This presentation was given two days after the last lecture on AIDS and essentially was what I had said to the Joint Session of the Legislature in the state of California. If this lecture had been given a year later, I would have included some things that do not appear here, the reason being is that had not yet made themselves evident. I have mentioned earlier elsewhere that the fact that I was talking about sex education in my Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS, caused as much furor as my use of the words penis, vagina, rectum, and condom. Apparently, Texas of all states was more upset than others. I had more threats upon my life from the state of Texas than I had from the rest of the states in the Union put together. Frequently, if the threat was explicit it had to do with the fact that I was leading the children of America down the garden path to immorality.

Before the Legislature I acknowledged the relationship that existed at the time between the Public Health Service and the local and state public health offices in Texas, and acknowledged particularly the special role played by their Commissioner of Health, Dr. Robert Bernstein, with whom I had many contacts during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. I acknowledged that Texans were among the first of our citizens back in 1980 and 81 to be identified as being the victims of AIDS. They were also among the first in the country to die of AIDS. In addition to just speaking about the economics of AIDS, I made it clear that AIDS would force us to draw evermore heavily upon the country’s social and political capital as well as upon its medical and financial capital.

The Commissioner of Health of Texas, already mentioned, had done an excellent job of identifying the key issues presented by this disease and by sounding the alert without fear and hysteria. I also added to those comments that good Texan common sense had been used. I would never have said that a year later, because of the aforementioned threats on my life for talking about sex education of youngsters.

One interesting fact about the mortality in Texas: nationally, over half of the patients with the reported disease had died, whereas in Texas with 2,000 cases thus far, two thirds of them were dead. Predictions were that Texas would play host to 16,000 cases by 1991.
All of the new material that I had added to my lecture for presentation to the National Press Club was included in this lecture to the Texas State Legislature. In view of my remarks about death threats in Texas, I reviewed very carefully what I had said about sex education in reference to AIDS and found it totally in line with what I had said elsewhere so, it must be that Texans were different rather than that my emphasis was overstated. I really don’t think I could have said it better.

Abstinence  
AIDS education  
Association State & Territorial Health Officials  
Care of terminally ill patients with AIDS  
Condoms  
Differences in the mortality of AIDS in Texas & Elsewhere  
Effect of AIDS on our medical & financial capital  
Effect of AIDS on the country’s social & political capital  
History of the development of knowledge of the AIDS virus  
Homosexual & bisexual men  
Mutually faithful monogamy  
Organ recitals  
Parents as sex educators  
Partition of AIDS among Hispanic & Afro-Americans  
Partition of AIDS in infants among Hispanics & Afro-Americans  
Partnership between the Public Health Service & Public Health Officers in Texas  
Role of insurance in AIDS  
Science & morality as allies  
Sex education  
Texans among the first victims of AIDS  

Dr. Robert Bernstein  
Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention  
Lee Iacocca  
National Coalition of Black & Lesbian Gays  
National Education Association  
National PTA  
Synagogue Council of America  
Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS  
Texas Task Force on AIDS  
Washington Business Group on Health