

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21071

FolderID:

Folder Title:

2/24/2000 AA [African-Americans] and AIDS

Stack:

S

Row:

67

Section:

1

Shelf:

2

Position:

3

trip -
date?
Feb 25/00

Homepage • News • Money • Life • Sports • Weather • Marketplace

ONYIA.com
Work. Wisely.
COMPARE
Services & Products
click here

**SHOP AT
MARKETPLACE**

MayoClinic
HEALTH INFORMATION
A question of health?
search ▶

**USA
TODAY** Health

healthshop.com

Search for

Products & Information
Shopping
Learning
Community
My healthshop

02/25/00- Updated 02:07 PM ET

Feb. 25, 2000

Jackson sets example, gets AIDS test

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Rev. Jesse Jackson called on the president, first lady and leading presidential candidates to encourage more people to be tested for the virus that causes AIDS by submitting to a test themselves.

**Nation
TALKS...Health**
▶ Discuss HIV/AIDS

"The first issue is to remove the taboo and resistance to testing," Jackson said.

Hoping to motivate other black Americans to be tested, Jackson stuck a cotton swab between his cheek and gum Thursday to demonstrate how easy it is to take an oral HIV test. Speaking at the Max Robinson Center of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, in one of the capital's poorest neighborhoods, Jackson said America should not become complacent about the disease because of new treatments.

"The crisis has not left. It is no longer front-page. It's not gunfire. It's not cocaine, crack or heroine. It's not gang warfare," Jackson said. "But nobody is safe. I want to send a message to every African-American that does not know his or her HIV/AIDS status to get tested."

Jackson, who said he had taken a blood test for the virus years ago, took the newer oral test as hundreds of people gathered in Washington for the Johns Hopkins University 2000 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS.



Jesse Jackson gets an AIDS test from Whitman-Walker Clinic counselor Jamal Spurlock (AP).

The results of Jackson's test are expected to be ready Saturday but, as is common practice, they will remain confidential. It was not immediately clear if Jackson would release results of his test.

Blacks make up 13% of the U.S. population, but they account for 57% of all new HIV infections detected and nearly half of all cases of

Search

☒ the site ☐ the Web

GO

POWERED BY LVC '95

**Inside Health
and Science**

Health front page

Health news
digest

Health index

Talk health

Health bookshelf

Daily audio report

Web resources

Hot lines

Science digest

Partners

HealthScout

A Doctor in Your
House.com

MedicineNet.com

Inside Life

— . . .

[Talk Life](#)[Books](#)[Lifeline](#)[People](#)[Television](#)[Movies](#)[Music](#)[Careers](#)[Travel](#)[Hot sites](#)[Web Traveler](#)[Health](#)[Crossword](#)[Snapshots](#)

Print Edition

[Today](#)[Yesterday](#)[Subscribe](#)[Archive](#)

Find books
up to 50% off!
BARNES & NOBLE

Resources

[E-mail](#)[Index](#)[Feedback](#)[What's hot](#)[About us](#)[Jobs at USA](#)[TODAY](#)

Free premiums

[USA TODAY](#)[Update](#)[Software](#)

of an HIV infection detected and nearly half of all cases of full-blown AIDS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additionally, more treatments have become available, but AIDS deaths among blacks increased 45% between 1991 and 1996, even as mortality among whites decreased by 24%, statistics show.

Sandy Thurman, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, also took the test, but she said she didn't know whether the president would take it.

"We certainly never had the conversation, but I think all of my colleagues would be open to being tested," she said.

Jackson also called for more government initiatives and funding for AIDS prevention, treatment and research, including mandatory testing of every American.

"We cannot put out this raging fire with a teaspoon of water," he said.

- [More AIDS stories](#)

Was it just the champagne talking?

women.com

[Front page](#), [News](#), [Sports](#), [Money](#), [Life](#), [Weather](#), [Marketplace](#)

© Copyright 2000 [USA TODAY](#), a division of Gannett Co. Inc.

