

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Clinton Library

**Collection:** Domestic Policy Council,  
 Rasco, Carol  
**OA/Box:** OA 7454  
**File Folder:** Elder's Confirmation

**Archivist:** rfw  
**Date:** 9/22/04

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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1. Memo	To Carol Rasco from Bill Galston re: Elder's confirmation, 2p	6/28/93	P2, P5, P6/B6
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**RESTRICTIONS**

- P1** National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P2** Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P3** Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P4** Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P5** Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P6** Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].
- PRM** Personal records misfile defined in accordance with 44 USC 2201 (3).

- B1** National security classified information [(b) (1) of the FOIA].
- B2** Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- B3** Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- B4** Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- B6** Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- B7** Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- B8** Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(9) of the FOIA].
- B9** Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL JOYCELYN ELDERS

FROM: Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for  
Domestic Policy *CR*

SUBJECT: Kennedy Krieger Institute

Attached is a letter from this very impressive and comprehensive Institute I recently visited. While they did not include the newsletter referenced in the letter, I have included for you some literature I received while visiting there.

The fourth paragraph of the letter is a bit misleading. What I shared with them in touring the section of the Institute where the Lead Poisoning Clinic is housed, was that I was very appreciative of the sensitivity you had instilled in those of us in Arkansas on this issue. That has now translated into them wanting very badly for you to visit. We are replying to them with the name of your scheduling personnel.

You would enjoy a visit there...I was quite touched by all the different components they have brought together as well as the research going on!

I hope you and Oliver are doing well. Hamp in a recent phone conversation asked me if I ever see you and wanted a report on how you are doing. He asked if you ever get to go to Rotary Club! P6/(b)(6) I can hardly believe it!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sherry

-2-

Note to Roz: Send with this memo to Elders a cc of the letter (in outbox) with the originals of the booklets/etc I have put in outbox. Call Van Zant's office and tell them we have previously forwarded materials to Dr. Elders and any scheduling should go through her office; get a name from Elders office that you can give Van Zant when you call her. Thanks.

Carol Roddy  
Or  
Lynora Halland



## Kennedy Krieger Institute

Nancy Van Zant  
Vice President for  
External Relations

November 8, 1993

*A comprehensive  
resource for children  
with disabilities*

Ms. Carol Rasco  
Domestic Policy Advisor  
The White House  
West Wing, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Carol,

I enclose for you the Fall 1993 *TOUCH* which describes the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Lead Poisoning Clinic, with special emphasis on the recent award of a \$5.8 million contract from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The contract will enable a study to evaluate the drug succimer.

What is more important of course, is that bright, healthy children who have elevated levels of lead in their blood will in turn have their intellectual abilities permanently dimmed and scholastic performance limited because of their exposure to lead.

When you were at Kennedy Krieger, you suggested the possibility that Joycelyn Elders, M.D., and Surgeon General of the United States, should come to the Institute and see this program for herself. We would very much like to have Dr. Elders visit, and I wonder if you can suggest how I might work to accomplish this.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Nancy Van Zant

NVZ:dt

enclosure

# The Bloomingdale Civic Association

158 Adams Street, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20001  
(202) 232-5850

DEC 9 REC'D

Robert V. Brannum  
President

Chairman, Civil Protection Committee  
D.C. Federation of Civic Associations

Member, Mayor's Citizen's Panel  
on Public Safety/Justice

8 December 1993

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you from a history of having actively worked for your election.

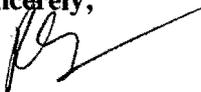
Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders has suggested "the need to do some studies" on the legalization of drugs in the national effort to reduce crime. This position is supported by various other public officials, conservative and liberal. In the aftermath of her comments, your Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers stated Dr. Elders was not speaking for the Administration and the President does not have any intentions to support a federal study on the legalization of drugs. Some members of Congress, notably Senators Robert Dole and Don Nickles have strongly criticized Dr. Elders for her statement. Sen. Nickles has called for her removal as Surgeon General.

Mr. President, I see the devastation of illegal drugs and violent crime every day in my community. It appears each night some young African American male is shot or murdered in my community. The fear of the recent shootings have caused many in my community not to come out late at night for casual walks or to participate in healthy and well deserving community activities. There is a heightened fear of being caught in a "gang shootout" or being an innocent victim of a "drive by" shooting.

I and other members of my community meet regularly to plan ways to combat the rise of crime on our streets. On 4 December 1993, Mr. Richard Roberts, the Deputy United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and his assistant met with the members of the Bloomingdale Civic Association in response to the violence in this historic community. He stressed the Administration's position that the illegal drugs and violence among our young is a top concern and priority. He also indicated Attorney General Janet Reno believes a true leveler of crime will come when the needs of the whole child is answered, principally health, education, social or recreational. In the past I have spoken to Mr. Jose Cerda, Senior Policy Analyst to your Assistant for Domestic Policy, Carol Rasco concerning the development of Administration policy on crime.

While I am not ready to stand with Dr. Elders on this point, I do not feel her comments are out of line with related views of recognized and credible leaders with whom I disagree. Mr. President, I remain a strong supporter of Dr. Elders and of you. It is my hope Dr. Elders remains as the United States Surgeon General through your second term.

Sincerely,



Joycelyn Elders -  
Thought you  
might like to see this  
letter copied to me.

CR Rasco

Sent  
messenger /  
12-10/PR

Messenger Address:

300 Ind. Ave SW

Room 736 E

20201

690-7142

DEC 29 1961

OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM THE OFFICE OF: **CAROL H. RASCO**  
**ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT**  
**FOR DOMESTIC POLICY**

TO: Roy

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CHR BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE REPLY (COPY TO CHR): \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ADVISE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

LET'S DISCUSS: FX

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: 690 - 6498

REPLY USING FORM CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN ORIGINAL TO CHR: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHEDULE: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: See that attached gets  
to Elders.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FAX COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY  
SECOND FLOOR, WEST WING  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20500  
(202)456-2216 PHONE  
(202)456-2878 FAX

TO: Ms. Joycelyn Elders  
FAX #: 202-690-6498  
FROM: CAROL H. RASCO  
DATE: 1/11/94  
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 3  
COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any problems with the fax transmission, please call  
at (202)456-2216.

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# Fax Memorandum

Dec. 29, 1993

To: Carol Rascoe

From: Rev. Bryan Fulwider

Re: Attached Fax to Dr. Elders.

Carol - would you see that this  
gets to Dr. Elders. Thanks  
From me + *United*

*Methodist*

P.S. - Happy Holidays to all of  
you!

*Good Shepherd Church*  
*United Methodist*

9900 Brockington Rd. • Sherwood, AR 72120 • Phone: 501/835-9406 • Fax: 501/835-8576

# GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

## UNITED METHODIST

9900 Brockington Road • Sherwood, Arkansas 72120  
 Phone: 501/835-9406 • Fax: 501/835-8576



THE  
 OPEN  
 DOOR  
 CHURCH

**DATE:** December 29, 1993  
**TO:** Dr. Jocelyn Elders  
**FROM:** The Arkansas Interfaith Conference  
**RE:** Our support!

Bryan G. Fulwider  
 Pastor

Danny H. Dixon  
 Minister of Music

Connie Boyeskie  
 Children's Ministry

Charles Harmon  
 Youth Ministry

Freddie Grimmitt  
 Admin. Assistant

At a recent meeting of the Arkansas Interfaith Conference *Hobgood Breakfast* (at which you have been our guest in the past) there was a unanimous desire to send you a word of our personal support of you. We know that the stress that you and your family are under must be difficult. We support you and your work %100.

We all agreed that we are so thankful to have you as Surgeon General. We're grateful for the work you do. We appreciate your deep moral convictions, and we are thankful to have you, your vision, and your strength in this most vital position for our nation.

Our prayers, love, and support are with you. Call on us if we can be of support or help in any way to you.

Most cordially yours,

Rev. Bryan G. Fulwider, President  
 Mimi Dortch, Exec. Director  
 Bishop Kenneth Hicks  
 Dr. Chris Hobgood

Rabbi Eugene Levy  
 Rev. W.S. Jones  
 Rev. Arnold Nelson

To  
Pryor's office

Per phone conver-  
sation, sent to  
Attn: of Leslie  
Chalmers in Pryor's  
Office

July 21, 1993

WANG

Ms. Carol Rasco  
Office of Domestic Policy  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

JUL 22 REC'D

Dear Carol:

The purpose of this letter is to specifically highlight some of the key contributions that Dr. Elders' has made to the State of Arkansas. Since it has been my privilege to work with the Arkansas Health Department as a contractor for the last five years, I have been in the unique position to witness some of Dr. Elders' accomplishments.

First, her innovative use of information technology has been recognized by the 1991 Smithsonian Institute and Computer World Magazine Awards Program- "A Search for new Heroes". This recognition is for the use of technology in administering and delivering services through the Womens, Infants, and Childrens (WIC) Program. Under her leadership, the staff of the Health Department, designed and implemented one of the few on-line integrated computer networks that exist in America today to support WIC programs. This network allowed Health Department personnel to deliver more WIC services for less money than ever before. In June of 1991, the Health Department was recognized as one of five finalist in the country at an Awards dinner in Washington, D.C. I have attached copied excerpts from the Awards dinner program which clearly shows the significance of this work.

Second, the success of the WIC program has resulted in a savings to the state and federal government of more than \$1,000,000 annually since its inception. This savings was documented in the July 16, 1990 issue of the Arkansas Democrat. The article goes on to state, "the software was developed in house by the Health Department's data processing staff". Again, it was Dr. Elders' leadership that got initial funding for the project so that the Health Department staff could develop such a creative and innovative method of serving the State's citizens.

Third, the immunizations program by the Health Department is gaining wide recognition by such authorities as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as a committee headed by Roselyn Carter and Betty Bumpers. Ms. Carter and Ms. Bumpers attended a briefing at the West Memphis Health Unit to see first hand the use of advanced technology in serving the Immunization needs of the State. Their trip in May of 1992 included an on-line demonstration of how Arkansas is already meeting CDC requirements that match the upcoming national registry of immunizations specifications. Again, this has been done with a minimum of resources and a maximum of vision and innovation.

As Dr. Elders' confirmation hearings begin, I want to take the time to offer these personally witnessed examples of how she has served the public good. These examples demonstrate her dedication to public health, and her ability to lead an innovative staff. If I can offer any further information, please feel free to call me at 501-224-1629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hunter Babin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Hunter Babin  
Account Representative

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# Arkansas

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Arkansas Democrat  
MONDAY, JULY 16, 1990

## Computerizing files to save \$1 million, let WIC help more

BY MARVON JOHANSEN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Computerizing the records for the Women, Infants and Children program will eventually save the state Department of Health about \$1 million annually, said Mac Heird, WIC director.

