Dr. Koop is here. ... Dr. Koop is in O.R.? No Orwellian monotone this. The voice announcing the arrival is alive with excitement. It belongs to a young nurse, the first person to spot the bearded pediatric surgeon as he steps off the elevator.

As Koop approaches, smiling broadly at the booming P.A. greeting, she runs the length of the small reception area to throw her arms around the big doctor, hugging and kissing him like a long-lost daddy. In an instant, she is joined by a half dozen other young nurses who also greet Koop with squeals and kisses.

It has been just about a year since Koop left this place to join the Reagan administration as U.S. Surgeon General, but at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia—and especially here in the C. Everett Koop Surgical Center—he is still as close to being a god as anyone ever comes.

After Koop finally frees himself from his hero's welcome, he takes a companion on a tour of the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. Years before, in the old Children's Hospital on the other side of Philadelphia, Koop had envisioned just such a total care facility for sick infants. The futuristic medical complex that he now surveys—all green blips, hypersensitive monitors, miniaturized computer terminals and gleaming stainless steel incubators—is his living monument to that dream.

Koop peers through a thick glass wall at a roomful of tiny premature patients. "These little ones demand constant care," he says. "We set this up so there would be one nurse for every one and a half patients. You can't leave them alone for a minute. That's total life support in there. . . . See that little guy over there? I bet he doesn't even weigh three pounds. I've had to open the chests of smaller babies than him."

On the way out Koop stops in front of a large, empty operating room. "This," he says almost in a whisper, "is the room where we separated the Siamese twins." Koop, in fact, has successfully separated Siamese twins three times, believed to be a medical record. In addition, he has perfected scores of new surgical and diagnostic techniques, many of which are SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) today.

When Koop began practicing 35

By Mike Mallowe Photographs by Leroy Woodson Jr.
I. The Surgeon General. Dr. Koop was named to the position at 26, the younger Surgeon General ever. It is a position that requires a surgeon, a scientist, a public health administrator and above all, a politician. The Surgeon General is the nation's top public health official, the President's main force in the war on disease, and the nation's top public health administrator. The Surgeon General is a member of the cabinet and is the President's chief health advisor.

II. The nation's top pediatric surgeon. Dr. Koop was the first pediatric surgeon to be named Surgeon General. He was a practicing pediatric surgeon at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., when he was appointed to the post. He was the first Surgeon General to be a practicing pediatric surgeon, and the first Surgeon General to be a surgeon-gifted technican, skilled researcher, excellent clinician and able administrator.

III. The Surgeon General's first year. Dr. Koop's first year as Surgeon General was a time of great change. The country was in the midst of the Vietnam War, and the Surgeon General was faced with the challenge of providing medical care to American soldiers. He was also faced with the challenge of providing medical care to American civilians, who were also facing the challenges of the war. Dr. Koop was a man of great talent, and he was able to rise to the challenge. He was a man of great integrity, and he was able to maintain his integrity in the face of great pressure. He was a man of great compassion, and he was able to show his compassion in the face of great need.

IV. The Surgeon General's second year. Dr. Koop's second year as Surgeon General was a time of great change. The country was in the midst of the Vietnam War, and the Surgeon General was faced with the challenge of providing medical care to American soldiers. He was also faced with the challenge of providing medical care to American civilians, who were also facing the challenges of the war. Dr. Koop was a man of great talent, and he was able to rise to the challenge. He was a man of great integrity, and he was able to maintain his integrity in the face of great pressure. He was a man of great compassion, and he was able to show his compassion in the face of great need.