

AIDS Lecture June 10, 1987

Address

By

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It was two days since I had last spoken on the subject of AIDS before a public audience.

On a number of occasions during my two terms as Surgeon General, I was asked to present briefings to either the Republican Leadership or the Democratic Leadership or the Republican or Democratic Caucus about this or that. This was one such occasion and the audience was the Task Force on Health Care of the Republican Leadership. Those who spoke before such gatherings were well aware that the audience would be largely staff members of various congressional members rather than members of the Senate or the House of Representatives themselves. Such was the case here, although some with particular interests did turn up because of the novelty of the occasion and the subject.

This talk was essentially a primer and contains nothing that was not contained in the previous lecture given on June 8th, which refers back to two previous lectures of similar content. I did close this presentation before the Republican Leadership with the statement that I had not made before in exactly the same way and I repeat it here.

“Our only hope as a nation...and as a civilization...is that we Americans will do our part to stop the spread of AIDS...that we will protect and save the lives of people at risk, including unsuspecting young people, as part of the total complex of human, caring, interpersonal relations.

That’s a tall order. And there are many cassetras around who say that it can’t be done...or should not be done.

But they’re wrong.

The think what keeps me going these days is that I truly think the grownups of America will eventually agree on these as being the tasks that really matter...for themselves and for their children...and that they’ll set about to do them.

And my personal hope is that I’ll still be available to help.”

There will be no index and therefore there is only the introduction and the title of the lecture available here.
