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[Issues] AIDS Vaccine [1]

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ISSUES - Vaccine
Initiative

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AIDS VACCINE Q&AS

Q: DOESN'T THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE RING HOLLOW SINCE YOU ARE NOT INVESTING ANY NEW RESOURCES DEVELOPING AN AIDS VACCINE?

A: The President has committed additional resources to developing an AIDS vaccine. In the last two years, he has increased funding for the AIDS vaccine by 33 percent and his FY 1998 budget increases spending for AIDS vaccine research by \$17 million.

Moreover, scientists have informed the President that it is not only money that we need to meet the challenge of finding an AIDS vaccine, but that we also need to promote collaboration between experts in this area. That is why the President has announced that there will be a new AIDS Vaccine Center at NIH which will unite scientists in immunology, virology, and vaccinology to join in a highly collaborative effort to develop an AIDS vaccine.

That is also why is he calling on the leaders of the eight major industrialized nations meeting at the Denver summit in June to support a worldwide AIDS vaccine research initiative. These important initiatives are what scientists believe we need to do to fully commit ourselves to the goal of developing an AIDS vaccine.

Q: IN 1985, MARGARET HECKLER PREDICTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE AN AIDS VACCINE IN TWO YEARS. THAT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO. MOREOVER, AT A RECENT CONFERENCE, DR. ROBERT GALLO INDICATED THAT WE MAY NEVER SEE AN EFFECTIVE AIDS VACCINE. WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE THAT WE CAN DEVELOP AN AIDS VACCINE IN A DECADE?

A: We know much more about the AIDS virus today than we knew in 1985 or even in 1995. Recent scientific advances have taught a great deal about how the AIDS virus infiltrates the human and begins to destroy the human immune system. We have developed a whole new series of drugs that inhibit the reproduction of the AIDS virus.

There are many credible scientists and medical researchers who are believe that it is not a question of whether we will ever get an AIDS vaccine but when. The scientific leaders at the National Institutes of Health have said that are extremely encouraged by recent progress in the AIDS vaccine and believe that the development of a vaccine is feasible. In fact, there were

numerous presentations at the conference that spoke about the tremendous progress we have made in the AIDS vaccine development and in vaccine development in general.

The President announced today that we should commit ourselves to developing an AIDS vaccine in the next ten years. He acknowledged that there are no guarantees. But he believes that we should commit our energy, our focus, and the efforts from our greatest minds to finding an AIDS vaccine.

Q: HOW ARE THE INITIATIVES THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TODAY BEING PAID FOR? ARE THEY A PART OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT?

A: All of the costs for developing an AIDS vaccine are being paid for by NIH's existing budget. NIH has already increased funding for AIDS vaccine research by 33 percent in the last two years -- from \$111 million in FY 1996 to \$148 million proposed in the President's FY 1998 budget. The President's FY 1998 budget alone calls for a \$17 million increase.

Q: IF WE ARE INVESTING MORE TO DEVELOP AN AID VACCINE AREN'T WE TAKING AWAY FROM INVESTMENTS ON TREATING PEOPLE WHO ALREADY SUFFER FROM THIS DISEASE?

A: Since he took office, the President has made an extraordinary commitment to increasing our investments in AIDS. Funding for AIDS research, prevention and care increased by more than 50 percent in the first four years of the Clinton Administration. Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), which help low-income people purchase needed therapies, has tripled, while funding for the Ryan White CARE Act increased 158 percent. The President believes that we need to continue to increase our investments in all of these areas and his FY 1998 budget reflects that commitment, with additional investments in AIDS research, prevention and care.

Q: THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT CALLS FOR CAPS ON DISCRETIONARY DOMESTIC SPENDING. WON'T ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AN AIDS VACCINE MEAN LESS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT PRIORITIES? WHY NOT EXPEND THIS KIND OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES ON A CURE FOR BREAST CANCER OR HEART DISEASE OR DIABETES?

A: This Administration has made a strong improving biomedical research an extremely important priority. We have increased investments in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health by an impressive 16 percent since the President took office.

These additional investments has been used to increase investments in biomedical research in a number of important areas. For example, funding for breast cancer research has increased by 76 percent since the President took office .

Developing an AIDS vaccine is one important priority in our investments in biomedical research. Without an effective vaccine, AIDS will soon take over as the leading cause of death for persons between the ages of 25 and 44. Between 650,00 and 900,000 Americans are estimated to be living with HIV and over 300,000 have died of AIDS.

While we have made enormous strides in the last year in treating AIDS, these treatments are not always effective and are often prohibitively expensive both for Americans and throughout the world. Also scientists at NIH believe that it is only a matter of time before we develop an AIDS vaccine.

Increasing our commitment to developing a vaccine could make an enormous difference and save millions of lives both in this country and throughout the world.

STATISTICS ON THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

National Trends

- Between 650,000 and 900,000 Americans are living with HIV.
- Since the AIDS epidemic began 500,000 Americans have been reported with AIDS -- 300,000 have died.
- An estimated 40,000 to 60,000 Americans are being infected with HIV each year.
- An average of 100 Americans are diagnosed with AIDS each day and 100 to 150 become infected with HIV every 24 hours.
- AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44.
- Women now comprise 14% of people with AIDS. If the current trends continue, an estimated 80,000 children will have been orphaned as a result of this disease by the end of the decade.
- In 1994 alone, 1,000 new pediatric cases of AIDS were reported.
- One in four new HIV infections in the U.S. occur among people under the age of 21.
- People of color have been disproportionately impacted by AIDS. As of October 1995, 38 percent of newly reported AIDS cases were with people of color

International Trends

- More than 29 million men, women and children around the world have been infected with HIV -- more than 3 million infections occurring within the last year.
- In 1995, 1.1 million adults and 350,000 children in the world died of AIDS.
- 8,500 people become infected with AIDS each day, including nearly 1,000 children.

- It has been estimated in some countries in subsaharan Africa that life expectancy has decreased by up to twenty years because of the AIDS epidemic.
- In 1992, in South Africa 2% of all women who came in for prenatal treatment were HIV positive and that number is up to 14%.
- Without an effective vaccine, AIDS will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading cause of death among persons between 25-44 years of age.

THE PRESIDENT INTRODUCES INITIATIVES TO FULFILL HIS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP AN AIDS VACCINE

Today President Clinton challenged the nation to commit itself to the goal of developing an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. The President also announced a number of important initiatives to help fulfill this commitment, including high-level international collaboration, a dedicated research center for AIDS vaccine research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and outreach to scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and patient advocates to maximize the involvement of both the private and public sectors in the development of an AIDS vaccine. The President has already taken steps to enhance the possibility of developing an AIDS vaccine by increasing funding for NIH vaccine research and development over 33 percent in the last two years. The initiatives the President announced today, which build on an exceptional commitment to develop better ways to prevent, diagnose, treat, and eventually cure AIDS, include:

- **A New NIH AIDS Vaccine Center.** A dedicated intramural HIV vaccine research and development center is being established at the National Institutes of Health. This vaccine center, which will be fully operational within the next several months, is uniting outstanding scientists in immunology, virology, and vaccinology to join in a highly-collaborative effort to develop an AIDS vaccine. Bringing together a broad array of researchers in an intensely-focused environment has been a successful way of developing vaccines in the past.
- **A Global AIDS Vaccine Research Initiative.** The United States is proposing that the leaders of the eight major industrialized nations meeting at the Denver Summit in June agree to support a worldwide AIDS vaccine research initiative. The proposal calls for each nation to make a commitment to provide the necessary investments in their country to accelerate research toward the development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine as a scientific and public health priority. Joint meetings of key scientists from participating nations will address research progress, identify scientific gaps and opportunities, and design collaborative programs.
- **A Challenge to Pharmaceutical Manufacture Industry to Invest in Innovative Research to Develop an AIDS Vaccine.** We can only be successful in developing an AIDS vaccine if private and public sectors make this goal a priority. The President is challenging the pharmaceutical industry to join the government in a partnership to realize this important goal.

Background on HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS remains a global public health threat. More than 29 million men, women and children around the world have been infected with HIV -- more than 3 million infections occurring within the last year. Without an

effective vaccine, AIDS will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading cause of death among persons between 25-44 years of age. Between 650,000-900,000 Americans are estimated to be living with HIV disease, and over 300,000 Americans have already died from AIDS.

Clinton Administration Accomplishments on HIV/AIDS. The Clinton Administration has made a sustained commitment to addressing the HIV epidemic through investments in prevention, research and treatment.

- **Increased funding for the NIH vaccine by 33 percent.** Funding for NIH vaccine research and development has increased over 33 percent in the last two years -- from \$111.1 million in FY 1996 to \$148 million proposed in the President's FY 1998 budget.
- **Funding for AIDS research, prevention and care increased by more than 50 percent in the first four years of the Clinton Administration.** Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), which help low-income people purchase needed therapies, has tripled, while funding for the Ryan White CARE Act increased 158 percent. The approval of new AIDS drugs has greatly accelerated, with 16 new AIDS drugs and two diagnostic tests.

Draft Communiqué Language
Denver Summit

31. Preventing the transmission of HIV infection and the development of AIDS is an urgent global public health imperative. While prevention and treatment methods must be pursued, the development of a safe and effective vaccine against AIDS holds the best chance of limiting, and eventually eliminating, the threat of this disease. We will [work to] provide the investments necessary to accelerate AIDS vaccine research, and together will enhance international scientific cooperation and collaboration. Cooperation among scientists and governments in the developed and developing world and international agencies will be critical. We call on other states to join us in this endeavor.

32. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) must help expand the scale and quality of the response to HIV/AIDS. As a group and with others, we will work to assure that it has resources adequate to fulfill its mandate.

PRESS FACT SHEET

HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research

Summit Outcome

- A political commitment by the Eight to provide the investments necessary for research toward the development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine as a scientific and public health priority.
- Enhanced international collaboration to accelerate AIDS vaccine research.

New AIDS Vaccine Development Initiatives

In a commencement address at Morgan State University, the President called for a national commitment to develop an AIDS vaccine within the next decade, and pledged to enlist other nations in this crusade at the Summit.

The President's initiative includes a new multi-faceted commitment to developing an effective AIDS vaccine, involving international scientific collaboration, a dedicated AIDS vaccine research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and outreach to scientists and pharmaceutical companies to maximize the involvement of the private sector in AIDS vaccine development.

