

AIDS Lecture December 7, 1987
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Address

By

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This lecture was given two days after speaking to the AMA medical students, the last time I had made a public presentation on AIDS.

I opened with lavish praise for pharmacists in all seriousness but with some humor: especially pointed to the pharmacists' contribution to the achievement of quality hospital-based health care in the United States -- which led to the challenge of AIDS we all face.

I announced that I would be avoiding the biomedical information but spend the next few moments with them sharing a number of non-medical concerns that strike at the very heart of the American system of health care delivery. Indeed they make the scientific issues tend to pale in comparison when compared to highly sensitive issue of law, ethics, economics, morality, and social cohesion.

What I said thereafter was a summary of what I had said in the previous four lectures but I did emphasize for that this audience their fears of being at high risk was simply unfounded and they should have no basis for shunning AIDS patients. I referred them to guidelines put out by the Department of Labor and HHS and directed them to the Federal Register notice, which has a tremendous amount of information on AIDS.

There were no new figures or statistics of incidence or economics, but I did mention the danger of second-class care for AIDS patients and thought that we should consider such thinking unthinkable.

Many of the points I tried to make are included in the address I gave to the student section of the American Medical Association on the 5th of December, which includes a lengthy index.