Installation of the statewide computer network began in October 1989, and equipment is now in use in 37 of the 111 WIC clinics throughout the state.

Plans are to computerize all the clinics by September 1991, Heird said.

"Congress is putting more money into this program, but we had reached the end of our ability to physically handle any more people," Heird said.

WIC is a federally funded program designed to provide nutritious food for infants, children and pregnant women who meet certain income guidelines and nutritional risk factors.

He said at non-computerized clinics it takes 30 minutes to an hour to fill out the required paper work when en-

rolling a WIC participant.

Information on WIC participants can be directly input on the computer system. With the computers, it only takes about five minutes to get people enrolled and issue them food vouchers, Heird said.

The software being used for the WIC program was developed in house by the Health Department's data processing staff, Heird said, and is not available in other states.

"It's the best I've seen, bar none," he said.

When done on paper, the WIC enrollment forms have to be mailed to Little Rock where staff members input them on the computer. With the present system, the information can be entered into a computer terminal at any clinic, and the main computer - located at the Health Department - is immediately updated, Heird said.

The faster processing will enable the Health Department to serve more people with the same staff.

WIC served 57,418 Arkansans in May. Of that number,  
See COMPUTER, Page 5B

# The Computerworld Smithsonian Awards

June 10, 1991  
*A Search for New Heroes*

*"Architecture begins where Engineering ends."*

*The architecture of the magnificent building in which we are gathered this evening rises far above the engineering that supports it. In a similar spirit, the people we will meet and honor this evening have helped to give information technology a more human architecture in their quest to make the world a more habitable place for all.*

In this, the third year of the Awards program, the benefits of information technology to the advancement of mankind are more pronounced than ever before. Every field of human endeavor is now the beneficiary of the power inherent in the processing and dissemination of information. From the frigid Arctic wastes of Alaska to the financial centers of the world and in the ecologically threatened regions of our planet, the men and women who are honored by the Awards program are striving to make the world a better place. The further encouragement of peaceful and open cooperation in this new global era is a responsible and ethical stance for the powerful members of the information technology industry.

Established in 1989, the Computerworld Smithsonian Awards program was created to search out and publicly honor those men and women who are applying information technology, to the broadest range of needs, to make our planet a more humane, healthy and cooperative place to live. In marking their achievements, we demystify technology and further empower people to use it as a tool for positive change.

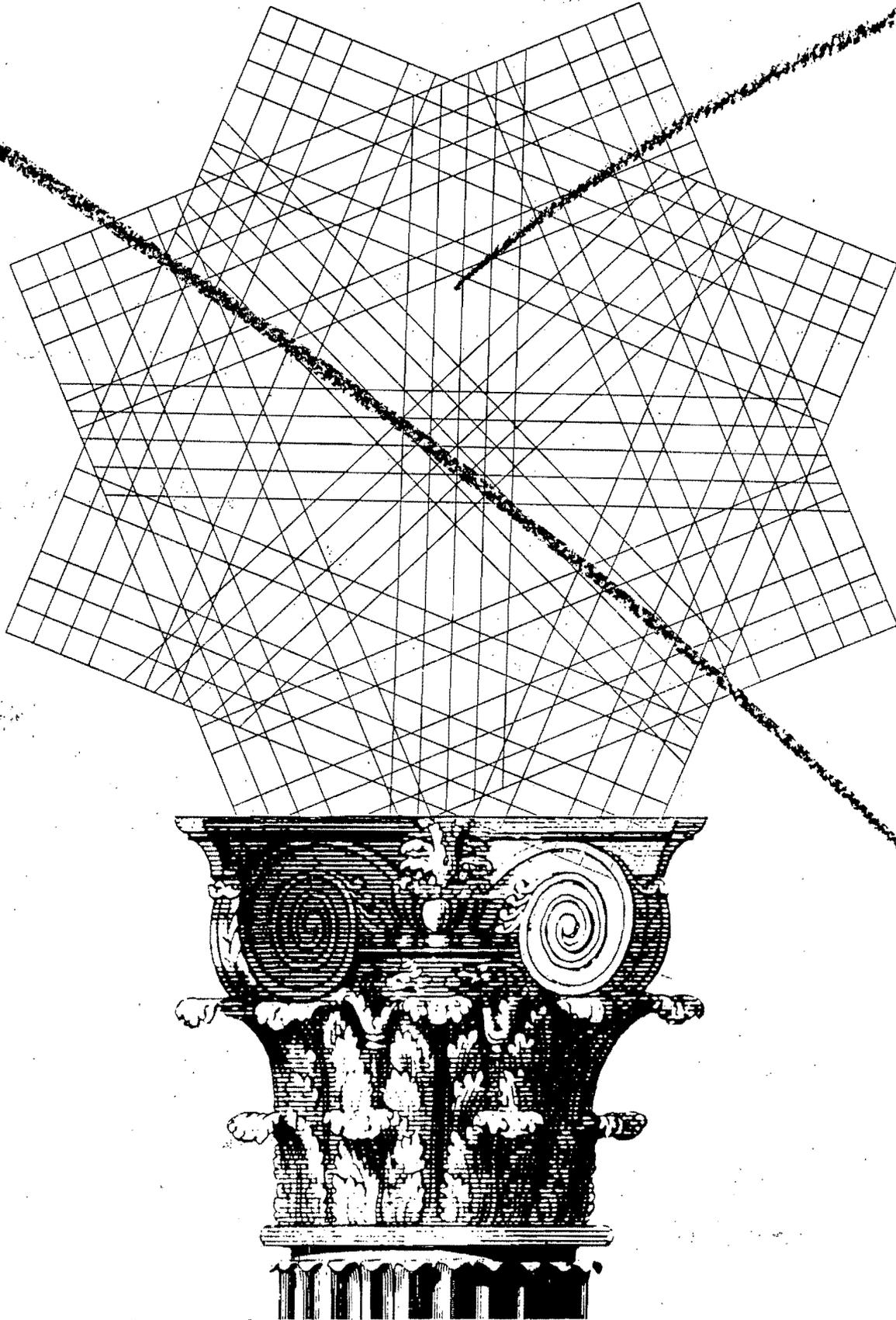
*The open society, the unrestricted access to knowledge, the unplanned and uninhibited association of men for its furtherance - these are what may make a vast, complex, ever growing, ever changing, ever more specialized and expert technological world, nevertheless a world of human community.*

Robert J. Oppenheimer  
Science and the Common  
Understanding (1953)

Award winners are showcased in a major exhibit on the history of information technology at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History. The names of the winners will be permanently listed in the Museum and all nominees will form a database of information technology applications that will be a valuable research tool for future generations.

# The Computerworld Smithsonian Awards

*A Search for New Heroes*



# WIC designed to help those at nutritional risk

WIC - Women, Infants and Children - is for pregnant women, women who are breast-feeding their babies and postpartum women.

It is a federally funded program that tries to provide calcium, protein and vitamin C to women, infants and children who might not otherwise get enough nutrition in their diets, according to Mac Heird, WIC director for the Arkansas Department of Health.

"Really WIC is about children," Heird said. "All these women are associated with a child in some way."

WIC was established by the Childhood Nutrition Act of 1966, Heird said, but the federal government didn't fund it until 1972.

The Arkansas WIC program was established in 1974.

Participants in the program must meet income and nutri-

tional risk guidelines, he said.

For example, a family of four with a monthly gross income of \$1,958 or less is eligible, he said. The WIC guidelines are figured at 185 percent of the federal poverty levels, Heird said, and are updated every year.

If a woman and her family meet income guidelines, Heird said, they are examined by a nurse to see if they meet one or more of the risk criteria.

Risk factors for women include being anemic or pregnant and 15 or younger, Heird said. Children who are underweight or who experience a 25 percent gap on the normal weight-to-height chart are considered at risk.

Low birth weight infants are also considered to have nutritional risks.

The health department de-  
See WIC, Page 5B

## WIC

• Continued from Arkansas Page

lines infants as younger than 1 year old, he said. Children are defined as 1 to 5 years old.

Food provided through the program includes infant formula, milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, fruit juice, beans, peas and sometimes peanut butter.

Vouchers for \$35-\$40 worth of food are issued each month or bimonthly, he said, and can only be spent on specified items.

"WIC is a great program. ...

It's a program that works like it's supposed to work," Heird said.

About 600 stores throughout the state accept WIC vouchers, and the program puts about \$27 million per year into the retail grocery market in Arkansas.

No cash is allowed to change hands, he said.

Heird said the health department quits providing food to children after age 5 because U.S. Department of Agriculture programs like school lunches become available to them.

Participants must re-establish their eligibility every six months, Heird said. An infant's initial evaluation is good until his or her first birthday.

All women are cared for up until six weeks after their babies are born, but under certain conditions, food vouchers are issued for an additional six months, Heird said.

Statistics show WIC babies have higher birth weights than babies in the same risk categories who were not on the program. The longer a woman is on the program, the better the outcome of the birth, he said.

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• Continued from Arkansas Page 2B

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**De Anza College**

Bay Area Coalition for Employment of Persons with Disabilities computerized its job placement process via a customized bulletin board system. BAC-NET is used to share employment opportunities with the more than 2,000 job seekers with disabilities.

**DeKalb County, Department of Public Safety**

Applications were developed to assist call-takers and dispatchers handle calls from the public for emergency assistance. The system's function is to link CAD with mobile data terminals and with local, state and federal databases and communications networks.

**Department of Commerce, Bureau of Export Administration**

The Export Control Automated Support System is being used to prevent the spread of nuclear, biological, missile and chemical warfare technology. This system has also improved the ability of U.S. firms to compete in the export marketplace.

**Father Flanagan's Boys' Home**

From the identification of program needs, by geographical region to the evaluation of program results, which includes objective evaluation of direct youth care staff, computer technology is helping Boys' Town care for America's needy children.

**Federal Reserve Board**

The FRITZ model (Federal Reserve Imputation Technique Zeta) is designed to provide state-of-the-art imputations for survey data by applying methodologies developed for multiple imputation and image processing. It is structured around the 1989 Survey of Consumer Finances.

**Foundation for the Junior Blind**

Using adaptive technology, the Foundation takes a multi-disciplinary approach to make personal computers accessible to its students. Speech output, large print screen review, and braille display assist students in their personal, academic and vocational pursuits.

**Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

EDS developed and donated a relational database system to the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to track information on In Touch, a free service that links family, friends and comrades of those who died in Vietnam.

**Illinois Department of Revenue**

Installation of a network utilizing networking technology in the Department's main facilities and offices. Allows processing, in a timely secured manner, of over 20 million forms per year; adding approximately \$12 billion to the state's bank account.

**Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections**

The Office of Motor Vehicles is the first state government agency to implement a totally paperless operation based on imaging technology. It accomplished three goals: real time responsiveness, enhanced productivity and enhanced nationwide law enforcement networking.

**Maricopa County Public Defender's Office**

The Public Defender Case Tracking System is built on a fourth generation SQL database system that tracks all aspects of the 40,000 plus cases assigned this office from initial appointment to final case disposition.

**Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Southern District**

Automated the land records of a high volume Registry of Deeds using a powerful mini-computer and optical imaging technology. Vastly improving the storage and retrieval of those records. Making information available to the public through telecommunications.

**Naval Supply Systems Command**

ATMS AT SEA was designed to allow the electronic transfer of pay from the military pay system aboard Navy ships directly into each member's ATM account. The system also provides a means for safekeeping the personal funds of individual crew members.

**NYNEX Information Resources**

The NYNEX FAST TRACK Law Enforcement Version is the first time one of the Regional Bell Operating Companies has offered a "digital" directory of its database. The system stores more than 10 million published White Pages listings and delivers the information via personal computer.

**Rockwell International Science Center**

The increasing power of supercomputers coupled with complex mathematical models is truly advancing the state-of-the-art in computational simulation of problems in many physical disciplines in both the defense and commercial arenas.

**Seattle Children's Home**

Computerize and network a school campus and residence for mentally ill youth to increase agency efficiency, focused on increasing client/therapist contact by reducing paperwork and improving the quality of service in children's programs nationally.

**Siemens Nixdorf, Information Systems**

A Criminal Justice Information system which ties together the circuit's six counties and justice agencies in one integrated network. The system performs the scheduling, docketing and calendaring for every felony and misdemeanor in the circuit.

**Social Security Administration**

The Social Security Administration implemented a single national 800 number to improve the overall phone service to the general public. Approximately 65 million calls a year are presently being received.

**State of Arkansas Department of Health**

The Arkansas Department of Health has created an innovative distributed data processing application to manage its growing client base in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children.

Call her & tell her  
I said "Thank you,  
Thank you" - have  
passed along note  
to confirmation  
team.

315

Thurs

7/15/93

~~Mimi out of office  
and will not  
be back until  
Fri. am -  
- will call again~~

~~Bob - 7/16/93~~

~~Have been  
unable to  
reach or  
leave msg  
for two days  
Pat~~

ARKANSAS *Interfaith* CONFERENCE

P. O. Box 164073  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72216  
(501) 375-1553

7/16/93  
unable  
to reach  
by

July 14.  
Date

From: Mimi Douth

Fax Number (501) 375-1553

To: Carol Rasco

Fax Number: 208 456 2878

Please deliver the following pages to: Carol Rasco

Total Number of Pages: 1 (including cover sheet)

Carol - We are vitally interested in Dr. Elders  
nominations. If you see someone in the  
Faith Community in Arkansas could be  
helpful - let me know - also, who we  
would need to contact, where it would  
help the most. We are comprised of  
Methodist, Episcopal, Jewish, Presbyterian,  
Disciples, Lutheran, A.M.E., A.M.E. Zion, C.M.E.  
Churches. The Bishops of each would  
contact their peers in other states  
if that would help.

I see your family "all over the place!"  
Hope all goes well for you!!

Best  
Mimi Douth  
Director

Wednesday  
Phone 501 375 1553

J. Elders: Letters

See Kennedy:



cc mainly Geagan  
: Publications

See:

Kennedy #

(224-3121)



*Orig: Alexis Herman*

**American Hospital Association  
50 F St., NW, Ste. 1100  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 638-1100**

JUL 27 RECD

**"FAX" COVER SHEET**

*Support for  
J. Elders*

To: Carol Rasco

From: Herb Kahw

Date: 7-27-93

Pages: 3

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*logged  
Sent orig  
to Alexis*

*RH 7-29*

cc'd: K. Seidman 7/14/93  
(initials)

Keep  
Randy.  
Tell LR I  
said  
"Thank You!!"

111 Center Street - Suite 1500  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Telephone: (501) 372-5500  
FAX: (501) 375-0512

-----

TO: Roz Kelly FROM: Lynda Dixon

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: Clinton's Arkansas Office

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (501) 372-5500

FAX: 202-456-2878 FAX: (501) 375-0512

\*\*\*\*\*

I am sending 5 page(s), including cover page. Please call Valencia Young if there are problems with receiving this fax. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

American Hospital Association



**Richard J. Davidson**  
President

July 26, 1993

The Honorable Nancy L. Kassebaum  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Labor and Human Resources  
Russell Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 302  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kassebaum:

It is my pleasure to communicate the American Hospital Association's support for the nomination of Dr. Jocelyn Elders as the Surgeon General of the United States.

The leadership and commitment Dr. Elders displayed when she was the chief health officer for the State of Arkansas makes her an excellent choice for Surgeon General. She has built a very productive working relationship with Arkansas' hospitals. Her background as a clinician and focus on issues of critical importance to public health have earned their respect as they worked together to considerable public benefit.

Dr. Elders' record on a variety of public health issues reflect many goals which the AHA believes should be part of national health care reform, including a focus on community health status and a delivery system which emphasizes primary and preventive care.

It is our hope that the Committee and the Senate will move expeditiously to confirm Dr. Elders so that we may all begin to address the many issues ahead.

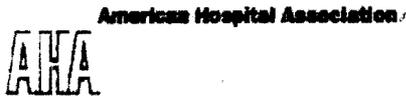
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Davidson". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

50 F Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202.638.1100

840 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312.280.6000



Richard J. Davidson  
President

July 26, 1993

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Labor and Human Resources  
Russell Senate Office Building, Rm. 315  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

It is my pleasure to communicate the American Hospital Association's support for the nomination of Dr. Jocelyn Elders as the Surgeon General of the United States.

The leadership and commitment Dr. Elders displayed when she was the chief health officer for the State of Arkansas makes her an excellent choice for Surgeon General. She has built a very productive working relationship with Arkansas' hospitals. Her background as a clinician and focus on issues of critical importance to public health have earned their respect as they worked together to considerable public benefit.

Dr. Elders' record on a variety of public health issues reflect many goals which the AHA believes should be part of national health care reform, including a focus on community health status and a delivery system which emphasizes primary and preventive care.

It is our hope that the Committee and the Senate will move expeditiously to confirm Dr. Elders so that we may all begin to address the many issues ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



50 F Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202.638.1100

840 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312.280.6000



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State Capital  
Little Rock 72201

mail Elders cc  
Gov. signed 2/7/92

# letter #  
Catholic

Lisa  
Jim

bcc: Elders

January 30, 1992

The Honorable James P. West  
Pastor of St. Boniface Catholic Church  
Route 1, Box 80  
Bigelow, AR 72016

fold  
until  
Monday

Dear Pastor West:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent comments made by Dr. Coycelyn Elders concerning the issue of abortion.

First, let me convey my respect to the Catholic Church and its clergy. I will be discussing with Dr. Elders the remarks she made in her speech.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

*Bill*  
Bill Clinton

BC/jms

Rasco:

for signature!

Also check w/  
Governor to see  
if it's okay to  
use format for  
other letters.

bcc:  
copy to  
Elders Thanks

~~Handwritten~~ - fyzi  
I have Chandra asking to  
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH  
New Dixie  
Route 1, Box 80  
Bigelow, Arkansas 72016  
(501) 759-2371

CHR  
89571

have cc of Elders response  
shared here; I've  
alerted JGT.  
CJR

Chandra - see  
Gov's note on  
the letter he  
wants sent  
new.  
CJR

Hon. Bill Clinton  
Governor

Dear Gov. Clinton:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have written to Dr. Joycelyn Elders. In this letter I have expressed displeasure with the statements recently made by Dr. Elders concerning the issue of abortion.

-see  
highlight  
on next  
page

As a Catholic priest, I request your response to Dr. Elders' verbal attack upon the Catholic Church. I ask you as I ask Dr. Elders, is it now the official position of the State of Arkansas to hold contempt for the Roman Catholic Church? It seems that this indeed is the state's position, if we are to accept the words of the director of the state Department of Health. If this is now the official position of the state, then it must be changed immediately. If it is not the official position of the state, then Dr. Elders should be required to issue a retraction of her statement and an apology to every Catholic in the State of Arkansas. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

*Fr. James P. West*  
Fr. James P. West, pastor  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
New Dixie, Arkansas

Submission report  
for Cath on side clergy  
with letter to Elders  
W/W

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH

New Dixie

Route 1, Box 80

Bigelow, Arkansas 72016

(501) 769-2371

January 20, 1992

Dr. Joycelyn Elders  
Arkansas Dept. of Health  
4815 W. Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Dr. Elders:

It was with a great deal of displeasure that I heard the comments you made at the recent pro-choice demonstration at our state Capitol. Your analysis of the pro-life movement demonstrated an extremely inadequate grasp of the issues at hand.

I would like to comment upon some of your statements. It seems that in your recent appearance there was an intentional attempt at insult which is quite unbecoming to someone who represents the health interests of the citizens of the State of Arkansas.

Among those attacked in your speech for their pro-life beliefs, you mentioned, ~~St. Boniface Church~~. I am a priest of that Church, the Roman Catholic Church. Certainly, though, you are not so misinformed as to believe that the Roman Catholic Church is the only religious group which opposes abortion. Your attempt to paint this as a Catholic/non-Catholic struggle simply will not wash. Your "divide and conquer" tactic will fail.

We Catholics are not stooges, Dr. Elders. Our Church has taken a stand on this issue, a stand which conforms with reality, a stand which does not seek to change or to distort objective truth. The Catholic Church does not shrink from teaching all people on this issue, as life begins at the same instant for those who will be born into Catholic homes as for those who will not be. Life begins when life begins, not when we think it does, not when our opinion holds that it does, not when we would hope that it does in order to satisfy some political agenda. The Church exercises its duty in teaching on this matter.

I am writing this letter on the day the nation honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his efforts to rid our land of the scourge of prejudice. How ironic it is, then, that you would choose this weekend to make your comment concerning the Catholic Church. Your attempt to ridicule publically the hierarchy of our Church and to stir up anti-Catholic sentiment among your cheering crowd shows once again that overt anti-Catholicism is the last socially acceptable bigotry in America. What a terrible shame.

