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6-22-95 Dr. Henry Foster Statement (and Op-Ed) Edison, NJ [2]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	To Dale Kaufman from Jimmy F. Robinson Jr. (partial) (1 page)	08/29/94	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Terry Edmonds
OA/Box Number: 10982

FOLDER TITLE:

6-22-95 Dr. Henry Foster Statement (and op-ed) Edison, NJ [2]

2006-0462-F
ry613

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

SL: 02FOST QU: OHOLD-EDT HJ: 024.13/0181 FM: FG: xed
BY: PC ;06/27,10:13 OP: JUJUST;06/28,19:13 FR: OHOLD-EDT ;06/28,10:04
NOTE: Oped/Foster/Sun/jj PRINTED: 19:16 28-JUN-95

Dr. Foster, Please note some brief queries preceded by **. Could we have any additions or changes written on the galley and faxed back by 2 p.m. tomorrow? Thanks very much, Julie Just (212) 556-1936; fax: 556-4100.

Dr. Henry Foster is [**how should i.d. read?]

<gfbyline>Dr. Henry Foster[MC] <ws>W<gfsmcap>ASHINGTON[MC]
<gfdm>M[MC]y father used to tell me,
"When one door is closed,
another one opens." That is
my personal postscript to the events
of this past week. On consecutive
days, 57 senators - a strong major-
ity - voted to confirm my nomina-
tion to be surgeon general. But a
small minority, through the wily use
of Senate rules, prevailed, and the
matter was not allowed to come to a
vote.

The question posed to me most
often in the last few days is, "Are
you bitter?" And my answer is al-
ways No. But I am deeply disap-
pointed in the process. OK? Within 72
hours of my nomination by Presi-
dent Clinton in February, groups op-
posed to abortion were mobilizing to
stop me simply because I support a
woman's right to choose.

I found the attacks on my charac-
ter especially repugnant. People and
publications like this newspaper who
didn't know me from Adam took a
misstatement - my underestimate
of the number of abortions I had
performed in a 38-year career - OK?and
inferred that I was some kind of
shady character. In my entire pro-
fessional life, as a doctor, teacher
and administrator, never once has
my credibility been an issue.

During the early days of the media
onslaught following my nomination,
if I misspoke, there was no intent to

TO:

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PAGE: 2

deceive, and I repeatedly apologized for the mistake. Where I come from, a man is given the benefit of the doubt. But in Washington a simple slip of memory can be fatal, so I've learned.

I also found the politicization of the nomination deeply disturbing. I accepted the nomination for one reason. I wanted to do something about improving the health of millions of Americans, especially children and young people who are suffering simply because of a lack of education and access to adequate care.

Unfortunately, the process degenerated into an arm-wrestling match among Presidential hopefuls who apparently believe that the only way they can reach the White House is to demonstrate to the anti-choice movement how tough they are. It is an interesting comment on politics and the media that the crowned winners of this process are the politicians who made the cleverest use of Senate rules. I was hoping the victors might instead be the millions of Americans who need a Surgeon General to speak out on ways to stop the spread of AIDS, drug abuse, violence and teen pregnancy.

I want to urge the young people in this country, however, not to lose faith in the system or in the honor of public service. When I was growing up, ****where?** we always had a copy of the Constitution in our home. My father often told me that my freedom and justice were locked inside the Constitution - and that the key to unlocking it was an educated mind.

I still have faith in those words and in this country. Good came from this process. Despite all the noise, we were able to bring the crucial issue of teen pregnancy to the forefront.

Every day, almost 2,800 girls **** according-to-whom?-**

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PAGE: 4

babies. That's a dead-end dream, and it's got to be replaced with a dream of unlimited achievement.

So, we must offer young people three things. First, basic information about health, human sexuality and drug and alcohol abuse. They need to understand the consequence of early sexual activity and other risky behavior.

Second, we must make available an array of adolescent health services, with support from the community and parents. We must stress abstinence from sexual activity, but for teens who chose to be sexually active we must provide birth control. To do otherwise is irresponsible.

Third and most important, we must help young people improve their options by improving not just their job skills but their self-reliance and sense of values. Projects like helping teen-agers start businesses in their neighborhoods can address both these goals at once.

The important thing to remember is that each community must find its own way. What works in Nashville may not work in Chicago or in Newark. There is no monopoly on good ideas. What is needed is national coordination in the sharing, testing and evaluation of local efforts so we can decide what works.

Preventing teen pregnancy was going to be the focal point of my work as Surgeon General. The President and I are discussing another platform that would allow me to pursue this mission. I stand ready to serve, though I know I don't have all the answers. Another door is opening, and we will have to walk through it together.

<ws>[OBX]

(END)

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PAGE: 3

get pregnant. In 1990, ~~**are-figures-available-for-a-more-recent-year?~~ more than 1 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 became pregnant. This is bad for the girls - and the boys who may unwillingly become fathers ~~***some-such?~~ and even worse for their children. We know that children born to teen-agers are more likely to have serious health problems, and are more likely to be poor. About 80 percent of children born to teen-age parents who dropped out of school live in poverty.

If we want to prevent teen pregnancy, and reduce the number of abortions in this country, we must start at the source. We must provide young people with a good education, comprehensive health services and more employment opportunities. OK? As the President likes to say, "We must give them something to say yes to."

That is the core idea of the "I Have a Future" program, ~~** pls-briefly-describe-what-program-consisted-of~~ which I started in Nashville, Tn., in 1987 and which is thriving today. ~~**correct?-still-going?~~ The program has proved so successful that it was recognized as one of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" in 1992. Former participants in the program are attending college in unparalleled numbers. ~~** compared-to-their-peers-or-how-measured-unparalleled?-~~

There is no reason the successes of this program cannot be duplicated nationwide. But the problem cannot be approached from the top down. All decisions should be carried out at the local level, and everyone has a role to play - parents, grandparents, clergy, business leaders, volunteers.

One thing any program must do, however, is build self-esteem among young people and give them a positive vision of the future. Too many children today believe their future holds nothing for them but having

Draft 4/27/95 11:15 a.m.

STATEMENT BY DR. HENRY W. FOSTER

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE

SENATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MAY 2, 1995

Thank you, Senator Kassebaum and members of the committee for this opportunity to talk with you about my qualifications and vision for the role of U.S. Surgeon General. I also want to thank ^{Pres. Clinton} those committee members with whom I have met prior to these hearings. And most importantly, I want to thank my wife Clair, my daughter Myrna, my son and his wife, Wendell and Ann, and all of the many hundreds of former patients and ordinary citizens who called, wrote, and spoke out on my behalf these past three months.

Since the President nominated me on February the second, there has been some confusion created about who I am and what I stand for. Today, I want to set the record straight, once and for all.

Let me begin by telling you a little about how I grew up and how my upbringing influenced the development of my values. I was fortunate to have had two very strong and loving parents who shared a deep and unshakable faith in America as a nation of equality and justice for all. As far back as I can remember, we had a copy of the American Constitution in our home. My father

often told my sister and me that our freedom and justice were locked inside the Constitution. And then he would tap his temple and say, "The key to unlocking it is an educated mind."

Before his death, my father's faith in America was rewarded. He lived to see the armed forces integrated by President Truman. He witnessed the famous Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education decision. And he saw me accepted into the University of Arkansas School of Medicine -- the only African American student in my class of 96 students.