SKI **USA**
REPORT **TODAY**
CLICK HERE FOR
LATEST SKI CONDITIONS

trud-
Feb. 2000

Comments by Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
2000 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS

Thank you Steven. We have reached a decisive moment in the struggle that has already robbed us of far too many of our loved ones – brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, parents and partners.

As I look around this room, I am encouraged to see many of the key partners who have played a vitally important role in our shared response to the AIDS crisis, both here at home, in Africa, and around the world.

It has been said that when we look into the eyes of a child, we can see the whole of the universe.

My friends, today, the eyes of our children reveal a world devastated by AIDS.

The sad truth is – our battle against AIDS is far from over. And now more than ever, we must be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat – a misperception that too many are all too eager to embrace. AIDS continues to disproportionately impact the African-American community. And the numbers are familiar to you all.

While African-Americans are only 12% of the US population, they account for nearly 37% of all AIDS cases.

The rate of reported AIDS cases among African-Americans is more than 2 times greater than the rate for Hispanics – and 8 times greater than that of whites.

And with 50% of new infections occurring within the African-American community, we are now called to choose between determined action and the tragic consequences of silence and complacency.

AIDS may well be the perfect metaphor for so much of what ails this country, and our ability to bring an end to AIDS is consistently confounded by our inability to heal the underlying malignancies of racism, sexism, and homophobia.

But together, we can and we must use our small successes and recent signs of hope – not as an invitation to rest, but as a foundation for facing the future – and for fighting on. Most of us can still remember back to the days, when ignorance and indifference were the rule and not the exception, when treatments were desperate and unproved, and when only a bold few dared to respond.

We have indeed come a long way on this journey called AIDS, building new bridges across old boundaries and translating words into deeds.

Since last we spoke, we have dramatically increased our efforts to fight AIDS on several fronts. In the last year alone, funding levels for minority programs increased to \$250 million – and the President's FY 2001 budget pushes HIV & AIDS funding to an all time high. As we seek to keep pace with AIDS in our communities of color, increases in prevention, new programs to prevent substance abuse, and enhanced treatment efforts begin to address the unique issues faced by the African American AIDS community.

I am also very proud that our commitment has now reached beyond our own borders. Many of you in this room have been deeply engaged in the effort to address AIDS in Africa. It is a testament to our growing spirit and energy that we can unite our efforts to address the AIDS epidemic here in the United States with the millions around the world who share our commitment to stopping this pandemic.

AIDS is a plague of Biblical proportion, and it is claiming more lives in Africa than in all armed conflicts on the continent combined. While many of us have witnessed its devastation firsthand, it is almost impossible to describe the grip that AIDS has on villages across Africa and on communities around the world.

Nearly 14 million men, women and children in Africa have already died of AIDS. Today and everyday, AIDS buries more than 5,500 Africans – and that number will more than double in the next few years. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among all people of all ages in Africa – as it is for young adult African-American men here in the United States.

And the epidemic rages on. Each day, 11,000 people in Africa become HIV infected - one every 8 seconds. Most of these new infections are among young people under the age of 25, and more than half are women. By 2005, more than 100 million people worldwide will have been infected with HIV.

In just a few short years, AIDS has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development – and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more. In South Africa, from 68 to 48. In Zimbabwe, from 65 to 39, and in Zambia, from 56 to 37.

This past July, the Administration requested and the Congress approved a new Global AIDS Initiative that increased the US commitment to the global fight against AIDS by \$100 million for fiscal year 2000. That more than doubles our financial commitment to the fight against AIDS in Africa. And just last month, at the UN Security Council, the Vice President announced that the President requested an additional \$100 million to further expand our international response.

Yet my message to you today is not one of hopelessness and desolation. On the contrary, I hope to share with you a sense of optimism. For amidst all of this tragedy, there is hope. Amidst this terrible crisis, there is opportunity: the opportunity for us – working together – to empower women, to protect children, and to support families and communities both at home and abroad in our shared struggle against AIDS.

Together, we must join our voices and pool our skills and our resources to begin to keep pace with an epidemic that is out of control.

Together, we must continue to find ways to affirm that we are a global community where crisis and opportunity have no borders – that our battle against AIDS in America, in Africa, and around the world is a shared responsibility.

