

FOIA MARKER

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

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21071

FolderID:

Folder Title:

VP - WAD 1999

Stack:

S

Row:

67

Section:

1

Shelf:

2

Position:

3



Eli G. Attie@OVP
11/23/99 12:55:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sandra Thurman/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: VP's December 1 Event 

Thanks, Sandy. He's speaking to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, so I could use whatever stats and info you have on:

- The problem in the black community;
- what we're doing about it;
- what more must be done.

Plus any ideas you have in general...this will only be one part of the speech (probably a few graphs), but an important one...

TALKING POINTS : HOMELESS AND HIV

Overview:

Of the 600,000 people estimated to be living with AIDS in the US, approximately 1/3 to 1/2 are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness (CDC). Median prevalence rates of HIV have been found to be at least 3 times higher than the general population (3.4% versus 1%). Even higher prevalence rates (8.5%-62%) have been reported in various homeless subpopulations, including adults with severe mental illness. Although new medications have reduced the number of HIV cases that progress to AIDS, antiretroviral therapy is not universally available. Despite their disproportionately high risk for HIV infection and transmission, homeless individuals have limited access to preventive and therapeutic HIV/AIDS care. Moreover, their limited access to comprehensive health care delays the identification of HIV, accelerates the onset of AIDS, and impedes the resolution of physical, mental, and behavioral disorders that interfere with HIV risk reduction and treatment.

- the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is dramatically higher among homeless people than in the general population
- homelessness and HIV/AIDS are widespread and intersecting problems that occur in both urban and rural populations throughout the United States
- conditions associated with homelessness make HIV prevention and control especially difficult
- limited access to medical care severely restricts HIV/AIDS prevention, risk reduction and treatment for homeless persons.
- Adherence to complex HIV treatment regimens presents special challenges for homeless patients and their care givers
- homeless people with HIV/AIDS are often inappropriately denied antiretroviral therapy (and other treatments) on the assumption their adherence will be poor.

THEREFORE:

- access to health care for homeless individuals must be increased
- coordination of care for the homeless must be achieved between medical, STD, TB, mental health, substance abuse services and social services.
- care for the homeless must include housing
- coordination and continuity of care must be improved between discharge from inpatient and criminal justice facilities

African Americans and HIV

- An analysis of trends in the AIDS epidemic from 1981-98 shows an estimated cumulative total of 1.2 million persons with HIV infection, of whom about 900,000 have been diagnosed with HIV.
- More than 688,000 AIDS cases have been reported, and about 410,800 persons have died from HIV/AIDS. The number of annual HIV infections appears to have peaked in the late 1980's and early 1990's at about 100,000 to 150,000 new infections per year and to have stabilized at about 40,000 new HIV infections annually since 1991.
- As of the end of 1998, approximately 60 percent of the persons reported to have AIDS had died. However, since the new antiretroviral therapies became available, there have been significant declines in mortality and in AIDS diagnoses -- **a drop of nearly 68% between 1995 and 1997.**
- Since 1992, African American populations have continued to represent a disproportionate number of AIDS cases.
- In 1998, White Americans, who comprise 73 percent of the total U.S. population, represented 34 percent of the new reported AIDS cases.
- African Americans represented 12 percent of the population and 45 percent of the new AIDS cases.
- African Americans represent a significantly higher proportion of drug use-related AIDS cases than whites. Through 1998, 35% of the 285,549 AIDS cases reported among African American and Hispanic males were IDU-associated, compared to 9% of the 278,151 AIDS cases reported among whites. More than half the IDU-associated AIDS cases are among African Americans.
- From 1992 to 1996, the number of white pediatric AIDS cases declined by 50 percent, compared to 42 percent decrease in African American populations.
- Women of all racial/ethnic groups are most likely to be infected with HIV through heterosexual contact. The number of women infected through heterosexual contact continues to rise, increasing 243% from 1993 to 1998. In 1998, 7% of the 36,886 AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent men were attributed to heterosexual contact, compared to 38

percent of the 10,998 reported AIDS cases among females over 13. Of the new AIDS cases reported in 1982, 5 percent were women, increasing to 11 percent in 1990 and to 23 percent in 1998. Among African Americans, 31 percent of reported cases in 1998 were women.

Increases in HIV/AIDS Spending

- Over the last six years, discretionary spending for AIDS research, prevention, and treatment has increased dramatically.
- Altogether, discretionary AIDS-related spending by HHS in the President's FY 2000 budget will total \$4.3 billion, up from \$2.1 billion in FY 1993.
- In addition, at least \$3.9 billion is expected to be expended in FY 2000 for AIDS care under Medicare and Medicaid, up from \$1.6 billion in FY 1993. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of Americans living with AIDS rely on Medicaid for their health care coverage.
- In 1998, the President declared HIV/AIDS to be a severe and ongoing health crisis in racial and ethnic minority communities and announced a comprehensive new initiative that invests an additional \$156 million in highly targeted funds to improve the nation's effectiveness in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS in the African-American, Hispanic, and other minority communities. \$249 million has been approved in the FY 2000 budget.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

- Nationally, AIDS is the leading killer of African American males between the ages of 25 – 44 and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age group;

Every hour, seven people are newly infected with HIV; **three of those seven are African American;**

- African Americans are being diagnosed with AIDS at a rate six times faster than that of whites;
- In the US, African Americans make up 13% of the population, yet account for 34% of live HIV/AIDS cases and 40% of all new infections;
- Nationally, by 2000, more than 125,000 children will have been orphaned or left behind as a result of losing one or both parents to AIDS – **80%** of whom will be Black and Latino;
- Nationally, IDU accounts for 40% of new cases in the African American community.
- Youth of color are over-represented among youth with AIDS. African Americans and Latinos account for 63% of AIDS cases among youth ages 20 to 24.
- The total number of pediatric AIDS cases in the US since the beginning of the epidemic is 8,461. The number of newly reported pediatric AIDS cases in 1998 was 382 – 84% of whom are African American or Hispanic

Comments by Sandra Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
February 25, 1999

Seventy-five years ago, Carter Woodson, an African American historian, finally succeeded in his nine-year effort to seek recognition of the contributions of African Americans to this nation. His original proposal was for a "Negro History Week" to be held the second week of February to honor the birthdays of two men whose legacies of struggle, faith, and perseverance continue to inspire those of us working to make a better and more just society: Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

Indulge me for just a moment as I share with you some words from President Lincoln that have as much to say about why we are here today as they did about the struggles of his time:

Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the last generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free--honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last, best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just--a way which if followed the world will forever applaud and God must forever bless.

Now, 137 years after Lincoln delivered those words to Congress, we celebrate Black History Month, taking time to honor those who came before us and those of current time who have joined in the struggle for their community, and for our nation. We know that the dream of an America free from prejudice and racial divide is still far from becoming a reality, that too many among us still want for food, housing, and healthcare.

In so many ways, the AIDS epidemic has shined a harsh spotlight on these very issues, exposing tremendous disparities in access to quality healthcare and affordable housing, and in freedom from discrimination and prejudice.

Does anyone here doubt that the sleepy response of government and some community leaders to this epidemic would have been radically different if those affected were more from Main Street than Castro Street, more from Uptown than Downtown? We all know that AIDS is an equal opportunity virus, but too many were willing to dismiss its devastation as just another affliction of the marginalized.

AIDS may well be the perfect metaphor for so much of what ails this country, and our

ability to bring an end to AIDS is consistently confounded by our inability to heal the underlying malignancies of racism, sexism, and homophobia.

But this terrible epidemic has also been an extraordinarily poignant reminder of what can be accomplished through struggle, and through partnership. Most of us can still remember back to the days when there was little hope, when ignorance and indifference were the rule and not the exception, when treatments were desperate and unproved, and when only a bold few dared to respond.

We have come a long way on this journey called AIDS, building new bridges across old boundaries and joining hands in protest. Who would ever have predicted that we'd have red ribbons and Malcolm X on U.S. postage stamps? My friends, it is a brave new world!

Just a few months ago, a small group of African American community activists led what is now fondly referred to as "the Atlanta insurrection," choosing to lead rather than follow. They began an effort that was soon joined by the Congressional Black Caucus, scores of other community and political leaders, and many of us struggling from the inside. Older voices got louder and new voices joined in, and soon there was this tremendous chorus of energy sweeping this city. In the waning hours of the budget process, long after any new ideas were being entertained, this unstoppable force enabled the CBC to secure over \$100 million in new AIDS funding.

This past October, the President, Secretary Shalala, Surgeon General Satcher, and I joined Representatives Maxine Waters and Louis Stokes--and several of you here today--in announcing a new effort to address HIV and AIDS in the African American and other minority communities. This initiative is founded on both the new funding and the new energy, with Secretary Shalala making additional dollars available to bring the total effort to \$156 million.

