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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY R. DOLAN

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND

DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR.

Original Signed by ABC

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: National Institute

of Health Panel Discussion on AIDS

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks and, subject to the following comment, has no objection to them from a legal perspective.

The President refers to his recent call for certain kinds of testing in making an appeal to end ignorance about the disease. The sentence containing this reference is a brief and general one, but I question whether any reference to testing does more good than harm. As witnessed by the President's May 31 speech at the AIDS research awards dinner, comments by the President on testing evoke considerable controversy and dominate media coverage, thereby obscuring the many positive and widely-supported features of the President's program.

Attachment

cc: Rhett B. Dawson

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1987



MEMORANDUM FOR ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR.

FROM:

ROBERT M. KRUGER

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: National Institute

of Health Panel Discussion on AIDS

Rhett Dawson has asked that we provide comments on the abovereferenced Presidential Remarks to Tony Dolan by close of business today.

The remarks reaffirm the President's deep commitment to finding a cure for AIDS. They review the rapid progress, to date, in isolating the AIDS virus, developing drugs for treating the disease and researching a vaccine. The President restates his promise to ensure that red tape does not slow down this progress.

The President emphasizes the high levels of government spending dedicated to AIDS research. He reports on the announcement of the membership of the Presidential Commission on AIDS (to take place the morning prior to the panel discussion) and advises that the Commission's work will begin at once.

The President refers to his recent call for certain kinds of testing in an appeal to end ignorance about the disease. The sentence containing this reference is a brief and general one, but I question whether any reference to testing does more good than harm. As witnessed by the President's May 31 speech at the AIDS fundraising dinner, comments by the President on testing evoke considerable controversy and dominate media coverage, thereby obscuring the many positive and widely-supported features of the President's program. I offer this observation in the attached memorandum to Tony Dolan for your review and signature.

Otherwise, I find no basis for comment upon the remarks. They conclude with a reference to the recent breakthroughs in the field of superconductivity as an example of the rapid scientific progress that the President hopes will be made in the fight against AIDS.

Attachment

Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	07/16/87	ACTION/CO	ONCURR	ENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	c.o.b. July 17th	
'SUBJECT:	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS:	NATIC	NAL IN	STITUTES OF HEAL	TH PANEL DISCUSSION (ON AIDS
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to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Judge/ARD) July 16, 1987 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSION ON AIDS WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1987

Thank you. As you know, generally, when I talk to a group like this, I open with a joke or two -- to put all of us at ease, get things rolling. I hope you'll forgive me if I skip that today. I've just come from the ward you have here for children who are dying of AIDS. Let me just make a promise to those children and all others who have contracted this disease. We will -- I will -- do all that God gives us the power to do to find a cure for AIDS. We will not stop, we will not rest, until we have sent AIDS the way of smallpox and polio.

Those are words of resolve. Now I'd like to add a few words of hope. One of the amazing stories of modern medicine is the progress that we've already made against AIDS. I know this is old news to you in this room. So many of the breakthroughs were achieved right here in this building. But, for our friends in the press, I thought I should put the speed of progress in perspective. Just think that the day I was sworn in as President, we didn't even know that AIDS existed. It wasn't until 5 months later that the disease was discovered. But only 3 years after that, in a laboratory three floors below us, Dr. Robert Gallo isolated the AIDS virus. Within a year, a blood test was available. And now a treatment drug, A.Z.T., is also on the market, also developed here in this building, by Dr. Sam Broder, whom I met earlier this afternoon.

Dr. Broder told me, by the way, that more progress is coming. He mentioned work on a number of new and promising drugs for treating AIDS. And I understand that a vaccine will soon go into testing. As these drugs and vaccines come along, I am determined that red tape will not keep them away from those in need. We will make certain that they get the same kind of accelerated review from the Food and Drug Administration that got the A.Z.T. application approved in only 4 months -- record time.

I know that everyone here understands how dazzling the progress against AIDS has been. It took 40 years of study to learn as much about polio. It took 19 years to develop a vaccine against hepatitis B. To keep up the momentum, this year the Federal Government will spend \$317 million on AIDS research and \$766 million overall. Next year we'll spend 30 percent more on research and \$1 billion overall. The only limits on research spending today are the physical limits of research facilities and people trained in the necessary techniques.