My paternal grandmother, Grandma Hattie, also had a great influence on me. She was born just 16 years after slavery ended in this country. I doubt if she ever had any formal education. As a young schoolboy, I wondered why her script was poor, but as I grew older and wiser, I came to appreciate her great intelligence and character. Grandma Hattie was not educated, but without a doubt, she understood its value and its power.

She worked as a domestic, scrubbing floors on her hands and knees to make sure that her two children would earn college degrees. And she succeeded. My father is now deceased, but his sister, my Aunt Mary Foster Cheatham, still lives independently in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 92.

By the dignity and power of their lives, my mother and

father and my Grandma Hattie taught me the values of education, hard work, and integrity. These are the values that have sustained and guided me throughout almost four decades as a teacher, university leader, practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, researcher, and mentor for high-risk youth. So I come to this challenge fully committed to be a strong, tireless, and ethical educator and advocate for the good health of the American people.

It is important that this committee and the American people understand that as Surgeon General, I will focus on the full range of health challenges affecting this nation. These include cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, maternal and child health, mental health, aging, substance abuse, violence, and of course, the epidemic of teen pregnancy -- an issue with which I have had some success and which the President specifically asked me to confront.

But there are two issues which have clouded my nomination that I wish to deal with right up front. The first is the attempt, by some, to say that this nomination is about abortion. It is not. And the second is the issue of my credibility.

First of all, I am a baby doctor. My life's work has been devoted to bringing healthy life into this world, to making sure young people get a healthy start in life, and to ensuring that they have access to quality health care throughout adulthood.

I have dedicated my career to taking all appropriate medical steps to meet the health needs of my patients, and that includes performing legal abortions. I believe in the right of a woman to choose. And I support the President's belief that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. But, again, my life's work has been dedicated to making sure that young people don't have to face the choice of having abortions.

Now, as to my credibility, let me be clear: When I was initially asked about the number of abortions I have performed, I relied on my memory, without reviewing my entire record, and this certainly was a mistake. But, it was an honest mistake. I am a doctor, not a politician, and I had never experienced anything like the media scrutiny I received upon my arrival in Washington. Frankly, I was a bit overwhelmed. So in my desire to provide instant answers to the barrage of questions coming at me, I spoke without having all the facts at my disposal. There was never any intent to deceive. *And since that time, I've made every effort to review the records and provide to be as accurate as possible*

I have an impeccable record of credibility and ethical conduct. And I am proud of the fact that I was appointed to the Ethics Advisory Board for President Carter's Secretary of Health and I am currently serving my second term on the Ethics Committee of the Nashville Academy of Medicine. So the issue of my nomination is not abortion or credibility. The issue is do I have the right stuff to be Surgeon General. That is what I am

here to discuss with you.

I believe that my training and experiences have prepared me to take on this task. I have been an educator for 21 years. In 1972, I had the good fortune to become one of the youngest people ever inducted in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 1973, I was asked to chair the Department of obstetrics/gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. Over the course of two decades, I taught more than 1500 young men and women who have gone on to be doctors. During my 20-year association with Meharry, I have served as Acting President of the School of Medicine, Vice President of Health Services, Dean of Medicine, and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Currently, I am on sabbatical as senior scholar in residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers.

But, of all my experiences, none compares to my service as a practicing OG-GYN. I have personally delivered thousands and thousands of babies. So when people ask me why I want to be Surgeon General, I have a strong answer. When you've had the good fortune to participate in the miracle of birth as many times as I have, it is difficult to stand on the sidelines and watch so many people wasting the precious gift of life. It is difficult to look around America today and see so much needless suffering because of the lack of knowledge about prevention...or because of

a lack of access and utilization of quality health care...or because of the lack of those basic family values that prevent violence or abuse of any kind from taking root.

It is especially difficult ^{to} ~~as an African American physician~~ to see the disparities in health status in this country. We have the finest health care system in the world. The finest health care professionals, the best technology, the best facilities, the best training. But there are places all across this country that do not have access to that excellence. What kind of health care you get should not depend on whether you are rich or poor, urban or rural, black or white. And as a doctor, I have deliberately chosen to work in places where there are serious health problems but little health care.

In rural Alabama and inner city Nashville, I served people whom others had forgotten. In the 1970s, I headed the Maternity and Infant Care Program at Tuskegee Institute -- bringing comprehensive health care to rural pregnant women, many of whom had never seen a doctor.

In the early 80s, I ran a national program which provided health services to more than 300,000 young people living in areas characterized by high rates of teen pregnancy, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental illness.

And in 1987, I began the "I Have a Future" teen pregnancy reduction program in the housing projects of Nashville, Tennessee. The philosophy behind that program is that if parents and a broad cross-section of community leaders come together to give young people constructive guidance and positive outlets for their energies, they will not throw away their futures through early sex and other risky behaviors.

in 1994

The program is working. Just last year, 24 of the program participants graduated from high school. And 16 of these young people are now in college, while four others joined the Armed Forces. In 1989, the American Medical Association awarded us their Adolescent Health Award. And in 1991, we had the honor of being selected by President Bush as one of America's "Thousand Points of Light."

I believe this kind of success is possible in every community. And as Surgeon General, I will work to ^{want to lead a crusade} empower local communities to develop comprehensive teen pregnancy programs that fit their individual needs. I know that what works in Nashville may not work completely in Chicago or Charlotte. But I have faith that every community can make a difference.

In conclusion, let me say that I am proud of my record of service and my commitment to making sure every American has access to health care.

In 1959, I was also called on to serve my country, when I served two years as a medical officer at the rank of captain, stationed at Larson Air Force Base, Washington. That experience will help me lead the men and women of the uniformed Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. And my military service also stands as a model of the kind of patriotic and honorable public service I hope to provide.

Again, I want to thank President Clinton for placing his faith in me and for standing by me throughout this nomination. I only hope to repay him, you and the American people by being the finest Surgeon General in the history of this great country. Thank you.

Daniel 1 (English-RSV)

See also: [This chapter](#), [Next chapter](#), [KJV](#), [Darby](#), [YLT](#)

- 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoi'akim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
 - 2 And the Lord gave Jehoi'akim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.
 - 3 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility,
 - 4 youths without blemish, handsome and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to serve in the king's palace, and to teach them the letters and language of the Chaldeans.
 - 5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the rich food which the king ate, and of the wine which he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.
 - 6 Among these were Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah of the tribe of Judah.
 - 7 And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hanani'ah he called **Shadrach**, Mish'a-el he called Meshach, and Azari'ah he called Abednego.
 - 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's rich food, or with the wine which he drank; therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.
 - 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs;
 - 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear lest my lord the king, who appointed your food and your drink, should see that you were in poorer condition than the youths who are of your own age. So you would endanger my head with the king."
 - 11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah;
 - 12 "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.
 - 13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's rich food be observed by you, and according to what you see deal with your servants."
 - 14 So he hearkened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days.
 - 15 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's rich food.
 - 16 So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.
 - 17 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.
 - 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.
 - 19 And the king spoke with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah; therefore they stood before the king.
 - 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.
 - 21 And Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.
-

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION
GIBBS MAGNET SCHOOL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
APRIL 1, 1995

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, class.

(How big?)
Who will group it?