International Collaboration

At the initiative of the Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, key scientists from the countries of the Eight will meet to address research progress, identify scientific gaps and opportunities, design collaborative programs aimed at utilizing the unique scientific and clinical resources of each participant, and share scientific information. These key scientists from nations integral to AIDS vaccine development will meet in concert with the U.S. NIH AIDS Vaccine Research Committee, chaired by Nobel Laureate David Baltimore. The primary role of this group will be to address the scientific issues related to the development of AIDS vaccine candidates for worldwide use.

New NIH AIDS Vaccine Center

A dedicated intramural HIV vaccine research and development center is being established at the National Institutes of Health. This laboratory will unite outstanding scientists in immunology, virology and vaccinology in a highly focused endeavor to further the development of AIDS vaccines.

White House Meeting with Industry on AIDS Vaccines

The President will convene a meeting to bring together leading government scientists and the CEOs of vaccine manufacturers to seek solutions to the complex issues that have deterred sustained participation of the pharmaceutical industry in HIV vaccine development.

AIDS Facts

A safe and effective AIDS vaccine is a global public health imperative. More than 29 million people have been infected with HIV. More than 3 million of these infections occurred in just the past year, with nearly 95% in the poorest parts of the world.

AIDS has brought about a significant decline in overall life expectancy in many African countries, threatening the economies of these already poor nations and robbing them of their workforce.

In the United States, AIDS is the leading cause of death among persons between 25-44 years of age. Between 650,000 - 900,000 Americans are estimated to be living with HIV disease, and over 300,000 Americans have already died from AIDS.

Without an effective vaccine, AIDS will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading infectious cause of death in the world.

Clinton Administration Accomplishments

The Clinton Administration has made a sustained commitment to addressing the HIV epidemic through investments in prevention, research and treatment, including increasing AIDS funding by more than 50% in the Administration's first four years. President Clinton's FY 1998 budget calls for almost \$150 million for HIV vaccine research, an increase of 33.6% over the FY 1996 appropriation.

Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, which help low-income people purchase needed therapies, has tripled, while funding for the Ryan White CARE Act has increased 158%. Approval of new AIDS drugs has greatly accelerated, with 16 new AIDS drugs and two new diagnostic tests approved since 1993. The NIH Office of AIDS Research has been strengthened to plan and carry out the AIDS research agenda, and a new AIDS Vaccine Research Committee has been established. Focused new investments in prevention now involve community planning to maximize local efforts.



White House Press Release

Remarks By The President To 65TH Annual U.S. Conference Of Mayors

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(San Francisco, California)

For Immediate Release
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Remarks By The President
To 65TH Annual **U.S. Conference Of Mayors**

Fairmont Hotel
San Francisco, California

9:50 A.M. Pdt

The President: Thank you. Well, we were outside and they played "Ruffles and Flourishes," and we had a momentary delay when we tried to decide whether **Mayor** Brown or I should walk in first. (Laughter.) We finally got it right, if you saw how -- (laughter.)

I am delighted to be here. I thank **Mayor** Daley for his warm introduction, fulfilling one of Clinton's laws of politics -- always be introduced by someone whose brother is in the Cabinet. (Laughter.) I'm glad to be here with Secretary Cuomo, Secretary Herman. Senator Boxer, thank you for joining us this morning. Representative Lofgren I think is here. **Mayor** Brown, thanks for putting on such a good show. Thanks for giving me another reason to come to San Francisco. To all the **mayors** here on the stage and in the audience, especially to **Mayor** Helmke and **Mayor** Cordini, who are about to assume their respective offices.

I saw my good friend, **Mayor** Rice. He said that today is his wife's birthday, so happy birthday -- there you are. Happy birthday. (Applause.)

I know that **Mayor** and Mrs. Webb are here. They hosted us at the Summit of the 8, and if they fall asleep during

the speech, I give them advance permission because they've been up for two or three days. (Laughter.) Denver did a great job.

Thank you, Tom Cochran, for the work you've done with us. I'd also like to just make a special note of my new Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House who has been here with you, Mickey Abarra, and Lynn Cutler who has also

been here. We're glad to have them working with you and I know you'll enjoy working with them.

And I'd like to announce my intention to fill Secretary Cuomo's former job as Assistant Secretary of Hud for Community Planning with the **Mayor** of Laredo, Texas, Sol Ramirez, who is right over here. Sol, stand up. (Applause.) Why anyone would be willing to leave Laredo to move to White House is beyond me, but I'm glad he agreed.

I always look forward to this meeting because I do believe **America's** most creative and gifted and effective public officials today are to be found among the **mayors**. I've always thought of you as friends and allies in doing **America's** work, and I've always thought that a lot of my job was to help you do your jobs better.

I imagine I have been in more urban neighborhoods, meeting with more different kinds of people about more different kinds of issues than any of my predecessors. I've certainly tried to make that the case because when I ran for President I knew that I needed to spend time in our cities to get to know the people, the problems, and the promise of the cities; to connect our cities with our suburbs and make people understand that these problems we share are common problems, and that the promise of **America** in this new century is a shared promise.

I also believed fervently, and I still believe, that **America** can never fulfill its complete promise until all our cities fulfill theirs. And I have watched you -- I see out in this audience -- I see **Mayor** White over there with his sympathetic arm injury with my leg there. Thank you very much. You'll be the company misery loves for me for a while. I have seen so many of you work so hard day in and day out to fulfill your own dreams, and I have seen the unique culture and richness of every city.

Mayor Abramson actually once took me to the Louisville Slugger Baseball Bat Factory -- and for all you baseball fans, they have a bat that Babe Ruth used in the season that he hit 60 home runs there. You can only find these kinds of things uniquely differently in all of our cities in **America**, where the various richness and diversity of **America** is wound together in a wonderful fabric of strong, united values.

So, to me, when I come here I think of you the way I thought of myself when I ran as -- in the derogatory term that my opponent put on me in 1992 -- as the governor of a small, southern state -- because in my former life and in your present life, we did not get hired to make speeches and to posture; we got hired to mobilize people, unite people and get things done, and denial was not an option. So I'm very glad to be here and I want to thank you for all you have done.

What a long way we have come. It wasn't so very long ago that huge numbers of Americans had just simply given up

on the prospect of our cities. But as Secretary Cuomo's

compelling report, The State of the Cities, proves, our cities are back. We've got the biggest economic resurgence in cities since World War II; the unemployment rate down by a third in our 50 largest cities; more downtowns coming back to life with sports and tourism and local business booming. Congratulations on your two new stadiums, Mayor Brown. We're taking back our streets from the worst ravages of crime. New waves of immigrants in our cities are making positive contributions with new energy and new businesses.

And because of your disciplined and creative leadership, the fiscal health of our cities is stronger than it has been in decades. Our cities are literally bursting with new ideas for reform that are actually changing people's lives.

I have seen what the empowerment zone has done in Detroit. I went to Toledo to see the oldest auto plant in America up and running and bursting at the seams with new employees, selling their products to Japan in large numbers. I have been to Boston where not a single child has been killed with a handgun in a year and a half. I know what the cities are doing, and I want America to know that the mayors of this country have literally changed the shared life of America in ways that affect not only our largest cities, but our smaller cities, and as I said, the relationship that is inexorably intertwined between the cities and the suburbs.

You have helped America come back. And I am grateful. But I also know, and you know, that we have much more to do. We have to have more jobs for those who must now leave the welfare rolls because they're able-bodied. We must meet the challenge of absorbing new immigrants. We must deal with the rising tide of juvenile violence and juvenile drug abuse which has in our country continued to rise even as the overall crime rate has dropped dramatically.

We must deal with the continued flight of the middle class to the suburbs. We must deal with the poor performance of too many of our schools, with the continuing health problems of too many people who live in the cities, and perhaps most important of all, with the continuing almost physical isolation of the poor in our cities -- most of them young adults and little children.

During my time as President, instead of trying to either impose ready-made solutions from Washington or ignore the problems altogether, we have tried to give you and your communities the support you need and the tools you need to meet your own challenges -- to use the national government to empower local leaders, to make the grass-roots progress that each and every one of you can celebrate.

We started with the economic program in 1993, which replaced trickle-down economics with invest-and-grow economics, and included a number of initiatives for the cities -- the empowerment zones and enterprise communities, the community

development financial institutions, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the dramatic increases in child nutrition. We continued with the urban initiatives of HUD, led by former Secretary Cuomo -- former Secretary Cisneros and his able team, including Andrew Cuomo -- that included an initiative on homelessness, on cleaning up our housing projects, on innovative ways to empower people who were

dependent upon public housing.

We continued with the crime bill, which was largely written by big-city **mayors**, prosecutors, and police officers. Its strategy was hotly disputed in the Congress by people who believed in rhetoric instead of reality. But the strategy is now no longer open to doubt, as we've just seen our fifth year of declining crime, in the last year the steepest decline in violent crime of all.

We continued with the initiatives before the welfare reform law was signed -- local initiatives in welfare which moved record numbers of people from welfare to work, and all the analysis showed that a great deal of them moved because of the local efforts that people were making.

The key to all this was to give individuals, families, and communities the power and the responsibility to solve their problems and make the most of their own lives. I want to press forward with this empowerment agenda. And today I would like to briefly discuss seven things that I think are important if our cities and, therefore, our country are to reach their full promise in the 21st century.

First, we've got to keep working until we extend the prosperity of this recovery to every neighborhood in **America**. Second, we have to do more to take back our streets from crime, and especially to prevent young people from falling into a life that will destroy themselves and people around them.

Third, we have to finish the job of welfare reform by creating enough jobs for all who can, and now must, work. Fourth, we have to extend the benefits of homeownership even more widely to meet our national goal of having more than two-thirds of the American people living in their own homes for the first time in history by the year 2000.

Fifth, we have to raise the standards in our schools and invest more in our young people. Sixth, we have to meet public health challenges, including Hiv and Aids. And, seventh, we have to create in our cities our national ideal of one **America** that crosses all racial, ethnic and other lines that divide us, committed to giving every child a chance to flourish and every citizen a chance to serve.

I want to work with you to put this agenda into action. HUD must be a good partner, the Labor Department will be a good partner, the rest of our administration must be a good partner. But we are working for you, to help you and your people do what they know how to do to make the most of their lives and their prospects.

First, let's talk about extending the benefits of the economic recovery. Our national economic strategy changed dramatically in 1993. We went from trickle-down economics to what I call invest and growth -- reduce the deficit, but invest more in our people and technology and in the progress of people in the future, and open the world to trade in American products and services.

This is clearly working. Our economy is the strongest in the world, the strongest it's been in a generation. **America** is now the world's number one exporter. Unemployment has been below five percent now for a few months for the first time

in 24 years, inflation at its lowest point in 30 years; over 12 million new jobs; the largest decline in income inequality since the 1960s -- a 77 percent cut in the deficit before the balanced budget agreement -- a 77 percent cut in the deficit -- from \$290 billion a year to less than \$70 billion this year. They said we could not cut the deficit and invest more in our people, but they were wrong. And you are reaping the benefits of that.

