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ABC

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 29, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR DIANNA G. HOLLAND

FROM: PETER D. KEISLER *PK*

SUBJECT: Protest Demonstration on AIDS


On Monday, June 1, there will be a protest demonstration in Lafayette Park concerning AIDS. Richard Robbins, an Assistant Solicitor at the Department of the Interior, met this morning with representatives of the organizing groups and with members of the Metropolitan Police Department. Robbins has left town, but before doing so he discussed what he learned with Mark Nagel of the United States Attorney's Office. Mark Nagel, in turn, relayed the information to me.

The first protest event is scheduled for 8:00 Sunday evening at Thompson Boat Center, located at the foot of Virginia Avenue near the Watergate Hotel. It will be a candlelight vigil, and is expected to last approximately 1 hour. The principal organizer is the National Association of People with AIDS. That organization expects approximately 300 people to attend. The event is planned to be solemn, but two organizations from New York -- Act Up and The Lavender Hill Group -- may become unruly.

The Park Police are aware that the President will be nearby at the Potomac Restaurant during this vigil, but do not expect the demonstrators to cause any trouble.

On Monday afternoon, beginning at noon, demonstrators will gather in Lafayette Park. The organizing group for this event is the Coalition for Leadership on AIDS, and they are expecting between 200 and 300 attendees. The demonstration will hear only one speaker -- Dan Bradley, the former head of the Legal Services Corporation, who is suffering from AIDS -- and he will deliver his address from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Among the participants will be 30 to 50 people from the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. They intend to march down New York Avenue to Lafayette Park at noon, and, after Bradley's speech, to march out onto Pennsylvania Avenue. They wish to be arrested -- presumably for blocking traffic. They emphatically prefer being arrested by the Metropolitan Police Department to being arrested by the Park Police, and that is why they intend to stand in Pennsylvania Avenue. Apparently, they believe the Metropolitan Police will treat them more gently. They will not resist arrest. They intend to abide by the regulations governing the White House sidewalk.



Robbins expects a small-scale demonstration, and no trouble. Nagel had not heard the rumors we discussed concerning outlandish behavior. He will relay to me any additional information he learns as the day progresses.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR JAY STEPHENS ✓
BOB KRUGER

FROM: ARTHUR B. CULVAHOUSE, JR.

For your information


*Mary
start file on AIDS*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1987

SENATOR BAKER:

At the issues lunch today you asked what arguments are being made against mandatory testing for AIDS. Yesterday's lead editorial in the New York Times (attached) mentions a few.


Rhett Dawson

cc: Ken Duberstein
A.B. Culvahouse
Tom Griscom
Nancy Risque

To Jay Shover
Bob Koweska

When to Test for AIDS

Why not compel everyone to be tested for AIDS as the basis for halting further spread of the virus? That's a natural first thought to anyone who ponders the deadly epidemic. But it's only a first thought. That some senior Administration officials argue for mandatory AIDS testing shows how late in the day they have arrived at step one.

William Bennett, the Secretary of Education, wants AIDS tests to be given to everyone admitted to the hospital or applying for a marriage license. Gary Bauer, a senior White House aide, says opponents of such tests are promoting "a bizarre type of enforced ignorance." The Public Health Service now says that all immigrants will be screened for AIDS virus.

There are at least six reasons for believing that advocates of general forced testing are opinionated, hasty or poorly informed.

Lesson One: Don't drive victims underground. Homosexuals and intravenous drug abusers, the principal victims, are not mainstream America. Living at the edge of social tolerance in many states, they face plenty of discrimination already. Their cooperation in changing their own behavior is crucial in slowing the disease's spread to other groups. Mandatory testing is the surest way to discourage them from contact with health authorities.

Lesson Two: A consensus is not a conspiracy. No one should lightly deny public health officials the tools they need to combat AIDS, including use of the AIDS antibody tests. What public officials want — for the reason cited above — is more voluntary testing, not mandatory testing. Mr. Bennett seems to believe that the Federal public health agency has fallen under the influence of homosexuals who oppose mandatory testing for self-interested reasons. But the reason for agreement is not conspiracy. Both groups believe voluntary testing is the better way of halting AIDS.