THE CLASS: Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: What you just heard was the sound of America's future. I'm speaking to you this morning from the Gibbs Magnet School for International Studies in Little Rock, Arkansas. And I'm happy to be joined by the Principal, Dr. Marjorie Bassa, members of her staff, and 30 of the most wonderful elementary students, and their parents, you could ever hope to meet. This school and these people are living proof that the education reforms that were started when I was governor, and that are continuing under the leadership of Governor Tucker, are paying off.

of Ark.

The young people who attend this public school are getting a headstart on the 21st century. They are learning at an early age that their future success and the future success of this nation are dependent upon the kind of education and training that prepares them to compete and win in the new global economy.

Defining what goes on at school? - That's the kind of education they're getting here. And I want to spend a few moments with you this morning to tell you why I think the education and training of all our young people is the most important thing we can do to keep the American dream alive.

Earlier this week, I convened a regional economic conference at Emory University in Atlanta, where a group of leading economists, business leaders, and working Americans discussed ways to strengthen our economy and ensure a better future for our children. While there was a great diversity of ideas and some disagreement, the one thing we all agreed on was that the countries that do the best job of developing the full capacities of every one of their citizens will be the most successful in the 21st century.

We all agreed that the fight for education and training is the fight for the American dream. That's why my Administration worked hard to make last year the best year in 30 years for education reform: expanding Head Start; passing Goals 2000 which sets world-class standards and gives parents and teachers the resources to meet them; establishing a School-to-Work apprenticeship program to prepare young people who don't go on to college to get high paying jobs; and making college loans more affordable for millions of students.

Loans

Washington is in the midst of a great debate today about the proper role of government. On one side is the old view that big one-size-fits-all government can provide the answers to all our problems. On the other is the view that government is the source

recursion
cut taxes
feeling - middle -

of all our problems.

see 4 things
re P-ship

In the real world, that is a false choice. I believe we must chart a new course between the old way of big government and the new rage of no government. I believe we need a government that expands opportunity and demands responsibility; one that shrinks the underclass and expands the middle class. And one that empowers people, through education and training, to make the most of their lives.

As we change and cut yesterday's government, we must remember there is a wrong way and a right way. Some want to cut education to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. We want to cut taxes to pay for education for hard working, middle class families. Yes, the United States Department of Agriculture must be shrunk. But we think the right way is to close agriculture field offices and to reduce subsidies after worldwide negotiations, not to cut school lunches for the students of Gibbs and other schools across this country.

We don't need to take summer jobs away from young people if we are smart about cutting the size of government. We don't have to shut down AmeriCorps or give up on safe and drug-free schools if we trim government overhead.

Not educ.

Put
in
more
on
loans.

Educating our children and preparing for a strong future are goals that should have bipartisan support -- just like the line-item veto which has been passed by both the House and the Senate, and just like the bill I signed last week limiting the ability of Congress to pass laws imposing unfunded mandates on state and local governments.

Americans have always found common ground on behalf of the common good, and in this debate about education, I am confident our better angels will again prevail.

Gibbs Magnet School is a reflection of what we ought to be doing in America. We need to begin when they are in kindergarten, training our people to succeed. And we must prepare our young people for a lifetime of learning. The students and parents who are with me today hold our future in their hands. If we fail them, we fail the American dream.

Thanks again for all their
Ad Thanks for listening.

PP Negative
being here w/ me today.



FAX TRANSMISSION

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary

DATE: Terry Edmonds 5/8/95

TO: Speechwriting - Terry Edmonds

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FROM:



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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: _____

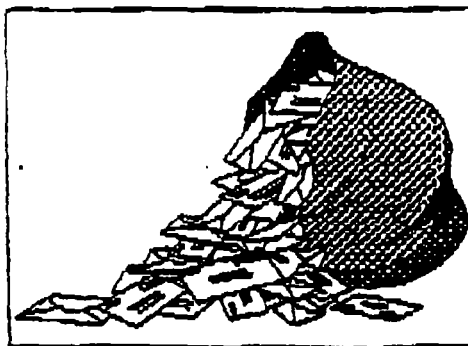
COMMENTS:

Geri Kaufman grew up around
Hampton -

Her # is 609-451-7234

I miss you!

Dale



FROM THE DESK OF:

Seneca

Phone: 202/690-8204

Fax : 202/690-6154

*Please
deliver to
Dr. Foster
Thanks
so
much*

TO :

Dr. Foster
c/o Mr. John Podesta

FAX NO:

DATE :

May 5, 1995

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER

7

COMMENTS



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

Memorandum to: Mr. John Podesta
Assistant to the President
Staff Secretary, West Wing

Subject: Commencement Address
Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia
May 14, 1995

Herewith enclosed is a copy of my commencement address which I will deliver at the 125th Commencement of Hampton University. The speech is written such that it will occupy approximately 10-12 minutes in time.

Please peruse this and advise if you feel it contains any political pitfalls and if so, let's address them mutually.

Henry W. Foster, Jr., M.D.

Attachment

HWF:ljh

"THE EXHILARATION OF LEARNING
THE FULFILLMENT FROM SERVING"

Thank you very much, Dr. Harvey, for your gracious introduction. It is very much appreciated. My very best wishes go to you the graduates, your families, President Harvey, faculty, trustees, students and friends. It is indeed an esteemed honor to have been asked to deliver your 125th Commencement Address. There have been few if any requests made of me that are more meaningful. The title of my talk for you today is, "The Exhilaration of Learning, the Fulfillment from Serving."

Today I am elated by having been asked to deliver this commencement address but my greater elation emanates from witnessing each of your individual and collective accomplishments, the fulfillment your families feel and the great contributions you can make to a society with an increasing need for trained minds. You are here today because of your dedication, your work ethic and your sense of self. You could so easily have been misdirected; no doubt you are aware that today for African American males your age, more of you are in the penal system than are in college. I salute you one and all, men and women, for reaching this educational milestone.

During the remaining time I will speak to you on three salient themes: (1) The power and the rewards of reading -- the key to all learning, (2) the challenge, the necessity and the benefit of life-long learning and (3) societal obligations beyond one's vocation.

Reading is the key to all education. Let me share with you one of my favorite quotes which reads as follows:

"Education is companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no despotism can enslave. At home a friend, abroad an introduction, in solitude a solace and in society an ornament. It chastens vice; it guides virtue; it gives, at once, grace and government to genius. Without it, what is man? A splendid slave, a reasoning savage."

John, I suggest placing the short bit on the confirmation here; then I can easily transition to the main address

This quote was written by Joseph Addison and appeared in the Spectator in November of 1711 -- nearly 300 years ago. *I learned through the Library of Congress that the Spectator was a weekly publication out of London, England. The Library of Congress is truly one of this nation's best assets.*

We as African Americans particularly should have an insatiable appetite for reading and learning. Please recall our history as African Americans on this continent. Keenly aware of the power of education, to teach slaves how to read and write was virtually an capital offense -- a status which ignobly held de facto existence for 300 years. One might ask why am I emphasizing reading to those soon to have conferred upon them graduate and post graduate degrees -- I can name two major reasons quite quickly. First, your future effectiveness in your chosen vocations will be highly dependent upon your ability to acquire new knowledge as it rapidly flows through the cybernetics information highway. More about this momentarily.

