

ORIGINAL

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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PRESENTED TO THE PARENTS' MUSIC RESOURCE CENTER SYMPOSIUM

"RAISED ON ROCK 'N ROLL -- THE SOUND AND THE FURY"

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(GREETINGS TO HOSTS, GUESTS, FRIENDS, ETC.)

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS CONFERENCE, THE PARENTS' MUSIC RESOURCE CENTER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL YOUTH SUICIDE CENTER AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD PSYCHIATRY, FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THIS EFFORT TO EXAMINE ADVERSE ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA MESSAGES IN TODAY'S POPULAR YOUTH CULTURE AND CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT COUNTERACT THEM.

THE EFFORTS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR STAFFS HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH A PACKED AGENDA FOR TODAY. BUT THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS A VERY DISTRESSING PIECE OF INFORMATION. IN AN IDEAL WORLD, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THESE MATTERS. THERE OUGHT NOT TO BE ENOUGH GOING ON IN THIS SUBJECT TO FILL THE AGENDA OF EVEN ONE DAY.

TODAY, WE ARE CONFRONTING A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH ARE A TEST OF OUR FAITH...OUR FAITH AS CITIZENS...OUR FAITH AS CONCERNED PROFESSIONALS...AND OUR FAITH AS HUMAN BEINGS.

PORNOGRAPHY IS ONE OF THESE.

WE PERCEIVE THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS A DESTRUCTIVE PHENOMENON. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TO SOCIETY BUT, RATHER, TAKES AWAY FROM AND DIMINISHES WHAT WE REGARD AS SOCIALLY GOOD.

CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECTS OF OUR CONCERN WITH PORNOGRAPHY WAS EXPRESSED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. EDWIN MEESE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID...

"IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WITH PORNOGRAPHY WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH ONE PASSING INCIDENT -- ONE MAGAZINE, ONE PLAY, OR ONE FILM. WE ARE DEALING WITH A GENERAL TENDENCY THAT IS PERVADING OUR ENTIRE CULTURE -- INCLUDING THE CULTURE KNOWN TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN."

THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT OBSERVATION. IN THE PAST, WE'VE BEEN CONCERNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE BOOK STORES AND THE MOVIE THEATERS THAT HAVE SPECIALIZED IN PORNOGRAPHY. BUT IT'S NO LONGER QUITE THAT SIMPLE. NOW WE HAVE ROCK VIDEOS WITHOUT CONTROL AND FREQUENTLY VIEWED WITHOUT PARENT'S EVEN BEING AWARE. MANY THAT I HAVE SEEN ARE SENSELESS VIOLENCE WITH SENSELESS PORNOGRAPHY TO THE BEAT OF ROCK MUSIC.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKED ME TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ON CHILDREN. THE CONCLUSIONS OF MY PANEL OF EXPERTS WERE:

FIRST -- QUOTE -- CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE ADVERSE, ENDURING EFFECTS -- UNQUOTE.

THIS KIND OF THING WAS REGARDED BY THE PARTICIPANTS AS SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, "PURE AND SIMPLE." THEY NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS AND SUBSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD PROSTITUTION.

SECOND, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT -- QUOTE -- PROLONGED USE OF PORNOGRAPHY INCREASES BELIEFS THAT LESS COMMON SEXUAL PRACTICES ARE MORE COMMON -- UNQUOTE.

THIS SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE, SINCE THE CONCLUSION IS THE SAME THAT OCCURS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE AND OTHER ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: REPEATED EXPOSURE TO THEM -- VIA TELEVISION, FOR EXAMPLE, OR MOVIES SUCH AS THE SO-CALLED "SLASHER FILMS" -- TENDS TO BUILD UP THE IMPRESSION THAT PEOPLE ARE CARRYING OUT SUCH ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES MORE OFTEN THAN IS ACTUALLY THE CASE.

THIRD, -- QUOTE PORNOGRAPHY THAT PORTRAYS SEXUAL AGGRESSION AS PLEASURABLE FOR THE VICTIM INCREASES THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE USE OF COERCION IN SEXUAL RELATIONS -- UNQUOTE.

