

FOIA MARKER

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Correspondence - Todd Summers - Incoming - 8/99

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



Jodd Summers
The White House
736 Jackson Pl, NW
Washington DC 20503

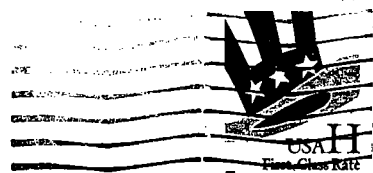
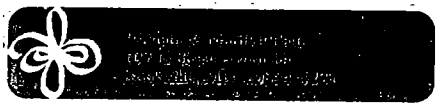
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JOHN MICHAEL GONZALEZ

Todd—

You are a fabulous tour guide of
the White House! I still think it's
the secret service that attracts you.
Thank you for your time and your company.
You're a great advocate to have in the White House.

Regards, Jim 8/1/99



Mr. Todd Summers
76 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503



Dear Todd,

Thank you for showing us the West Wing. We enjoy it and found it very interesting. We appreciate your staying late - it was very late by the time the tour ended - but it was a memorable adventure into the "behind scene" of Washington.

With much appreciation,

Mary & Bill

AIDS ACTION

Facsimile Transmittal

To: Todd Summers
Deputy Director
The White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503
456-2439

From: Daniel Zingale, Executive Director (ext. 3011)

Date: August 10, 1999

Re: Letter to the Editor — AIDS Breakthrough

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 2

Radio

Important breakthrough

Vice President Al Gore's announcement of a historic aid package to help relieve the AIDS epidemic in Africa (July 23, Blade) came just one week after the announcement of a more important breakthrough on the medical front that could prevent 300,000 to 400,000 infant infections in the developing world each year.

The breakthrough of this new treatment is not in its medical novelty. It's that — unlike current mother-to-infant prevention therapies — it costs only \$4 and requires just one dose to the mother and infant. In nations where people barely have access to clean water, low-cost, easy-to-administer drugs are the most effective treatments.

This development reveals the true needs of the vast majority of people living with HIV in the developing world. While the United States should relax trade rules to allow for foreign generic drugs, focusing our attention narrowly on increased access to expensive and complicated protease therapies is not the best approach to the viral firestorm that has engulfed Africa.

The administration's proposal smartly focuses on prevention, improving infrastructure, building better networks for treatment, and getting aid to children orphaned by AIDS.

And on the issue of lower drug prices in the United States and overseas, the best way to get results is to focus on those who actually set the prices: the drug companies themselves. There's plenty to be concerned about on the pharmaceutical industry's record of corporate responsibility.

America's drug companies enjoy the highest profits of any U.S. industry, according to Fortune magazine. Their unmatched profits are fueled by high drug prices which strain government and private health plans, increase health insurance premiums, and divert government funding from other vital health imperatives.

Moreover, these drugs are discovered with taxpayer-funded corporate subsidies and government research. And what does the taxpayer get for his investment? Among the highest drug prices in the world. The average prescription in the United States costs more than the same one in Italy, Germany, and Japan and twice as much as the same one in Britain and France.

Even worse, pharmaceutical industry revenues aren't being funneled back into research and development the way the industry claims. With a total of \$225 billion in sales last year, America's pharmaceuticals report spending \$24 billion on research and development but almost three times that amount, \$68 billion, on marketing, advertising, and administration.

Last year, pharmaceutical spending on direct consumer advertising alone increased at a rate three times faster than research and development. For the cola wars, advertising is practically part of American culture. But AIDS drugs aren't Coke and Pepsi, and people with HIV only need so many ads to convince them to take treatments that can mean the difference between life or death.

Lower drug prices will make more drugs available to more people living with HIV around the world, cut government health spending, free funding from treatment for other health imperatives, and could help relieve suffering in the developing world where AIDS threatens to bring down entire nations.

**Daniel Zingale, Executive Director
AIDS Action
Washington, D.C.**