Affirmation of purpose

The second strident reason for your need to further emphasize reading in your own lives is the fact that most of you likely will become parents. As such, your children ultimately will become the guardians of the future. I implore, therefore that each of you develop in your homes the habit of reading and I mean the reading of scholarly materials. Not only will you be enriched by this habit but it also sets critical standards for your children. When you do become parents you will quickly learn that children pay much more attention to what you do than to what you say.

Just for a moment, let me ask your indulgence in speaking to another value-setting activity that does not relate directly to reading. On a personal level, from the time my own children were just infants, it was virtually a family ritual that the four of us, my wife, our two children and I, would all take our dinner meal together with TV sets turned off. Such a setting provides an ideal milieu for families to address a full array of issues from the serious to the comical. Even with the fast pace of life with all of its demands, this time for our family was sacrosanct. If you graduates remember nothing else from my address today, do remember this.

Now let me turn to the second of my three themes -- the challenge, the necessity and the benefit of life-long learning, or stated another way, it has to do with ongoing professional accountability. In almost no profession can one, as in the past, earn a degree with no further structured requirement for keeping one's skills current. First and foremost, you cannot view this responsibility of continued learning as a burden but rather it must be viewed as an opportunity. The opportunity to make you the very best you can be in your chosen fields. Isn't this a fair expectation? When boarding a commercial aircraft I feel it is reasonable to assume that you, as I, want the pilots to be able to function at their highest level of proficiency. Likewise, physicians are now required to take period recertification examinations to demonstrate the currency of their competence. As no doubt you are aware this type of recertification is also being required more and more for school teachers and in so many other fields. You must relish this responsibility as the opportunity it truly is. Life-long learning will not only make you a better professional, but will also enrich your life. It strengthens your sense of

self, thus reducing your level of anxiety and stress and all of its accompanying adverse health and social effects. Live to learn and learn to live.

Now let me speak to my last theme -- societal obligations beyond one's vocation. As a consequence of the education you have obtained from this historic center of higher learning that has contributed so uniquely to American education for 128 years, you are destined to become a part of the emerging African American middle class. Attendant to this ascendancy is your absolute and incontrovertible responsibility to build for the future.

Specifically, first and foremost, you absolutely must financially support Hampton University. It is obligatory that you do so. This school must persist for another 128 years, remain academically solid and be available in perpetuity to your children, grandchildren and beyond. Your giving to Hampton must be regular and commensurate with your income. The school clearly realizes that now, in your professional formative years, you cannot make sizable financial contributions, but Hampton must receive some level of your financial support irrespective of its size. Be reminded, my good graduates, when Dr. Harvey and members of his fundraising team approach foundations for support of your soon-to-be Alma Mater, one of the very first questions put to them is, "what percentage of your graduates support your institution financially?" Rarely do they first ask, "how much?" If a school's own graduates won't support it, how then can one logically expect others to do so. Meet your responsibility to Hampton starting this year and making it a life-long commitment. Hampton deserves no less.

One other closing and most important responsibility must be emphasized. As mentioned earlier, you are destined to become a

5

part of that growing African American middle class, which has materialized mostly since the end of World War II. Consequently, you must now actively reach back to assist other African Americans who are less fortunate than yourselves -- particularly our youth. And, let me be very clear. I am not talking only about money; rather, I am talking also about something in the future that may be more difficult to give than money and that is to give of yourselves and of your time. Involve yourselves in the growth and development of your communities. The initiative for addressing the problems of African Americans rightfully must emanate from educated African Americans.

Again, my genuine congratulations to each and every one of you graduates. Go forth and attack each challenge with intelligence, energy and integrity thus bringing honor to yourselves and to your Alma Mater. I hold not the slightest reservation as to your ability to accomplish this end. Thanks for inviting me to share this special time with you. As you go forth from this place at this juncture of your lives I wish for you Godspeed.

Thank you very much.

1

Thank you, Ms. Amanda Murray [Director of Freshman Studies].

I am especially pleased to join you here today -- during your first month in college.

This is a fascinating place to go to school -- The area and school are steeped in the history of our people ...

From Point Comfort here in Hampton, where in 1619 the first Africans were brought in chains to North America ...

... To the annual Hampton Jazz Festival where world reknowned musicians come every year to perform ...

... To the legacies of great Hampton graduates like Booker T. Washington and Chicago Defender publisher John Sengstacker.

Now is the time to open yourselves to new growth and possibility -- to history, to new friendships here at Hampton, and to the part we all must play in solving today's most difficult problems.

I bring greetings from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala.

Secretary Shalala shares with me a deep concern for the health and welfare of all citizens all across our country.

At HHS, we have a very serious responsibility for the health of African Americans.

We've all heard the old saying, "When America catches a cold, the Black community gets pneumonia."

Well, the American health care system is now in the intensive care ward -- so you know where that puts us.

Because, the truth is, just about every health care problem in this country is exacerbated in Black America.

From TB to teen pregnancy. From violence to AIDS. From too many babies dying to too many college students postponing a doctor's visit until they need the emergency room.

The statistics are shocking:

Black infant mortality is more than double the rate for White babies.

Forty percent of Black women receive no prenatal care in the first trimester.

Our rates of cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and HIV/AIDS are unacceptably high.

And, Black men and women have significantly shorter life expectancy rates than Whites.

What we are talking about is our very lives -- and the lives of our mothers and fathers, our sisters and brothers, our friends and neighbors.

And, it's not just physical health we're concerned about:

More than 10 percent of African Americans your age use illegal drugs, according to the most recent reports.

Four percent are heavy alcohol users.

And, more African-American males are in prison than in college.

When The Children's Defense Fund surveyed African-American adults recently about their outlook for our children, 65 percent said times are especially tough.

They saw violence plaguing our children, drugs creating lives of despair, and psychic distress wasting our strength.

We must reweave the rich fabric of the African American community that sustained us in times of slavery and oppression.

We must tap into our historic tradition of community empowerment and political struggle for change.

And we must put our bodies and souls into the great moral crusade to create a healthier African American community.

You are our future leaders.

I've come here today to talk with you about solutions -- ways to make sure that we live healthy lives -- prospering fully and enjoying the blessings of freedom just as much as every other group in America.

First, we need to reform our health care system.

Some of you probably think that nothing matters in Washington, D.C. -- that it's all scandals, gridlock, and petty partisan bickering. But, let me tell you, what we are doing up in the nation's Capitol does affect your lives -- dramatically.

The Clinton Administration is committed to providing health security to all Americans -- and although the special interests have blocked some of our efforts, the battle is not over yet.

I believe, ...

... and Secretary Shalala believes, ...

... and the President believes,

that health care reform is especially important for African Americans and other ethnic and racial minorities, because, after all, we are the communities less likely to have health insurance.

In fact, currently more than one in five African Americans is uninsured.

The cornerstone of our real reform efforts must be guaranteed private health insurance for all Americans -- whether you go to school, change jobs, have a pre-existing condition, or, get sick.

Health care that can't be taken away -- and that means more healthful lives -- greater access to care -- and real preventive services -- for millions of people who historically have been left out.

If you don't know a lot about this issue, you need to read up on it because our health care system will affect your lives and your careers.

In fact, you belong to the most underinsured age group in the country.

Last spring, 20 percent of this country's college graduates lost their insurance when their college plans expired or they no longer qualified as dependents on their parents' policies.

And one-half of the young adults in the United States find themselves without health insurance for at least a brief period of time.

These aren't just numbers -- they're young lives like yours -- the future of our country.