In this urban economic strategy that was a part, as I said, of the 1993 economic plan, the most important thing was to try to attract businesses and jobs back to our cities. We've created already 105 empowerment zones and enterprise communities, which provide a common combination of tax incentives and freedom from government red tape for you to attract new investment. And we are establishing a network of community development financial institutions to infuse our cities with capital.

It's very interesting to me -- I discovered when I became President that we had been funding such efforts all over the world for years in the poorest places in the world, places with far more limited prospects than poor people in the neighborhoods of **America**, to grow and to build businesses and to build a future -- and we had never done it in our country except on a very limited basis in Chicago and a few other cities. Now we are trying to do that all over the nation.

We reformed the Community Reinvestment Act so that it works better to steer private capital from mainstream commercial banks into poor inner city and rural communities. Now, since we reformed the Community Reinvestment Act there have been a number of studies which show that as much as \$100 billion had been invested in these communities, which means that since the Community Reinvestment Act was passed in 1977, 70 percent of all investments it was designed to direct have been made since 1993. I am proud of that and that also has contributed to the revitalization of many American communities. (Applause.)

We also recognize that a major barrier to urban economic growth is the contamination of otherwise attractive sites for development, known to you as brownfields -- a word that is still a total mystery to most Americans. But you know what they are and a lot of you have cleaned them up. We have worked

hard to make those brownfields into productive assets and to clean up a record number of toxic waste sites, more in the first three and a half years of our administration than in the previous 12 years.

When I reached our historic bipartisan budget agreement with the leaders of Congress, they pledged to work with us to keep this initiatives going -- to expand the empowerment zones, to expand the enterprise communities, to expand the brownfields tax incentives. Furthermore, they also agreed to funds necessary to clean up 500 more toxic waste sites, to more than double the amount of investment in the community development financial institutions, to provide for urban transportation needs for people on welfare who must travel to new jobs, and to help people on welfare get more work.

Now, all these initiatives are essential to the health of our cities. They also agreed to enough funds to cover half of the 10 million children in **America** who have no health insurance. That will make a dramatic difference to those of you who have severe health costs that are unmet and unfunded in your cities.

But on the tax side -- that is, dealing with the brownfields and the empowerment zones and the other tax incentives for the cities -- the plans put together by the House and Senate committees simply do not live up to the explicit commitment of the budget agreement -- and that is wrong.

I know that many in Congress do not share my enthusiasm for these programs. Many of them have never seen your reforms at work -- perhaps they cannot be blamed for not voting for what they don't know about. But the truth is that that budget agreement passed by overwhelming margins of both parties in both Houses. And I would think every member of Congress, without regard to party, would like to be known as a person who keeps his or her word. It is up to you to make sure that they have the chance to keep their word. Do not let Congress get out of the commitment they made on this issue. (Applause.)

The second thing we have to do is to keep up with our fight against crime and violence. You and I know that crime has been going down for years, and that the strategy we put together -- together -- of more police on the street, tougher punishment, fewer guns in the hands of criminals and more prevention programs to give people young people a chance to say yes to a brighter future -- we know this is historically effective. We know we had the largest decline in crime in 36 years last year. Murders dropped a stunning 11 percent. Cities all around the country, including our host city here, have had big declines in crime. I have been on the streets of so many of the cities here present to see you and listen to you and your police officers and community leaders talk about what you've done on crime.

But a nationally publicized poll just last week asked the American people whether crime was going up or down; 25 percent said down and 60 percent said up. Why is that? Partly, it takes a while for public perception always to catch up with reality. Partly, it's that the local news still leads with the crime story every night. And that's a problem for a lot of you and the image you're trying to fashion for your cities. But partly it's because, with all the drops in crime, **America** is a place with too much violence and too much crime -- still, with all the progress we have made.

We have to finish the job of putting 100,000 police on the street. I will fight to make sure we keep that commitment. (Applause.) We have to continue to push for real juvenile justice legislation. We put a bill before the Congress that has more prosecutors, more probation officers, more after-school and other programs for at-risk young people. It's not very long on rhetoric; it's real long on results. And it basically grew out of what I have seen working.

I mentioned the Boston program. I went to Houston and **Mayor** Lanier showed me what he did, mobilizing 3,000 inner-city kids in a soccer league, and before Tiger Woods won the Masters, 2,500 inner-city kids in a golf league. Giving our children something to say yes to -- that's a part of juvenile justice.

I've been to places where the probation officers and the police officers make house calls, and where people walk the streets and try to keep kids out of trouble. We just need a national bill which gives you the tools to do what you know you

can do to save these kids lives. That's all I want to do. And I want you to help me pass that kind of juvenile justice bill through the Congress, so that you can save the children of your cities. And I believe we can do that. (Applause.)

Let me say, you can go from New York to San Diego, from Seattle and Portland all the way to Southern Florida, and if you go to city to city to city, you see that it seems to be the everyday presence of law enforcement officers on our streets, working with citizens, that has done the most to bring the crime rate down.

We have done our part by trying to help you put 100,000 more police on the street. We've come a long way from 1992, when we've seen the violent crime rate triple in the preceding 30 years, with only a 10-percent increase in police officers. And you have learned so much more about how to deploy those police officers. It's been really impressive.

I want to increase that presence even more by getting police to live in the communities they serve. Today I am pleased to announce that over the coming year we will start an Officer Next Door program through Hud. It will make it possible for police officers and their families to buy Hud-owned single-family homes in our central cities at a 50 percent discount. (Applause.)

You have shown me how more police officers on our streets have made so many our neighborhoods feel like home again. Just imagine what it will be like when more police make those neighborhoods their homes again.

And let me say just parenthetically -- I want to give a little pat to Secretary Cuomo here -- when I appointed him, I said, you know, I don't understand why Hud needs to keep all this surplus property all the time. Why do we need all this inventory. It's not doing any good just laying out there. And this is just the first of what I hope will be many initiatives. But if we can give these police officers and their families 50 percent discounts to move back into the inner cities, it will be some of the best money the federal government ever spent, and we want to do more of those things. (Applause.)

The third thing we have to do is to make sure we create jobs for the roughly 1 million people that have to move from welfare to work by the year 2000. Under the present welfare reform law, whatever happens to the economy, we have to move nearly a million people from welfare to work. We moved nearly a million people, about 900,000, from welfare to work in the last four years when we had welfare reform experiments going in 40 of the 50 states, and many of those only in part of the states. But when our economy in four years produced over 11 million new jobs, that had never happened before in a four-year administration. In the next four years, we have to move that many people whether we produce 11 million more jobs or not. Can we do it? I believe we can.

I know a lot of you thought I made a mistake by signing the welfare reform bill. Remember, I vetoed two previous bills because I thought they were too tough on kids and too weak on work. But when we put back the guarantee of nutrition and health care to our children, when we came up with \$4 billion for child care, when we agreed to leave the funding at the states equal to the amount they were getting when welfare rolls were at

their all-time high, I thought it was worth the chance to change the culture of dependency.

Today, on the front page of the local newspaper, there is a study by the Federal Reserve of San Francisco saying that the rolls have dropped another 500,000 since the law came into effect, and they are no going down in virtually every state in the Union. We've finally got a big drop here in California, which because it didn't come back as quickly as the other states, it didn't have drops as soon. We can make this work. We can make this work.

In the budget agreement, we got agreement to restore the most egregious cuts in aid to immigrants, which I thought were wrong -- the cuts to legal immigrants who come here, live by the rules and work hard, through no fault of their own become disabled. We are going to restore those cuts, and I will not sign the bill unless Congress keeps its commitment in the budget agreement to do that. (Applause.)

But that's in the agreement. We have \$600 billion through the Department of Transportation to help people on welfare travel to work, because there are a lot of cities in which right now, and maybe by the time the benefits run out, there won't be jobs but they're are willing workers.

There was an interesting study involving Atlanta not very long ago, which said that in inner-city Atlanta, something like 80 percent of the jobs in the restaurants, fast-food restaurants, were held by low-income people who lived in the cities; in the suburbs, only slightly more than 50 percent were. Obviously, if there was more transportation availability, we could do a better job of moving people that have to go to work where the jobs are -- sometimes even within the cities themselves. So Secretary Slater and I are committed to that.

Most important of all, I have fought hard for, and it is in the budget agreement, and so far it's moving along nicely through the Congress for \$3 billion in welfare-to-work funds, which specifically gives our cities, working with the Department of Labor as well as with Hud and Hhs and others, the resources that you need to create good jobs for people who can't get them otherwise.

This is very important. Last year in Chicago there were six applicants for every entry-level job that opened up; in St. Louis there were nine. It is not true that these people don't go to work. And it is not realistic to expect that we can get all of them to work within the time deadlines unless we put this money out there where you can use it to create jobs, good jobs for people who need them. So I ask you to help me pass that in the Congress. (Applause.)

And, finally, let me say I know a lot of you are making new partnerships with the private sector. **Mayor** Brown told me this morning that the private sector here in San Francisco had pledged to him that they would take 2,000 people from welfare to work on their own initiative. In this bill there is a new tax credit, very tightly drawn, that gives a 50-percent credit for up to \$10,000 in wages for people who are hired from welfare to work. That also is in the budget agreement and must pass. (Applause.)

Let me say, finally -- I want to emphasize this

again just in case there are some of you who don't know it -- the states of this country are getting over 20 percent more money today for welfare than they would have gotten under the old welfare law. They are still getting the same amount of money they got when welfare rolls were at an all-time high. We have had the largest reduction in welfare rolls in the history of the **United States** by far. They still have that money. What are they doing with it? You have to make sure that that money is spent in a way that helps the people, most of whom live in your jurisdictions, to go to work. If they need training, get them training.

And let me say one other thing. One of the problems we have ameliorated in this deal but not completely solved is what happens to the single men who aren't on welfare in the first place? Most Americans when they talk about welfare reform are thinking about all able-bodied people who are idle because of the system. The biggest social problems out there, I would argue, are with the young, single men. What's going to happen to them? This money can be spent to help you put them to work.

Now, I cannot do anything directly about that, but I implore you to go back to the people who represent you in the state legislatures and see how much money your states got, and ask them to use some of that money to give these young men a chance to build their lives, too, because they need to be a part of our future. (Applause.)

