

Remarks

By

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And

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The title of this lecture should have been “What the Surgeon General does”, and it probably should have been a lecture I gave in the first 3 months I was in office, then again in the last month before I left. No place else, that I know of, can the reader find what is in the few pages of this lecture but almost every word is important, and it is very hard to write a summary without repeating the entire lecture. In brief outline, I cover the early history of the formation of the Marine Hospital Service and show how that came about with the first Public Health Service Hospital in Boston, the district of our second President, John Adams. Our third President, Thomas Jefferson, appointed a controversial young doctor named Benjamin Waterhouse to be the new director of this Boston Marine Hospital. He was an energetic but controversial character - perhaps somewhat like the then present Surgeon General. He was a whiz and a world-beater. He introduced vaccination, the first out-patient service in a hospital, wrote the first regulations about federal medicine, was a faculty member of Harvard, and set up the first teaching hospital at the Boston Marine Hospital. Unfortunately, with all his brilliance, he was abrasive. Our fourth President, James Madison fired him. Having noted that in the lecture, I then ran through the history of the Marine Hospital Service, our ongoing relationship to the Coast Guard, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency. I spoke about the many physicians who have stood with one foot in medical practice and one in public health policy, and how the Surgeon General really can't make it, if he is a follower and not a leader.

I jumped quickly from Adams, Jefferson, and Madison to the fact that I was the 13<sup>th</sup> man to hold this job. I then went on to be very personal and tell what I felt that I had done that was significant during the first four years - my first term - as Surgeon General of the United States. There's no other place in these lectures where the reader can find out exactly what the Surgeon General does, what ancillary offices he holds, nor is there any other place where I list what I think were my accomplishments in the first four years. In doing the above, I had to mention a number of organizations in and out of the government with which I had affiliation, because I was the Surgeon General.

I ended by saying that I thought I had the best job in American medicine, but in case I hadn't convinced the audience, I would be glad to take their questions.

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Agism  
"Baby Doe"  
Cocaine abuse  
Confirmation of Koop first & second  
terms  
Disabled children  
Elimination of smallpox  
First outpatient service for merchant seamen  
First regulations governing federal medicine  
Medicaid  
Medicare  
Medicine and politics  
Oral hydration  
Organ donation  
Organ transplantation  
Philosophy of aging  
Ranks of personnel within the Public Health  
Service  
Rheumatism & aspirin  
Smallpox  
Smoking  
Surgeon General & International Health  
Vaccination  
Ventilator-dependency  
Violence as a public health issue

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John Adams (Second President of the United  
States)  
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology  
Commissioned Corps of the Public Health  
Service  
Emergency Military Assistance to Safety &  
Traffic (MAST)  
Harvard  
House of Delegates of the American  
Medical Association  
Thomas Jefferson (Third President of the  
United States)  
Dr. Edward Jenner  
James Madison (Fourth President of the  
United States)  
Marine Hospital of Boston (first teaching  
hospital)  
National Board of Medical Examiners  
National Defense Council  
National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)  
Surgeon General of the Public Health  
Service

Dr, Luther Terry (Former Surgeon General)  
The Uniformed Services University of the  
Health Sciences

United States Public Health Service

Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse (Director, Boston  
Marine Hospital

World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr .Zubicki (Host at George Washington)