One way around these statistics is to have more diversity in the health professions.

The African American community needs more black professionals -- people who know on a personal level the special health needs of our community.

Why is diversity so important?

Let me tell you about a group of African American and Hispanic health educators in New York who understood where their

communities get information and designed a truly innovative AIDS prevention program.

The group is called "Women in Crisis." It is made up of women who canvass beauty salons, talking about AIDS.

They talk with clients who are getting their hair done and their nails painted, and they provide AIDS prevention brochures to beauty salon owners.

It's a brilliant idea. Since 1988, "Women in Crisis" has talked to thousands of women about protecting their lives -- in the privacy of women-only environments.

We need more health professionals like these -- but, unfortunately, right now African Americans make up only about 3.6 percent of America's doctors and dentists, and only 7 percent of registered nurses, even though we make up 12 percent of the population.

That's why this Administration has targeted funding specifically for minorities choosing careers in science and medicine.

And, that's why I hope many of you will consider careers as health professionals. You'll do a lot of good, and go home from work every day with a profound feeling of satisfaction.

The third thing we have to do to promote better health in our community is to learn more about why some diseases disproportionately affect African Americans, such as asthma, breast cancer, and hypertension, and to learn more about how to treat and prevent them.

The Department of Health and Human Services is sponsoring an exciting array of new research projects in the area of minority health. Everything from investigating kidney disease and hypertension to testing interventions for reducing infant mortality.

But -- and I want to emphasize this -- the quality of this research which may save your lives, or your children's lives, is only as high as the caliber and commitment of our researchers.

Maybe some of you will follow in the traditions of Charles Drew, Daniel Hale Williams, or George Washington Carver, great African American scientists who were responsible for scientific breakthroughs.

If you have ever dreamed of being the scientist who finds the the cure for cancer or AIDS or sickle cell anemia, now is the time for big goals and big dreams. -- Remember, we need you to succeed.

And that brings me to my final point -- the biggest thing we have to do to promote the health and well-being of our African American sisters and brothers all over the country: We must take personal responsibility for lifting up each other, empowering our community, and realizing the dream of equal opportunity.

That's the single most important message I want you to hear today.

I see before me hundreds of success stories: Young men and women who worked hard in high school while holding down jobs,

who helped younger brothers and sisters with their homework, and now are inspiring them to go to college,

and who saw love and commitment in the faces of their parents, and determined early on to make them proud.

You are the pride of our community -- our best and our brightest -- and our future leaders. And in a society where too

10

many stereotypes still exist, you are some of the unacknowledged heroes on the African American landscape.

The next four years will be a major turning point. You're at a time in your lives when -- if you keep working hard -- the world will open up for you.

As you start your college education and start thinking about majors and ultimately careers, I challenge you to see that your choices affect the lives of those around you.

I challenge you to make a difference for the brothers and sisters who will follow in your footsteps.

I'm talking about simple and decisive choices --

... drawing a line in the sand ...

like not letting your friends drink and drive,

like eating right and staying away from cigarettes,

like preventing AIDS,

and like registering with the National Bone Marrow Donor program and perhaps saving someone else's life.

11

I also want to challenge you to make another kind of choice -- to exercise another kind of leadership -- and that is to give back to our community just as our community has given to you.

There are many different community service projects on this campus -- and they all need you.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has an outstanding program in which students tutor and befriend youngsters in the community. Right now, there's a 7-year old girl who needs a big sister to help her with her math -- and needs a positive role model who will show her why college and a career make more sense than dropping out.

Or, you could go to the Doris Miller Community Center in Newport News, and ask about volunteering in the women's shelter. Right now, there's a single-parent family that could use your help as try to put their lives back together.

Or, contact the Student Christian Association here at Hampton. I hear that they're planning a program to work with homeless people in Newport News, which will give you a chance to learn how a service program gets built from the ground up.

I'm talking about making a contribution and holding big dreams about what you can achieve in this world.

12

Because Americans on the whole -- and our community in particular -- need your ideas, your energy, your determination, and your leadership.

Your education here at Hampton is not just about you: It's about us -- and it's about the better and more just world that together we can make.

With your ideals and your energy, we can renew that timeless vision of Dr. King, who once said:

"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies; education and culture for their minds; and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men and women can build up."

Brothers and sisters, you can be those other-centered leaders,

and together you can move a nation and create bright new worlds.

Thank you.



FAX TRANSMISSION

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary

DATE: May 9

TO: Tom Edmonds

PHONE: 456. 2777

FAX: 456. 5709



U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

FROM:

DALE BLUMENTHAL KAUFMAN
Speechwriter

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200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

(202) 690-7470
Fax (202) 690-7318

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: 4

COMMENTS: Here's my notes for Hampton

+ the sph -

The Williamsburg Chamber
of Commerce had lots of info --
but I didn't write it down.

Also - I'll get Dan's sister-in-law's
+ fax/call w) it - in case
you'd like to ask her about Hampton.

First Black to enter No, American came through Virginia in Jamestown (1619)

Jamestown Settlement

1st group of Blacks arriving at Pt. Comfort--pt of entry for coming to VA--in Hampton, VA
captured by a dutch ship, in bondage

WILLIAMSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-- 804-229-6511 --info re the area

Hampton programs:

Alpha Kappa Alpha sponsor tutoring sessions every Sat at Community Centers

Student leadership -- area High School

1. Kecoughtan High School
 2. Dunbar-Irving Elementary school
- Hampton grads = teachers in area
3. Hampton H.S>

Nursing Dept at Hampton --runs health clinics at Hampton Harbor

130 different student organizations -- many involved in student activities

Communities in Hampton, Newport News

Dunbar--Irving Elementary School

Doris Miller Community Ctr in Newport News

STUDENT ACTIVITIES --804-727-5691

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b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: DALE KAUFMAN**Company: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE****Phone:****Fax: 202 690 7318****From: JIMMY F ROBINSON JR****Company: ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY,
INC****Phone: 804 764-7621****Fax: 804 764-6667****Date: 8/28/94****Pages including this
cover page: 3****Comments:****DALE**

PER YOUR REQUEST, I AM FAXING YOU INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAIN FOCUS OF OUR SEMINAR. I WILL FAX TO YOU ON TOMORROW NAMES OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE BONE MARROW TRAUMA, AND A FEW SHORT STORIES OF SOME OF THESE PEOPLE. I WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT I WILL DEFINITELY GET IT TO YOU.

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE GIVE ME A CALL AT HOME. I'M LEAVING THE OFFICE RIGHT AFTER I FAX THIS TO YOU AND YOU CAN EITHER CALL ME AT HOME OR PAGE ME.

HOME # (b)(6)
PAGER 804 885 8406

[001]

207.721.3073

- Richmond -
Virginia B
1-800-987-4458
X 780

Remarks

Walter Broadnax

Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services

at

Hampton University

September 21, 1994

Draft 4/27/95 11:15 a.m.

STATEMENT BY DR. HENRY W. FOSTER
U.S. SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE
SENATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MAY 2, 1995

Thank you, Senator Kassebaum and members of the committee for this opportunity to talk with you about my qualifications and vision for the role of U.S. Surgeon General. I also want to thank those committee members with whom I have met prior to these hearings. And most importantly, I want to thank my wife Clair, my daughter Myrna, my son and his wife, Wendell and Ann, and all of the many hundreds of former patients and ordinary citizens who called, wrote, and spoke out on my behalf these past three months.