The fourth thing we need to do to make our cities places that anybody would be proud to call home is to make it easier for people to have homes in our cities. Homeownership is one of the most empowering things we can ever do for anyone. Since I took office, 4.7 million people across **America** have become homeowners for the first time. Homeownership has had big, big increases. As I said, our goal is to have more than two-thirds of the American people in their own homes by the year 2000 for the first time ever.

But you know and I know not enough homes are in our cities. In the last four years we've reduced Fha mortgage premiums three times, to lower the average closing cost on a new home by \$1,200. That's made a lot of difference to a lot of young people, and I'm proud of that. Today, we're going to cut the premium another \$200 for people if they buy homes in our central cities. (Applause.) This will bring the total reduction since we took office of closing costs to those families to \$1,400.

Also, we know that there are many hard-working families who receive Section 8 assistance who are ready to assume the responsibility of owning their own homes, but they can't take the first step. Hud now has a very innovative program before the Congress that would allow those families to use their rent vouchers to help to buy a home. Today, I'm happy to announce that Freddie Mac is going to help us launch this homeownership empowerment voucher initiative by financing up to 2,000 of these mortgages.

Together with the Officer Next-Door program, this represents almost \$700 million in down payment toward our priority of strengthening our cities family by family, by helping more people buy a home in the cities of **America**. And I hope you will support that as well. (Applause.)

The fifth thing we need to do is to make sure that our schools work and that all our children, no matter where they

live, get the best education in the world. I know only a few **mayors** actually have any control over the school systems in your cities, but every **mayor** must be concerned about quality of education in your cities. We know one of the main reasons families continue to leave cities is they simply don't think the schools are doing a good enough job.

Just this week, Hillary was visiting in a school system where junior high kids were talking to her about the problems they face. We know that these years are especially critical. But we also know our schools are capable of working.

Let me just give you one example. I hope that all of you noticed that for the very first time since we started participating in the international test on math and science, our 4th graders -- only a few thousand of them, about 13,000 of them around the country took these tests, but they are representative by race, income, and region -- scored well above the international average in math and science for the first time. We can make all our schools work. You know that, and I know it, but we have to.

Our 8th graders are still below the international average, and all of you know from your own experience what happens to these kids when they're subject to difficult influences and tough circumstances, when they get into those early teenage years. That's when we're losing so many of them. And we have to make our schools work if we're going to bring them back. We just have to do it. (Applause.)

We're working hard to connect every classroom in **America** to the Internet by the year 2000. Last evening, I met with some representatives of the high-tech community who were helping us to do that. We've had wonderful support from industry, and a lot of your communities are just doing this anyway. But I'm telling you, when we've got every classroom and every library and every school in **America** connected to the Internet, and then when we learn to teach the parents of those children how to access the Internet so they can communicate regardless of their work schedules with the teachers -- was my kid in school today -- with the principals -- what can I do to help -- when we do that, we are going to revolutionize learning in this country. We will democratize it for the first time ever.

And it won't matter whether a child is living on a Native American reservation or an inner-city neighborhood in Los Angeles, or remote town in the Ozarks of North Arkansas -- they will all be able to get the same learning in the same way at the same time for the first time in history. And all of us, whether we have direct responsibility for the schools or not, have an obligation to get that done as quickly as possible. (Applause.)

Secretary Riley and I are working to mobilize a million volunteers to make sure that by the year 2000 every 8-year-old, wherever he or she lives and whatever their native language is, can read independently by the 3rd grade. That is also terribly important.

We're working to make sure that 100,000 teachers in **America** are certified as master teachers, so that in every school building in the country there will be at least one teacher that you know has had the finest training available and passed the

most rigorous standards that can then be imparted to other teachers in the school building. And above all, we have challenged our schools to set and meet high national standards.

Let me say, I am gratified that education officials representing over 20 percent of the children we educate in this country have agreed to participate in national exams like the international tests of reading for 4th graders and math for 8th graders by the year 1999. But a lot of people are holding back in these states. They say we don't want the federal government to take this over. The federal government has nothing to do with it, except we're paying for the test.

The vast majority of our states today participate in a National Assessment of Educational Progress, but they only give the test to a representative sample. They don't give it to all the kids in all the school districts in **America**.

Look at these last international tests. We have nothing to be afraid of. The only thing that's going to wreck our schools is if we hide our head in the sand, we don't say what the standards are, we don't measure whether our kids are meeting them, and we say, well, they just can't make it because they're poor or they come from some disadvantaged background. That is a load of bull. We need to get this out in the open and make sure all of our kids can meet these standards. (Applause.)

I spent a couple of hours with **Mayor** Daley and the people that are operating the Chicago school system not very long ago. The Chicago school system used to be known as the school system that went on strike every year whether they needed to or not. (Laughter.) Every year in the Chicago paper, when I served as governor and Jim Thompson was the governor, and his child was a student in the schools, there was always -- you could just wait for a certain time of the year, there would be a picture of little Samantha Thompson, who wouldn't be in school because the strike was going on. Now the Chicago schools are known for moving aggressively to stop social promotion, to raise performance, and that the city will take over the schools that are failing and straighten them up.

We can do this. We can all do this.

The sixth thing we have to do is to do more to deal with issues of public health. And let me say something especially about Hiv and Aids, because it grips so many of our cities, it costs so much money, but for more important, it costs so much in human lives and trauma.

Last month, I issued a call to find an Aids vaccine within the next 10 years. We have continued to dramatically increase the amount of money we're putting into research for that purpose alone, while having dramatic increases in care, prevention and other basic research.

Yesterday in Denver, the other leading industrial nations of the world pledged to help us meet that challenge. But until there is a vaccine, you have to help us and we have to do more in the area of prevention. It's our strongest weapon. That's why we have to continue to identify sound public health strategies that enable local communities to address the twin epidemics of Aids and substance abuse -- and you know better than anyone how intertwined they are. We will continue to work to provide the best treatment, the best services, the finest drugs.

And we will help you to meet the cost.

And let me also say, we can't stop until we find a cure to bring a permanent end to the epidemic, nor can we limit our efforts only to Hiv and Aids. We know that in the 21st century, as people move around the world more rapidly, one of the single most significant security threats of the future will be the spread of infectious diseases that are no more than the airline flight of one infected person on another continent away from your community. We know that.

We have got to build up our public health infrastructures and we have to make sure that we have basic health services out there for all our children, which is why I say, again, one of the most important aspects of this new budget agreement is the funds it gives us to give health insurance to half the 10 million kids who don't have it. We need to keep going until every child in every community in **America** has health insurance coverage, and the people that are providing health care can get reimbursement so we can build a network to protect our kids to give them good health and to deal with the challenges that are bound to come to **America's** cities in the future. (Applause.)

The last thing I want to ask you to do is to make our cities the model of the one **America** we're trying to create, which deals not only with the racial initiative that I announced in San Diego nine days ago, but also with the primary purpose of the President's Summit of Service that **Mayor** Rendell hosted in Philadelphia not very long ago.

Keep in mind, the purpose of the Summit of Service was quite specific: it was to save every child in **America**; to give every child a safe place to grow up; every child the health care he or she needs; every child a decent education so they'll be able to support themselves when they get out of school; every child a mentor who needs it -- every single one a mentor, one-on-one, who needs it; and every child the chance to engage in citizen service.

Now, what's our job at the national level? An adequate education budget; a better health care effort; a crime program that will really work in the area of juvenile justice to give you the tools you need; and the work we do to help provide AmeriCorps volunteers that have done so much to help you fulfill your mission in city after city in **America**.

But you have to help us do that. That was not a one time public relations stunt for me. I agreed to do that President's Summit of Service because it had a very sharply defined mission, and because it did not let me off the hook and it did not let government off the hook. It said, we can't expect volunteers to replace what is the public responsibility in education, health care and public safety, but neither can you expect just that responsibility to change the lives of these children who are physically isolated.

I see **Mayor** Menino looking at me there. He may get some money from the federal government to hire police, but they decided that they'd have police and probation officers make house calls to kids in trouble, and they have an astonishing 70 percent compliance with probation orders in the city of Boston. I feel quite confident that that is virtually unheard of in **America**.

So there are things that you have to do. And there are things that even you can't do to give all these kids mentors. But you can get people to do that and then give them a chance to serve. Our national survey before that summit showed that 90 percent of the children in this country said they would -- including the poorest kids -- said they would be happy to engage in service themselves, but someone needed to ask them and tell them what to do. That is the job of adults.

So I want you to understand, I intend to do my job that I promised to do at the Summit of Service. You have a role to play, but we have to recognize that it doesn't matter how rich you are, it doesn't matter how successful we are, if we keep raising generation after generation of poor children that are literally physically isolated from the rest of us, this country will never fulfill the American Dream. And we don't have to put up with it. And you can help us change it.

And the last thing I want to say about this dialogue on race is that it is the cities that have the biggest stake in this endeavor. Today Hawaii is the only state in **America** that has no majority race. But no one who has ever been there doubts it is very much an American place -- patriotic, upbeat, entrepreneurial. Within three or four years, California will have no majority race. Within 30 years, there will be no majority race in the country. Today, in **Mayor** Archer's home county, there are people from 146 different racial and ethnic groups.

Now, people expect that in Southern California. But we're talking about Michigan, in the heartland. No one -- I would say no one -- virtually no one has stopped to think about what **America** will be like in a generation. And you say, well, Bosnia at least couldn't happen here. That's probably true

because we have too much stake in our shared prosperity. But don't forget how quickly people who live together as neighbors for generation after generation have turned on each other -- in Africa, in Bosnia.

Don't forget how totally irrational it seems to us as outsiders, especially those of us who are Irish, that our relatives in Northern Ireland continue with what we think of as madness in the face of all the evidence that the world and the 20-odd percent of us who are Americans are dying to help them rebuild a better future than they could ever imagine if they would just give up hating each other because of 600-year-old disputes rooted in their religious differences. (Applause.)

We have a chance here to do something that has never been done in all of human history, since people first began together in tribes before there was a written history, and identified people who looked different from them and lived different from them as their potential enemies -- we have a chance to rewrite the rules of human evolution almost by building the world's first truly great multiracial, multiethnic democracy. And it will have to be done in the cities where the people are.

So, I say to you, we have an opportunity here because we're doing this not after some riots, not because we know there's a big, long legislative agenda that needs to be passed, but because we know there is still prejudice and

discrimination and, maybe even more important, still stereotyping which blinds us to the possibilities of our people.

Why do you really think that so many people are reluctant to belly up to the bar and participate in these national tests? Not because they're afraid that the test scores will be bad the first time, but because they're afraid they'll never get any better, because of our stereotyping -- the shackles in our minds. We cannot afford it. The cities cannot afford it.