Because of the grotesque nature of the abortion procedures, it is understandable that you would want to shift the argument away from abortion itself and to hide behind such words as "power" and

## ST. BONIFACE CHURCH

New Dixie  
Route 1, Box 80  
Bigelow, Arkansas 72016  
(501) 759-2371

"choice." The Roman Catholic Church has made a "choice" to oppose the pro-choice position, since we do not believe that anyone can morally make a choice to destroy innocent life. How interesting it is that you do not hold our "choice" with as much esteem as you hold your own. So much for the "choice" argument.

Since you, the director of the Arkansas Department of Health, have made a public statement placing yourself in opposition to the Catholic Church, something must now be clarified. Is it now the official position of the State of Arkansas to hold contempt for the Catholic Church? Not only do we who are Catholic have a right to know the answer to this question; members of all religious groups have the right to know. A state's attack on one religion is an attack on all religion. Your statement has deeply offended not only the "celebrate males" but male and female Catholics alike. You are a public servant. Anyone who might occupy the unelected office you now hold ought to be concerned with the health and well-being of all persons of our state, someone who does not consider it a sacred duty to ridicule those of a particular religious belief.

I ask you, Dr. Elders, to take note of our recent March for Life. We did not have the mere dozens of persons present which you were able to muster for your event. We were thousands upon thousands. We marched in the cold. We did not seek to hide from those who would demonstrate against us. We were male and female, Protestants, Catholics, non-denominationalists, and others. We marched in order to protect life. We marched to say that the solution to homelessness and poverty is not to prevent these homeless and poor from ever being born. We marched for those you say are not living, for those who are not "healthy, educated, motivated or hopeful." We marched in order that our society might be healed and our national conscience might be awakened. You will one day see the right of our position, Dr. Elders. You will one day see that the position you hold in opposition to the presence of life in the womb is obsolete and an attempt to hold on to that which cannot be defended either morally or scientifically. Our nation is moving in the right direction. You are right to fear that abortion will soon be thrown aside by American society. Our country has suffered enough. It is now time to heal our collective wound.

Sincerely,

*Fr. James P. West*  
Fr. James P. West, pastor  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
New Dixie, Arkansas

cc Office of the Governor  
The Arkansas Catholic newspaper  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1  
LISTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Avis LaVelle

FROM: Doug Boxer 

DATE: 6/4/93

SUBJECT: Issues likely to be raised during Dr. Joycelyn Elders' confirmation

You have asked for a list of "hot button" issues that may arise during Dr. Elders' confirmation. Please find below the information you requested.

**Condoms**

Dr. Elders has promoted distribution of condoms in schools and keeps a condom-sprouting "Ozark Rubber Plant" on her desk. Recently, she spoke at an event where condoms were placed on the centerpiece of each table.

**Needle Exchange**

She stated that, if she had the authority as Surgeon General, she would declare a health emergency in Baltimore to allow Mayor Kurt Schmoke to experiment with a controversial needle exchange program.

**Sex Education in School**

She has pushed sex education for kindergartners.

**Teen Pregnancy (Adolescent Family Life -- Title XX)**

She has stated the best way to decrease the likelihood of teenage pregnancy is with early-childhood education.

**Family Planning -- Parental Notification and Consent**

**School-Based Health Clinics**

As Director of the Arkansas Department of Health, she has advocated the use of school-based health clinics that may distribute condoms as the best way to combat AIDS and teenage pregnancy. Critics argue that the programs are not successful and point to the large increase in the teen pregnancy rate in Arkansas.

### **AIDS Education**

Right wing activists are likely to raise concerns about activities that promote/condone homosexual behavior.

### **Abortion**

She has characterized abortion foes as part of "a celibate, male-dominated church, a male-dominated legislature, and a male-dominated medical profession" and she has said they need to get over their "love affair with the fetus."

I have a call into Michael Iskowitz, Counsel with the Labor and Human Resources Committee. Michael has worked on these issues for years and is quite familiar with the arguments Jesse Helms and other conservatives are likely to raise in opposition to this nomination. In the interest of time, I decided to send you this memo without his comments. However, I will forward his thoughts when I receive them.

## **The Crusades of Dr. Elders** **The New York Times, October 15, 1989**

ON A HOLIDAY MONDAY, THE large, labyrinthine headquarters of the Arkansas Department of Public Health, in Little Rock, is virtually empty. On call in the basement are a pair of communications specialists, whose job it is to dispatch trained personnel in the event of a medical emergency, toxic chemical spill or other threat to the commonweal.

Five floors above them, the 56-year-old black woman who is Arkansas's public health director is the only other department employee at work. She is telling a visitor about a different sort of threat that this small, poor, Southern state has only begun to address, and relating an episode that occurred a quarter-century ago. It was, she says, the most galvanizing experience of her medical career, and one that shapes her agenda to this day. "I was a pediatric resident," she remembers, her usually full, firm voice dropping to a murmur. "The patient - she was my patient - was a young girl with a thyroid ailment.

"I went to her room to tell her she could go home the following day. She looked up at me, and she was frightened. She said, 'Dr. Elders, I don't want to go home.'

" 'Why not?' I asked her. 'It's perfectly all right for you to be released.' " Here Joycelyn Elders, M.D., pauses, looking away for a moment, to be certain she is recalling precisely the words, precisely the emphasis her patient used.

" 'Dr. Elders, every Saturday night my brothers and my uncles and my daddy get drunk, and they use me. They use me. Me and my sister.' "Well, I thought of myself as a very bright young doctor, you know, and I just thought - really didn't believe her; I said, 'You'll have to tell your mother.' And she told me, 'I tell my mother. She don't do nothing about it.' "

Again, Elders pauses, to say that her patient was not black. In so doing, she asks one to imagine the threshold of fear and shame the young white teen-ager had had to vault, in the South of the early 1960's, to confide her agony to a black person, even if the person was a woman, and a doctor.

"You know," she continues, turning to look out the window, "that was before doctors could report suspected child abuse with immunity." It is an explanation she neither avails herself of nor an excuse she will grant herself, because - "I did nothing. I just discharged her and sent her home, and didn't do anything. I didn't do anything."

What Dr. Joycelyn Elders has been doing since becoming Arkansas's health director two years ago is demanding that the state come to grips with the daunting realities of human sexuality in the late 20th century: the threat of AIDS, the necessity of early, effective "life education," child sexual abuse, the reality of teen sexual experimentation, and especially an adolescent pregnancy rate that is among the highest in the country. She has sought to change the definition of "public health" in Arkansas, demanding that it recognize sexual and reproductive hygiene to be as worthy of concern as measles vaccinations.

Hers might be described as a second civil rights movement, a characterization she approves of; a poor teen-ager with a baby, Elders thunders, is "captive to a slavery the 13th Amendment did not anticipate."

**THOUGH ELDERS'S POSITION WOULD TRIG-ger** debate in any region of the country -and has -the South in particular has long resisted the notion that social policy might legitimately extend to anything as private as sexuality. Elders has unsettled parents, antagonized conservative state legislators and "polite" society, frightened and outraged the religious right, jolted the medical community, and, occasionally, frustrated Gov. Bill Clinton, the youthful liberal who appointed her, in 1987. In her first press appearance with the Governor, Elders was asked by reporters how she planned to tackle the teen-age pregnancy problem. She said she thought school-based clinics were one approach. And would they distribute contraceptives? "Well," she blurted, "we're not going to put them on their lunch trays, but, yes."

Elders recalls Clinton turning "beet-red." "I was being flip," she says. "Now I know better." She laughs. "I've been running ever since that day."

It is the human cost that fuels her determination to break the poverty cycle, literally at the point of conception, but it is the numbing financial expense of adolescent pregnancy that Elders uses to awaken Arkansas taxpayers to the problem. In 1986, the year before she became the state's health director, Arkansas recorded 8,874 pregnancies of females 19 and younger. Almost 2,000 of those conceptions were terminated by clinical abortion. (Arkansas has traditionally ranked in the bottom third of states in abortion since the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade*, affirming the legality of abortion.) The roughly 6,500 babies born to teen-age mothers in 1986 amounted to almost 20 percent of the state's total births that year. By comparison, the United States natality rate for the same age group during 1985 was 12.7 percent, and only Texas and Mississippi exceeded Arkansas in the number of births in the 15-to-19-year-old age group.

A 1988 Arkansas study on teen-age pregnancy by a consortium of public and private agencies described the need for intervention as "urgent, indeed imperative." Noting that black and low-income youth were disproportionately represented, the study documented an "alarmingly high" pregnancy rate among all teen-age groups, and found that it was increasing faster among white females than black.

A study completed this year for the Southern Governors' Association fixed the cost in taxpayer dollars for Arkansas adolescents and their children at \$82 million in fiscal 1987, though it examined just three of several public-assistance programs: Aid to Families With Dependent Children, Food Stamps and Medicaid.

Elders contends that figure is far too conservative, noting that it excludes, for example, the \$54 million Arkansas receives from the Agriculture Department for Women, Infants and Children's supplemental nutrition assistance. Nor, she points out, did the conference even attempt to address such ancillary costs as public housing, in which hundreds of thousands of Southern families live, some with four generations under a single roof, including a new, unmarried mother not yet old enough to lawfully operate a motor vehicle.

"And how many prison cells have we filled with the children of teen mothers?" she wonders aloud. "How many angry, pointless, wasted souls will the taxpayers have to shelter for who knows how long? How many guards will it take to keep them locked up? How many police to arrest them? How many judges to sentence them?"

**ELDERS'S CRUSADE TOOK HER FIRST TO THE ARKANSAS** public school system. The first school-based health clinic, in the Ozark mountain community of Lincoln, was already in place when she assumed her post, and it convinced her more were needed. A year after the clinic opened, offering contraceptives on request - condoms and foam but no birth-control pills - senior-class pregnancies had declined from 13 to 1.

Under Elders's supervision, 18 other school clinics were soon functioning. Only four, however, were authorized by their local boards of education to distribute contraceptives. Conservative opposition was beginning to build, with anti-abortion groups taking the lead, charging that the clinics exploited children and assaulted family values, by (Continued on Page 74) condoning promiscuity. Despite the fact that Arkansas law has long prohibited state financing of abortions as well as abortion referrals by public health workers, Elders could not persuade these critics that her goal was to prevent pregnancy, not encourage abortion. "Whenever I hear of a young girl having an abortion," she has said, "I consider it a personal failure." (She states her position on abortion as pro-choice, though she is personally opposed to it: "I'm a pediatrician, after all.") Still, according to Elders, the debate in Arkansas isn't about family values or abortion. It isn't even about contraceptives, she says. It's about sex - unmarried sex - and the just punishment for sin that many people feel a baby represents and contraceptives or an abortion deny. It is a piety, she contends, that has extracted a horrible price, especially in the South, and from her "little sisters" in particular.

The battle was quickly joined - Elders, Planned Parenthood and a few feminist organizations versus a coalition of fundamentalist and evangelical Christians, the Arkansas Right to Life, FLAG (Family, Life, America, God), the Federation for Decency, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arkansas and a handful of physicians, including some obstetricians.

Letters, postcards, telegrams and telephone calls began peppering the office of Governor Clinton. The messages regarding Elders and the school clinics were among "the strongest and meanest" Clinton had received since he took office, according to his aides. Elders received correspondence every bit as pointed as the Governor's, some of it suggesting she might do well to vary her route home.

Elders invited her opposition to meet with her in her departmental auditorium. Those who responded were predominantly white, and they came in cars and vans and pickup trucks and church buses. "Sex education is pornography!" declared a woman from Right to Life who attended one session. "School clinics are an abortion referral agency," said the state organization's executive director, Julie C. Wright, who then acknowledged the group had no proof on which to base the assertion. The Federation for Decency president argued that "we didn't have teen pregnancy in the old days because they just abstained."

"We talk about life," Elders answered from the podium. "What I saw in many of the places my nurses took me, I don't define as living. We have 19-year-olds who already have five children. That's not life. We have 10-year-olds who've been raped by 'Mama's boyfriend' and having babies - I don't call that life."

Elders would later recall the series of hearings, covered by the three statewide Little Rock television stations, as pivotal. Evening after evening, moderate voters, who are a clear majority in Arkansas, watched footage of the meetings, dismayed. Most Arkansans are deeply resentful of their stereotyping by the entertainment industry as ignorant hillbillies. But this wasn't Hollywood - this was their own state Capitol. The actors weren't Yankee poseurs faking Southern accents, but real Arkansans. And to many, the woman who stole the show, herself an Arkansan, made the opposition look foolish, even extremist.

A star was born. The liberal Arkansas Gazette and the conservative Arkansas Democrat both began covering Elders and her campaign in earnest; both took up her cause editorially. Television and radio reporters found her a willing and reliable source of pithy material. "Our young people are asking the State Legislature for a drink of water, not Waterford," she told one.

Many State Representatives, however, continued to oppose the school clinics. In the fall of 1988, when a bill to grant statutory authority to on-campus clinics was introduced, State Representative H. Lacy Landers attached an amendment that would prohibit them from distributing contraceptives. "If you want something to destroy your community," he warned, "where animosity and hate and a lot of stuff is generated, then you just pass this bill without the amendment."

"I will not turn those children over to their vile affections," declared Representative Tom Collier, a lay minister and member of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. "We'd be saying, 'We give up on you kids, we give up on Arkansas, we give up on the family.'"

In the Arkansas Senate, it was a different story. Although one member urged "a moral stand" against the clinics and another likened them to "teaching a cannibal to eat with a knife and fork," the majority were in favor of Elders's program. "Any of you who think we're going to get the job done with abstinence, you're older than I am," quipped a senior member.

Neither house would accept the other's version of the bill, and the legislative session ended in a stalemate. Today, no state law protects clinics, but none threatens them, either. "Not such a bad place to be," Elders says.

**ELDERS GREW UP IN** the southwestern Arkansas farming community of Schaal, where she was born, at home, in 1933, the first child of Haller and Curtis Jones. Much of the family farm had been acquired at the Depression price of a dollar an acre; her father earned the money by selling the skins of racoons he had trapped: 1 coonskin, 1 acre.

The Jones children rode a bus 13 miles to an all-black school that was probably inferior to the white school they passed en route, but Elders remembers it fondly, even proudly. By the time she neared graduation from high school, she had won a scholarship to Philander Smith College, an all-black, church-supported liberal-arts school 100 miles to the northeast, in Little Rock.

There was never pressure from either parent to succeed in a professional sense, she says. "I think my Dad probably felt I should stay on the farm and help there." But Grandmother Minnie Jones had other ideas, and it is she Elders credits with pushing her to make a different life for herself. "'You go on,' " she remembers her grandmother telling her. "'I got enough young 'uns around here to hold you up.'" In fact, her brothers and sisters picked cotton and did chores for neighbors to provide her bus fare to Little Rock, and to finance "the essentials - you know, some shoes, some socks."

Joycelyn did well at Philander Smith, especially enjoying biology and chemistry. She had decided that being a lab technician was the highest calling she could aspire to: "That was 'it,' the top." Edith Irby Jones (no relation) changed her thinking. When she addressed a Philander Smith academic sorority in 1949, Jones was the first black to study at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. Awestruck, Joycelyn Jones resolved to follow in her footsteps.

"If I was any inspiration to Joycelyn," says Edith Irby Jones, today an internist in Houston, "then I'm very proud," a pride she says is all the greater for Elders's concentration on health services for the poor. "We're very much on the same frequency." Joycelyn Jones enlisted in the Army immediately upon graduation from college, her eye on the G.I. Bill. She was trained as a physical therapist at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, and enjoyed life there so much she stayed a year beyond her original obligation. "It may have been the only truly

carefree time of my life," she says. So in need of physical therapists was the Army that basic training was waived for students, the sooner to bring them on-line at Brooke Army Medical Center.

In 1956, by then a first lieutenant, she bade the military farewell and followed Edith Jones at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, in Little Rock. She was 23. *Brown v. Board of Education*, two years earlier, had already set the South on a defiantly segregationist course, and Gov. Orval E. Faubus would later summon the Arkansas National Guard to block the court-ordered integration of Little Rock Central High School. Elders insists, however, that she was never uncomfortable, not even when confronted with a rule that black medical students use a different dining room than their white counterparts.

"When you haven't been accustomed to eating with whites. . . ." She shrugs. "I just don't think we thought about it."

She had two black classmates, both men. "I think we were so pleased to be in medical school that I don't remember us being upset about it. In fact, I think the white students were more uncomfortable than we were."

The students had a chance to earn spending money by giving local high school students the physical examinations required for team sports. A tall, strikingly handsome basketball coach was startled one autumn when an attractive young woman came to his gymnasium and declared herself ready to proceed with the physicals.

"You're the doctor?" asked an incredulous Oliver Elders. "I'm the doctor," she replied. Joycelyn Jones married Elders in her final semester of medical school. He remained in Little Rock while she served her internship at the University of Minnesota Hospitals, internationally known for pediatrics training.

Elders returned to Little Rock and the University Hospital in 1961, for her residency. A short time later, Dr. Theodore C. Panos, the revered chairman of the pediatrics department, appointed her chief pediatric resident. She was to supervise the new residents and interns - all white and all male. Many of her former charges still call her "chief" as a greeting.

"I don't remember a single time when I wasn't accorded the respect the chief resident was due," she says, although she allows that, with the civil rights movement gripping the South, it was a time of "real turmoil" away from the campus. "If you were trying to win a popularity contest, the last thing you did with a black woman was make her chief resident."

"Dr. Panos called us in one by one," recalls Dr. Dale D. Briggs, a Little Rock pediatrician who was among Elders's charges. "He was very clear - he expected Joycelyn to have no problems because of her sex or race." Elders considers Panos, who died in 1967, one of the greatest influences on her life and career; her voice can tighten at mention of his name. "Dr. Panos was like me - I should say, I hope I'm like him - in that he went out and fought for causes because they were right. The political consequences didn't matter."

For the next 20 years, Elders combined a university clinical practice with a research career in pediatric endocrinology. She is author or co-author of 138 published monographs, many of them dealing with growth problems and diabetes, the treatment of which first brought her to the attention of the entire Arkansas medical community. Her level of expertise was such that physicians across the state began to routinely refer to her their juvenile patients with insulin-dependent diabetes. Elders estimates only a handful of such cases escaped her

personal attention. And it was in treating diabetic adolescents that she first observed the value of candor in sexual matters.

Diabetic females are hazards to themselves and their offspring if they become pregnant at too early an age, before their runaway endocrine systems have stabilized. Expectant teen-age diabetics run an exceptional risk of spontaneous abortion. Their infants are susceptible to a wide range of congenital anomalies - low blood sugar, inadequate calcium levels and a lung disorder called hyaline membrane disease.

"If I wanted to keep those kids healthy, I decided I had no choice but to take command of their sexuality at the first sign of puberty," she says. "I'd tell them, 'You're gonna have two good babies, and I'm gonna decide when you're gonna have them.'" All discussions regarding the patient's sexual development were conducted with the parents present. "Both the kids and their parents needed to know what to expect. Obviously, if a girl is just developing breast buds, she isn't thinking of having sex. But you'd better tell her what's going to happen next, in terms of her hormone system and her physical maturation, and she'd better know what she'll be feeling."

With parental consent, female diabetics were prescribed birth-control pills to regulate menses, but also as insurance against runaway emotions. "Given the dangers of pregnancy to their daughters," Elders says, "the mothers always consented."

The forthright discussions of sexuality and risk of pregnancy paid off. Approximately half of the 520 or so juvenile diabetics Elders treated were female. Only one became pregnant, she says. Though she is plainly skeptical that "preaching" and "moralizing" will much retard post-pubescent exploration, it is not difficult to envision Elders in an arms-akimbo, drill-sergeant mode, driving home an admonition to virtue. She is the daughter of a farmer but she is also the sister of a Methodist minister; her oratory, mechanical at the outset, segues seamlessly into the cadences of the gospel pulpit when she senses that she and her audience are in accord.

She is sensitive to suggestions that she has devoted too many official hours to the teen-age-pregnancy issue to the detriment of other health programs, and has chided both the press and her critics for "ignoring all the other vital issues we're addressing," such as nutrition, community health and medical assistance to the elderly. When word recently reached her that Health Department sanitarians felt underappreciated, she canceled an entire day's appointments and spent the time traveling with them, looking at and smelling things a government executive does not normally encounter.

She usually wears a wide smile and laughs easily, even at herself. She does not blink when occasionally addressed by rural lawmakers as "Miz" Elders, rather than "Doctor," and appears undistracted by remarks that seem patronizing. But when she is tired, or confronted with equations she cannot ethically compute, Elders can turn brittle, even caustic.

She is clearly weary of explaining that the kindergarten-through-high school sex-education program the State Legislature mandated for the 1989-90 term - at her strong urging - is not sex education exclusively, but a course encompassing hygiene, substance abuse, self-esteem and human sexuality, the latter to emphasize that sexual responsibility is not an exclusively feminine obligation. The course outline had for some years been available through the Arkansas Department of Public Education, but many school districts had declined to implement it, citing "inadequate revenue." No more.

Elders smiles when she describes herself as "the right person at the right time; the right sex and the right

color." Her race is widely viewed as an unbeatable asset in winning the confidence of black Arkansans. There have been no complaints from the black community at large regarding school clinics and contraceptives, nor has there been any rhetoric alleging ethnic genocide, though white opponents of clinics briefly alluded to what they termed "a racist trend" of locating school clinics in predominantly black areas.

There is no mystery in that, Elders responds - clinics ought to be where birthrates of unmarried adolescents are highest, and that not infrequently means the slums and public housing projects. She winces at the suggestion by the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan that American blacks "can breed ourselves into power."

"Why should we want all our black children born of black children?" she asks. "Why should we want a race of black people who are retarded, ignorant and poor? Why? What black America needs is bright, happy, healthy, well-motivated children with hope."

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Elders seems to enjoy a special rapport with black women. When she accepted an award from her old sorority recently, her remarks met with near-constant murmurs of approval.

"When we see a 10-year-old or a 13-year-old girl pregnant," she said, her voice rising to stridency, "we know she hasn't been promiscuous, she's been abused!" Three generations of knowing black women came to their feet and smothered Elders with applause.

By contrast, her meeting several nights later with black Arkansas clergymen became tense at points. Elders told them she hoped they would continue to preach celibacy to the youth of their churches, but wanted them to "face some realities."

"This contradicts what we preach," protested one minister.

"You've been preaching abstinence for a hundred years," she fired back. "I've still got a problem. I've still got thousands of teen-agers having babies every year."

At home, Dr. Elders and her husband spend most of their free time pruning and puttering about their handsome, 15-acre suburban homestead. She tends to her flora, he to his swimming pool and fishing pond. Their two sons, both in their 20's - one an M.B.A. candidate, the other a zoologist - come home often to visit.

Looking from a meadow toward her home, bathed in the light of the evening, Elders recently confessed that it both deadens and energizes her to think how few of her "little sisters" will likely have the chance for a better life that she had. The great irony is that things in the rural South of the 1930's and 40's simply were; knowledge was prized but scarce, and the ability to change anything for the better was limited. Life is different now, she observed, or ought to be.

More clinics are planned, and she is certain they will prevent some pregnancies -but not all the heartache. Given that the Supreme Court, in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, upheld the right of states to limit access to abortion, Elders braces for a possible reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Even if the process takes years, she says, it will soon enough close the abortion option - for poor women, at least.

The Court's ruling last session in the *Webster* case "means we're going to have to stress pregnancy

prevention more than ever," she says. "The pro-life groups, if they're really serious about it, should be working harder than anyone in behalf of school clinics or anything else that can stop this epidemic."

"Of course," she adds, "that's if they truly want to prevent abortion."

Elders, meanwhile, will keep working to provide school clinics and insure that sex education is taught in the public schools. She'll also keep crisscrossing the state, talking to civic leaders and teen-agers. Recently, she visited the Mississippi River community of Helena, Ark., currently part of a federally financed study on the extreme poverty of the Delta States region. There, as elsewhere, she spoke of the need not only to prevent adolescent pregnancy but to provide prenatal and infant health care.

It is all, she says, part of an effort to educate Arkansans about what life could be and, she hopes, to make partial amends to that frightened teen-age girl she treated as a young doctor.

"I owe her," Dr. Elders says, "and I'm in a hurry. I'm really in a hurry."

**Paging Dr. Elders Paging Dr. Elders Gov. Bill Clinton Needs You to  
Lead the Health Department**  
Arkansas Business, 1987

Thirty-eight years ago, Haller and Curtis Jones said good-bye to their daughter Joycelyn as she left their farm in Schaal near Nashville (Howard County) to attend Philander Smith College at Little Rock. Joycelyn is the oldest of eight Jones children, several of whom picked cotton for a week and surrendered hard-earned savings to pay her bus fare and purchase suitable clothing for her academic venture.

Her parents were sharecroppers who knew the value of hard work on the path to a better life. After working several years for the landowner, they bought their own 80-acre farm for \$ 1 an acre. Her father got the money to buy the property by selling raccoon skins from hunting he did in his spare time.

When Joycelyn left home for college, she could not predict where her talent and drive would take her. Her efforts paid off as they did for her folks. She is now Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, a nationally known pediatric endocrinologist, a small businesswoman owning and managing 36 units of residential property and, with her most recent appointment, the first woman and black to direct the state Health Department.

Elders, 54, a professor in pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical Center since 1976, has served in leadership positions with a slew of national professional and local service organizations. Based on her studies of growth in children and the treatment of hormone-related illnesses, she has written 138 articles for medical research publications.

"I thought I was in a job I could do well," she says. "I thought I had accomplished everything I wanted to accomplish." But when Gov. Bill Clinton approached her about running the Health Department, "the more I thought about it, the more interested I got." She accepted and began work in the position Oct. 1, replacing Dr. Ben N. Saltzman, 73, who held it for six years and stepped down for new challenges in reforming the Pulaski County Health Department.

With the governor's emphasis on healthy beginnings for the state's children and his sensitivity to the needs of blacks and women, Saltzman says appointing her was a natural choice. As the state's top health official, she oversees regulation of milk and poultry production, restaurants, hospitals and other medical facilities, use of pesticides and disposal of harmful substances. She will work with the Legislature and other agencies to promote laws and policies to enhance the health of Arkansas. An important part of her job will be to forge policies and procedures to combat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Saltzman, who worked with her many times before she took the job, says, "I felt very good about her appointment." She brings more than 30 years of medical experience and knowledge of child health problems to the post and "there's an excellent staff at the central office of the health department" to help her in areas unfamiliar to her, he says.

The Legislature appropriated \$ 69,500 for her salary, but her annual compensation will be \$ 94,000 because she remains a tenured university professor "on loan" to the health department, she says.

One of her first non-medical decisions concerned the department's proposal to increase the license fee for an

experienced plumber to \$ 75 from the current \$ 37.50. Jay Terwilliger of Fort Smith, business manager for Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 29, says he found her knowledgeable of the controversy and "very fair-minded." The union and the department compromised and agreed to put the fee increase into effect for one year. After that, Elders promised to review a survey of plumbers on the issue before making it permanent.

She says she is learning more about the job all the time. She appears to approach each new situation with the same intelligence, energy and enthusiasm that propelled her to her current level of accomplishment. She admits that she has not seen the intensity of politics and bureaucracy that she may face on agency issues, but she remains undaunted. She says she brings "a tough skin and a bright outlook" and will stay in the position "as long as I find it fine and I feel I can make a difference."

An early medical school mentor, Dr. Edwin Hughes, now directs the graduate medical studies program at the University of South Alabama. Hughes says her confrontation of the slowness often found in government "worries me because she likes to get things done. . . . To improve things in that big a system, she'll attack one thing at a time."

Loretta McNatt of Hurst, Texas, a biochemist who was a researcher under Elders for 10 years at Little Rock, agrees with Hughes' assessment and adds: "She has the ability to size up a problem while everyone else is quibbling and form a strategy for attack." Elders, says McNatt, "is not in any danger of getting her priorities out of line."

A hint of how she will handle bureaucratic tedium can be seen in what Elders told her research team: "There are times when we just have to generate our own enthusiasm," McNatt recalls.

Dr. Barbara S. Kilgore, pastor of a United Methodist church in Claremont, Calif., was another researcher who worked with McNatt under Elders in studying the influence of hormones and other substances on growth. It was pleasant to work for Elders, who set a productive workplace, and "we raised African violets and had babies now and then," Kilgore says. When asked if work at the health department would pose any major problems for her former boss, Kilgore says, "Are you kidding? No. That's an amusing thing for you to say. She can do anything."

Elders' brother, the Rev. Chester Jones, pastor of the Hunter United Methodist Church at Little Rock, says she can take issue with people and is not one "to do a lot of arguing and fussing. She's just going to state her position and stand her ground."

Aside from the tough task of dealing with conflicting opinions and pressures, colleagues agree that she brings compassion to her work. "I've seen her buy many a lunch for a poor lady (and her children) who had just enough money to pay a guy to bring her to the university medical center," Hughes says. "She knows what it's like to be poor."

Chester says he and his siblings, six of whom graduated from college with three obtaining doctorates, found his sister to be "kind of a trailblazer." It was unusual for any child of sharecroppers "down in the country" to even think of going to college, especially since no one in the family had done it, he says.

"She had to buck the system to get off the farm, and we saw we could, too," the minister recalls. It was difficult for brothers and sisters to make sacrifices for her, even with their parents' encouragement. "Now we feel good about it. After we found out what it meant, it opened up a whole new world for

us. She was almost like a missionary to her family. She brought news that we too could do it (leave the farm), and we started believing that."

Besides her immediate family, Elders says she received many forms of assistance from aunts, uncles and grandparents in what was an example of "the most supportive extended family possible."

One of her earliest memories is that of trying to help her father plant corn among the furrows. She was about five years old, and her father was "happy and pleasant" about having her help him, but he eventually assigned her to other chores when she had difficulty dropping kernels in the right place, she recalls.

Farmers' children generally worked in the fields from June through Thanksgiving and went to school during that period only if it rained. She did not have much time off to study while planting and harvesting, but when she went to school she studied hard. Her father was in the Navy and took his family to California to live while in the service. While on the West Coast, she was tested for placement in school and was put in a class two grades higher than where she was. She was high school valedictorian at Howard County Training School at 15 and graduated from Philander Smith magna cum laude at 18.

She grew up in a small community during an era that still recognized segregation as the norm, but she categorized the racial climate as "excellent." County farmers, white and black, assisted one another. On at least one occasion, the white woman who owned the land on which her family was a tenant came to help Elders' mother, who was pregnant.

After graduation from college, Elders joined the Army and was the only black physical therapist in her class. In the service from 1953-56, she says she was well-treated as a first lieutenant in the medical corps. Apparently, she and fellow white female officers with whom she lived and worked did not experience the problems black male officers did in the service, she says.

Enrolling in 1956, she was one of six black students at the University of Arkansas Medical School. While the Little Rock community was in turmoil over integration at Central High School, medical school officials "really tried" to show they would be fair to minorities, she says. As a first-year student, however, she and the other blacks ate with maintenance workers apart from white students in the cafeteria. But that situation was changed in less than a year.

While pursuing her studies, she chose not to inject herself into racial controversy, but she could not escape it. After rooming for a while with a white female medical student, a white city official told them it was not a proper arrangement. But the women brushed his warning aside and continued to live together. Nothing ever came of it, as Elders recalls.

She says she was inspired in her medical career by Dr. Edith Irby Jones, the first black to attend UAMS and now a physician and professor at Baylor University. Elders originally wanted to get into pediatric surgery. But after a pediatric internship at the University of Minnesota Hospital, she decided to end a long-distance marriage with her husband of one year and pursue her career closer to their home.