I'M CERTAIN THAT THIS KIND OF PORNOGRAPHY IS THE CAUSE FOR MUCH OF THE RAPE THAT OCCURS TODAY. IMPRESSIONABLE MEN -- MANY OF THEM STILL IN ADOLESCENCE -- SEE THIS STUFF AND GET THE IMPRESSION THAT WOMEN LIKE TO BE HURT, TO BE HUMILITATED, TO BE FORCED TO DO THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO DO OR APPEAR TO BE FORCED TO DO THINGS THEY REALLY DO WANT TO DO. IT'S ANOTHER FALSE STEREOTYPE...ANOTHER VICIOUS KIND OF MYTHOLOGY...BUT THIS ONE ALMOST CERTAINLY LEADS TO THE PAIN AND EVEN DEATH OF VICTIMIZED WOMEN.

FOURTH -- QUOTE -- ACCEPTANCE OF COERCIVE SEXUALITY APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO SEXUAL AGGRESSION -- UNQUOTE.

THIS CONSENSUS STATEMENT, ALONG WITH THE PREVIOUS ONE, COMPLETES THE CIRCLE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF A MAN SEES A STEADY STREAM OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT MATERIAL IN WHICH THE VICTIM SEEMS TO BE LIKING IT, HE BEGINS TO GET THE IDEA THAT COERCION AND VIOLENCE ARE ACCEPTABLE IN SEXUAL RELATIONS.

BUT THEN, SAID THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS, HE WILL VERY LIKELY TAKE THE NEXT STEP. HE WILL CONVERT THIS ATTITUDE INTO HIS OWN BEHAVIOR. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WILL BECOME THE PERPETRATOR HE HAS BEEN READING ABOUT OR WATCHING IN PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS AND VIDEOS.

FIFTH AND FINALLY, -- QUOTE -- IN LABORATORY STUDIES MEASURING SHORT-TERM EFFECTS, EXPOSURE TO VIOLENT PORNOGRAPHY INCREASES PUNITIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD WOMEN -- UNQUOTE.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE BY CONTROLLED EXPERIMENTS. IT'S DIFFICULT TO ACCUMULATE HARD DATA ON PORNOGRAPHY BECAUSE OF THE OVERRIDING ETHIC THAT PREVENTS US FROM DOING HARM TO HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH. NEVERTHELESS, THIS FIFTH CONCLUSION IS SAFE ENOUGH TO DRAW FROM THE FEW EXPERIMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE.

I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY, BASED ON THESE CONSENSUS STATEMENTS, THAT PORNOGRAPHY DOES STIMULATE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR THAT HAVE GRAVELY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FOR SOCIETY. THOSE OUTCOMES IMPAIR THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS -- THAT'S CLEAR ENOUGH -- ANY MANY THUS CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE MORBIDITY BURDEN IN OUR SOCIETY.

BUT LEAVING PORNOGRAPHY ASIDE, THERE IS ON TV AND IN THE MOVIES A LOT OF SEX WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY AND WITHOUT MORALITY.

WE FUNDED SOME RESEARCH RECENTLY THAT WAS DONE ON THIS MATTER BY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. THE RESEARCHERS FOUND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF 9TH- AND 10TH-GRADE GIRLS WATCH BETWEEN 1 AND 2 HOURS OF SOAP OPERAS EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL.

AND WHAT ARE THEY VIEWING? THE RESEARCHERS REPORT THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SEXUAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN UNMARRIED PARTNERS WAS SHOWN OR DISCUSSED ON MID-DAY SOAP OPERAS ON AN AVERAGE OF 1.56 TIMES AN HOUR. THE WORST OFFENDER WAS ALL MY CHILDREN.

IN THE EVENING, A LARGER NUMBER OF 9TH- AND 10TH-GRADE GIRLS ARE JOINED BY THEIR BROTHERS TO WATCH 3 TO 4 HOURS OF TELEVISION. ON THOSE PRIME-TIME EVENING SHOWS, ACTS OF UNMARRIED INTERCOURSE ARE SHOWN OR DISCUSSED ON AN AVERAGE OF ONCE AN HOUR. AND THE WORST OFFENDER BY FAR IS DYNASTY.

THESE ARE NOT MY OPINIONS, BUT THOSE OF THE RESEARCHERS AT MICHIGAN STATE.

