

FOIA MARKER

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Correspondence - Todd Summers - Outgoing - 10/97

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MEMORANDUM FOR ELENA KAGAN

From: Sandra Thurman
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy
(202) 632-1090

Date: ~~December 17, 1997~~ 10/31/97

Re: Letter from Bob Fogel

Thanks for sending along a copy of the letter from Bob Fogel to the President. I've spoken with Bob a number of times since the letter was written, and I think he's feeling more comfortable. He spoke with both the First Lady and Bruce Lindsey at a Chicago event, which was helpful for him.

I have drafted a response from the President to the letter for your review. I will continue to communicate regularly with Bob.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Todd

October 31, 1997

Robert Fogel
Hilfman and Fogel
33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Fogel:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining your concerns regarding the Administration's progress in addressing the AIDS epidemic.

I, too, take the concerns you have raised quite seriously. The rising incidence of HIV infection among those who use illegal intravenous drugs, their partners, and their children is a major factor in the continued growth of the AIDS epidemic. However, this nation is staggering under an epidemic of drug addiction which also must be addressed with rigor and resolve.

Let me assure you that we will continue to support retention of Secretary Shalala's current authority to rescind the current restriction on the use of federal funding for needle exchange programs. This is an important issue that should be resolved by public health experts and scientists and not subjected to political manipulation.

I appreciate the passion which you and other members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS bring to the debate. My commitment to ending this epidemic, as well as responding to the needs of those already living with HIV and AIDS, still remains firm. The AIDS epidemic must be stopped, and I will take all measures within my authority to achieve that end.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1997

Henry Cisneros
President and Chief Operating Officer
Univision Communications
1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 3050
Los Angeles, CA 90067

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Cisneros:

I wanted to write for several reasons. First, you should know how much you are missed here in Washington. I attended your going away party at HUD (and particularly enjoyed Gov. Richards' joke about the papal limousine)--it was a moving and well-deserved tribute to someone who truly made a difference.

Second, I thought you'd get a laugh out of knowing that I'm now working at the White House as the deputy director of the AIDS policy office. I now have a much greater appreciation for the difficulties involved in getting progressive work done in this city. It certainly seems disinclined to rapid movement!

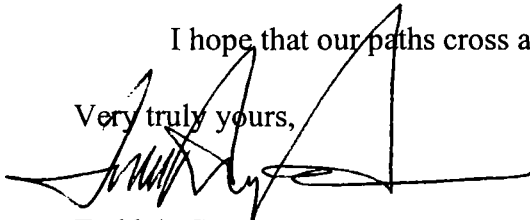
Third, I wanted to know if you'd be willing to chat with Sandy Thurman, the director of our office, about the possibility of Univision helping us to conceptualize and implement a series of HIV prevention public service announcements targeting the Latino community. I need not tell you that the epidemic continues to disproportionately impact on Latinos and African-Americans, particularly women.

Finally, Miss Jacquie is still there and is now serving as the deputy chief of staff (and has therefore foregone yet another year of life). We have quite a laugh now that we are officially colleagues in crime.

I'm going to take a shot at calling your office next week to see if we can set up a telephone meeting between you and Sandy, which I hope you will be able to fit in.

I hope that our paths cross again soon. Until then, I wish you and your family the best.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Summers", written over the "Very truly yours," text.

Todd A. Summers
Deputy Director
Office of National AIDS Policy