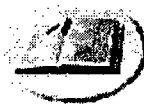
The cities of **America** are bursting with excitement and success. There's hardly a one you can go to that just doesn't fill you with the human potential and connections that are being made. We have to make that the rule in **America**. We have to make that the order of the day. We have to make that the governing public philosophy of all our citizens. And if we do, our lives will be a lot more fun and a lot more interesting. And being a **mayor** will be even more exciting 10 years from now and 20 years from now and 30 years from now than it is today.

So, I say to you, all the other things I said, none of it will happen, and you know it won't happen, unless we learn to live together, relishing, celebrating, loving our diversity, but being bound by things that are even more important.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

End

10:40 A.M. Pdt



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT INTRODUCES INITIATIVES TO FULFILL HIS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP AN AIDS VACCINE

Today President Clinton challenged the nation to commit itself to the goal of developing an AIDS vaccine within the next ten years. The President also announced a number of important initiatives to help fulfill this commitment, including high-level international collaboration, a dedicated research center for AIDS vaccine research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and outreach to scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and patient advocates to maximize the involvement of both the private and public sectors in the development of an AIDS vaccine. The President has already taken steps to enhance the possibility of developing an AIDS vaccine by increasing funding for NIH vaccine research and development over 33 percent in the last two years. The initiatives the President announced today, which build on an exceptional commitment to develop better ways to prevent, diagnose, treat, and eventually cure AIDS, include:

- **A New NIH AIDS Vaccine Center.** A dedicated intramural HIV vaccine research and development center is being established at the National Institutes of Health. This vaccine center, which will be fully operational within the next several months, is uniting outstanding scientists in immunology, virology, and vaccinology to join in a highly-collaborative effort to develop an AIDS vaccine. Bringing together a broad array of researchers in an intensely-focused environment has been a successful way of developing vaccines in the past.
- **A Global AIDS Vaccine Research Initiative.** The United States is proposing that the leaders of the eight major industrialized nations meeting at the Denver Summit in June agree to support a worldwide AIDS vaccine research initiative. The proposal calls for each nation to make a commitment to provide the necessary investments in their country to accelerate research toward the development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine as a scientific and public health priority. Joint meetings of key scientists from participating nations will address research progress, identify scientific gaps and opportunities, and design collaborative programs.
- **A Challenge to Pharmaceutical Manufacture Industry to Invest in Innovative Research to Develop an AIDS Vaccine.** We can only be successful in developing an AIDS vaccine if private and public sectors make this goal a priority. The President is challenging the pharmaceutical industry to join the government in a partnership to realize this important goal.

Background on HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS remains a global public health threat. More than 29 million men, women and children around the world have been infected with HIV -- more than 3 million infections occurring within the last year. Without an effective vaccine, AIDS will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading cause of death among persons between 25-44 years of age. Between 650,000-900,000 Americans are estimated to be living with HIV disease, and over 300,000 Americans have already died from AIDS.

Clinton Administration Accomplishments on HIV/AIDS. The Clinton Administration has made a sustained commitment to addressing the HIV epidemic through investments in prevention, research and treatment.

- **Increased funding for the NIH vaccine by 33 percent.** Funding for NIH vaccine research and development has increased over 33 percent in the last two years -- from \$111.1 million in FY 1996 to \$148 million proposed in the President's FY 1998 budget.
- **Funding for AIDS research, prevention and care increased by more than 50 percent in the first four years of the Clinton Administration.** Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), which help low-income people purchase needed therapies, has tripled, while funding for the Ryan White CARE Act increased 158 percent. The approval of new AIDS drugs has greatly accelerated, with 16 new AIDS drugs and two diagnostic tests.

**OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Presidential Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS

FAX NUMBER:

FROM: Sandra L. Thurman

DATE: 5/19/97

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

COMMENTS: RE: AIDS Vaccine Initiative

I apologize that I was unable to provide sufficient notice regarding the announcement of the President AIDS Vaccine Initiative to the full Council. In the future I will work to ensure that sufficient time is given to the Council for proper notice and feedback.

I look forward to all the challenges ahead and will work to ensure an active role of the Council in meeting those challenges.



U.S. NEWS

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Clinton's challenge: Find AIDS vaccine by 2007

May 18, 1997

Web posted at: 1:38 p.m. EDT (1738 GMT)

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Clinton proclaimed a national goal of finding a vaccine for AIDS by the year 2007 in a commencement speech at Morgan State University in Baltimore on Sunday.



(CNN)

Acknowledging that finding a vaccine would be a difficult task, Clinton compared the search with President John F. Kennedy's early 1960s call to put a man on the moon by the end of that decade.

"He gave us a goal of reaching the moon and we achieved it ahead of time," Clinton told graduates of the predominantly black college in Maryland's largest city. "Today, let us look within and step up to the challenge of our time."

"There are no guarantees," he said. "It will take energy and focus and demand great effort from our greatest minds."

Clinton on AIDS research:

(264K/24 sec. [AIFF](#) or [WAV](#) sound)



Clinton calls for an AIDS vaccine:

(162K/14 sec. [AIFF](#) or [WAV](#) sound)

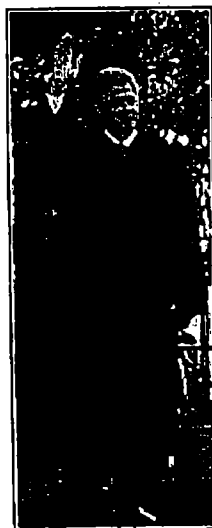
But the president said the question is no longer whether a vaccine can be created, but simply when.

Clinton's optimism is not shared by some AIDS researchers, however, and administration officials said preparation of the president's speech sparked intense debate about the feasibility of finding a vaccine in a decade.

Presidential Goals on AIDS

- ◆ A vaccine by 2007
- ◆ A new AIDS vaccine research center
- ◆ More international cooperation in the fight against AIDS

Dr. Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, said last week there was a "serious possibility" no vaccine would ever be discovered. And Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said too many "unknowns" about HIV were "major stumbling blocks" to finding a vaccine.



(CNN)

But the president wanted to set a deadline to make clear that finding the vaccine was a high priority. He also chose predominantly African-American Morgan State for the announcement to underscore his commitment to the black community, which is disproportionately affected by AIDS.

Clinton announced the creation of a dedicated AIDS vaccine research unit at the National Institutes of Health, although no additional funds have been earmarked for the research. Instead, scientists will come from existing NIH programs.

Clinton also included in his address Sunday a renewed pledge to carry out research at the highest standard of ethics to ensure there is never a repetition of a government study in Tuskegee, Alabama, on poor black men whose syphilis went untreated for years.

"We must never allow our citizens to be unwitting guinea pigs in scientific experiments that put them at risk without their consent," the president said.

Clinton held an emotional White House ceremony on Friday during which he publicly apologized to the victims of the Tuskegee study, which began in the 1930s.

CNN Plus

□ Fitness and Health - AIDS

REMOVING BARRIERS TO WORK FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The President's budget includes important steps to make it possible for more people with disabilities to work. A large and growing number of people with disabilities can work, and want to work. With the ADA, changes in societal attitudes, and advances in technology, it is clearer than ever that being disabled does not mean that you can't contribute to our nation's economy. However, people with disabilities face a variety of complex barriers to work.

Therefore, the President's budget addresses this critical problem with the following three initiatives designed to assist people with disabilities who are eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

- **New State Option on Medicaid:** The budget proposes to help people with disabilities work without losing their health care coverage. Today, people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who go to work lose Medicaid if their earnings exceed caps that vary by state. Yet, it is often especially difficult for people with disabilities to get private insurance, especially coverage for any preexisting conditions. As a result, many people who are eligible for SSI "manage" their income to ensure that they keep Medicaid -- by stopping work when they hit the caps, or even turning down promotions. The President's proposal would create a new state option that would allow SSI beneficiaries with disabilities who earn more than these caps to keep Medicaid by contributing to the cost of their coverage as their income rises.
- **Medicare:** The President's budget authorizes a four-year demonstration to encourage Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries to return to work. Under the demonstration, certain SSDI beneficiaries who have exhausted their coverage would be eligible for up to four additional years of premium-free Part A coverage.
- **Pay for Results for Rehabilitation Services:** The Administration is proposing a new strategy to encourage more SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to return to work. Currently, the Social Security Administration refers some SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Under this pilot proposal, SSDI and SSI beneficiaries could choose their own public or private rehabilitation providers. Providers who successfully assist beneficiaries in leaving the rolls and returning to work would be paid a percentage of the disability benefits saved. These payments would continue only as long as the person remained off the rolls, up to a maximum of five years. Because providers would be rewarded for results rather than for their costs, this should encourage more providers to have a continuing interest in their clients' long term success, which in turn may lead to more beneficiaries returning to work.

This plan creates new ways to help people find work and achieve their goals. The Administration looks forward to working with the Hill to enact these proposals. Since there are members of Congress from both sides of the aisle who are also working to solve this problem, we are hopeful that we will have a constructive dialogue that will lead to the enactment of legislation.



bgw2 @ NIP1.EM.CDC.GOV
05/20/97 07:08:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Daniel C. Montoya

cc:

Subject: Re: President Clinton on AIDS Vaccines

Dear Dr. Kozlov,

Thank you very much for your message reacting to President Clinton's speech on AIDS vaccines, and indicating Russia's interest in collaborating with the U.S. in achieving the goal of an AIDS vaccine.

I will share this reply with the President's advisors on AIDS so they may be aware of your interest in their planning for future international meetings where this issue will be discussed.

With best regards,

Bruce G. Weniger

From: Andrey P. Kozlov

To: bgw2

Cc: bwg2

Subject: President Clinton on AIDS Vaccines

Date: Saturday, May 17, 1997 6:39PM

Priority: High

Dear Dr. Weniger:

Thank you for your E-mail of May 14 and for President Clinton's speech. I really appreciate this. I do think that there is a room for most fruitful collaboration between our two great nations in the field of HIV vaccine development. In fact, I have discussed these possibilities with Dr. Eric Goosby and Ms. Sandy Thurman during our meeting on May 8 well before President Clinton made his important announcement. I think we really experience the beginning of a new important collaboration in biomedical research. I am looking forward for future collaborations with your and other US agencies involved in HIV vaccine development.

