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Interview with Fox TV 6/1/94

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MAY 30, 1994

DEAR GUS VENTURA,

I GOT YOUR MESSAGE AND I HAVE LISTED BELOW THE BASIC POINTS WE WILL BE COVERING IN THE INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINE GEBBIE ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 1ST. THE CREW AND I WILL BE ARRIVING AT 8 AM TO GET SET UP FOR A TWO CAMERA INTERVIEW AT 9:30AM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS I WILL BE TRAVELING ON TUESDAY. I'LL BE REACHABLE FROM 9:30-11:30 AM IN ST PETERSBURG FLA. (813) 875-1555. ON TUESDAY EVENING AFTER 9PM YOU CAN REACH ME IN WASHINGTON AT (202) 429-0100 OR YOU CAN BEEP ME AT 1-800-477-2709.

THE SUBJECT IS THE MYTH OF HETEROSEXUAL AIDS. CHRISTINE GEBBIE DEBATED MICHAEL FUMENTO WHO WROTE A BOOK ON THE SUBJECT THIS PAST JANUARY. WE WILL ALSO BE INTERVIEWING DR. ALBERT JONSEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. HE WAS CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCILS "THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF AIDS" IN 1993. THE BASIC PREMISE BEING EXAMINED IN THE STORY IS "WAS THE POTENTIAL FOR AN AIDS EPIDEMIC IN THE HETEROSEXUAL COMMUNITY BEEN OVER-HYPED. IS THERE OR WILL THERE EVER BE AN EPIDEMIC AMONG NON-DRUG USING HETEROSEXUALS?"

BASIC POINTS THAT WILL COVER WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- * NUMBERS OF THOSE HETEROSEXUALS WITH AIDS VS OTHER GROUPS
- * WHO IS AT HIGHEST RISK?
- * HISTORY OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS DEALT WITH AIDS, RESISTANCE INITIALLY WHEN CONSIDERED A HOMOSEXUAL DISEASE.
- * IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT HETEROSEXUAL RISKS WERE OVER EMPHASIZED TO GET FUNDING?
- * PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDING THE MEDIA.... ARE PRIMARILY WHITE HETEROSEXUALS PROFILED AND EMPHASIZED WHEN THE EPIDEMIC STRIKES PRIMARILY HOMOSEXUALS, IV DRUG USERS, BLACKS AND HISPANICS?
- * POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESISTANCE TO TARGET HOMOSEXUALS AND IV DRUG USERS. THE IMPACT JESSE HELMS AND THE COUNTRY'S RESISTANCE TO SEEING SPECIFIC MESSAGES TARGET TO HIGH RISK GROUPS.
- * WHAT IS THE DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE?

AGAIN, PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS.

SINCERELY,

KAREN C. SAUNDERS

202-6321096

May 31

To: Gus Ventura
From: Karen Saunders

I did get the letter
printed but there ARE
problems with the
margins. Sorry!

Call me tonight
in Washington
if you have further
questions

Karen Saunders
Producer
Front Page

Author: Carlos Velez at ~ONAPC
Date: 05/31/94 07:08 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: John Gurrola
TO: Gus Ventura
TO: Kristine Gebbie
CC: Carlos Velez
Subject: Re: Fox interview tomorrow

----- Message Contents -----

I don't have a full analysis, but I have put together some talking points that may be helpful. I think these can be given to the press if you'd like and I can go over the numbers more in depth if necessary. CDC has not put out the final report yet, but I believe the majority of these numbers are hard enough to work with. Nobody has better figures anyway. Text below, file attached.

Talking Points on 1993 AIDS Statistics
Information obtained from the Draft HIV Surveillance Report for
the Year Ended December 31, 1993

As of December 31, 1993, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 104,168 cases of AIDS for the preceding 12 month period. Cumulative cases amounted to 361,509 and cumulative deaths totalled 220,871.

New cases reported in 1993 represented more than double the amount reported for the year ended December 31, 1992. The increase is due to the fact that more persons are living with HIV and AIDS and that the definition of what constitutes AIDS was changed at the end of 1992 and came into effect in 1993.

The six highest states are (cumulative cases/cases reported in 1993): New York 68,533/17,485; California 65,772/17,834; Florida 35,414/10,949; Texas, 24,490/7,433; New Jersey 20,185/5,470; and Illinois 11,225/2,936. Among the territories and possessions, Puerto Rico leads with 11,625/3,248.

Metropolitan areas with populations of over 500,000 reported 91,708 new cases, representing 88% of the total new cases of AIDS reported in 1993. Large metropolitan areas have also reported 307,073 cumulative cases of AIDS. Metropolitan areas with populations between 50,000 and 500,000 reported 10,776 cases or 10% of the total for 1993. Non-metropolitan areas reported 5,632 cases in 1993, which is more than double of the 2,773 reported in 1992.

Adults and adolescents over 13 years of age represented 103,500 (99%) of the total cases reported, and children under 13 represented 968 cases. Men and adolescent males represented 86,986 (84%) of the total adult/adolescent cases, and women amounted to 16,514 (16%). The number for both men and women was double of that reported the prior year, but the proportion for women increased from 13% to 16% of the adult/adolescent cases.

In terms of exposure categories for the cases reported in 1993, exposure due to unprotected sex amounted to 56% of the total cases, while injecting drug use amounted to 28% of the cases and 6% may have been attributable to either sexual contact or injecting drug use. Approximately 2% of the cases were attributable to the use of blood or blood products by hemophiliacs or during blood transfusions. Approximately 9% of the cases did not specify their risk factor, either because the epidemiological investigations were not complete or the individuals were not available for their interviews.

Trends in the epidemic demonstrate that cases among men who have sex with men, whether they self-identify as gay, bisexual or heterosexual, decreased in their proportion of

total cases. In 1992, men reporting sex with other men amounted to 25,864 or 53% of the cases reported that year. Cases in 1993 for the same exposure category amounted to 48,266 or 47% of the total cases. Cases among injecting drug users increased in proportion to the total cases, with the figure for 1992 being 12,163 (25%) and for 1993 totalling 28,687 (28%). Cases among heterosexuals reporting sexual contact as their risk factor increased from 4,045 (8%) to 9,288 (9%).

Of those cases reported in 1993 for which the racial/ethnic background is known (86,986), 50% of the cases were among minorities. African Americans, which amount to 12% of the total U.S. population, comprised 27,950 (32%), Hispanics/Latinos 15,006 (17% versus 9% in the total population), Asian/Pacific Islanders 649 (1%) and Native Americans 265 (<1%).

Among adolescents (13-19 years), 555 cases were reported in 1993, compared to 177 a year earlier. In this age group, hemophilia is the primary risk factor among males (49%), with sex with other men being the second most common risk factor (28%), and heterosexual sexual contact is the primary risk factor for females (57%), with injecting drug use being the second most common risk factor (9%).

In the 20-24 age group, 3,722 cases were reported, compared to 1,600 a year earlier. In this age group, sex with other men is the primary risk factor among males (59%), with injecting drug use being the second most common risk factor (12%), and heterosexual sexual contact is the primary risk factor for females (51%), with injecting drug use being the second most common risk factor (28%).