Since the President nominated me on February the second, there has been some confusion created about who I am and what I stand for. Today, I want to set the record straight, once and for all.

Let me begin by telling you a little about how I grew up and how my upbringing influenced the development of my values. I was fortunate to have had two very strong and loving parents, who shared a deep and unshakable faith in ~~America as a nation of~~ equality and justice for all. As far back as I can remember, we

But America is indeed a land
had a copy of the American Constitution in our home. My father

often told my sister and me that our freedom and justice were locked inside the Constitution. And then he would tap his temple and say, "The key to unlocking it is an educated mind."

Before his death, my father's faith in America was rewarded. He lived to see the armed forces integrated by President Truman. He witnessed the famous Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education decision. And he saw me accepted into the University of Arkansas School of Medicine -- the only African American student in my class of 96 students.

My paternal grandmother, Grandma Hattie, also had a great influence on me. She was born just 16 years after slavery ended in this country. I doubt if she ever had any formal education. As a young schoolboy, I wondered why her script was poor, but as I grew older and wiser, I came to appreciate her great intelligence and character. Grandma Hattie was not educated, but without a doubt, she understood its value and its power.

She worked as a domestic, scrubbing floors on her hands and knees to make sure that her two children would earn college degrees. And she succeeded. My father is now deceased, but his sister, my Aunt Mary Foster Cheatham, still lives independently in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 92.

By the dignity and power of their lives, my mother and

father and my Grandma Hattie taught me the values of education, hard work, and integrity. These are the values that have sustained and guided me throughout almost four decades as a teacher, university leader, practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, researcher, and mentor for high-risk youth. So I come to this challenge fully committed to be a strong, tireless, and ethical educator and advocate for the ~~good~~ ^{improving} health of the American people.

It is important that this committee and the American people understand that as Surgeon General, I will focus on the full range of health challenges affecting this nation. These include cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, maternal and child health, mental health, aging, substance abuse, violence, and of course, the epidemic of teen pregnancy -- an issue with which I have had some success and which the President specifically asked me to confront.

But there are two issues which have clouded my nomination that I wish to deal with right up front. The first is the attempt, by some, to say that this nomination is about abortion. It is not. And the second is the issue of my credibility.

First of all, I am a baby doctor. My life's work has been devoted to bringing healthy life into this world, to making sure young people get a healthy start in life, and to ensuring that they have access to quality health care throughout adulthood.

I have dedicated my career to taking all appropriate medical steps to meet the health needs of my patients, and that includes performing legal abortions. I believe in the right of a woman to choose. And I support the President's belief that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. But, again, my life's work has been dedicated to making sure that young people don't have to face the choice of having abortions.

Now, as to my credibility, let me be clear: When I was initially asked about the number of abortions I have performed, I relied on my memory, without reviewing my entire record, and this certainly was a mistake. But, it was an honest mistake. I am a doctor, not a politician, and I had never experienced anything like the media scrutiny I received upon my arrival in Washington. Frankly, I was a bit overwhelmed. So in my desire to provide instant answers to the barrage of questions coming at me, I spoke without having all the facts at my disposal. There was never any intent to deceive.

I have an impeccable record of credibility and ethical conduct. And I am proud of the fact that I was appointed to the Ethics Advisory Board for President Carter's Secretary of Health and I am currently serving my second term on the Ethics Committee of the Nashville Academy of Medicine. So the issue of my nomination is not abortion or credibility. The issue is do I have the right stuff to be Surgeon General. That is what I am

here to discuss with you.

I believe that my training and experiences have prepared me to take on this task. I have been an educator for 21 years. In 1972, I had the good fortune to become one of the youngest people ever inducted in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. In 1973, I was asked to chair the Department of obstetrics/gynecology at Meharry Medical College in Nashville. Over the course of two decades, I taught more than 1500 young men and women who have gone on to be doctors. During my 20-year association with Meharry, I have served as Acting President of the School of Medicine, Vice President of Health Services, Dean of Medicine, and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Currently, I am on sabbatical as senior scholar in residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers.

But, of all my experiences, none compares to my service as a practicing OG-GYN. I have personally delivered thousands and thousands of babies. So when people ask me why I want to be Surgeon General, I have a strong answer. When you've had the good fortune to participate in the miracle of birth as many times as I have, it is difficult to stand on the sidelines and watch so many people wasting the precious gift of life. It is difficult to look around America today and see so much needless suffering because of the lack of knowledge about prevention...or because of

a lack of access and utilization of quality health care...or because of the lack of those basic family values that prevent violence or abuse of any kind from taking root.

It is especially difficult ~~as an African American physician~~ to see the disparities in health status in this country. We have the finest health care system in the world. The finest health care professionals, the best technology, the best facilities, the best training. But there are places all across this country that do not have access to that excellence. What kind of health care you get should not depend on whether you are rich or poor, urban or rural, black or white. And as a doctor, I have deliberately chosen to work in places where there are serious health problems but little health care.

In rural Alabama and inner city Nashville, I served people whom others had forgotten. In the 1970s, I headed the Maternity and Infant Care Program at Tuskegee Institute -- bringing comprehensive health care to rural pregnant women, many of whom had never seen a doctor.

In the early 80s, I ran a national program which provided health services to more than 300,000 young people living in areas characterized by high rates of teen pregnancy, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental illness.

And in 1987, I began the "I Have a Future" teen pregnancy reduction program in the housing projects of Nashville, Tennessee. The philosophy behind that program is that if parents and a broad cross-section of community leaders come together to give young people constructive guidance and positive outlets for their energies, they will not throw away their futures through early sex and other risky behaviors.

The program is working. Just last year, 24 of the program participants graduated from high school. And 16 of these young people are now in college, while four others joined the Armed Forces. In 1989, the American Medical Association awarded us their Adolescent Health Award. And in 1991, we had the honor of being selected by President Bush as one of America's "Thousand Points of Light."

I believe this kind of success is possible in every community. And as Surgeon General, I will work to empower local communities to develop comprehensive teen pregnancy programs that fit their individual needs. I know that what works in Nashville may not work completely in Chicago or Charlotte. But I have faith that every community can make a difference.

In conclusion, let me say that I am proud of my record of service and my commitment to making sure every American has access to health care.

In 1959, I was also called on to serve my country, when I served two years as a medical officer at the rank of captain, stationed at Larson Air Force Base, Washington. That experience will help me lead the men and women of the uniformed Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. And my military service also stands as a model of the kind of patriotic and honorable public service I hope to provide.

Again, I want to thank President Clinton for placing his faith in me and for standing by me throughout this nomination. I only hope to repay him, you and the American people by being the finest Surgeon General in the history of this great country. Thank you.

General's relationship to the health of the American people and to the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Save Kassebaum + much of the course

I have therefore reached my professional station as I appear before you today by believing in the American system, following the rules, and working very, very hard. I am proud of my life's accomplishments. I have earned the respect of my patients, ^{my} students and ^{my} peers. I am now serving my 10th consecutive year as a member of the Nashville Academy of Medicine's Ethics Committee.

By its very nature membership on this committee serves as a clear testament to my veracity determined by those who have observed my every personal and professional move for 22 uninterrupted years.