Today we're taking another big step against AIDS. This morning at the White House we announced the members of the Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic. Dr. Eugene Mayberry, the Chief Executive Officer of the Mayo Clinic, is chairman of the Commission, the members of which are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and points of view. And I say Dr. Mayberry "is" chairman, not "will be" chairman, because not only did we announce the Commission's membership today, but today is also the Commission's first day of work. They're wasting no time. And, in fact, talk about speed,

Dr. Mayberry will present the Commission's first report to me in 90 days.

Dr. Mayberry and his colleagues will recommend a full-fledged strategy for battling AIDS. We already have a research strategy for finding a cure. The Commission will be reviewing not only that, but also looking at questions of treatment and prevention. How can we most compassionately care for those who have AIDS? How can we most justly and effectively protect the public from the spread of AIDS?

What we need right now in the battle against AIDS is a good, strong dose of common sense. It seems to me common sense to recognize that, when it comes to stopping the spread of AIDS, medicine and morality teach the same lessons.

It's also common sense that ignorance about the extent of the spread of AIDS won't help anyone -- those who have it; those who might get it; those who are looking for ways of preventing its spread. This is why I called recently for certain kinds of testing. I hope the Commission will help us all put aside our suspicions and work together with common sense against this common threat.

I wish I could say that the vast amounts of money and effort we're putting into AIDS research will give us a cure in a week, or a year, or by an absolutely certain date. The truth is, none of us knows for certain just when a cure will come. It might not be until the late 1990's. It might not be until later. That's why prevention and treatment are so important now.

But in the spirit of hope, let's not forget, a cure might possibly arrive much sooner. A few weeks ago I was reading about another field of astonishingly rapid scientific progress -- not in medicine, but in physics. Despite all the advances of the last year, in what has become known as the phenomenon of superconductivity, one problem was said to be years from solving, that of finding a material that could handle what I, as a layman, would call large volumes of electricity. One week later, another report appeared announcing that the problem had been solved. Years of progress in one week. I don't know if the day will come when such progress will be in the cards for AIDS research.

But that is my hope. And after the visit to the ward today and after the death by AIDS of friends and former associates -- Rock Hudson for one -- that is my prayer.

And now let me turn the meeting over to Secretary Bowen. [CLOSING]

Thank Dr. Bowen, Dr. _____, and Dr. _____. By the way, I thought you would all like to know that, near as I can determine, Dr. Bowen is only the seventh physician to serve in the Cabinet from George Washington's time to the present.

As I was listening to the panel and going on the tour today, I couldn't help remembering something W.H. Auden said -- that the true men of action in our times are not politicians or statesmen but scientists. The Commission will be working with you and many others to chart the Nation's course against this disease. I believe that, when the medical history of our times is written,

you and they will go down as among our greatest men and women of action.

Thank you and God bless you.

JULY 23, 1987

Phesidential Remarks:
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
PANEL DISCUSSION ON AIDS

(JUDGE)

THANK YOU. AS YOU KNOW, GENERALLY,
WHEN I TALK TO A GROUP LIKE THIS, I OPEN
WITH A JOKE OR TWO - TO PUT ALL OF US AT
EASE, GET THINGS ROLLING. I HOPE YOU'LL
FORGIVE ME IF I SKIP THAT TODAY. I'VE JUST
COME FROM THE WARD YOU HAVE HERE FOR
CHILDREN WHO HAVE AIDS. LET ME JUST MAKE A
PROMISE TO THOSE CHILDREN AND ALL OTHERS WHO
HAVE CONTRACTED THIS DISEASE. WE WILL -I WILL -- DO ALL THAT GOD GIVES US THE POWER
TO DO TO FIND A CURE FOR AIDS. WE WILL NOT
STOP WE WILL NOT REST, UNTIL WE HAVE SENT
AIDS THE WAY OF SMALLPOX AND POLIO.

THOSE ARE WORDS OF RESOLVE. NOW I'D

LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORDS OF HOPE. ONE OF THE

AMAZING STORIES OF MODERN MEDICINE IS THE

PROGRESS THAT WE'VE ALREADY MADE AGAINST

AIDS.

