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Remarks

By

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This was another of the celebrations of the year of the 100th Anniversary of the Commissioned Corps. And again I was speaking to family – broader than the Public Health Service alone – because we had members of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force there as well. This was really an introductory speech to a rah-rah day and I paid homage to the vast breadth and depth of the United States Public Health Service, remembered its founding president, John Adams and outlined the mission of the Public Health Service programs.

I then reminded the audience that that days program took its root from Healthy People: the Surgeon General's Report on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, issued in 1979 by my predecessor, Dr. Julius Richmond. This was followed by Objectives of the Nation, which by the time I spoke, was being institutionalized and we were actually setting goals for the year 2000.

Speaking of reports, I said that I would release the 25th Anniversary Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health in the next week. It would be an encouraging report because we can now demonstrate that we can reverse the trends of a deeply ingrained and publicly sanctioned behavior, to say nothing of addiction, if we make a concerted effort to inform and educate the public.

I closed with four other objectives that were part of our plans for the year 2000, and reminded them in parting that the health problems of the coming third century would need to address issues which require the participation of an informed and health-conscious citizenry.