And together, we must push past denial and blame and inevitability – and toward a sense of real solidarity symbolized by shared commitment, collaboration, and constructive action.

And while I hate to repeat myself, I have to once again share my favorite quote from Fredrick Douglas:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened and the conscience must be roused."

We must come together to build the fire that will light our way, and to stomp our feet and raise our voices until the thunder is heard across this nation and indeed around the world.

If we do, then our grandchildren's children can look back and talk with pride of a great people who found courage amidst confusion and uncertainty, who believed in their own strength and in each other, and who embraced their faith in order to put spirit into action.

And then and only then, in their eyes will shine the whole of the universe – a world that together fought AIDS – and lived on.

Our battle against AIDS is in an integral part of our broader struggle for equality, for justice, and for life. We have so much work left to do to address AIDS here in this country, and so much that we can share with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Far too many in this rich nation still go without proper care and support. Far too many still face homelessness and isolation. Far too many still experience prejudice due to AIDS.

We are far, far from the end of this terrible plague. There is no time to rest. For the sake of all those living with HIV and AIDS, and threatened by its devastation, we must fight on.

Let us join together in what Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called our 'holy war'
and do as we have promised to those who have passed before us. Remember those
old words of our nation's struggle for civil rights:

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Copyright 2000 PR Newswire Association, Inc.
PR Newswire

February 24, 2000, Thursday 7:01 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

DISTRIBUTION: TO NATIONAL EDITOR AND MEDICAL EDITOR

LENGTH: 914 words

HEADLINE: Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. to Address 2000 National Conference on African-Americans and Aids;

-HIV/AIDS Epidemic Continues to Rise in the African-American Community -

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 24

BODY:

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., president and founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will give opening remarks today at the 2000 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS. The Conference is a forum that brings together public health officials, medical and AIDS service organizations, faith-based ministries and corrections experts in order to address the growing health concern of **HIV/AIDS** in the African-American community. This annual conference is especially important since the incidence of **HIV/AIDS** cases in the African-American community continues to rise at alarming rates.

HIV/AIDS has reached epidemic proportions in the African-American community. **HIV/AIDS** is the number one cause of death for Black men and the second leading cause of death for Black women ages 25 to 44 -- before heart disease, cancer and homicide. In recent years, the estimated incidence of **HIV/AIDS** has declined for every race except African-Americans.

"While African-Americans represent only 13 percent of the US population, they account for 57 percent of new infections of HIV and nearly 50 percent of AIDS cases. By the year 2005, they will account for 60 percent of AIDS cases," said Eric Goosby, M.D., Director of the Office of **HIV/AIDS** Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Unfortunately, there is still a severe health crisis in the African-American community. This conference is an excellent means to bring together healthcare professionals, clergy, public and private business sectors and people infected and affected by **HIV/AIDS** to address this critical health epidemic."

In 1998, the Congressional Black Caucus asked the Secretary of Health and Human Services to call a "State of Emergency" regarding **HIV/AIDS** in African-American communities. In response to that "State of Emergency," dozens of African-American AIDS activists, educators and health professionals, including Rev. Jackson, joined forces with other African-American leaders and institutions to develop a strategic action plan to stop **HIV/AIDS** infection in their communities. Rev. Jackson is dedicated to developing a public awareness campaign that promotes a powerful image of national leaders uniting to stop the spread of **HIV/AIDS** in communities of color.

"Despite consistent efforts to draw attention to this issue, the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic continues to increase in the African-American population at disproportionate rates," said Rev. Jackson. "In order to address this important health issue, we must unite to discuss the **HIV/AIDS** problem in our communities. It is critical that we translate our discussions into targeted, long-lasting solutions for people who are most at risk."

