

And when he told this story, the President of Nigeria, President Obasanjo, and his wife, stood on the stage, and they embraced John and his wife. I'm told the image had an electrifying impact all over Nigeria on how people should think about and deal with people with AIDS.

As I said, John and his daughter just walked out, but his wife is here, and I'd like to ask her to stand up. [*Applause*] Thank you. There they are. Thank you. John, with that kind of timing, I think you have a future in politics. [*Laughter*] That was well done.

Now, let me say something very serious. The second thing we have to do is to remember that AIDS everywhere is still 100 percent preventable. Prevention is the most effective tool in our arsenal. No matter the cultural or religious factors to be overcome, families must talk about the facts of life before too many more learn the facts of death. Meeting both these challenges—overcoming stigma and overcoming silence—will be impossible without the moral leadership that in so many places only religious leaders, like those who are here today, can provide.

In our tradition it has been said that AIDS is an epidemic of Biblical proportions. Maybe that refers to the sheer geographic scope or perhaps the numbers of people or the enormous scale of suffering. But I think it also is an apt phrase because it implies that there is a required moral response.

In the New Testament of the Christian Bible, it says that when we bear one another's burdens, we fulfill the law of God. So I ask you to go forth here, remembering that a happy heart is good medicine, too. Do not grow weary in doing this. Know that the sequencing of the human genome will dramatically hasten the day when we will find a medical cure. But in the meanwhile, there are millions, indeed tens and tens of millions, of people whose lives are riding on our common efforts. We can do this if we do it together.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Rankin Chapel at Howard University. In his remarks, he referred to Belynda Dunn, chair, Na-

tional Association of People With AIDS; Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndugane, Archbishop of South Africa, and his predecessor Archbishop Desmond Tutu; H. Patrick Swygert, president, Howard University; John Ibekwe, president, Nigerian Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS; and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and his wife, Stella.

### **Statement on a Study on Tobacco Use and Lung and Bronchial Cancer Rates**

*December 1, 2000*

A new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Health Services demonstrates that over the last decade, California's extensive antismoking efforts have resulted in dramatic decreases in lung and bronchial cancer rates. These new findings remind us that the lives of Americans are at stake, not just in California but nationwide, and that comprehensive tobacco prevention and education efforts can make a difference.

More than 400,000 Americans die each year from tobacco-related health diseases, and more than 80 percent of them started smoking as children. That is why my administration developed a nationwide plan to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco, and I have continued to call on Congress to affirm the FDA's authority to implement this plan and take other steps to ensure that our children have healthy, tobacco-free futures.

The tobacco companies spend 10 times more to market their products than all 50 States combined are spending on tobacco prevention and cessation. California's efforts demonstrate the progress that can be made when States use comprehensive tobacco control and prevention approaches, as recommended in the Surgeon General's recent report, "Reducing Tobacco Use." Today I again urge all States to implement these effective approaches, because we must all work together to improve our Nation's health and save our children's lives.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **November 27**

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on October 21–29.

The White House announced that the President will travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland, December 12–14.

### **November 28**

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada concerning the Canadian election.

The President announced his intention to designate Tom D. Crouch as Chair and to appoint Todd M. Hamilton, Martha King, John Howard Morrow, Jr., and Kathryn D. Sullivan as members of the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board.

### **November 29**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico to congratulate him on the work he did as President. In the afternoon, he met with Vice President Gore.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Nebraska on December 8.

### **November 30**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New York City, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Pierre Alexander Chao as a member of the National Commission on the Use of Offsets in Defense Trade.

The President announced his intention to appoint Raymond Gilmartin and Jessica Tuchman Mathews as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

The President announced his intention to appoint James L. Black as a member of the

Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Arun Bhumitra and John Kuhnle as members of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

### **December 1**

In the morning, the President toured the Whitman-Walker Clinic as part of a World AIDS Day event.

The President announced his intention to appoint James H. Bilbray as a member of the Security Policy Advisory Board.

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## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## Checklist of White House Press Releases

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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### **Released November 27**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland

### **Released November 28**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

### **Released November 29**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert

### **Released November 30**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Jake Siewert