Once again access and reimbursement are key issues and I will address them in appropriate circles with special attention to reimbursement for immunization against influenza, appropriate screening services, and attention to readily diagnosed and easily treatable conditions.

Policy matters will be delineated and referred to appropriate authorities where responsive action seems most likely.

Smoking

I will continue my personal efforts to convince elderly Americans of the benefits of kicking the habit as well as my constant pressure on physicians to acknowledge that it is never too late to quit, that preventive medicine does have an important role in the health care of elderly people, and that no means to quitting is as effective as a physician's personal advice to his patient to stop smoking.

These recommendations will be turned over to the revitalized Office of Smoking and Health and I will see that each recommendation gets the attention it deserves.

The Federal government buildings have a restricted smoking policy. All Health and Human Services buildings have had a total ban on smoking for the past month. We will get smoking off airlines, out of public buildings, including restaurants, and before the year 2000 smokers will ask for permission to smoke in the presence of nonsmokers—and that will fit my definition of a smoke-free society by the year 2000.

It is in the area of smoking and health that I probably have my greatest clout, and I promise my personal attention to each recommendation made.

I hope to be around long enough to convene the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health to address smoking and the elderly.

And finally, I have already begun to work with the churches which have awakened to realize that smoking is the number one cause of disease, disability, and death.

There is one other area that I will address, if possible and when feasible, that can only enhance the outcome of many of the recommendations made here.

That area is cross generational relationships. Not only are the relationships of the elderly with children socially and emotionally beneficial to the elderly, but they can be a source of education, indeed, wisdom, and companionship, but they can also prepare the youngster for much that is to come in life.

Kids don't know enough about old people and about people of all ages with handicaps. This is one place and one way to began.

Only 9 percent of children in the United States live within walking distance of a grandparent. How tragic that seems as I recall my childhood! I reaped great benefits as a child from a relationship with my grandparents. But I truly believe my interest in and concern for the elderly is not because I am old, but because of the bond that existed with my grandparents. Every child lives within walking distance of an elderly person who might well serve inloco *grand* parentis if there is such a word.

What a great project for our next first lady—whoever she might be. We'll see!

When I addressed you on Monday, I told you that the recommendations would be given the widest possible circulation. Because the document I have before me is in such good form, I think it may be possible to have a printed copy off the press within 6 weeks. You will recall that I said we may be asking some of you for help in reference to distribution suggestions. But let me say now that if there are any of you here who just know that there are several obscure individuals or groups that you just *know* we will not think of, we would be happy to have your suggestions even before we ask for them. Just use your judgment.

One of the greatest satisfactions for me that comes from a Surgeon General's Workshop is to look back a year hence and see how much has been accomplished. With that in mind I would suggest that, as the year goes by, when you are able to do something that implements suggestions made at this workshop that you notify us. It is our intent to collate these and to report to you at 6 months and again at a year.

Walt Whitman was also a Brooklyn boy, like myself, and maybe that's why I like him. It was Walt Whitman who wrote these lines:

> *Youth, large, lusty, loving—youth full of grace, force, fascination,*
> *Do you know that old age may come after you with equal force, grace, fascination?*

Our answer to Walt Whitman ought to be ... Yes, we know. And we should really mean it.

I hope to see some you at the hearing for the Objectives of the Nation this afternoon.

Have a safe trip home.

Thank you.

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