AIDS lecture February 10, 1987

Address
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It was eight days since I had last given a lecture on AIDS and on the same day I had
spoke at Harvard, I had made my prepared statement before the Committee on Energy
and Commerce of the House of Representatives in reference to AIDS and condoms.

This was a prestigious venue and I covered practically everything that was known about
AIDS and certainly repeated everything I had ever said about AIDS. Anything new and
different or any alteration and emphasis I wanted to make, was included. I spoke more
fully than I had previously on the search in 1984 that was narrowed down to something
called the human retrovirus and scientists at the National Cancer Institute were able to
pinpoint a specific one, which they called “Human T-cell Lymphotrophic Virus Type
III”, or simply “HTLV-III”. It was also acknowledged for the first time that the work at
the Pasteur Institute had turned up the same information, but they called it
“Lymphadenopathy-associated Virus”, or “LAV”. I also noted that scientists then agreed
to call it by the single common name of “Human Immunodeficiency Virus” or “HIV”.
That was a change that stuck. It is worth noting that at the time that Robert Gallo was
doing his work at the National Cancer Institute, Luke Montanier was doing his work at
the Pasteur Institute. There was a lot of stuff in the scientific journals and the lay press
about who discovered what first, and who copied the other, if anybody did at all. The
dust settled with the scientific community giving both investigators essentially equal
credit for the discovery of HIV.

This is also the first time that I talked about anti-bodies to the virus and on the basis of
such testing plus other epidemiological studies stated that we believed that there were
between a million and a million and a half American with the AIDS virus on board.

The public’s impression at the time of this lecture was that AIDS was still an epidemic
and the people at highest risk were homosexuals and bisexual men and intravenous drug
abusers. I pointed out that two out of every three cases still involved such men even
though they had, we knew, become more cautious about their sexual practices because of
the fear of AIDS. But I did stress the 4 per cent of AIDS cases that were in heterosexual
men and women and indicated that this figure was rising and predicted as I had in several
previous lectures that the number of AIDS cases involving heterosexual persons would
increase by 1991 about twenty-fold.

The only new thing I added about sex education was that parents have trouble dealing
with the physiology and biology of sex, mainly because they themselves didn’t get any of
this information with they were kids. Therefore, they feel inadequate. The way this
supposed fact was handled was to say, "To paraphrase the wine tasters basic comment: ‘it’s a good excuse... but it’s not a great excuse’.

Other than these few additions and variations in expression, this was what I had been teaching and preaching since I began... but this was a great audience before which to say as much as could be said.

| Abstinence                                                                 |
| AIDS education                                                            |
| AIDS vaccine                                                              |
| Alcohol & Drugs in decision-making                                       |
| Antibodies to the AIDS virus                                             |
| Azidothymidine (AZT)                                                     |
| Condoms                                                                   |
| Developmental age vs. chronological age                                   |
| Heterosexual transmission of AIDS                                        |
| HIV                                                                       |
| Homosexual & bisexual men                                                |
| HTLV-III                                                                  |
| Human retrovirus                                                          |
| Incubation period                                                         |
| Kaposi's sarcoma                                                          |
| LAV                                                                       |
| Limitations of government                                                |
| Lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV)                                    |
| Mortality from AIDS                                                      |
| Mutually faithful monogamy                                               |
| “Organ recitals”                                                         |
| Parents as sex educators                                                  |
| Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia                                           |
| Sex & sensitive & affirmative human relationships                        |
| Sex education                                                             |
| Statistics of the spread of AIDS                                         |
| Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS – how to procure one                    |
| The genesis of the Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS                      |
| Virus of AIDS                                                             |
| AIDS                                                                      |
| Christian Life commission of the Southern Baptist Convention             |
| Human T-cell lymphotrophic virus type III                                |
| National Cancer Institute                                                |
| National Coalition of Black & Lesbian Gays                              |
| National Conference of Catholic Bishops                                 |
| National Council of Churches                                             |
National Education Association
National PTA
Surgeon General's Report on AIDS
Synagogue Council of America
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey"
The Washington Business Group on Health
United States Public Health Service