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Eugene Mayberry - Presidential Commission on the Auman Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic

I KNOW THIS IS OLD NEWS TO YOU IN THIS ROOM. SO MANY OF THE BREAKTHROUGHS WERE ACHIEVED RIGHT HERE IN THIS BUILDING. BUT, FOR OUR FRIENDS IN THE PRESS, I THOUGHT I SHOULD PUT THE SPEED OF PROGRESS IN PERSPECTIVE. JUST THINK THAT THE DAY I WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT / WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT AIDS EXISTED. IT WASN'T UNTIL 5 MONTHS LATER THAT THE DISEASE WAS DISCOVERED. BUT ONLY 3 YEARS AFTER THAT IN A LABORATORY ON THIS CAMPUS TOR. ROBERT GALLO ISOLATED THE AIDS VIRUS. THIS WAS. (OF COURSE.) AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, (AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, SIMILAR WORK WAS BEING DONE BY DR. LUKE (MON-TAHN-YAY) AT THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE IN PARIS, WITHIN A YEAR, A BLOOD TEST WAS AVAILABLE. AND NOW A TREATMENT DRUG, A.Z.T., IS ALSO ON THE. MARKET / ALSO DEVELOPED HERE IN THIS BUILDING, BY DR. SAM BRODER WHOM I MET EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON.

DR. BRODER TOLD ME, BY THE WAY, THAT
MORE PROGRESS IS COMING. HE MENTIONED WORK
ON A NUMBER OF NEW AND PROMISING DRUGS FOR
TREATING AIDS. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT A
VACCINE WILL SOON GO INTO TESTING.
AS THESE DRUGS AND VACCINES COME ALONG
I AM DETERMINED THAT RED TAPE WILL NOT KEEP
THEM AWAY FROM THOSE IN NEED. WE WILL MAKE
CERTAIN THAT THEY GET THE SAME KIND OF
ACCELERATED REVIEW/FROM THE FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION/THAT GOT THE A.Z.T.
APPLICATION APPROVED IN ONLY 4 MONTHS /RECORD TIME.

I KNOW THAT EVERYONE HERE UNDERSTANDS
HOW DAZZLING THE PROGRESS AGAINST AIDS HAS
BEEN. IT TOOK 40 YEARS OF STUDY TO LEARN
AS MUCH ABOUT POLIO. IT TOOK 19 YEARS TO
DEVELOP A VACCINE AGAINST HEPATITIS B.

TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM, THIS YEAR THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND \$317 MILLION
ON AIDS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND
\$845 MILLION OVERALL. NEXT YEAR WE'LL
SPEND 30 PERCENT MORE ON RESEARCH AND
\$1.26 BILLION OVERALL. SPENDING ON AIDS
HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING AREAS OF
THE FEDERAL BUDGET. THE LIMITS ON RESEARCH
PROGRESS TODAY ARE NOT THE LIMITS OF
SPENDING BUT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS
ITSELF. GROWING CULTURES MONITORING THE
SPREAD OF INFECTION CONDUCTING TESTS
ALL OF THIS TAKES TIME.

TODAY WE'RE TAKING ANOTHER BIG STEP AGAINST AIDS. THIS MORNING AT THE WHITE HOUSE WE ANNOUNCED THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS EPIDEMIC.

DR. EUGENE MAYBERRY, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OFFICER OF THE MAYO CLINIC IS CHAIRMAN OF

THE COMMISSION THE MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE

DRAWN FROM A WIDE RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS AND

POINTS OF VIEW, AND I SAY DR. MAYBERRY "IS"

CHAIRMAN, NOT "WILL BE" CHAIRMAN BECAUSE

NOT ONLY DID WE ANNOUNCE THE COMMISSION'S

MEMBERSHIP TODAY BUT TODAY IS ALSO THE

COMMISSION'S FIRST DAY OF WORK. THEY'RE

WASTING NO TIME. AND, IN FACT, TALK ABOUT

SPEED DR. MAYBERRY WILL PRESENT THE

COMMISSION'S FIRST REPORT TO ME IN 90 DAYS.

