This short talk by me at a National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference is a remarkably concise report on how things work in government, when they work well.

My opening remarks at the Surgeon General’s Workshop on “Solid Organ Procurement” on June 7, 1983 appears in this archive with considerable introductory material for the benefit of the user. The Consensus Development Conference is one of the major tools of government in bringing the medical and health public up to speed with the experts on a given subject. Hence, my report on the previous Surgeon General’s Workshop was a suitable beginning for the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference, because out of that would come, for the professions and the public where the experts gathered together by the National Institutes of Health stood on consensus on the issue as of the time of the Conference.

The most important part of my report is that it demonstrates what I and the Office of the Surgeon General and associated agencies of the Public Health Service had done to facilitate the findings of the Surgeon General’s Workshop from the date it closed until the present. It also promises as part of the continuum, another Surgeon General’s Workshop, which will try to fill in the gaps that still exist or will now prominently be displayed as a result of the Consensus Development Conference.

In short, the Keynote Address at the first Surgeon General’s Workshop on Organ Procurement, accompanied by my report to the National Institutes of Health on that Conference, and then added to by my forthcoming Surgeon General’s Workshop on Organ Procurement #2, give a quick synopsis of government working at its best and its most efficient manner in addressing an issue, although it might be timeless in the future, has very strong implications for the short term.

Of particular interest to the user might be the knowledge provided in this talk of the variety in the universality of the organizations with expertise and experience that have been brought to the Surgeon General’s net to accomplish the purposes at hand.

Dialysis
Feasibility of Federation of Transplantation Organization, American Federation Of hospitals, American Hospital Association
Kidney transplantation
Multiple organ procurement for transplantation
Need for a more comprehensive data base
Organ transplantation: kidney, heart, (heart/lung preparation) liver
Request for funding proposed to Surgeon General
Response of Surgeon General to Workshop
Role of relatives & the professions on transplantation
Uniform anatomical procedures
Uniform donor cards
Voluntary vs. government program

American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of surgeons
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Association
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
Association for Critical Care Nurses
Battelle Human Affairs
Center for Disease Control
Children’s Liver Foundation
Dr. Roger Evans
Gallop Organization
National American Transplant Coordinator Association
President Ronald Reagan
Dr. Kenneth Sell
Southeastern Organ Procurement Foundation
Dr. James Strain
The Living Bank
Henry David Thoreau
United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS)