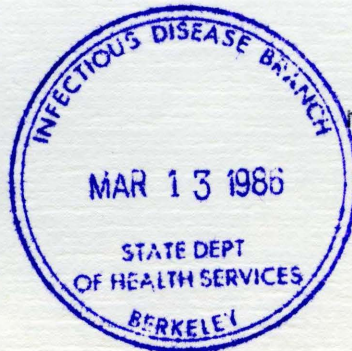


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March 10, 1986

Dr. Don Francis  
Dept. Health Services  
2151 Berkeley Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Don:

I remain distressed that we seem unable to find anyone who has ever met Governor George Deukmejian. I cannot believe that the Governor of the second largest state in the Union does not exist, but that is one viable hypothesis.

Bruce Decker continues to assure me that the Comprehensive AIDS Plan which you began formulating in the spring of 1985 will soon come out of the State Department of Health. Blueprints for the Great Pyramid at Khufu were formulated with greater speed and greater decisiveness, but of course the Pharaoh was dying, not the man in the street. Since we seem unable to find the opportunity to convince this Governor that it is in his best interest to appoint an AIDS Activity Officer; receive regular briefings on the magnitude of this problem; design, endorse, and implement an active AIDS program such as the one you and Bob Anderson have drawn up; and provide the kind of leadership that the people of California expect, we clearly need to find some other strategy.

The scientific Task Force on AIDS serves at the pleasure of the Director of Health, Dr. Ken Kizer, and is staffed, as you know, by Jim Chin. Those meetings have been traditionally open to the press and if properly constructed might prove to be a valuable forum to review the State AIDS plan. Of course, if the State plan were not available by the time the meeting was held, we would have to use an alternate plan such as the one outlined in your letter of October 8, 1985, as a basis for discussion. Please discuss this informally with Jim and let me know if you feel that this might be a useful strategy to pursue.

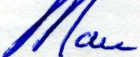
It occurs, that when some calamity befalls a despised minority in the presence of an indifferent majority, dreadful consequences predictably occur. Members of the minority group are unwilling to speak out for fear they will be castigated and members of the majority group, while well-meaning, are too occupied with other, seemingly more important, concerns. History then incorrectly assumes that the majority was temporarily blinded by some nefarious force which when removed will prevent a reoccurrence of tragedy. History forgets that it is not hate but rather indifference which allows for social tragedy.



Homophobia rather than indifference will be blamed for the tragedy of AIDS, just as Naziism rather than indifference is blamed for the Holocaust. While it is true that Nazis conceived of the "final solution," the horror occurred not because the average German agreed, but simply because the average German was too busy with his own little dull life.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mac', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Marcus A. Conant, M.D.