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Countdown 2000
Annual Meeting
American Lung Association
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I had a pleasant collegial relationship with the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society all during my eight years that comprised my tenure for two terms as Surgeon General. The American Lung Association and I had a particular bond, because it was to their combined meeting with the American Thoracic Society, in 1984, that I had presented a speech calling for a "Smoke-free Society by the Year 2000" and the graduation that year from high school of a "Smoke-free Class". That lecture appears elsewhere in this archive and the user may remember that it was one where I defied protocol, did not send the speech through the usual secretariat at HHS, which would have killed it, but instead presented it at the Annual Meeting as mentioned, in 1984 in Miami.

That was the speech I wrote in Geneva during the World Health Assembly, just preceding the meeting in question. With the aid of the American Lung Association, the speech put in final form for presentation and copies made in their headquarters in Washington, rather than in my office in the same town: Countdown 2000 presents the state of affairs in reference to smoking as we looked forward to the Year 2000.