Even medicine was the introduction to the man she married, Oliver B. Elders Jr., head basketball coach at Hall High School at Little Rock. They met in 1960 while he was teaching and coaching at Horace Mann. She was a senior medical student performing routine medical examinations on his players. It was

customary to give season passes to medical students performing the service, and he delivered hers personally. They were married two months later, on St. Valentine's Day.

"Coach," as he prefers to be called, also had deferred a career away from home. He played for a year with the Harlem Magicians, which was formed by members of the Harlem Globetrotters squad who wanted to own their own team. But injury to an Achilles tendon cut short his playing and he returned to Little Rock and coaching in the Little Rock Public Schools. After meeting the Horace Mann basketball coach, Joycelyn Elders calls it her "best decision ever" to marry the coach. They have been constant companions, and offer each other support in often-difficult occupations. While she pursues a health career, he is successful in coaching. His teams at Hall have won six conference crowns, three state AAAA and two overall championships.

"I don't ever recall her missing any games unless she was on call," he says of his spouse. During the games, "she has a conniption" and sits where she can intimidate both her husband and the referees. "She lets us all know when we goofed," the coach says.

They have two adult sons and live on a 15-acre spread southeast of Little Rock, and the coach says they may eventually get some horses when they find some time off to appreciate them. Their common method of unwinding after a hard day is to put some time in maintaining their 12-unit apartment building and 24 houses which they rent. She excels at interior decorating, while he does the plumbing, roofing, mechanical and electrical work.

She has experienced many good things, but has not been spared from tragedy. Her brother, a veterinarian, was kidnapped from his home and shot to death at North Little Rock about 15 years ago. A third child she carried full term was stillborn.

On both occasions, she faced sorrow squarely by requiring that reluctant morgue attendants allow her to see the corpses. She went in a wheelchair to see her dead son, and stormed into the morgue where her brother's remains were being kept.

Her brother had received death threats from a former convict, but authorities did not take sufficient precautions, she says. After criticizing them soundly for not protecting him when he was alive, she says she told them nothing would keep her from seeing his body. Today, however, she does not harbor ill feelings toward the man convicted of her brother's murder and even convinced a jury that because he was emotionally disturbed he should be given life in prison rather than the death penalty.

Prior to appointment as director of the Health Department, her activity in Arkansas business circles was limited. She served on the board of National Bank of Arkansas and several state and local commissions. Elders recently was selected as one of three Professional Women of Distinction by the women's advisory board of Worthen Bank and Trust. (A newspaper misspelled her first name and, later, in a congratulatory advertisement, the bank on which she serves as director repeated the error.)

Her accomplishments in the health care field have caught the eyes of people across the nation, yet she says

she has decided to remain in Arkansas and avoid the limelight. She had been offered a department chairmanship at a "very prestigious" New York City hospital, and producers of 60 Minutes at CBS sought to do a segment on her, but she declined both offers.

She has worked hard to meet her lofty goals, but is quick to acknowledge she has received many breaks from people along the way. In recognizing the value of others' aid in her own life, she tries to help less fortunate people, whether they are women, blacks, the poor or anyone else. "I try to be an angel every time I can," she says.

One of her retirement dreams is to operate a kind of "mom and pop housing authority," she says. She and her husband have experience in rehabilitating houses, and they could use it to help low- to middle-income families who may have a hard time purchasing a home.

During interviews about her life and her work, she expresses no annoyance with tough questions. She faces interviewers across a conference table in her office. She looks at them directly, but with soft eyes. She is serious, but smiles easily and genuinely.

What causes your blood to boil?

"One of the things that bothers me the most is when I hear people really putting down poor people that are suffering, as if they are no-goodniks and they are really aren't working hard. . . .

"I basically feel that everybody would do better if they could. They are really doing the very best they can. We don't know how we would behave in similar circumstances. Having come from a very, very poor background, I really feel that my parents were working as hard as they could, and yet we were extremely poor."

What about people who say you should have taken a greater role in civil rights issues?

"I've had those critics for quite a long time, and my response to them is we all can't do everything. It's best for me to do the things I can do well. I feel I can do more for the black community by being on the inside and knowing what's going on than being on the outside looking in."

How do you respond to people who say you are probably going to be a pushover as health department director?

"I don't think anybody that knows me would think I will ever be a pushover. I think they may think that I might make a lot of mistakes trying to get done the things I want done, but I think they'll all feel I'm going to really fight full-time for what I believe in."

How do you respond to those people who say appointment to your current post by Gov. Clinton was just an effort at tokenism by him? He needed another black to fill his cabinet and you turned out to be a double find. You are a black and a woman.

"You're probably right, but do you know anybody better," she says.

**Clinton's Choice for Surgeon General Says She Supports TV Ads for Condoms**  
[AP Wire, December 31, 1992]

President-elect Clinton's choice for U.S. surgeon general says condoms need to be advertised on the airwaves to reach television-oriented young people and stem the spread of AIDS.

"Yes, I support condom advertising on television," Dr. Joycelyn Elders said Wednesday. "We've got a crisis in our country. We've got to use crisis intervention."

Most television networks do not accept condom ads. Mrs. Elders said she plans to encourage all radio and television networks to run them.

Mrs. Elders, the director of Arkansas' Department of Health, said newspapers and magazines have done a good job of bringing information about AIDS to well-educated Americans. But she said many young, poor and less educated people are not being reached.

## **Elders urges anti-abortionists to concentrate on living children**

UPI, December 30, 1992

Joycelyn Elders, President-elect Bill Clinton's choice for U.S. surgeon general, says anti-abortion groups should put as much energy into fighting for the rights of living children as they do fighting against abortion of the unborn. In an interview on the NBC "Today" program Wednesday Elders also said she will push the major television networks to "become involved" in AIDS education.

Elders said *Roe vs. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, "will perhaps be protected" against attempts to chip away at it before the high court.

"But most important, I think the...people of pro-choice realize now that the next four years will be the hardest years they will have ever had to work," she said.

"None of us are good enough, nor do we know enough, nor love enough to make the abortion decision for anybody else," Elders said. "And I would like for the anti-abortion groups to get busy fighting for the rights of children as they have been fighting for rights against abortion. If we prevent pregnancy there would never be a need for an abortion."

Elders' unabashed advocacy of school-based health clinics and a vigorous program of sex education for public schoolchildren have tended to overshadow the other aspects of her five-year tenure as director of the Arkansas Department of Health.

Asked if she is apprehensive about Senate confirmation hearings at which she is expected to face stiff opposition by conservative groups, Elders said, "No, I am not."

She said, "I expect them to oppose me, but they've been opposing me for five years (while at the Arkansas Department of Health). But I feel we can't continue to sell our children for their beliefs."

Asked if she will take on the networks for their refusal to air condom ads, Elders said, "I certainly will," adding that the media "can make a very, very significant impact on the attitude of America and next year."

"I'm going to spend this next year trying to make sure all of the networks become involved," she said.

She said AIDS activists should be fighting for universal health care for all Americans so that "all AIDS patients...wherever they are could expect to be taken care of."

The 59-year-old former pediatrics professor's support for the distribution of condoms through her controversial clinics and her outspoken pro-choice views have made her the Clinton aide conservatives most love to bash.

Asked about that opposition on "Today", and specifically whether she is talking about every teacher handing out condoms in schools, Elders said, "I'm talking about comprehensive primary preventive health care service on the school campus where the children are."

Clinton appointed Elders to Arkansas' top health post in October of 1987.

**Chicago Tribune, December 29, 1992**

**Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders of Arkansas, president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, lamented a "shrinking federal commitment of resources to states" for A.I.D.S.**

## **Rural and Youth Health Care Make In-Roads in Arkansas**

CNN, October 30, 1992

With the U.S. health care system needing major reform, Clinton's proposals come into focus for the voters. This segment examines the health care changes he's brought to Arkansas.

**BOBBIE BATTISTA**, Anchor: In medical news today, revamping the U.S. health care system. Bill Clinton promises major changes in health care if he's elected president. CNN Medical Correspondent, **Andrew Holtz**, assesses the changes Clinton has made as governor of Arkansas.

**ANDREW HOLTZ**, Medical News Correspondent: The Bush campaign is quick to point to the low ranking of Clinton's Arkansas in certain measures of health care. Nineteen percent of Arkansans have no health insurance, compared to 15 percent nationally.

A so-called bare bones insurance program, backed by Clinton, has been slow to get off the ground. On the other hand, Arkansas had one of the worst infant mortality rates when Clinton took office, and now the state ranks near the national average. Clinton appointed a health director, who is a fiery advocate of teen health education.

**Dr. JOYCELYN ELDERS**, Arkansas Health Director: We can no longer allow our bright young people to be washed down the river of poverty, ignorance, and enslavement because of AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, unintended pregnancies because we failed to deal with the things that they most need to hear about.

**HOLTZ**: A growing number of Arkansas schools have health clinics to deal, not only with physical ailments, but also family and emotional problems. The principal at this school says attendance is up and students are better able to learn. Some school clinics offer contraceptives, though this junior high does not. Still, health education gets credit for cutting the pregnancy rate here.

**RICHARD MAPLE**, Forext Heights Junior High: About 4 years ago, this school was running 19 to 20 kids that were pregnant. Last school year, we had just about 5 kids that were pregnant.

**HOLTZ**: Arkansas is training and supporting more doctors for its rural residents. Rison, Arkansas is a frontier outpost and a network of health care clinics set up under the Clinton administration, not only to provide rural health care, but also to help educate the next generation of rural doctors. **Dr. Mark Atwood** opened the Rison Family Practice Clinic 7 years ago with help from the state.

**Dr. MARK ATTWOOD**, Rison Family Practice Clinic: This is my home town. I grew up here.

**HOLTZ:** He got his training through a University of Arkansas program in Rural Family Practice, and now medical residents train at the Rison Clinic.

**Dr. ATTWOOD:** The residents can learn to treat patients in a small town without backup of a big hospital right there.

**HOLTZ:** The nearest hospital is in Pine Bluff, 25 miles away. Medical school officials say 85 percent of their students stay in Arkansas, and that the family practice program here is a model of how to revitalize rural health care. Andrew Holtz, CNN Medical News, Rison, Arkansas.

The preceding text has been professionally transcribed. However, although the text has been checked against an audio track, in order to meet rigid distribution and transmission deadlines, it has not yet been proofread against videotape.

**Words of the Week**  
[Jet, August 3, 1992]

Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, the first Black woman to hold the post of Arkansas health director, pointing out that giving contraceptives to teen-agers at school-based clinics helps fight the rising problem of teen-age pregnancy: "I always tell people that just because they have insurance on their car doesn't mean they go out and have a wreck. So why if they have contraceptives does it mean they'll go out and have sex? I want the teenagers to be abstinent. But if they aren't abstinent, I certainly want them to be responsible."