With best regards,

Andrei Kozlov, Ph.D.
Coordinator,
Russian HIV vaccine R&D Project

From: Weniger, Bruce
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 1997 1:08PM
To: Kozlov, Andrei (St Ptrsbrg RU)
Cc: Chen, Bob; Mawle, Alison C.; Heyward, William; Hadler, Stephen;
Livengood, John; Orenstein, Walt
Subject: Vaccine Research and Development

Dr. Andrei Kozlov
Biomedical Center
Research Institute of Pure Biochemicals
7, Pudozskija Street
St. Petersburg, 197110 RUSSIA

Dear Dr. Kozlov,

It was very nice to meet you at the AIDS vaccine meeting at NIH last week, and to learn about your institute's background and plans for a expanded development effort for new vaccines for various diseases.

We look forward to hearing about your progress.

If you ever have the opportunity to visit Atlanta, we would welcome your making a visit to CDC, where we would be happy to try to arrange appointments with staff working on various specific diseases of interest to you. If there is any other way we might be of assistance in your vaccine R&D efforts, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce G. Weniger, MD, MPH

Vaccine Safety and Development Activity
National Immunization Program
CDC (E-61), 1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333 USA

Tel: [1] (404) 639-8779
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E-mail: bgw2@cdc.gov



bgw2 @ NIP1.EM.CDC.GOV
05/20/97 12:50:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Daniel C. Montoya

cc:

Subject: FW: President Clinton on AIDS Vaccines (F-J)

DANIEL, PLEASE PASS TO SANDRA. Thanks.

Dear Don and Helen,

You can imagine how pleased I was and so proud of Sandra and our President for taking the courageous stand he did. What a wonderful speech, especially the part that some issues and prioritizing decisions are too important to be the exclusive province of scientists. Thanks, Sandra!

Setting a goal is certainly more symbolic than substantive at this point. But such a goal is a first step towards twisting the arms of the bureaucracies so as eventually to start asking them "What is CDC doing to apply its institutional experience and capabilities and budgetary discretion to further the goal in time? What is NIH doing to double and redouble again the current 9% efforts of its current AIDS research budget? Why has the military's AIDS vaccine research budget been dropping in recent years.

Don, your suggestion of a broad intersectoral conference to immediately begin following up on the goal declaration is a great idea. Each agency and sector can be asked to come to the table to explain what it is prepared to do, and thus discover and address the gaps in leadership, targeted research, liability and policy issues, etc.

So I am cc:ing this to Sandra (although I don't have her new e-mail address, Daniel M. can get this to her).

I just heard Bill Foege's distinguished lectureship speech making the case for measles eradication before the National Immunization Conference in Detroit this evening. We need an equivalent "product champion" and advocate for the AIDS vaccine goal.

Sandra, the vaccine advocacy community develops someone of that stature, perhaps us mere mortals can work as a team to accomplish the goal. What do you think?

Regards to all.

Bruce

From: "Don Francis, M.D." <dona1df@gene.COM>
Date: Mon, 19 May 1997 10:56:23 -0800
To: "Weniger, Bruce" <bgw2@NIP1.EM.CDC.GOV>, helenmm@itsa.ucsf.edu
Subject: Re: President Clinton on AIDS Vaccines (F-J)

--

Dear Bruce and Helen:

Congratulations on finally getting the President to take a stand on AIDS vaccines.

Now comes the hard part - making policy into real programs. If just another NIH bureaucracy is established to carry out the President's plan, then nothing will happen.

Clearly the past problems of NIH will not be solved by another NIH group. NIH does what it does well. But there should be other government agencies doing what they do best. This involves CDC and unfortunately, you will be viewed as having a conflict. Perhaps you should move the whole ball forward by convening a group of industry (vaccine developers), community-non-profit (Rockefeller, Until There's a Cure, Bill Snow's group, etc.) and gov't agencies (NIH, CDC, FDA, Small Business Admin, etc.) to organize a action plan.

Someone must take charge now. To sit back and see what happens, will result in more of the same. I would be happy to discuss this with Sandy Thurman, who may be given the lead.

Don

FYJ

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515
May 14, 1997

Briefing on AIDS Vaccines
Wednesday, May 21, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
HC-7, The Capitol

West stairs -

Dear Colleague:

The **Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS** would like to invite you and your staff to a briefing on AIDS Vaccines.

The speakers will be:

Dr. Anthony Fauci Director, National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute for Health

Seth Berkley Associate Director, Health Sciences, The Rockefeller Foundation. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

Margaret Johnston Scientific Director, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

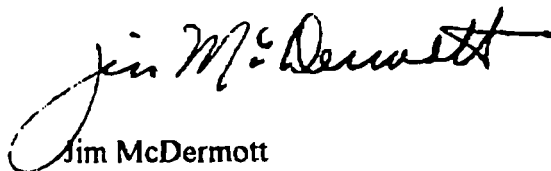
Dr. Jerald Sadoff Executive Director, Vaccine and Infectious Diseases, Merck Pharmaceuticals

Dramatic advances in the treatment of HIV/AIDS have raised hopes that the epidemic might be declining. Nevertheless, because of the epidemic, average life expectancy throughout Africa is again declining. Expansive drugs and new treatments are not available to everyone, especially not in the developing world, where ninety percent of HIV/AIDS infections are occurring. Therefore, the only possibility to control the global epidemic is a vaccine.

According to the Rockefeller Foundation, only eight percent of worldwide AIDS research funds are spent for vaccine development. The pharmaceutical industry also seems to be reluctant to invest in the development of a vaccine. This briefing will give us the opportunity to learn about the current status of AIDS vaccine research.

We hope that you and your staff will be able to attend this important briefing. If you have any questions, please call Kirsten Gerstner at 5-3106 (Rep. McDermott).

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Constance Morella
Member of Congress

Seth Berkun -

Mozilla circulating petition to ask for an increase in
XBL budget from current $\approx 2.6\%$ to 9%

1. Market related issues to drive the research
i.e. Uganda: who will pay for the vaccine
2. Other related issues i.e. liability, etc.
3. Financing very expensive because of
multiparallel approaches

Peggy Johnston -

1. General areas
2. Specific programs - a. Subtypes C + E b. Live attenuated design
3. Future objectives

Gordon Douglas: Mucosal vaccines
responsible for many currently used vaccines
including Hep B

Efficient in animals does not exist
lack of accepted markers

Barriers include:

worldwide distribution
WHO > take steps to deliver vaccines to poorest areas
WHO

Supply barriers include:

inadequate

parallel trade

govt price + profit controls

black market sales

quality assurance

inadequate resources

support for improved techniques of drug regimens
including vaccine.
data of HIV infection

in public policy -

"muckrakers" link.

Question: FY 2018 Budget
\$148 million for NIAH
of this 25% equates portion will go for
vaccine research as opposed
to pathogenesis

4 arm clinical trial

Placebo

envelope only

LP + envelope

vaccine that induces cellular response

WHO

Rockefeller Foundation

Package of developing countries b/c

Govt could do: to foster industry of pharma w/o.
more Merck effort dedicated toward vaccine research.



UNAIDS
 UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA
 UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

The Executive Director

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

President William J. Clinton
 The White House
 Washington, D.C.

Reference: exr

20 May 1997

Mr President,

Your extraordinary leadership in setting the goal for the development of an AIDS vaccine in the next ten years merits sincere praise. For too long, the research agenda has been turned on its head, with ninety percent of research funds in AIDS going towards cures and only ten percent to vaccines. Important as the new developments in therapy are in reducing the suffering and prolonging lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in the few countries where treatment is possible and affordable, they are doing nothing to halt the relentless march of this disease in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

For a vaccine to be brought to the parts of the world where the disease is having its greatest impact, the countries of the industrialized world and the developing world will need to work closely together. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has a Vaccine Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Dr Barry Bloom of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and includes representatives from several industrialized and developing countries. UNAIDS and its Committee have as their mission to promote and facilitate the scientific, ethical, legal, and practical involvement of developing countries in vaccine research and testing.

Mr President, we pledge UNAIDS to work with you, Secretary Shalala, the National Institutes of Health and other U.S. institutions in the forefront of this crusade against AIDS. A vaccine which effectively addresses a virus which is devastating the world, must be tested and proven in the most affected countries in accordance with the highest standards of science and ethics.

Again, Mr President, I should like to congratulate you for your bold step forward. By directing the scientific community to leap beyond the tested borders of biology in the 21st century, you do much to ensure your own place in the history of our planet.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Peter Piot

bcc: Secretary Donna E. Shalala, Department of Health and Human Services [Fax: 202 690 7203]
 Ms Sandra Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy [Fax: 202 632 1096]
 Dr Harold Varmus, Director, National Institutes of Health [Fax: 301 402 2700]
 Dr Barry Bloom, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx New York [Fax: 718 904 1473]
 Dr Bruce Weniger, CDC, Atlanta [Fax: 404 639 8616]
 Mr Daniel Spiegel, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, Washington DC [202 887 4288]
 Mr Robert Fogel, Hilfman & Fogel, P.C., Chicago, IL [Fax: 312 236 2321]
 Ms Lisa Jacobs, Ogilvy, Adams and Rinehart, New York [Fax: 212 880 2880]

20, avenue Appia • CH-1211 Geneva 27 • Switzerland • Tel: (+4122)791.4510 • Fax: (+4122)791.4179 • e-mail UNAIDS@WHO.CH
 UNAIDS/External Relations 8684177 FAX 4122 7914898

**OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

808 17th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 202-632-1090
Fax: 202-632-1096

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Media Advisory

(2 pages)

5/20/97

Dan:

IT'S REALLY A SHAME THAT
COUNCIL MEMBERS DIDN'T RECEIVE
A HEADS-UP ON THE POTUS'
SPEECH, AT LEAST A DAY OR
TWO IN ADVANCE!
BOB
FOGEL

Robert Berman
(404) 639.4442
National Vaccine Program Office
National Vaccine Adv. Committee

per Bruce Wenger

"Neutral"



White House Press Release

Commencement Address By The President At Morgan State University

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1997

Commencement Address By The President
At **Morgan State University**

Edward P. Hurt Gymnasium
Baltimore, Maryland

10:30 A.M. Edt

The President: Thank you. Dr. Richardson, Judge Cole, Governor Glendinning, Lieutenant Governor Kennedy-Townsend, Mr. Mayor, City Council President, other elected officials, Mr. Speaker, Senator Miller, Senator Sarbanes, Congressman Cardin and Congressman Cummings, my great partners, to the Board of Regents, to faculty, staff, to distinguished alumni, to the magnificent band and choir. I thought it was a great day when I got here, but I know it is now. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

To the members of the class of 1997, your family and your friends -- (applause) -- congratulations on this important day in your lives, the lives of your nation, and the life of this great institution.

Your diploma reflects a level of knowledge that will give you the chance to make the most of the rapidly unfolding new reality of the 21st century. It gives your country a better chance to lead the world toward a better place, and it reaffirms the historic mission of **Morgan State** and the other historically black colleges and **universities** of our great land.