This is a tremendously exciting initiative, both because it will help build the capacity of the community to identify and respond to its own needs and because it may well serve as a catalyst for ensuring that the remaining billions of dollars in funding for AIDS-related care and prevention are more effectively used. It has the potential, the potential, to galvanize a broad-based community response, and to make participation in the fight against AIDS a moral imperative for all America--and not just a relatively few brave warriors.

I want you to know that I am truly committed to doing everything within my power to turn that potential into reality by helping to feed the momentum that has brought us this far.

Solidarity will be critical to our success; our shared crisis and challenge must unite us. Gay and straight; black, white, brown, yellow, red--we are all in this together. As Reverend King once said, "we will either learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools." We must never allow the gravity of our needs to pit us one against the other, to sap our energy, or to divert us from our path.

And there are other obstacles in our way. Besides the poisons of prejudice--of racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, xenophobia, and ageism--we must be ever mindful of the historical gulf between the African American community and the healthcare system. President Clinton has regretfully acknowledged the grave injustice of Tuskegee, with the hope that we can heal that wound and the persistent mistrust of the medical system that keeps too many from accessing the care they need.

We must also be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat, a misperception that comes more easily to a nation weary from an eighteen year struggle. When magazines run cover stories on the miraculous cure of Magic Johnson from AIDS instead of celebrating his successful treatment, we must stand up and we must speak out.

And when charlatans and media magnets perpetuate useless drugs or disproved theories, we must stand up and we must speak out.

When the rhetoric of politicians drowns out the reasoned arguments of public health experts, we must stand up and we must speak out.

When the sanctimonious seek to withhold prevention information that can save our children's lives, we must stand up and we must speak out.

And when our leaders turn their backs on the epidemic beyond our borders, we must stand up and we must speak out.

For we have an obligation to speak out for those who cannot, to raise our voices on behalf of those who depend on us for action, but whose distance makes them too easy to forget. We must remember that the *epidemic* here in the United States is only a small wave in the torrent of the global *pandemic* sweeping across this globe.

I want to share with you a few images from a trip that I just took to southern Africa to prepare for a larger fact-finding mission this spring commissioned by the President. Our primary focus was on AIDS orphans, children who have lost one or both of their parents to this disease. The U. S. Agency for International Development has estimated that by the end of the next decade, more than 40 million children will be orphaned by AIDS--40 million. And 95% of those will be in sub-Saharan Africa.

During this trip, we met a 70 year old grandmother who had buried 10 of her 11 children and is now caring for 35 of her grandchildren. Each day, she walks several miles to gather fresh water, carrying it back to her small, crowded hut. Then she starts the work of tending to the pigs, the chickens, and the produce in her small garden to help pay for food, shelter, and school fees for her 35 grandchildren.

And she has also taken the time to join an organization called "United Women's Effort to

Save Orphans," linking in solidarity with thousands of women facing the same great struggles.

We also visited households where orphaned children with no where else to turn were raising each other. We met 15 year olds playing mother and father to their siblings, unable now to plan for their own futures as they seek to care for those children coming up behind them. We saw whole villages and towns with the young adult generation virtually wiped out by AIDS, with the children and the old trying the best they can to simply continue to survive. These are the faces of children and families living in a world with AIDS. And their spirit, their determination, and their resilience leads us on.

But this is a story not slowly nearing its end but rather a huge tragedy, just beginning to unfold. We are not at the beginning of the end of AIDS, but rather at the end of the beginning. Together, we must find ways in which the struggle against AIDS in our nation can be joined with the larger struggle against AIDS across our world.

Remember the charge of Reverend King:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

Can there be any greater injustice than to have a preventable, treatable disease and to be denied access to the information and treatments that we know will save lives? We must all stand up and speak out for the needs of those affected by AIDS in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who have no voice here.

Together, as partners--doctors, nurses, service providers, prevention educators, advocates, clergy--and sometimes even government officials--together as partners we have made tremendous progress here in our fight to end AIDS.

All of us who have worked so hard to save lives should feel proud of our accomplishments, and mindful of the many colleagues we have lost along the way. Yet we must also be mindful of the work left to be done here and across the globe.

I join the President and the Vice President in thanking you for your tremendous efforts, and in urging you to continue your efforts to care for those living with HIV and AIDS, and to help stop the spread of this terrible disease. I also want to ask that you continue to push us to do what is right, to advocate for your needs and of those for whom you care, and to give voice to the voiceless.

Let me close with the words of Frederick Douglas, the other inspiration for Black History Month:

It is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shoulder, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling in the nation must be quickened, the conscience of the nation must be roused; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and the crimes against God and man must be denounced.