DR. MAYBERRY AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL
RECOMMEND A FULL-FLEDGED STRATEGY FOR
BATTLING AIDS. WE ALREADY HAVE A RESEARCH
STRATEGY FOR FINDING A CURE. THE COMMISSION
WILL BE REVIEWING NOT ONLY THAT. BUT ALSO
LOOKING AT QUESTIONS OF TREATMENT AND
PREVENTION.

HOW CAN WE MOST COMPASSIONATELY CARE FOR
THOSE WHO HAVE AIDS? HOW CAN WE MOST JUSTLY
AND EFFECTIVELY PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE
SPREAD OF AIDS?

WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW IN THE BATTLE
AGAINST AIDS IS A GOOD, STRONG DOSE OF
COMMON SENSE, IT SEEMS TO ME COMMON SENSE
TO RECOGNIZE THAT, WHEN IT COMES TO STOPPING
THE SPREAD OF AIDS, MEDICINE AND MORALITY
TEACH THE SAME LESSONS.

ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THE SPREAD OF AIDS WON'T HELP ANYONE — THOSE WHO HAVE IT THOSE WHO MIGHT GET IT THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS OF PREVENTING ITS SPREAD. THIS IS WHY I CALLED RECENTLY FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF TESTING. I HOPE THE COMMISSION WILL HELP US ALL PUT ASIDE OUR SUSPICIONS AND WORK TOGETHER WITH COMMON SENSE AGAINST THIS COMMON THREAT.

I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THE VAST

AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND EFFORT WE'RE PUTTING

INTO AIDS RESEARCH WILL GIVE US A CURE IN

A WEEK, OR A YEAR, OR BY AN ABSOLUTELY

CERTAIN DATE. THE TRUTH IS, NONE OF US

KNOWS FOR CERTAIN JUST WHEN A CURE WILL

COME. IT MIGHT NOT BE UNTIL THE LATE

1990'S. IT MIGHT NOT BE UNTIL LATER.

THAT'S WHY PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ARE

SO IMPORTANT NOW.

BUT IN THE SPIRIT OF HOPE, LET'S NOT FORGET, A CURE MIGHT POSSIBLY ARRIVE MUCH SOONER. A FEW WEEKS AGO I WAS READING ABOUT ANOTHER FIELD OF ASTONISHINGLY RAPID SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS — NOT IN MEDICINE, BUT IN PHYSICS.

DESPITE ALL THE ADVANCES OF THE LAST YEAR,
IN WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE PHENOMENON
OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY ONE PROBLEM WAS SAID
TO BE YEARS FROM SOLVING, THAT OF FINDING
A MATERIAL THAT COULD HANDLE WHAT I,
AS A LAYMAN, WOULD CALL LARGE AMOUNTS OF
ELECTRICITY. THE NEXT WEEK, ANOTHER REPORT
APPEARED ANNOUNCING THAT THE PROBLEM HAD
BEEN SOLVED. WHAT SOME SAID WOULD BE YEARS
IN COMING HAPPENED JUST ONE WEEK LATER.

I DON'T KNOW IF THE DAY WILL COME WHEN SUCH PROGRESS WILL BE IN THE CARDS FOR AIDS RESEARCH. BUT THAT IS MY HOPE. AND AFTER THE VISIT TO THE WARD TODAY AND AFTER THE DEATH BY AIDS OF FRIENDS AND FORMER ASSOCIATES THAT IS MY PRAYER. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WHETHER BY BREAKTHROUGH OR STEADY PROGRESS WE WILL BEAT THIS DISEASE.

AND NOW LET ME TURN THE MEETING OVER TO SECRETARY BOWEN.

(CLOSING)

THANK YOU, DR. BOWEN,

DR. (WINE-GARDEN), AND DR. (FAU-CHEE).

BY THE WAY, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD ALL LIKE

TO. KNOW THAT, NEAR AS I CAN DETERMINE/

DR. BOWEN IS ONLY THE SEVENTH PHYSICIAN

TO SERVE IN THE CABINET FROM GEORGE

WASHINGTON'S TIME TO THE PRESENT.