Lesson Three: Why in hospitals? Hospital patients are predominantly the elderly and the very young, two categories least likely to have AIDS. Why does Mr. Bennett propose to look there for the virus instead of among high-risk groups? Because hospitals are where testing is easiest. So too argued the drunkard who lost his keys in the dark and explained he was searching for them under the lamp-post because the light was better.

Lesson Four: Like it or not, morals have changed. Many states require a syphilis test for those seeking a marriage license. Mr. Bennett can't understand why an AIDS test isn't given too. The

reason is that a minute proportion of known syphilis cases are detected this way. New York recently dropped the syphilis test because the results were not worth the cost, and because of suspicion that some couples nowadays have sex before marriage. The same logic applies to AIDS, but there's another, far more cogent reason.

Lesson Five: False alarms have grim consequences. The two present tests for AIDS virus are highly specific but even in conjunction are not totally accurate. The danger of "false positives" — diagnosing individuals as exposed to AIDS when they are not — is probably minuscule with high-risk populations. But the danger grows rapidly when screening large populations at low risk.

According to a paper to be published shortly by Michael J. Barry and colleagues at the Harvard School of Public Health, the two standard AIDS tests would identify 28 true positives, 2 false negatives and 11 false positives when applied to a low-risk population, defined as 30 AIDS cases per 100,000 people. What those figures say is that, for every 28 cases correctly diagnosed, the tests risk falsely informing 11 individuals that they carry the virus of a deadly disease and should never have children. Without guarantees of confidentiality, the insurers, employers, landlords and classmates of these 11 individuals may also learn, and act, on the false information. What a burden for mandatory testers to bear.

Lesson Six: AIDS makes a poor political football. Mr. Bauer believes that public health officials have few qualms in urging explicit sex education for young children, offensive as that may be to conservatives. But when it comes to testing, "the left's political agenda takes over." He says, "Either this is potentially the Black Death or it isn't." In fact, no one knows how widely AIDS will spread, but it's prudent to take precautions. Teaching teen-agers safe sex is an effective precaution — and mandatory testing is not.

AIDS is a medical issue. Those who politicize it, or see political motives where none exist, are seriously delaying national policy on AIDS and measures to save lives. The only known way to curb AIDS is to persuade people to change behavior. The Administration still has not mounted a massive public education program of the sort already under way in several European countries. The Secretary of Education should be leading the charge for education about AIDS and voluntary testing. Mandatory testing should be his last thought, not his first.

Mr. Gephardt's Bleak Promises

Emotional economics and discredited protectionism drive Richard Gephardt's Presidential campaign. He appeals to popular frustration by blaming America's trade deficit on other countries. His remedy, adopted narrowly by the House and

supposedly "unfair" trade practices. There is some truth to this charge, but America is guilty, too. Mr. Gephardt ignores America's flaws and exaggerates the potential benefit of his scheme.

Even with restrictions off, America's trade deficit would be huge. In the years when the dollar

29): The act of Congress the National Academy (signed by President March 3, 1863) stipulated the Academy would be called upon by any department of Government, to "investigate, experiment and report on any subject of science or art from the start the National Academy of Sciences was to encompass a wide range of subjects.

As early as 1895, when president of the Academy was a chemist and one of its members, proposed expansion beyond the physical sciences, (what the "hard" sciences) — history, anthropology, geography, agriculture, science. Gibbs's proposal was not approved. In the early 1900's did elect some psychologists, including William James, again turned down in proposals to broaden the membership to include the philosophical, economic

When Winn:

To the Editor:

Some weeks ago, grandfatherly mood, I raffle ticket from a charity to my 5-year-old grandson last week, something happened: He won. And with a first-class trip for complete with a stay at Athénée Hotel and other adding up to a stated than \$13,000.

Under the 1986 tax changes a tax bill of about his piggy bank isn't he handle, and thus the burden on his parents or, worse result, my daughter's me, my wife thinks the Internal Revenue salivating at the wind

Since the boy can't yet, he doesn't recall Paris; and even if he 4-year-old girlfriend a two weeks would, his or parents say, be positive So that's out.

He can't give the prize because they work too have time to go. He can't to me because I won't give a day and a half to get a The only thing he can

Genetic Dabb

To the Editor

Lloyd McAuley development and reproductively altered bacteria "dogs and horses" (letter, May 11) and creating a situation may lose control. A parallel might be the "new" organisms in ment and the importation of African and