Let us commit together to not squander the loss of the nearly 400,000 Americans and 14 million others across the world we have lost to AIDS, but instead build from this tragedy a foundation for hope, a legacy of compassion, and a partnership forged by our struggle together. I wish you God's speed in your work. Thank you.

Gospel Against AIDS
By Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
October 23, 1999

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

My brother~~s~~ and sisters, today, the eyes of our children reveal a world devastated by AIDS.

The American family has AIDS. Our global family has AIDS. And as we stand on the brink of a new day, poised to enter the new millennium with hope and anticipation, AIDS continues to silently stalk our women and children, our men and our youth, and most pervasively – in our communities of color.

The sad truth is – our battle against AIDS is far from over. And now more than ever, we must be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat --- a misperception that too many are only too eager to embrace.

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

And we are now called upon to choose between determined action and the tragic consequences of complacency. We must not bow down to the temptations of fear, denial, and blame, or find false comfort in the well-intentioned words of our own past promises.

Together, we can and we must use our small successes and recent signs of hope – not as an invitation to rest but as a foundation for facing the future – and for fighting on.

Tonight – after eighteen years of living in the shadow of AIDS – we come together to give strength to each other.

Tonight – with more than 50% of new infections in this country happening in communities of color – we come together to nurture our vision of unity and empowerment, a vision born and renewed in our churches, mosques, and synagogues.

Tonight – battered by the storms of ignorance, indifference, and discrimination that still surround AIDS – we come together to raise our voices for healing, for hope and for change.

In the words of Fredrick Douglas:

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

Tonight - -we come together to build the fire that will light our way, and to stomp our feet and clap our hands until the thunder is heard across this nation and around the world.

If we do, then when our grandchildren's children look back, they will say that there lived a great people who had courage amidst confusion and uncertainty, who believed in their own strength and in each other, and who embraced their faith in order to put spirit into action. And then and only then, when we look into their eyes, we will see the whole of the universe – a world that together fought AIDS – and lived on.

I was raised in the middle of the civil rights movement in Atlanta, Georgia, where as a young child I was blessed to bear witness to the spirit and determination of the African American church. It forever committed me to the ongoing struggle for equality, for justice, and for life.

Our battle against AIDS is an integral part of our broader struggle. Today and everyday, I am humbled to join with you in what Archbishop Tutu has called our 'holy war' and am ever reminded of the words;

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

Thank you and God bless you all.

Remarks by Sandra Thurman Director, Office of National AIDS Policy US Conference of Mayors

June 14, 1999

Thank you Mayor Corradini. It is an honor to be able to join you here this afternoon. As mayors – you are the ones on the frontlines of each and every issue that really matters including HIV/AIDS. And in case that was just not enough to keep you busy – I am thrilled to see that you are reaching across the ocean to unite through “Cities 2000” with the mayors and the people of Africa.

A little over one year ago, President Clinton went to Africa to help Americans and Africans begin to see each other through new eyes, and to create together a bold new partnership for the new millennium.

Today, our shared vision is one of hope and empowerment. It is a vision born of the realization that we are a global community with a shared destiny. And in this global community, both crisis and opportunity have no borders.

As Africa stands on a brink of a new day, the AIDS pandemic rages.

As the United States and Africa build a new partnership for growth and opportunity, the AIDS pandemic rages.

And as we work together to build a better future for our children and grandchildren, the AIDS pandemic rages.

My friends, the American family has AIDS. The African family has AIDS. And in a very real way, we are all living with AIDS, and will be for generations to come.

In Africa, AIDS is a plague of biblical proportion, and is claiming more lives than all of the wars in this century combined. While many of us have witnessed its devastation, it is almost impossible to grasp the grip that AIDS has on villages across Africa and on many of your cities as well.

Today and every day, in Africa, AIDS buries more than 5,500 women, men, and children, and that number will more than double in the next few years. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among all people of all ages in Africa -- and among young adult African-American men here in the United States. While we have the good news that new treatments are allowing to live longer and better lives, and we have fewer people dying of AIDS, the fact is that we have seen no appreciable drop in the numbers of new infections – and, the AIDS epidemic in

this country is shifting and beginning to mirror the epidemic in Africa and around the world with dramatically increasing numbers of women, young people and people of color becoming infected.

And yet, the epidemic rages on. Each day, 11,000 people in Africa become HIV infected -- one every 8 seconds. Most of these new infections are among young people, under the age of 25. And by 2005, if current trends hold, more than 100 million people worldwide will be HIV+, 95% of whom will have no access to treatment at all.