AS I WAS LISTENING TO THE PANEL AND GOING ON THE TOUR TODAY I COULDN'T HELP REMEMBERING SOMETHING W. H. AUDEN SAID /- THAT THE TRUE MEN OF ACTION IN OUR TIMES ARE NOT POLITICIANS OR STATESMEN BUT SCIENTISTS. DR. MAYBERRY AND THE COMMISSION WILL BE WORKING WITH YOU AND MANY OTHERS TO CHART THE NATION'S COURSE AGAINST THIS DISEASE. I BELIEVE THAT, WHEN THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF OUR TIMES IS WRITTEN, YOU AND THEY WILL GO DOWN AS AMONG OUR GREATEST MEN AND WOMEN OF ACTION.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

M.

(Judge/ARD) July 21, 1987 5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSION ON AIDS THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1987

Thank you. As you know, generally, when I talk to a group like this, I open with a joke or two -- to put all of us at ease, get things rolling. I hope you'll forgive me if I skip that today. I've just come from the ward you have here for children who have AIDS. Let me just make a promise to those children and all others who have contracted this disease. We will -- I will -- do all that God gives us the power to do to find a cure for AIDS. We will not stop, we will not rest, until we have sent AIDS the way of smallpox and polio.

Those are words of resolve. Now I'd like to add a few words of hope. One of the amazing stories of modern medicine is the progress that we've already made against AIDS. I know this is old news to you in this room. So many of the breakthroughs were achieved right here in this building. But, for our friends in the press, I thought I should put the speed of progress in perspective. Just think that the day I was sworn in as President, we didn't even know that AIDS existed. It wasn't until 5 months later that the disease was discovered. But only 3 years after that, in a laboratory on this campus, Dr. Robert Gallo isolated the AIDS virus. This was, of course, at about the same time, as is often the case, similar work was being done by Dr. Luc Montaignier at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Within a year, a blood test was available. And now a treatment drug,

A.Z.T., is also on the market, also developed here in this building, by Dr. Sam Broder, whom I met earlier this afternoon.

Dr. Broder told me, by the way, that more progress is coming. He mentioned work on a number of new and promising drugs for treating AIDS. And I understand that a vaccine will soon go into testing. As these drugs and vaccines come along, I am determined that red tape will not keep them away from those in need. We will make certain that they get the same kind of accelerated review from the Food and Drug Administration that got the A.Z.T. application approved in only 4 months -- record time.

I know that everyone here understands how dazzling the progress against AIDS has been. It took 40 years of study to learn as much about polio. It took 19 years to develop a vaccine against hepatitis B. To keep up the momentum, this year the Federal Government will spend \$317 million on AIDS research and development and \$845 million overall. Next year we'll spend 30 percent more on research and \$1.26 billion overall. Spending on AIDS has been one of the fastest-growing areas of the Federal budget. The limits on research progress today are not the limits of spending, but of the scientific process itself. Growing cultures, monitoring the spread of infection, conducting tests —all of this takes time.

Today we're taking another big step against AIDS. This morning at the White House we announced the members of the Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic. Dr. Eugene Mayberry, the Chief Executive Officer of the Mayo Clinic, is chairman of the Commission, the members of

which are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and points of view. And I say Dr. Mayberry "is" chairman, not "will be" chairman, because not only did we announce the Commission's membership today, but today is also the Commission's first day of work. They're wasting no time. And, in fact, talk about speed, Dr. Mayberry will present the Commission's first report to me in 90 days.

Dr. Mayberry and his colleagues will recommend a full-fledged strategy for battling AIDS. We already have a research strategy for finding a cure. The Commission will be reviewing not only that, but also looking at questions of treatment and prevention. How can we most compassionately care for those who have AIDS? How can we most justly and effectively protect the public from the spread of AIDS?

What we need right now in the battle against AIDS is a good, strong dose of common sense. It seems to me common sense to recognize that, when it comes to stopping the spread of AIDS, medicine and morality teach the same lessons.

It's also common sense that ignorance about the extent of the spread of AIDS won't help anyone -- those who have it; those who might get it; those who are looking for ways of preventing its spread. This is why I called recently for certain kinds of testing. I hope the Commission will help us all put aside our suspicions and work together with common sense against this common threat.

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or a year, or by an absolutely certain date. The truth is, none of us knows for certain just when a cure will come. It might not be until the late 1990's. It might not be until later. That's why prevention and treatment are so important now.

