On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman ruled that John Hinckley Jr., who attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in March of 1981, could take unsupervised weekend trips from St. Elizabeth's hospital, where he has been since he was declared insane after a trial in 1982.

The announcement strikes a blow to friends and family of President Reagan, as well as to James Brady and his friends and family, who have been denied justice for 20 years. Sarah Brady, whose husband James Brady, was paralyzed by one of Hinckley's bullets, spoke out against the decision, as did Patty Davis and Ronald Reagan Jr., two of the President's children.

"Judge Friedman's decision is an insult to American justice," said Grover G. Norquist, who heads the Washington, DC based Ronald Reagan Legacy Project. **"Hinckley should only be allowed to walk around unsupervised in the neighborhood of the judge who freed him,"** he continued.

Mr. Hinckley shot the president early in his first term in a bizarre attempt to impress actress Jodie Foster. He was acquitted a year later on the assassination charges, as the jury ruled that he was "not guilty by reason of insanity." President Reagan was lucky to recover, but Mr. Brady, one of the erstwhile president's bodyguards, suffered spinal chord injuries that keep him paralyzed until this day.

"Mental hospital facilities are for the mentally ill, not for criminals who try to assassinate the leader of the free world," continued Norquist. **"Hinckley never should have even been allowed the comforts of the hospital instead of the cold cell he deserves. Now, it seems even the corridors of St. Elizabeth's are not comfortable enough for him. I hope Mr. Hinckley stops by Judge Friedman's place and asks to play with his children – then we can get a real view from the judge as to whether this man is not a threat to society."**

The RRLP is committed to preserving the legacy of one of America's greatest presidents. Among its aims, the Project seeks to name at least one monument to President Reagan in each of America's counties, and in nations that were once Communist. Grover Norquist, the RRLP President is a long time Washington insider. He is available for interviews about Ronald Reagan's legacy and the goals of the project. Please Chris Butler at 202-785-0266 or cbutler@atr.org