Discussions at the conference will focus on issues such as the epidemiology of **HIV/AIDS** in the U.S., the disconnect between the American healthcare system and the African-American community, **HIV/AIDS** in women, and the role of faith-based ministries. This year's conference will feature presentations and remarks by major public health figures such as Rev. Jackson; Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Sandra L. Thurman, Director, White House Office on **HIV/AIDS** Policy; Helene Gayle, Director of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and A. Cornelius Baker, Executive Director of the Whitman Walker Clinic. Also featured will be medical experts such as Dr. Goosby; Stephen Thomas, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Minority Health Research, Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University; and John G. Bartlett, M.D., Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases at Johns Hopkins

University School of Medicine.

"We applaud the involvement of such prominent leaders in tackling this serious epidemic," stated Dr. Bartlett. "As we continue to address **HIV/AIDS** in the African-American community, we need consistent public attention that is focused on reducing new infections in this population."

Program highlights added to the 2000 conference agenda will address Medicare and Medicaid, an update on Ryan White and continuity of clinical care in corrections. In addition to the conference, The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display for public viewing. Started in 1987, the Quilt has remained one of the world's most recognized and visceral symbols of the AIDS pandemic. With over 80,000 names on the Quilt, this unique and profound memorial connects communities, families and friends by illustrating the diversity of the lives lost to the **HIV/AIDS** epidemic.

The 2000 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS will be held February 24-25, 2000 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. and is being sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The conference is being supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology. Full audio and slide presentations of the conference will be available on <http://www.hopkins-aids.edu> in April.

For questions about **HIV/AIDS** and for educational materials, call the CDC National **HIV/AIDS** Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS.

SOURCE Bristol-Meyers Squibb Immunology and Johns Hopkins University

CONTACT: Shanna Duncan of Nelson Public Relations, 202-841-8863, sduncan@nelsonpr.com, for Bristol-Myers Squibb Immunology; or Kate O'Rourke of Johns Hopkins, 410-955-8665, korourke@jhmi.edu

URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 24, 2000

FOCUSTM

Search: General News;**HIV/AIDS**

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

Example: House of Representatives

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 0800
CONNECTION TEL 92890947
CONNECTION ID
ST. TIME 02/25 11:56
USAGE T 02'39
PGS. 9
RESULT OK



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: **Al Cunningham** FROM: **Cheryl Bauerle**
COMPANY: DATE: **February 25, 2000**
FAX NUMBER: **289-0947** TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
PHONE NUMBER:
RE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please deliver to Al Cunningham – Room 749

Here it is- please call me if you need anything else!

Cheryl (456-2959)



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

Al Cunningham

FROM:

Cheryl Bauerle

COMPANY:

DATE:

February 25, 2000

FAX NUMBER:

289-0947

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

PHONE NUMBER:

RE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please deliver to Al Cunningham – Room 749

Here it is- please call me if you need anything else!

Cheryl (456-2959)

736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503
(202) 456-2437
(202) 456-2438 (fax)

Comments by Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
2000 National Conference on African-Americans and AIDS

Thank you Steven. We have reached a decisive moment in the struggle that has already robbed us of far too many of our loved ones – brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, parents and partners.

As I look around this room, I am encouraged to see many of the key partners who have played a vitally important role in our shared response to the AIDS crisis, both here at home, in Africa, and around the world.

It has been said that when we look into the eyes of a child, we can see the whole of the universe.

My friends, today, the eyes of our children reveal a world devastated by AIDS.

The sad truth is – our battle against AIDS is far from over. And now more than ever, we must be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat – a misperception that too many are all too eager to embrace. AIDS continues to disproportionately impact the African-American community. And the numbers are familiar to you all.

While African-Americans are only 12% of the US population, they account for nearly 37% of all AIDS cases.

The rate of reported AIDS cases among African-Americans is more than 2 times greater than the rate for Hispanics – and 8 times greater than that of whites.

And with 50% of new infections occurring within the African-American community, we are now called to choose between determined action and the tragic consequences of silence and complacency.

AIDS may well be the perfect metaphor for so much of what ails this country, and our ability to bring an end to AIDS is consistently confounded by our inability to heal the underlying malignancies of racism, sexism, and homophobia.

But together, we can and we must use our small successes and recent signs of hope – not as an invitation to rest, but as a foundation for facing the future – and for fighting on. Most of us can still remember back to the days, when ignorance and indifference were the rule and not the exception, when treatments were desperate and unproved, and when only a bold few dared to respond.