But in the spirit of hope, let's not forget, a cure might possibly arrive much sooner. A few weeks ago I was reading about another field of astonishingly rapid scientific progress -- not in medicine, but in physics. Despite all the advances of the last year, in what has become known as the phenomenon of superconductivity, one problem was said to be years from solving, that of finding a material that could handle what I, as a layman, would call large amounts of electricity. One week later, another report appeared announcing that the problem had been solved. What some thought would take years happened in one week.

I don't know if the day will come when such progress will be in the cards for AIDS research. But that is my hope. And after the visit to the ward today and after the death by AIDS of friends and former associates -- Rock Hudson for one -- that is my prayer. One way or another, whether by breakthrough or steady progress, we will beat this disease.

And now let me turn the meeting over to Secretary Bowen.

[CLOSING]

Thank you, Dr. Bowen, Dr. Wyngaarden, and Dr. Fauci. By the way, I thought you would all like to know that, near as I can determine, Dr. Bowen is only the seventh physician to serve in the Cabinet from George Washington's time to the present.

As I was listening to the panel and going on the tour today, I couldn't help remembering something W. H. Auden said -- that the true men of action in our times are not politicians or statesmen but scientists. Dr. Mayberry and the Commission will be working with you and many others to chart the Nation's course against this disease. I believe that, when the medical history of our times is written, you and they will go down as among our greatest men and women of action.

Thank you and God bless you.

Document No.	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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BALL			KING	
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CRIPPEN			SPRINKEL	
CULVAHOUSE			TUTTLE	
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(Judge/ARD) July 21, 1987 5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
PANEL DISCUSSION ON AIDS 100 21 70 5 4.6
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1987

Thank you. As you know, generally, when I talk to a group like this, I open with a joke or two -- to put all of us at ease, get things rolling. I hope you'll forgive me if I skip that today. I've just come from the ward you have here for children who have AIDS. Let me just make a promise to those children and all others who have contracted this disease. We will -- I will -- do all that God gives us the power to do to find a cure for AIDS. We will not stop, we will not rest, until we have sent AIDS the way of smallpox and polio.

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Dr. Mayberry and his colleagues will recommend a full-fledged strategy for battling AIDS. We already have a research strategy for finding a cure. The Commission will be reviewing not only that, but also looking at questions of treatment and prevention. How can we most compassionately care for those who have AIDS? How can we most justly and effectively protect the public from the spread of AIDS?

What we need right now in the battle against AIDS is a good, strong dose of common sense. It seems to me common sense to recognize that, when it comes to stopping the spread of AIDS, medicine and morality teach the same lessons.

It's also common sense that ignorance about the extent of the spread of AIDS won't help anyone -- those who have it; those who might get it; those who are looking for ways of preventing its spread. This is why I called recently for certain kinds of testing. I hope the Commission will help us all put aside our suspicions and work together with common sense against this common threat.

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But in the spirit of hope, let's not forget, a cure might possibly arrive much sooner. A few weeks ago I was reading about another field of astonishingly rapid scientific progress -- not in medicine, but in physics. Despite all the advances of the last year, in what has become known as the phenomenon of superconductivity, one problem was said to be years from solving, that of finding a material that could handle what I, as a layman, would call large amounts of electricity. One week later, another report appeared announcing that the problem had been solved. What some thought would take years happened in one week.

I don't know if the day will come when such progress will be in the cards for AIDS research. But that is my hope. And after the visit to the ward today and after the death by AIDS of friends and former associates -- Rock Hudson for one -- that is my prayer. One way or another, whether by breakthrough or steady progress, we will beat this disease.

And now let me turn the meeting over to Secretary Bowen.

[CLOSING]

Thank you, Dr. Bowen, Dr. Wyngaarden, and Dr. Fauci. By the way, I thought you would all like to know that, near as I can determine, Dr. Bowen is only the seventh physician to serve in the Cabinet from George Washington's time to the present.

As I was listening to the panel and going on the tour today, I couldn't help remembering something W. H. Auden said -- that the true men of action in our times are not politicians or statesmen but scientists. Dr. Mayberry and the Commission will be working with you and many others to chart the Nation's course against this disease. I believe that, when the medical history of our times is written, you and they will go down as among our greatest men and women of action.

Thank you and God bless you.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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RESPONSE:

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(Judge/ARD) July 20, 1987 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSION ON AIDS THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1987

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