In a host of different ways, it is our children who are caught in the crossfire of this relentless epidemic, and who are crying out for our help. Our next generation is indeed in jeopardy.

In many African countries, between one-fifth and one-third of all children have already been orphaned by AIDS, and the worst is yet come. Within the next decade, more than 40 million children in Africa will be orphaned by AIDS- the equivalent of every child living east of the Mississippi, or every child in public school in America. This tragedy will continue to grow for at least another 30 years.

In just a few short years, AIDS in Africa has wiped out decades of steady progress in development and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more. And AIDS has had a devastating impact on economic growth as well -- striking down skilled workers and forcing many companies to hire two employees for every one job -- assuming that one will die of AIDS.

Yet amidst this tragedy is hope. Amidst this crisis is the opportunity to empower women, to protect children, and to support families and communities in the battle against AIDS. In villages across Africa, efforts are being made to stem the rising tide of HIV infection, to prolong the lives of those who are sick, and to stitch together a tapestry of family supports for the growing millions of children orphaned by AIDS.

Twice this year, I visited South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia at the request of President Clinton. Together with leaders from Congress and the private sector, including former Mayor David Dinkins, we went to bear witness to the AIDS emergency and to search for ways to increase our support for sound and sustainable solutions.

During these trips, we were blessed to visit with some of the real heroes in the battle against AIDS. From Cape Town to Kampala, we were inspired by those who refused to give up or give in, despite the seemingly insurmountable odds.

Take Bernadette, a woman from a small village outside Masaka, Uganda.

Bernadette has lost 10 of her 11 adult children to AIDS. Today, at age 70, she is caring for her 35 grandchildren. With loans from a village banking system, she has begun farming, raising animals, and trading in sugar and cooking oil. With the money she earns, she is now able to send 15 of her grandchildren to school, provide modest treatment for the 5 who are HIV+, and begin construction on a house big enough to sleep them all. In her spare time, she participates in an organization called "United Women's Effort to Save Orphans" -- founded by the first lady of Uganda, Mrs. Museveni -- linking in solidarity thousands of women allied in the same great struggle.

And these women are not alone. From the young people doing street theater in Lusaka to educate their peers about HIV to the support groups in Soweto caring for people living with AIDS -- communities are mobilizing and creating ripples of hope.

These are the faces of children and families living in a world with AIDS. Their spirit, their determination, and their resilience lead us on.

But we must remember, the tragedy of AIDS is not slowly nearing its end, it is just beginning to unfold, here and abroad. So as we struggle to move forward together -- the futures of these children and families compel us all to find ways to do better, to be smarter, to move faster, and to develop whatever capacity we lack, so we can gear up for the long haul.

Painful experience has taught us some valuable lessons -- as applicable in the Africa as they are in the US -- as true in Denver as they are in Durban.

First and foremost, leadership matters. We have been fortunate in recent years to have the bold leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore in the battle against AIDS. However, from those dark days during the early part of the epidemic, when we had little leadership at the national level -- until today -- it is the mayors of cities across this country who have lead the charge -- Mayors Webb, Archer, Campbell and so many others -- have had the vision and the intestinal fortitude -- to tackle this epidemic head on. It is critical that we share your experience with others in Africa and elsewhere.

Second, this fight requires a serious investment -- of time, energy, and resources.

Third, we pay a heavy price for the stigma that still surrounds AIDS. We have made much progress in de-stigmatizing AIDS. We have come along way from the days when Americans lost their jobs and were driven from their homes and schools when it was discovered that they had AIDS, but we still have a long way to go.

Fourth, this battle will be won or lost at the community level. Good public policy is a plus, but at the end of the day it is people who make the difference.

And finally, AIDS is everyone's problem -- and everyone must be part of the solution.

Together we must be vigilant against the growing misperception that AIDS in America is no longer a lethal threat, a misperception that comes all too easily to a nation weary from an eighteen year struggle.

Together, we must find ways to affirm that we are a global community and our battle against AIDS in America, in Africa, and around the world is a shared responsibility.

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

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

Let me close with the words of Frederick Douglas, a great civil rights leader:

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

Let us commit together to not squander the loss of the nearly 14 million people around the world we have lost to AIDS, but instead build from this tragedy a foundation for hope, a legacy of compassion, and a partnership forged by our shared struggle.

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "Let us wage this holy war together. And for the sake of the children, let us pray we win."

Thank you and god bless you.