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Now, you're getting too much applause now, Terry.
(Laughter.)

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It will open the doors of college to all, with the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships in three decades, \$35 billion in tax relief to help families pay for higher education, including tax deductions for the cost of all education after high school, and our Hope Scholarship tuition tax credits to make the first two years of college as **universal** by the year 2000 as a high school diploma is today. (Applause.)

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We are now embarking on our most daring explorations, unraveling the mysteries of our inner world and charting new routes to the conquest of disease. We have not and we must not shrink from exploring the frontiers of science. But as we consider how to use the fruits of discovery, we must also never retreat from our commitment to human values, the good of society, our basic sense of right and wrong.

Science must continue to serve humanity, never the other way around. The stakes are very high. America's future -- indeed, the world's future -- will be more powerfully influenced by science and technology than ever before. Where once nations measured their strength by the size of their armies and arsenals, in the world of the future knowledge will matter most. Fully half the growth in economic productivity over the last half-century can be traced to research and technology.

But science is about more than material wealth or the acquisition of knowledge. Fundamentally, it is about our dreams. America is a nation always becoming, always defined by the great goals we set, the great dreams we dream. We are restless, questing people. We have always believed, with President Thomas Jefferson, that "freedom is the first born daughter of science." With that belief and with willpower, resources and great national effort, we have always reached our far horizons and set out for new ones.

Thirty-six years ago, President Kennedy looked to the heavens and proclaimed that the flag of peace and democracy, not war and tyranny, must be the first to be planted on the moon. He gave us a goal of reaching the moon, and we achieved it -- ahead of time.

Today, let us look within and step up to the challenge of our time, a challenge with consequences far more immediate for the life and death of millions around the world. Aids will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading infectious killer in the world. More than 29 million people have been infected, 3 million in the last year alone, 95 percent of them in the poorest parts of our globe.

Here at home, we are grateful that new and effective

anti-Hiv strategies are available and bringing longer and better lives to those who are infected, but we dare not be complacent. Hiv is capable of mutating and becoming resistant to therapies, and could well become even more dangerous. Only a truly effective, preventive Hiv vaccine can limit and eventually eliminate the threat of Aids.

This year's budget contains increased funding of a third over two years ago to search for this vaccine. In the first four years, we have increased funding for Aids research, prevention and care by 50 percent, but it is not enough. So let us today set a new national goal for science in the age of biology. Today, let us commit ourselves to developing an Aids vaccine within the next decade. (Applause.) There are no guarantees. It will take energy and focus and demand great effort from our greatest minds. But with the strides of recent years it is not longer a question of whether we can develop an Aids vaccine, it is simply a question of when. And it cannot come a day too soon.

If America commits to find an Aids vaccine and we enlist others in our cause, we will do it. I am prepared to do all I can to make it happen. Our scientists at the National Institutes of Health and our research **universities** have been at the forefront of this battle.

Today, I'm pleased to announce the National Institutes of Health will establish a new Aids vaccine research center dedicated to this crusade. And next month at the Summit of the Industrialized Nations in Denver, I will enlist other nations to join us in a worldwide effort to find a vaccine to stop one of the world's greatest killers. We will challenge America's pharmaceutical industry, which leads the world in innovative research and development to work with us and to make the successful development of an Aids vaccine part of its basic mission.

My fellow Americans, if the 21st century is to be the century of biology, let us make an Aids vaccine its first great triumph. (Applause.)

Let us resolve further to work with other nations to deal with great problems like global climate change, to break our reliance on energy use destructive of our environment, to make giant strides to free ourselves and future generations from the tyranny of disease and hunger and ignorance that today still enslaves too many millions around the world. And let us also pledge to redouble our vigilance to make sure that the knowledge of the 21st century serves our most enduring human values.

Science often moves faster than our ability to understand its implications, leaving a maze of moral and ethical questions in its wake. The Internet can be a new town square or a new Tower of Babel. The same computer that can put the Library of Congress at our fingertips can also be used by purveyors of hate to spread blueprints for bombs. The same knowledge that is developing new life-saving drugs can be used to create poisons of mass destruction. Science can enable us to feed billions more people in comfort, in safety, and in harmony with our earth; or it can spark a war with weapons of mass destruction rooted in primitive hatreds.

Science has no soul of its own. It is up to us to determine whether it will be used as a force for good or evil. We must do nothing to stifle our basic quest for knowledge. After all, it has propelled from field to factory to cyberspace. But how we use the fruits of science and how we apply it to human endeavors is not properly the domain of science alone or of scientists alone. The answers to these questions require the application of ethical and

moral principles that have guided our great democracy toward a more perfect union for more than 200 years now. As such, they are the province of every American citizen.

We must decide together how to apply these principles to the dazzling new discoveries of science. Here are four guideposts. First, science and its benefits must be directed toward making life better for all Americans -- never just a privileged few. Their opportunities and benefits should be available to all. Science must not create a new line of separation between the haves and the have-nots, those with and those without the tools and understanding to learn and use technology.

In the 21st century a child in a school that does not have a link to the Internet or the student who does not have access to a computer will be like the 19th century child without school books. That is why we are ensuring that every child in every school, not matter how rich or poor, will have access to the same technology by connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000. (Applause.)

Science must always respect the dignity of every American. Here at one of America's great black **universities** let me underscore something I said just a few days ago at the White House. We must never allow our citizens to be unwitting guinea pigs in scientific experiments that put them at risk without their consent and full knowledge. (Applause.)

Whether it is withholding a syphilis treatment from the black men of Tuskegee or the Cold War experiments that subjected some of our citizens to dangerous doses of radiation, we must never go back to those awful days in modern disguise. We have now apologized for the mistakes of the past; we must not repeat them -- never again. (Applause.)

Second, none of our discoveries should be used to label or discriminate against any group or individual. Increasing knowledge about the great diversity within the human species must not change the basic belief upon which our ethics, our government, our society are founded. All of us are created equal, entitled to equal treatment under the law. (Applause.)

With stunning speed, scientists are now moving to unlock the secrets of our genetic code. Genetic testing has the potential to identify hidden inherited tendencies toward disease and spur early treatment. But that information could also be used, for example, by insurance companies and others to discriminate against and stigmatize people.

We know that in the 1970s, some African Americans were denied health care coverage by insurers and jobs by employers because they were identified as sickle cell anemia carriers. We also know that one of the main reasons women refuse genetic testing for susceptibility to breast cancer is their fear that the insurance companies may either deny them coverage or raise their rates to unaffordable levels. No insurer should be able to use genetic data to underwrite or discriminate against any American seeking health insurance. This should not simply be a matter of principle, but a matter of law, period. (Applause.)

To that end, I urge the Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit insurance companies from using genetic screening information to determine the premium rates or eligibility of Americans for health insurance.

Third, technology should not be used to break down the wall of privacy and autonomy free citizens are guaranteed in a free society. The right to privacy is one of our most cherished freedoms. As society has grown more complex and people have become more interconnected in every way, we have had to work even harder to respect the privacy, the dignity, the autonomy of each individual.

Today, when marketers can follow every aspect of our lives, from the first phone call we make in the morning to the time our security system says we have left the house, to the video camera at the toll booth and the charge slip we have for lunch, we cannot afford to forget this most basic lesson.

As the Internet reaches to touch every business and every household and we face the frightening prospect that private information -- even medical records -- could be made instantly available to the world, we must develop new protections for privacy in the face of new technological reality. (Applause.)

Fourth, we must always remember that science is not God. (Applause.) Our deepest truths remain outside the realm of science. We must temper our euphoria over the recent breakthrough in animal cloning with sobering attention to our most cherished concepts of humanity and faith.

My own view is that each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we should respect this profound gift. I believe we should resist the temptation to replicate ourselves. But this is a decision no President should make alone. No President is qualified to understand all of the implications.

That is why I have asked our distinguished National Bioethics Advisory Commission, headed by President Harold Shapiro of Princeton, to conduct a thorough review of the legal and ethical issues raised by this new cloning discovery. They will give me their first recommendations within the next few weeks, and I can hardly wait.

These, then, are four guideposts, rooted in our traditional principles of ethics and morals, that must guide us if we are to master the powerful forces of change in the new century. One, science that produces a better life for all and not the few. Two, science that honors our tradition of equal treatment under the law. Three, science that respects the privacy and autonomy of the individual. Four, science that never confuses faith in technology with faith in God.

If we hold fast to these principles, we can make this time of change a moment of dazzling opportunity for all Americans.

Finally, let me say again: Science can serve the values and interests of all Americans, but only if all Americans are given a chance to participate in science. We cannot move forward without the voices and talents of everyone in this stadium, and especially those of you who are going on to pursue a career in science and technology.

African Americans have always been at the forefront of American science. This is nothing new. Nothing -- not slavery, not discrimination, not poverty -- nothing has ever been able to hold back their scientific urge or creative genius. (Applause.)

Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught mathematician,

surveyor, astronomer, who published an annual almanac and helped to design the city of Washington. George Washington Carver was born a slave, but went on to become one of our nation's greatest agricultural scientists. Ernest Everett Just of Charleston, South Carolina, is recognized as one of our greatest biologists. Charles Drew lived through the darkest days of segregation to become a pioneer in blood preservation. And today you honor an African American doctor at Johns Hopkins **University** who is truly one of the outstanding physicians of our time. (Applause.)

All these people show us that we don't have a person to waste and our diversity is our greatest strength in the world of today and tomorrow. Now, members of the class of 1997, it is your time. It is up to you to honor their legacy, to live their dreams, to be the investigators, the doctors, and the scholars who will make and apply the discoveries of tomorrow, who will keep our science rooted in our values, who will fashion America's greatest days.

You can do it. Dream large. Work hard. And listen to your soul. Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

End

10:57 A.M. Edt



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov



White House Press Release

Commencement Address By The President At Morgan State University

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1997

Commencement Address By The President
At **Morgan State University**

Edward P. Hurt Gymnasium
Baltimore, Maryland

10:30 A.M. Edt

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We are now embarking on our most daring explorations, unraveling the mysteries of our inner world and charting new routes to the conquest of disease. We have not and we must not shrink from exploring the frontiers of science. But as we consider how to use the fruits of discovery, we must also never retreat from our commitment to human values, the good of society, our basic sense of right and wrong.

Science must continue to serve humanity, never the other way around. The stakes are very high. America's future -- indeed, the world's future -- will be more powerfully influenced by science and technology than ever before. Where once nations measured their strength by the size of their armies and arsenals, in the world of the future knowledge will matter most. Fully half the growth in economic productivity over the last half-century can be traced to research and technology.