We have indeed come a long way on this journey called AIDS, building new bridges across old boundaries and translating words into deeds.

Since last we spoke, we have dramatically increased our efforts to fight AIDS on several fronts. In the last year alone, funding levels for minority programs increased to \$250 million – and the President's FY 2001 budget pushes HIV & AIDS funding to an all time high. As we seek to keep pace with AIDS in our communities of color, increases in prevention, new programs to prevent substance abuse, and enhanced treatment efforts begin to address the unique issues faced by the African American AIDS community.

I am also very proud that our commitment has now reached beyond our own borders. Many of you in this room have been deeply engaged in the effort to address AIDS in Africa. It is a testament to our growing spirit and energy that we can unite our efforts to address the AIDS epidemic here in the United States with the millions around the world who share our commitment to stopping this pandemic.

AIDS is a plague of Biblical proportion, and it is claiming more lives in Africa than in all armed conflicts on the continent combined. While many of us have witnessed its devastation firsthand, it is almost impossible to describe the grip that AIDS has on villages across Africa and on communities around the world.

Nearly 14 million men, women and children in Africa have already died of AIDS. Today and everyday, AIDS buries more than 5,500 Africans – and that number will more than double in the next few years. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among all people of all ages in Africa – as it is for young adult African-American men here in the United States.

And the epidemic rages on. Each day, 11,000 people in Africa become HIV infected - one every 8 seconds. Most of these new infections are among young people under the age of 25, and more than half are women. By 2005, more than 100 million people worldwide will have been infected with HIV.

In just a few short years, AIDS has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development – and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more. In South Africa, from 68 to 48. In Zimbabwe, from 65 to 39, and in Zambia, from 56 to 37.

This past July, the Administration requested and the Congress approved a new Global AIDS Initiative that increased the US commitment to the global fight against AIDS by \$100 million for fiscal year 2000. That more than doubles our financial commitment to the fight against AIDS in Africa. And just last month, at the UN Security Council, the Vice President announced that the President requested an additional \$100 million to further expand our international response.

Yet my message to you today is not one of hopelessness and desolation. On the contrary, I hope to share with you a sense of optimism. For amidst all of this tragedy, there is hope. Amidst this terrible crisis, there is opportunity: the opportunity for us – working together – to empower women, to protect children, and to support families and communities both at home and abroad in our shared struggle against AIDS.

Together, we must join our voices and pool our skills and our resources to begin to keep pace with an epidemic that is out of control.

Together, we must continue to find ways to affirm that we are a global community where crisis and opportunity have no borders – that our battle against AIDS in America, in Africa, and around the world is a shared responsibility.

And together, we must push past denial and blame and inevitability – and toward a sense of real solidarity symbolized by shared commitment, collaboration, and constructive action.

And while I hate to repeat myself, I have to once again share my favorite quote from Fredrick Douglas:

"It is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened and the conscience must be roused."

We must come together to build the fire that will light our way, and to stomp our feet and raise our voices until the thunder is heard across this nation and indeed around the world.

If we do, then our grandchildren's children can look back and talk with pride of a great people who found courage amidst confusion and uncertainty, who believed in their own strength and in each other, and who embraced their faith in order to put spirit into action.

And then and only then, in their eyes will shine the whole of the universe – a world that together fought AIDS – and lived on.

Our battle against AIDS is in an integral part of our broader struggle for equality, for justice, and for life. We have so much work left to do to address AIDS here in this country, and so much that we can share with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Far too many in this rich nation still go without proper care and support. Far too many still face homelessness and isolation. Far too many still experience prejudice due to AIDS.

We are far, far from the end of this terrible plague. There is no time to rest. For the sake of all those living with HIV and AIDS, and threatened by its devastation, we must fight on.

Let us join together in what Archbishop Desmond Tutu has called our 'holy war'
and do as we have promised to those who have passed before us. Remember those
old words of our nation's struggle for civil rights:

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on, till victory is won.