THE SAME RESEARCHERS ALSO FOUND THAT OVER 60 TO 70 PERCENT OF THOSE SAME 9TH- AND 10TH-GRADERS SAW THE TOP 5 "R" RATED FILMS, IN WHICH SEXUAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN UNMARRIED PARTNERS OCCURRED ON THE AVERAGE OF 8 TIMES PER FILM. THE WORST OFFENDERS -- WITH 15 SUCH ACTS PER FILM -- WERE PORKY'S II AND FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH, A MOVIE SO POPULAR AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE THAT IT HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A TELEVISION SERIES. AGAIN, NOT MY OPINION, BUT THE RESEARCHERS!

OUR CHILDREN DON'T LIVE IN A VACUUM, AS WE ALL KNOW. THEY LIVE IN A REAL WORLD OF PLEASURE AND DANGER, ALONG WITH THE REST OF US. BUT WE HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH IT AND SOME SENSE OF HOW TO SURVIVE IN IT WITH OUR LIVES AND OUR VALUES INTACT. AND I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT EACH OF US -- IN OUR HOMES OR IN OUR SCHOOLS -- HAS THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS THAT INFORMATION ON TO OUR CHILDREN.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT -- THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN PARTICULAR -- IS PLEDGED TO HELP IN THIS EFFORT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAN. AS THE SURGEON GENERAL, I HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD POSITION AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE.

AS YOU KNOW MUCH OF MY TIME OVER THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF AIDS. I HAVE OFTEN SAID THAT MORALITY AND SCIENCE GO HAND-IN-HAND IN THE PREVENTION OF AIDS. A MAJOR CONCERN HAS BEEN SEX AND AIDS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN. MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE MEDIA HAS BEEN A POSITIVE ONE. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT.

FOR MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS THE PRIMARY SEX EDUCATOR. THE STORIES AND CHARACTERS INFLUENCE THEIR SEXUAL ATTITUDES, VALUES AND BEHAVIOR.

THE COUNTRY NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. WITHOUT IT WE CANNOT WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS.

I TOOK MYSELF OUT TO HOLLYWOOD TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. IN PREPARATION, I REVIEWED THE SHOWS "AN EARLY FROST", "AN ENEMY AMONG US" AND EPISODES OF "L.A. LAW" AND "ST. ELSEWHERE". IT WAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT TELEVISION HAS THE ABILITY TO PRESENT AIDS ISSUES IN AN INFORMING, MOVING AND SENSITIVE WAY.

THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY HAS DONE A SUPERB JOB GETTING THE BASIC FACTS OF AIDS OUT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY HAS EDUCATED WITH FACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF REAL LIFE SITUATIONS THAT PEOPLE CAN RELATE TO. AND THAT HASN'T BEEN EASY TO DO, GIVEN THE SUBJECT...AND GIVEN THE USUAL BRIEF ATTENTION SPAN OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THEY HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING IN THE VARIETY OF APPROACHES AND FORMATS THEY USED TO DO THIS COMPLICATED JOB OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

IN FACT, THEY'VE DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB, ALONG WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE PRINT MEDIA, THAT A GROUP OF RESEARCHERS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FOUND THAT:

QUOTE -- "BETWEEN JUNE 1983 AND AUGUST 1986, THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION WHO SAID THAT THEY HAD HEARD OR READ ABOUT AIDS INCREASED FROM 77 PERCENT TO 99 PERCENT." -- UNQUOTE.

AND THEY GO ON TO SAY -- QUOTE -- "THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO DIFFERENCES AMONG DEMOGRAPHIC CATEGORIES IN THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE AWARE OF AIDS...MEDIA COVERAGE APPEARS TO HAVE OBLITERATED THE 'AWARENESS GAP' BETWEEN POPULATION SUBGROUPS." -- UNQUOTE.

THE RESEARCHERS LOOKED AT THE JOINT SURVEYS DONE BY A.B.C. AND THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS AND THE WASHINGTON POST, BY C.B.S. AND THE NEW YORK TIMES, AND BY N.B.C. AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, AS WELL AS SURVEYS DONE BY ROPER, LOU HARRIS, GALLUP, AND OTHERS.

AS A PLAIN CITIZEN, AS WELL AS YOUR SURGEON GENERAL, I VALUE WHAT ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION HAS DONE FOR POPULAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISEASE OF AIDS. I AM PLEASED TO HAVE READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS THAT WRITERS AND PRODUCERS ARE TAKING THE SEXUAL CONTENT OF THEIR PROGRAMS INTO CONSIDERATION RELATIVE TO AIDS. I UNDERSTAND THAT MOVIE AND T.V. CHARACTERS WILL BE RESPONDING TO THE AIDS ISSUE. ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION CAN BRING THESE ISSUES TO THE PUBLIC IN WAYS WHICH GOVERNMENT NEVER CAN.