^{was} I have now been called upon once again to serve my country ^{as I was} in 1959 when I became an Air Force officer. In this capacity I dispatched my duties faithfully and honorably. ^{if} If chosen as this nation's next Surgeon General, I will approach this new challenge in the same manner that I have approached all others in my life; that being the application of intelligence, energy and integrity.

Senator Kassebaum and committee members, I thank you for your indulgence.

I am very proud of the fact that my colleagues in the Nashville Academy of Medicine have chosen to include me as a member of its Ethics Committee. These are people who have observed my every personal & professional move for 22 uninterrupted years.

To ISUMF22 DUBLET

Date 4/26 Time 7:44

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Message Credibility in

abortion - that nice

to Washington -

Operator

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Chas.

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Frank Greer

meeting 100-

First Ladies office

Mack hearing

7:30

THE NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER, JR.
TALKING POINTS
April 25, 1995

"Dr. Foster is a good man with a good record as a family doctor, as someone who has helped thousands of mothers to give birth to their children, and as an academic, and as someone who has supported policies that are pro-family and pro-child. . . I will say again: He is a distinguished physician. He is a good man. He has a good record. He should be confirmed." [President Clinton, 4/18/95]

DISTINGUISHED 38-YEAR CAREER – A LIFELONG RECORD OF SERVICE:

- Dr. Foster is highly qualified. He has the experience, the background, and the vision to be an outstanding Surgeon General. He has practiced medicine for 38 years. He has dedicated his life to improving the health of the women and children in his care. He has delivered thousands of babies and trained hundreds of young doctors. He has worked tirelessly in underserved areas to reduce infant mortality, improve pre-natal health care, and work hand-in-hand with these communities to solve their health problems.
- His innovative *I Have A Future* program is nationally recognized and its approach to addressing our nation's teen pregnancy problem was honored by President George Bush who named it one of America's *Thousand Points of Light*. The program stresses abstinence and self esteem -- and it works. Fewer teens are getting pregnant; more young people are going to college. Dr. Foster just the kind of person America needs as Surgeon General.

THOSE WHO KNOW HIM BEST ATTEST TO HIS LIFELONG COMMITMENT:

- The U.S. News and World Report headline said it best: *"In All The Controversy, The Real Dr. Henry Foster Has Been Lost."* [3/6/95] Dr. Foster has been defined thus far in a variety of ways by a variety of people -- most of whom don't know him and have no idea what he's really about. In this week before the hearing, we will finally hear from people who are far better able to tell us who Dr. Foster really is. We'll hear from the students he's trained in his 20 years at Meharry Medical College. We'll hear from the teenagers he's inspired in his award-winning *I Have A Future* program. Let these people define Dr. Foster.

DR. FOSTER DESERVES A CHANCE TO TELL HIS STORY AND GET A VOTE:

- Dr. Foster has dedicated his life to giving people chances: giving women the chance to have healthy babies, giving babies the chance to have healthy childhoods, giving teens the chance for successful futures. He too deserves a chance. A chance to tell the Senate Labor Committee what he's about. And a chance to be voted on by the entire Senate. It's fair. It's what both Dr. Foster and the American public deserve.
- In February, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole wisely agreed, refusing to play politics: *"Let's see what the testimony is... We shouldn't shoot down somebody before they've even had a hearing. ... The general rule is that the President is entitled to his nominees, and that's been the general rule around here forever"* [Meet the Press, 2/5/95]
- As the President has said: Dr. Foster is qualified. He should be confirmed. He should not be caught up in any kind of politics -- presidential or otherwise.

Fax Cover Sheet

TO: Frank Greer
338-2334

FROM: Jennifer Dudley

NUMBER OF PAGES: 9

Sam:

John asked me to get Frank a copy of Foster's opening statement draft.

Jenny

04/20/95

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Statement of Dr. Henry W. Foster

U.S. Surgeon General Nominee before the

Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee

May 2, 1995

DRAFT #2 April 19, 1995

Senator Kassebaum and Labor and Human Resources Committee
Members:

I thank you for affording me this opportunity to interact with you. Also, I thank those of you who were able to meet with me prior to these hearings. And most importantly, I thank my wife, St. Clair, daughter Myrna, our son and his wife, Wendell and Ann, and all of the many hundreds of citizens who called, wrote and initiated writing campaigns on my behalf. I am grateful for this demonstration of support and especially so for that which has come from my patients.

First, let me share with you some facets of my early life and how they influenced the development of my values. I was so very fortunate to have had two very strong and loving parents who were well educated, both having earned baccalaureate and postgraduate degrees. However, I hasten to disabuse any who might incorrectly interpret this comment as suggesting some hint of an elitist attitude -- this would be absurd. Let me explain.

Now I don't think of myself as really an old person, certainly not an octogenarian, but appreciate this fact if you will. My paternal grandmother, not my great-grandmother, or my great-great grandmother, rather my father's mother, was born just 16 years after slavery ended in America. I doubt seriously if she ever had any formal education. As a young schoolboy, I wondered why her script was poor but as I grew older and wiser, I came to appreciate her great intelligence and character. Grandma Hattie was not educated, but most surely she understood its value

2

and its power. As an attestation to her sage insight, she worked as a domestic scrubbing floors on her hands and knees to assure that her two children would earn college degrees and beyond. She succeeded. My father is deceased but his sister, my Aunt Mary Foster Cheathan, still lives independently in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 92.

American Dream

Another scenario, before I move to my professional career, also speaks to the acquisition of my values -- values derived from my mother and father, my church and my wonderful school teachers who believed so completely in me and my future that I would have done almost anything not to disappoint them. A most important value imparted by my parents was they never lost faith in America and its potential for equity for all under law. As far back as I can remember we had a copy of the American Constitution in our home. My father often told my sister and me that our freedom and justice ~~was~~^{were} locked in the Constitution and then he would tap his temple and say, "but the key to unlocking it is an educated mind." We believed him. He demonstrated his belief in America by his contribution to the World War II effort. Educated as a chemist, he served as foreman of a unit at the Pine Bluff arsenal that built incendiary bombs. Before his premature death, his belief in America was vindicated. Although he missed much of the change that followed World War II, and change that he had predicted, he did see this nation's armed forces integrated by President Truman by executive order. He witnessed the famous Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education decision. On a personal

3

level, he saw me accepted to the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. Although I was the only African American student in my class of 96 students, it clearly represented progress nonetheless.

My parents taught and lived respect for law, hard work, education and integrity. I well recognize that the strong family support infrastructure that was present in my family is absent in far too many American homes today. The "I Have A Future" program with which I am sure you hold some familiarity and about which you will inquire, is structured precisely to provide an environment where such values can be inculcated over time into the youth we serve.

Now, as for my professional education, I finished high school in 1950. That fall I entered Morehouse College and graduated in 1954. That same year I was accepted and entered the University of Arkansas School of Medicine and graduated in 1958. I conducted an internship in Detroit, Michigan, at the Detroit Receiving Hospital. I then served 2 years in the Air Force on active duty at the rank of captain as a medical officer stationed at Larson Air Force Base, Washington. From there I went to Boston, Massachusetts and conducted a year of residency training in general surgery. Also, while stationed in Boston, voluntarily I joined the Air Force Reserve unit at Hanscomb Field. I consider this or similar military background as invaluable for the role of Surgeon General.

