

FOIA MARKER

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November 30, 1997

To: Jerry Mande
From: Hamilton Jordan
Re: Follow-Up To Your Calls

They say the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. I am on that road as far as my commitment to send you some information several weeks back. As you probably learned from a telephone message, my daughter was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, and we have been sidetracked getting adjusted to this new reality in our lives and trying to organize her life and ours in a way that is not disruptive to her having a normal and hopefully full life.

I am attached a few things for your information:

- 1. Op-ed piece I wrote for the New York Times a couple of years back;**
- 2. My story: a booklet that I wrote on my battles with cancer that will soon be made into a documentary. My wife and I started one of the first pro bono camps for children with cancer in 1982. Ironically, I have had three different battles with cancer since then.**
- 3. Pages from my presentation to the Vice-President which I made to him in-person during the heat of the 1996 campaign.**

I am writing you a memo which I will send this week [I promise] that integrates the substance and the politics of cancer - hopefully in a powerful way. It supports the theme of the New York Times op-ed piece but will be more narrowly focused and personalized on Vice-President Gore. In a word, if the Clinton-Gore Administration does not support some dramatic increase in

cancer research funding in the next two budgets, Vice-President Gore will be left to defend the status quo in the 2000 election. While you and I may argue the numbers and what they mean, cancer research funding has been essentially flat for the past decade with a few notable exceptions [like breast cancer]. A decade ago, 60% of all peer-reviewed cancer research grants were funded....largely by Federal dollars. Today that number is roughly 20%. We not only are not funding at an adequate level to match the promise of so many exciting new ideas and therapies, but our most brilliant young scientists are going into other areas which have more funding.

Once the American people know the truth - that 40% of all living Americans will have cancer in their lifetime - and that we are spending 1/10th of one cent out of each Federal tax dollar on this disease, they will demand that something be done about it. I will tell you candidly both what I know and what I am doing to raise this to a level of national consciousness over the next couple of years.

This will all be part of the longer memo that I will send you later this week. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

A Fragmented War on Cancer

By Hamilton Jordan

ATLANTA
It has been 25 years since President Richard Nixon declared war on cancer. Having had two different cancers, I am a survivor of that war and a grateful beneficiary. My first, an aggressive lymphoma, was treated with an experimental therapy developed at the National Cancer Institute. Ten years later, my prostate cancer was detected early by the simple P.S.A. blood test, a diagnostic tool supported by Federal grants.

But I am also a symbol of the limited success of that war. The treatments I received were merely updated versions of the methods used 25 years ago. A powerful cocktail of chemicals killed my lymphoma while ravaging my body. A surgeon, using an elegant procedure with no permanent side effects, cut out my prostate.

Scientists are still looking for both the "magic bullet" that kills only

Hamilton Jordan, who was President Jimmy Carter's chief of staff, is a board member of Capcure, a non-profit organization that finances prostate cancer research.

cancer cells and the genetic switch that turns off random cancer growth or prevents genetic flaws from causing cancer. While significant progress has been made, twice as many people will be diagnosed with cancer this year as in 1971, and twice as many will die. One in three women and one in two men will have cancer in their lifetimes. The raw data suggest we are on the verge of an epidemic. What happened to the "war"?

Groups compete for a shrinking pie.

• Our rhetoric exceeded our commitment. Dr. Donald Coffey, a cancer researcher, says we promised a war but financed only a few skirmishes. The Federal budget expresses our national priorities: The Federal Aviation Administration, for example, will spend \$8.92 billion to make air travel safe. The chances of dying in an airline accident are one in two million. But the National Cancer Institute will spend only \$2.2 billion — one-tenth of a cent of every Federal tax dollar — to find a cure for the disease that kills

more Americans in a month than have died in all commercial aviation accidents in our history.

• We created expectations not based on scientific reality. Our political leaders failed to appreciate the simple reality that there is not just one cancer but more than 100 cancers that have all defied a single solution. At the same time, the numerous organizations representing those different cancers have fought among themselves for bigger slices of a shrinking pie instead of forging a consensus on behalf of a larger pie.

• Huge successes with some cancers have been offset by rises in others. In addition, mortality from other diseases has declined, leaving an aging, cancer-prone population.

With adequate financing, breakthroughs in cancer prevention and treatment are likely over the next decade. Yet promising research that would have been automatically financed a decade ago is rejected today because of belt-tightening, discouraging brilliant young investigators from entering cancer research in the first place.

Is one-tenth of one cent enough to find a cure for a disease that will strike 40 percent of Americans? You will not think so when cancer strikes you or your loved ones. □

Journal

FRANK RICH

Overview

- * Twenty-five years since President Nixon declared “war” on cancer**
- * Twice as many people will both contract and die from cancer this year than contracted and died from cancer in 1971.**
- * By 2000, cancer will surpass heart disease as the major killer of our people**
 - > Decline in mortality from other diseases (Mortality from heart disease down 25% in last decade)**
 - > Function of our aging population - Cancer is a disease of age**

GOTE PRESENTATION

Good News

- * Dramatic successes in curing certain cancers: childhood, lymphomas, testicular, etc.**
- * Exciting new therapies**
- * Improved tests for early detection**
- * One-half of all patients are “survivors” (10 million in USA today)**

Are We Doing Enough As A Nation?

*** We spend \$14 billion a year exploring space (NASA)**

*** We spend \$9 billion a year on the FAA budget to provide us safe air travel (1 in 2 million chance of dying in an air crash)**

*** We only spend \$2.1 billion on cancer, a disease that will strike 40% of all living Americans**

Bottom Line

*** This means that we spend a little more than one-tenth of one penny out of every Federal tax dollar on cancer.**

***Is one-tenth of a cent enough?**

*** People don't think so when cancer strikes them or their loved ones.**

The Politics Of Cancer

1. An Issue That Touches Almost Every Family In The USA

A. 40% of Americans living today will have cancer in their lifetime. (ACS)

B. One of every two men and one of every three women alive today will have cancer in their lifetimes.

2. The Great Unspoken Fear Of Our People

**A. Blind survey, “What is your greatest fear?”
Fear of public speaking is first and fear of having cancer is second.**

B. Cancer is still synonymous with death in the American culture

3. *But, As A National Issue, Cancer Lacks A Voice, National Leadership & Visibility*

**A. No passion, sense of urgency or energy
(As opposed to the AIDS battle)**

**B. No well-organized constituency > a large
number of disease-specific organizations**

**C. No highly-visible global conferences, no
Presidential gestures,**

**D. Sadly, the “war on cancer” has become a
very quiet and low-priority skirmish**

The Audience

When you address the “cancer issue”, you are speaking to:

- * 10 million cancer survivors**
- * Several million cancer patients in some stage of treatment**
- * Their families**
- * 35-40 million people who have someone in their immediate family who has or had cancer**

What Should Clinton-Gore Administration Do?

- * President & Vice-President should visit NCI**
- * Celebrate what has been accomplished over past 25 years**
- * Pledge to reverse decline in basic cancer research funding (\$500 million increase would be 25% increase)**
- * Take administrative steps to fast-track promising therapies and treatments (ala AIDS) which is strongest demand/complaint of cancer groups**

Economically

*** We are only spending \$2.1 billion on a disease that costs our country over \$100 billion annually in economic loss**

Good independent expert resource for you:

Dr. Don Coffey (from Tennessee)

*** Director Of Cancer Research at
Johns Hopkins**

*** President-Elect of American
Association for Cancer Research
(Premier organization of oncology
researchers)**

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THE SECOND TIME AROUND

by Hamilton Jordan

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