SURVEYS HERE AND THERE INDICATE A MARKED SWING AWAY FROM FREQUENT CASUAL SEX WITH MANY DIFFERENT PARTNERS FOR BOTH HETEROSEXUALS AND HOMOSEXUALS, AND TOWARD LOW RISK SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH ONE PARTNER...MONOGAMY.

WHAT MUST BE LEARNED OR RE-LEARNED -- AND CHILDREN ARE NOT TOO YOUNG TO LEARN IT -- AND WHAT WE NEED TO REINFORCE AMONG THE POPULATION IN GENERAL--IS THAT THERE'S MUCH MORE TO HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS THAN JUST "GOOD SEX". SEXUALITY IS JUST ONE ASPECT OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. IT'S SOMETHING...BUT IT'S NOT EVERYTHING.

BUT IF YOU BELIEVE OTHERWISE, THEN YOU OUGHT TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE WORST, BECAUSE THE MOST DEVASTATING, FATAL DISEASE IN RECENT TIMES--AIDS--IS NOW BEING TRANSMITTED FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER MAINLY THROUGH SEX...THAT IS, HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE ENTERING A PERIOD IN THEIR LIVES MARKED BY GREAT CURIOSITY AND SOME EXPERIMENTATION.

THE STD'S - GONORRHEA, SYPHILIS AND CHLAMIDIA ARE ON THE RISE IN YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY AMONG BLACKS AND HISPANICS, AND WE HAVE A MEASURE OF THEIR SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN THE MORE THAN 1,000,000 UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES IN TEENAGERS LAST YEAR.

AND, IN THE PAST, IF ANY OF THEM HAD A MISADVENTURE ALONG THE WAY--SHORT OF PREGNANCY ITSELF--WE HAD A NUMBER OF ANTIBIOTIC THERAPIES TO BRING THEM BACK TO FULL HEALTH.

BUT A MISADVENTURE THAT PRODUCES AN AIDS INFECTION IS STILL BEYOND THE CONTROL OF MODERN MEDICINE.

WE HAVE NO VACCINE TO STOP IT...AND WE WON'T HAVE ONE FOR MANY YEARS.

WE HAVE NO MIRACLE DRUGS...AND NONE IS ON THE HORIZON.

RIGHT NOW, THE VERY BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE--OR ARE BECOMING--SEXUALLY ACTIVE WILL HAVE A HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF WHO THEY ARE...HOW THEY CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES...AND HOW THEY CARE ABOUT OTHERS. YOU CAN ILLUSTRATE THIS BY HAVING TV AND MOVING CHARACTERS TALK OPENLY ABOUT SEX IN LOVING, CARING, KIND AND CONSIDERATE WAYS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FAMILY.

"SEXUALITY" IN THIS "AGE OF AIDS" CAN BE BOTH LIFE-  
GIVING...AND DEATH-GIVING.

BUT WE MUST "CHOOSE LIFE". AND I WOULD ARGUE THAT "LIFE" IS  
MORE LIKELY TO BE FOUND IN AN EQUITABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO  
PEOPLE WHO ARE MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL AND THOUGHTFUL...LOVING AND  
CARING.

IN SUCH RELATIONSHIPS THERE MOST DEFINITELY WILL BE SEX.

BUT IT IS SEX WITHOUT EXPLOITATION.

IT'S SEX WITHOUT FEAR AND DOMINATION.

IT'S SEX WITHOUT SYPHILIS, GONORRHEA AND GUILT.

AND IT'S SEX WITHOUT AIDS.

I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS IN MY LANGUAGE.

BUT I KNOW THE INDUSTRY CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT...BECAUSE  
THEY ALREADY HAVE.