4

From Boston I went to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, for the first time. It was a rich experience and provided me stellar training in obstetrics and gynecology. The program was well-structured with a sizable portion of its clinical training occurring at the extremely active John Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee Institute. Faculty from the OB/GYN Department of Emory University also helped guide our training. I am particularly indebted to Dr. John Daniel Thompson, who at that time was Professor and Chairman of the Department of OB/GYN at Emory and was the one professional person who most influenced my decision to take charge of the OB/GYN service at Tuskegee, upon the completion of my OB/GYN residency in 1965.

The choice to go back to Tuskegee was a conscious and deliberate choice. As a resident physician, I had witnessed first-hand, the abject poverty that existed and the enormous health services needed there. Prenatal care was unknown to so many of the patients I came to serve, some of whom never in their lives had been cared for by a physician.

In cooperation with the administration of John Andrew Hospital in Tuskegee Institute, we developed a regionalized perinatal healthcare network funded through a Title V maternity and Infant Care grant. This model was successful and as a consequence, it ^{led} to my ^{membership in} ~~being inducted into~~ the Institute of Medicine as ^{then} its youngest ^{inductee} ~~member at that time~~. Further, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded a ~~national~~ pilot program to regionalize perinatal health services throughout the country. I

5

was invited by that foundation to serve on its advisory committee for that national effort. Regionalized perinatal health services now exist in all 50 states.

In 1973, after spending 8 years in Tuskegee, I accepted the position of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College, a position which I held for 17 years. ^{Shortly after assuming} While in this ^{new} position, I was successful in procuring grant funding to provide prenatal care to indigent patients in Middle Tennessee and in the housing projects of Nashville. I obtained ^{a grant} ~~funding~~ from the Tennessee Department of Health to provide perinatal services through a program entitled the "Alcohol and Substance Abuse in Pregnancy Program." This program at the end of its 3 year funding from the State of Tennessee, received 5 years continuation funding from CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention). Lastly, in 1987, I was ^{getting support from The Carnegie Corporation to launch} successful in ~~obtaining funding for~~ the "I Have A Future" teen pregnancy prevention program," which includes a coalition comprised of parents, volunteers, churches, business leaders, the media, local and state government and others. The program builds self respect in our youth by requiring personal responsibility imbuing them with the advantages of abstinence in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV ~~and~~ AIDS. Discipline of this sort promotes self esteem and strengthens their capacity in accepting personal responsibility. The productivity of the more than 800 youth who have participated in our program far exceeds that of other youth in Nashville's ~~city~~

6

housing projects who have not had the benefit of our intervention.

In 1990, I became Vice President for Health Services for the Meharry Health Sciences Center which is comprised of four schools -- Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate Studies and Research, and Allied Health Professions. Concomitant with this vice presidency position I ^{was} ~~also~~ ^{named} ~~became~~ Dean of the School of Medicine. In October of 1993, the Board of Trustees of Meharry requested that I head the University as its acting president, which I did until July 1 last year when I commenced my sabbatical studies here in Washington as senior scholar in residence at the Association of Academic Health Centers. My sabbatical study topic is, "Gender Shift in the Physician Work Force: Implications for Health Reform." On February 2, 1995, President Clinton announced his intention to nominate me for the position of Surgeon General. ✓

As for the position of Surgeon General, I will share with you briefly some of my thoughts regarding the function and future of that office. First and foremost, I must be an educator and an advocate for the health of ^{all of} the American people -- no exceptions and nonpartisan. Consensus building has been central to the progress of my professional career. Not unlike previous Surgeons General, I too will have an especial focus, that being efforts to reduce the unequivocal epidemic of teen pregnancies extant in this country. I will challenge the American people to attack this epidemic of teen pregnancy and I will give direction as how to accomplish this end. Such focus is appropriate. Surgeon ✓

7

General Luther Terry alerted Americans for the first time of the causal relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop focussed on HIV/AIDS, sending educational material to every household in America. I, as they, will concomitantly continue the assault on other pressing health issues such as cancer, (especially breast cancer), HIV/AIDS, perinatal mortality, mental health, aging, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence, and the myriad of other important health issues that face this nation. As Surgeon General, I must communicate to the American people the enormous benefits of health promotion/disease prevention. ✓

As a Surgeon General with prior military service, I will be a strong and dedicated leader for the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. However, even here, my role fundamentally is that of educator and advocate. As I am sure the committee knows, the Surgeon General's staff is but 7 people, including the Surgeon General. The entire budget for the Office of the Surgeon General is less than a million dollars annually.

~~Thus~~ In conclusion, during this opening statement, I have provided an overview of my formative years and how my family and community helped shape my values -- values which I feel should imbue all youth. I summarized my education, military service, highlights of my professional career and my view of the Surgeon General's relationship to the health of the American people and to the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

8

I have therefore reached my professional station as I appear before you today by believing in the American system, following the rules, and working hard. I have^{now} been called on once again to serve as I ~~was~~^{was} in 1959 when I became an Air Force officer and served this country faithfully. If chosen as this nation's next Surgeon General, I will approach this new challenge in the same manner that I have approached all others in my life; that being the application of intelligence, energy and integrity.

✓
← No change needed!

Senator Kassebaum and committee members, I thank you for your indulgence.

Abortion and Dr. Henry Foster

- "I believed that I performed fewer than a dozen pregnancy terminations," all of which " were primarily to save the lives of the women or because the women had been the victims of rape or incest." [The Washington Post, Feb. 4, 1995]

Foster emphasized that he delivered more than 10,000 babies during that time and probably performed fewer than a dozen abortions.

All of them were in hospitals "and were primarily to save the lives of the women or because the women had been the victims of rape or incest," he said in a statement.

- Furthermore, he added, "if abortion is provided, my wish is that it be safe, legal and rare." [The Los Angeles Times, Feb. 4, 1995]

- Officials last night said HHS officials misunderstood Foster's answer to a question on whether he performed abortions and construed his answer to be one abortion, and passed along the information. [The Washington Post, Feb. 7, 1995]

- Eager to sink Henry Foster's nomination as surgeon general, conservatives Monday issued a partial transcript seeming to contain an admission that he performed many more abortions than he acknowledged.

Foster denied the accusation, and the single page did not further identify "Dr. Foster," letting his backers question whether the statements attributed to him are his." [USA Today, Feb. 7, 1995]

- Initially, the White House had told Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, that Dr. Foster had performed only one abortion. Ms. Kassebaum heads the committee that will review the nomination.

But in Friday's statement, the doctor said, "In that period of almost three decades as a private practicing physician, I believe that I performed fewer than a dozen pregnancy terminations." He added that " all were in hospitals and were primarily to save the lives of the women or because the women had been the victims of rape or incest." [The New York Times, Feb. 7, 1995]

- Adding to the firestorm: a medial journal article written by Foster, and released Tuesday by abortion opponents, reporting on a study of a suppository

used to induce abortion.

The suppositories were never marketed, but at the time of the study, Foster was quoted in the Nashville Banner as saying there were "revolutionary." [USA Today, Feb. 8, 1995]

- Nightline Interview

- Dr. Henry Foster guaranteed even more controversy over his nomination as surgeon general, admitting Wednesday night he has done 39 abortions.

Foster made the admission ABC's Nightline. He also said he won't bow to criticism: "I'm a big fighter. I'm going to go with the process all the way...I feel the president is totally committed to my nomination." [USA Today, Feb. 9, 1995]