But science is about more than material wealth or the acquisition of knowledge. Fundamentally, it is about our dreams. America is a nation always becoming, always defined by the great goals we set, the great dreams we dream. We are restless, questing people. We have always believed, with President Thomas Jefferson, that "freedom is the first born daughter of science." With that belief and with willpower, resources and great national effort, we have always reached our far horizons and set out for new ones.

Thirty-six years ago, President Kennedy looked to the heavens and proclaimed that the flag of peace and democracy, not war and tyranny, must be the first to be planted on the moon. He gave us a goal of reaching the moon, and we achieved it -- ahead of time.

Today, let us look within and step up to the challenge of our time, a challenge with consequences far more immediate for the life and death of millions around the world. Aids will soon overtake tuberculosis and malaria as the leading infectious killer in the world. More than 29 million people have been infected, 3 million in the last year alone, 95 percent of them in the poorest parts of our globe.

Here at home, we are grateful that new and effective

anti-Hiv strategies are available and bringing longer and better lives to those who are infected, but we dare not be complacent. Hiv is capable of mutating and becoming resistant to therapies, and could well become even more dangerous. Only a truly effective, preventive Hiv vaccine can limit and eventually eliminate the threat of Aids.

This year's budget contains increased funding of a third over two years ago to search for this vaccine. In the first four years, we have increased funding for Aids research, prevention and care by 50 percent, but it is not enough. So let us today set a new national goal for science in the age of biology. Today, let us commit ourselves to developing an Aids vaccine within the next decade. (Applause.) There are no guarantees. It will take energy and focus and demand great effort from our greatest minds. But with the strides of recent years it is not longer a question of whether we can develop an Aids vaccine, it is simply a question of when. And it cannot come a day too soon.

If America commits to find an Aids vaccine and we enlist others in our cause, we will do it. I am prepared to do all I can to make it happen. Our scientists at the National Institutes of Health and our research **universities** have been at the forefront of this battle.

Today, I'm pleased to announce the National Institutes of Health will establish a new Aids vaccine research center dedicated to this crusade. And next month at the Summit of the Industrialized Nations in Denver, I will enlist other nations to join us in a worldwide effort to find a vaccine to stop one of the world's greatest killers. We will challenge America's pharmaceutical industry, which leads the world in innovative research and development to work with us and to make the successful development of an Aids vaccine part of its basic mission.

My fellow Americans, if the 21st century is to be the century of biology, let us make an Aids vaccine its first great triumph. (Applause.)

Let us resolve further to work with other nations to deal with great problems like global climate change, to break our reliance on energy use destructive of our environment, to make giant strides to free ourselves and future generations from the tyranny of disease and hunger and ignorance that today still enslaves too many millions around the world. And let us also pledge to redouble our vigilance to make sure that the knowledge of the 21st century serves our most enduring human values.

Science often moves faster than our ability to understand its implications, leaving a maze of moral and ethical questions in its wake. The Internet can be a new town square or a new Tower of Babel. The same computer that can put the Library of Congress at our fingertips can also be used by purveyors of hate to spread blueprints for bombs. The same knowledge that is developing new life-saving drugs can be used to create poisons of mass destruction. Science can enable us to feed billions more people in comfort, in safety, and in harmony with our earth; or it can spark a war with weapons of mass destruction rooted in primitive hatreds.

Science has no soul of its own. It is up to us to determine whether it will be used as a force for good or evil. We must do nothing to stifle our basic quest for knowledge. After all, it has propelled from field to factory to cyberspace. But how we use the fruits of science and how we apply it to human endeavors is not properly the domain of science alone or of scientists alone. The answers to these questions require the application of ethical and

moral principles that have guided our great democracy toward a more perfect union for more than 200 years now. As such, they are the province of every American citizen.

We must decide together how to apply these principles to the dazzling new discoveries of science. Here are four guideposts. First, science and its benefits must be directed toward making life better for all Americans -- never just a privileged few. Their opportunities and benefits should be available to all. Science must not create a new line of separation between the haves and the have-nots, those with and those without the tools and understanding to learn and use technology.

In the 21st century a child in a school that does not have a link to the Internet or the student who does not have access to a computer will be like the 19th century child without school books. That is why we are ensuring that every child in every school, not matter how rich or poor, will have access to the same technology by connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000. (Applause.)

Science must always respect the dignity of every American. Here at one of America's great black **universities** let me underscore something I said just a few days ago at the White House. We must never allow our citizens to be unwitting guinea pigs in scientific experiments that put them at risk without their consent and full knowledge. (Applause.)

Whether it is withholding a syphilis treatment from the black men of Tuskegee or the Cold War experiments that subjected some of our citizens to dangerous doses of radiation, we must never go back to those awful days in modern disguise. We have now apologized for the mistakes of the past; we must not repeat them -- never again. (Applause.)

Second, none of our discoveries should be used to label or discriminate against any group or individual. Increasing knowledge about the great diversity within the human species must not change the basic belief upon which our ethics, our government, our society are founded. All of us are created equal, entitled to equal treatment under the law. (Applause.)

With stunning speed, scientists are now moving to unlock the secrets of our genetic code. Genetic testing has the potential to identify hidden inherited tendencies toward disease and spur early treatment. But that information could also be used, for example, by insurance companies and others to discriminate against and stigmatize people.

We know that in the 1970s, some African Americans were denied health care coverage by insurers and jobs by employers because they were identified as sickle cell anemia carriers. We also know that one of the main reasons women refuse genetic testing for susceptibility to breast cancer is their fear that the insurance companies may either deny them coverage or raise their rates to unaffordable levels. No insurer should be able to use genetic data to underwrite or discriminate against any American seeking health insurance. This should not simply be a matter of principle, but a matter of law, period. (Applause.)

To that end, I urge the Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to prohibit insurance companies from using genetic screening information to determine the premium rates or eligibility of Americans for health insurance.

Third, technology should not be used to break down the wall of privacy and autonomy free citizens are guaranteed in a free society. The right to privacy is one of our most cherished freedoms. As society has grown more complex and people have become more interconnected in every way, we have had to work even harder to respect the privacy, the dignity, the autonomy of each individual.

Today, when marketers can follow every aspect of our lives, from the first phone call we make in the morning to the time our security system says we have left the house, to the video camera at the toll booth and the charge slip we have for lunch, we cannot afford to forget this most basic lesson.

As the Internet reaches to touch every business and every household and we face the frightening prospect that private information -- even medical records -- could be made instantly available to the world, we must develop new protections for privacy in the face of new technological reality. (Applause.)

Fourth, we must always remember that science is not God. (Applause.) Our deepest truths remain outside the realm of science. We must temper our euphoria over the recent breakthrough in animal cloning with sobering attention to our most cherished concepts of humanity and faith.

My own view is that each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we should respect this profound gift. I believe we should resist the temptation to replicate ourselves. But this is a decision no President should make alone. No President is qualified to understand all of the implications.

That is why I have asked our distinguished National Bioethics Advisory Commission, headed by President Harold Shapiro of Princeton, to conduct a thorough review of the legal and ethical issues raised by this new cloning discovery. They will give me their first recommendations within the next few weeks, and I can hardly wait.

These, then, are four guideposts, rooted in our traditional principles of ethics and morals, that must guide us if we are to master the powerful forces of change in the new century. One, science that produces a better life for all and not the few. Two, science that honors our tradition of equal treatment under the law. Three, science that respects the privacy and autonomy of the individual. Four, science that never confuses faith in technology with faith in God.

If we hold fast to these principles, we can make this time of change a moment of dazzling opportunity for all Americans.

Finally, let me say again: Science can serve the values and interests of all Americans, but only if all Americans are given a chance to participate in science. We cannot move forward without the voices and talents of everyone in this stadium, and especially those of you who are going on to pursue a career in science and technology.

African Americans have always been at the forefront of American science. This is nothing new. Nothing -- not slavery, not discrimination, not poverty -- nothing has ever been able to hold back their scientific urge or creative genius. (Applause.)

Benjamin Banneker was a self-taught mathematician,

surveyor, astronomer, who published an annual almanac and helped to design the city of Washington. George Washington Carver was born a slave, but went on to become one of our nation's greatest agricultural scientists. Ernest Everett Just of Charleston, South Carolina, is recognized as one of our greatest biologists. Charles Drew lived through the darkest days of segregation to become a pioneer in blood preservation. And today you honor an African American doctor at Johns Hopkins **University** who is truly one of the outstanding physicians of our time. (Applause.)

All these people show us that we don't have a person to waste and our diversity is our greatest strength in the world of today and tomorrow. Now, members of the class of 1997, it is your time. It is up to you to honor their legacy, to live their dreams, to be the investigators, the doctors, and the scholars who will make and apply the discoveries of tomorrow, who will keep our science rooted in our values, who will fashion America's greatest days.

You can do it. Dream large. Work hard. And listen to your soul. Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

End

10:57 A.M. Edt



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

May 19, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
 President
 The White House
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

The Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition commends you on the announcement of a ten year federal initiative to develop a vaccine for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). We salute your use of the Presidency to keep issues related to the worldwide AIDS pandemic at the forefront.

The CAEAR Coalition represents the federal policy and appropriations interests of the 49 U.S. epicenters of the AIDS epidemic that receive funding through Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. We are people living with HIV and AIDS, medical providers, support service providers, and health planners who are on the front lines of the U.S. AIDS epidemic. We acknowledge the importance of a targeted initiative for vaccine development and recognize that a vaccine is critical to preventing new infections in youth and adults at risk for infection. We trust that the leadership of the United States in this initiative will have a ripple effect in governments and communities around the world—encouraging them to increase their efforts to end this devastating pandemic.

As consumers and providers of CARE services for people living with HIV, we ask that you continue to use the Presidency as a bully pulpit to keep the issues of people living with HIV in the hearts and minds of the American people. CARE programs will continue to need significant increases in support from the federal government as more people live longer with HIV disease. Medical care, housing, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, transportation, nutrition, and of course new antiretroviral drug therapies continue to be critical to the quality of life and survival of people living with HIV. Your ongoing support for increased funding for CARE programs is paramount to our success in filling these needs.

Thank you for your leadership and the leadership of Vice President Gore. We encourage you to continue to clearly articulate your commitment to ending this epidemic while caring for those living with HIV. The CAEAR Coalition looks forward to working with you to realize the goal of this laudable initiative.

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Administrative Affairs
 Alexander Robinson

Governmental Relations Representative
 Sheridan Group

Sincerely,

~~Judy Moore-Nichols~~
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