I'VE SEEN THOUGHTFUL, CARING RELATIONSHIPS BUILT RIGHT INTO SHOWS LIKE THE COSBY SHOW, CAGNEY AND LACEY AND THE GOLDEN GIRLS, AND THEY'RE IN FILMS LIKE ROXANNE, LA BAMBA AND THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS. THE BEST SHOW ON AIDS I HAVE SEEN ON AIDS IS A RECENT EPISODE OF C.B.S.'S "DESIGNING WOMEN". IT COVERS ALL THE AIDS ISSUES IN A SENSITIVE AND EFFECTIVE WAY. SOME MESSAGES YOU'LL LIKE; OTHERS YOU MIGHT NOT. THE POINT IS THAT THERE IS A MESSAGE FOR EVERYONE -- WHEREVER HE STANDS -- IT IS A MODEL OF QUALITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE.

ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION HAS BEEN PROACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE AMONG OTHERS HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:

- o RECOGNIZE SEX AS A HEALTHY AND NATURAL PART OF LIFE REQUIRING RESPONSIBILITY TO ONESELF AND PARTNER.
  
- o ENCOURAGE PARENT AND CHILD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SEX WHICH INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT PREVENTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES.
  
- o RECOGNIZE THAT ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY ARE AT POTENTIAL RISK OF AIDS. CHARACTERS WITH AIDS SHOULD NOT ONLY BE DEPICTED AS HOMOSEXUALS, INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS AND WHITES.
  
- o CONSEQUENCES OF UNPROTECTED SEX SHOULD BE INDICATED.

AND I'M TOLD THAT THE FILMS WITH A LESSENER EMPHASIS ON SEX ARE ALSO "DOING GOOD BUSINESS", AS THEY SAY IN THE INDUSTRY. APPARENTLY THE PUBLIC--AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR--ARE HAPPY TO RECEIVE...AND TO PAY FOR...THIS KIND OF RICHER AND MORE REALISTIC MESSAGE...A MESSAGE THAT, RIGHT NOW IS OUR BEST AND ONLY PROTECTION AGAINST THE FATAL, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE OF AIDS.

THIS IS THE AREA WHERE ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION CAN EXCEL. IT BRINGS INTO OUR LIVING ROOMS AND THEATERS CHARACTERS THAT PROVIDE ROLE MODELS FOR OUR CHILDREN. CHARACTERS THAT COULD DEMONSTRATE THE KIND OF SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS THAT WILL STOP AIDS AND OTHER STD'S, UNWANTED PREGNANCIES AND PRODUCE A GENERATION OF WELL-ADJUSTED ADULTS.

ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE AN EXPLOSIVE EPIDEMIC IN THE HETEROSEXUAL POPULATION, AS THERE WAS AMONG HOMOSEXUAL AND BI-SEXUAL MEN, THAT DOES NOT REDUCE THE INDIVIDUAL RISK TO THOSE WHO PRACTICE HIGH RISK SEXUAL BEHAVIOR.

SO, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY, A FEW YEARS HENCE, WHEN I MIGHT THANK THE ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION INDUSTRY AGAIN. BUT THEN IT WILL BE FOR THE JOB THEY HAVE DONE IN ILLUMINATING THE FULL EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN SEXUALITY AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND FOR THEIR ROLE IN HELPING TO RE-COMMIT OUR SINGLE AND SINGULAR NATION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE IN THE FACE OF A DEADLY EPIDEMIC. TELEVISION PROGRAMMING, SERIES, MOVIES OF THE WEEK AND DRAMATIC PRODUCTIONS CAN DO A LOT TO RESTORE THE SEXUAL AND MORAL HEALTH OF THIS NATION.

I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED THIS SPEECH TO DEAL ONLY WITH PORNOGRAPHY. BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW WHERE I STAND ON PORNOGRAPHY. MANY OF YOU HAVE READ THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON PORNOGRAPHY.

I WANTED TO SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA, CONCERNING AIDS. I WANTED TO LEAVE YOU A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CHANGES ARE BEING MADE. THAT POSITIVE MESSAGES TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE INCORPORATED THROUGH THE MEDIA INTO THE YOUTH CULTURE.

YOU KNOW THAT I AM NOT A POLLYANNA, IN FACT I'M OFTEN THE GRIM PROPHET. BUT I SAY THAT, GIVEN THE PROPER LEADERSHIP AND INCENTIVES, OUR SOCIETY CAN BE CHANGED AND I WILL JOIN WITH YOU TO DO THAT.

AND, AS THE POET SAYS, "LET THE WORLD BE A BETTER PLACE, AND LET IT START WITH ME."

THANK YOU.