**Clinton health czar takes shots over teen pregnancy**  
[The Washington Times, June 8, 1992]

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** - Meet the woman Bill Clinton wants to be your next secretary of health and human services.

Her name is Joycelyn Elders. She became health director of Arkansas five years ago, the first black woman ever in that post.

Dr. Elders is a pediatrician and political ally of the Arkansas governor, the Democrats' all-but-certain nominee for president. She also is the state's most controversial public official - largely because of her feisty, uncompromising stand against teen-age pregnancy.

To her opponents in this Bible Belt region, she is dangerously and immorally encouraging teen sex by pushing condoms in public high schools. To her admirers, she is heroically battling a slow-footed bureaucracy on behalf of children.

The daughter of sharecroppers (she wasn't even examined by a doctor herself until she was a freshman in

college), Dr. Elders knows she tops many political observers' lists of Arkansans likely to make up a Clinton Cabinet in Washington.

What would her national agenda be as head of the Department of Health and Human Services? Universal health care, comprehensive health education in kindergarten through 12th grade and widespread availability of contraceptives.

"I'm not sure how we would pay for all this," she concedes. "But I feel sure it would pay for itself. Right now, we spend all of our money on dying."

While Bill Clinton campaigns for the White House, Joycelyn Elders, 58, also travels the nation. She preaches - sometimes literally in churches - that government spends too little on children's health. At home, presiding over the state's second-largest department, she takes credit for increasing both the number of children screened annually and the number of senior citizens receiving home health care.

"She's been a great spokesperson for the types of change Arkansas needs to undergo," says state Sen. Vic Snyder, a Little Rock Democrat who is himself a family physician.

David Rickard, a research analyst with a non-profit group called Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, says Dr. Elders is responsible for both an improvement in nutrition and a decline in communicable diseases among children.

"She's the best thing that's happened to children's health in this state since [former Arkansas first lady] Betty Bumpers brought us immunization in the mid-1970s," Mr. Rickard says. "She demands that issues be addressed and not swept under the rug. She reminds me of [Children's Defense Fund President] Marian Wright Edelman: someone who is deeply concerned about children."

## DOING SOMETHING

Joycelyn Elders has become best known for battling the teen-pregnancy rate in Arkansas, the second-highest nationwide after neighboring Mississippi.

Among blacks, the state ranks first nationwide in teen pregnancies, Dr. Elders says, with 30 percent of all black babies born to teen-agers.

"This is the greatest cause of black children growing up in poverty, ignorance and enslavement," she says. "We can't continue to sit, hold our hands and moralize about the issue. We've got to do something."

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, condoms and contraceptive foam are dispensed at 19 clinics in public schools (two in junior highs, the rest in high schools). Counselors also advise teens on birth-control options, but not abortion, Dr. Elders says.

Local school districts approve the clinics, which can be used only by those students who have parental permission. The results, Dr. Elders says, have been dramatic.

In 1985, there was a 30 percent pregnancy rate among students at Lincoln High School in northwest Arkansas.

The following year, after a clinic was established there, only one pregnancy was reported.

This year, the school nurse wrote a letter to the health department saying she didn't consider teen pregnancy to be a problem anymore at the school.

## VALUES VS. INSURANCE

But state Rep. Albert "Tom" Collier, a Democrat from Newport, says a strong-willed principal was the real cause of that dramatic decrease, not the health clinics.

"The clinics don't work," Mr. Collier says. "And what we're telling children is 'Have sex, but be careful.'"

Despite Dr. Elders' statements to the contrary, the school clinics have become "centers for abortion counseling and referrals," charges Anne Dierks, director of the Respect Life program of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock.

"With these clinics, we're saying we can teach our children to say 'no' to drugs and alcohol, but not to sex," Mrs. Dierks says. "We're going to have to go back and instill more values in our children and strengthen the family."

Dr. Elders counters: "I always tell people that just because they have insurance on their car doesn't mean they go out and have a wreck. So why if they have contraceptives does it mean they'll go out and have sex? "I want teen-agers to be abstinent," she says. "But if they aren't abstinent, I certainly want them to be responsible."

## IN FLIGHT

Joycelyn Elders lives in a well-appointed ranch house on 15 acres outside Little Rock. Her husband, Oliver Elders, is a high school basketball coach.

The couple met when, as a medical school student she was sent to give checkups to his players. They were married in 1960, during her last semester. Now, she faithfully attends her husband's games Tuesday and Friday nights at Little Rock's Hall High School (where there is no health clinic).

With their youngest son, Kevin, 27, the Elderses also run a real estate business that rents 48 townhouse and apartment units in Little Rock.

Dr. Elders typically wakes up at 3 a.m. for a bustling schedule that includes nationwide speeches to such organizations as Planned Parenthood, the State Conference on Family Life Education and the Association of Home Economists.

"She's in flight constantly," Mr. Elders says. "She's always en route to another state, and I wonder how she has the energy to keep focused. But she's also an incredibly sound sleeper."

Her passions include real estate sales, where she hunts for items for the collection of Chinese and Japanese art that fills the Elderses' living room. She decorated the room herself, "so that if you move one piece, Mom knows," explains Kevin, who wears a "Clinton for President" T-shirt. (The couple's other son, Eric, 29, is a high

school teacher in Pine Bluff.)

On a recent weekday evening, Dr. Elders breezes into her living room dressed in a brown, country-style corduroy jumper. She gives her husband a kiss and apologizes to a reporter for being 15 minutes late.

Short and stocky to her husband's tall and slim, she talks quickly with a girlish Arkansas accent. But there is also something calmly and single-mindedly determined about Joycelyn Elders.

## MAKING IT

Asked about personal encounters with racism or sexism, Dr. Elders says she can recall only one time: When she was a resident at the University of Arkansas Medical School, a doctor, instructing her about some patients, referred to them as "good-old cotton patch niggers."

If there were other such incidents, she chose to ignore them as she pursued her goals.

"I was from a poor family, always feeling I was an overachiever," she says. "I was focused on being there, staying there and making it. None of the other things that went on could get in my way."

She was the eldest of eight children born to Curtis and Haller Jones in the tiny farm town of Schaal in southwest Arkansas. (A sister, Patricia Jackson, who taught linguistics at Howard University, was killed in a car crash in North Carolina about five years ago.)

While her mother worked in the fields and her father trapped raccoons, young Joycelyn cleaned house, cooked and mothered her siblings.

A pivotal experience would influence her later career decisions. A younger brother, suffering from appendicitis, was taken to the doctor on the family mule. A drain was put in his abdomen; he almost died from the primitive treatment.

After graduating from high school, Joycelyn earned a scholarship to Philander Smith, a small black Methodist college in Little Rock. Her family worked overtime to scrape up her \$3 bus fare.

As she cleaned the dormitories for pay and cracked the biology and chemistry books, Joycelyn aspired to become a lab technician. She thought that would be as far as a black woman could go. But during her first year of college, she heard a speech by Edith Irby Jones, the first black female graduate of the University of Arkansas Medical School. Joycelyn decided she wanted to be just like her.

## INTO THE JELL-O

After graduating from college in 1956 Joycelyn enlisted in the Army, where she studied to become a physical therapist. Four years later, she entered the University of Arkansas Medical School on the GI Bill, hoping to become a pediatric surgeon. She won a prestigious internship to the University of Minnesota.

She returned to the University of Arkansas hospital as chief pediatric resident, the first black woman to hold

that job. She became an academic pediatric endocrinologist at the medical school, studying children with diabetes, and is now the author or co-author of some 150 articles on the subject.

But although she spent much of her time behind a microscope, Joycelyn Elders was becoming a public figure as she served on health and women's committees in Little Rock. There, she became friendly with the governor's wife, Hillary Clinton, with whom she shares an interest in children's issues.

In 1987, when Mr. Clinton offered her the \$87,000-a-year job of state health director during his third term in office, Dr. Elders accepted. But with two conditions: that she be allowed to keep her academic appointment and that she be allowed to speak her mind.

"I said, if you let me be the health director, you have to let me decide rational health policy, not you decide by what's politically expedient," she says.

The first test occurred three weeks into the job. At a conference on "at-risk" youth in Washington, a reporter asked what issue would top her agenda. Teen pregnancy, she replied.

And would she make contraceptives available in the high schools? Yes.

"Suddenly I looked, and the governor was the color of red. And I realized that I had dropped my governor into an ocean of Jell-O," Dr. Elders recalls. "The press turned around and said, 'Dr. Elders said you're going to offer contraceptives.'"

"He swallowed and said, 'Dr. Elders told me what she was about when I appointed her and I support Dr. Elders.'"

"Bill Clinton has been out with me on the ocean of Jell-O ever since," she says, "and he's always stood behind the things I've been about."

## THE MEMORY

It's a bit of hyperbole. The Arkansas press has reported the health officer's clashes with the governor over what she considered skimping on the health department budget.

But Joycelyn Elders doesn't expect to waver in her mission. She says she is haunted by the memory of a 13-year-old girl she met as a pediatric resident in the early '60s.

After treating the girl for a thyroid problem, Dr. Elders told her she could go home. The girl started crying. She said she didn't want to go home. Her daddy and uncle, the girl explained, had sex with her on Saturday nights, after getting drunk.

"I didn't do anything, I just sent her home," Dr. Elders recalls. "I feel I should have tried to do something."

"Anything I can do to make life better for young women to reach their potential," she adds, "is what I have to be about."

**Family Values, Speech by Bill Clinton to the Cleveland City Club**  
[U.S. Newswire, May 21, 1992]

Finally, I want to ensure that American families and individuals make the most personal decisions in their life with a full sense of personal responsibility and concern for the consequences of their actions. That means letting teens know that it's wrong for children to have children, and also providing them with the education about how to prevent it.

In Arkansas, my nationally renowned health director, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, and I fought for school-based health clinics and sex education. It wasn't popular, and it wasn't easy, but with teen pregnancy and AIDS claiming more and more of our young people, it's a matter of life and death.

Texas Lawyer, May 17, 1993

When Dr. Joycelyn Elders, president Clinton's choice for surgeon general, takes office as expected this summer, she will be the highest-ranking official in recent memory to support marijuana use for medical purposes.

Elders, who currently heads the Arkansas Department of Health, believes that physicians should be allowed to prescribe marijuana, which can help fight glaucoma, reduce chemotherapy-induced nausea and restore the appetite of AIDS patients.

Just 10 people in the country now legally smoke pot for medical reasons -- and as things stand, no more can join them, because the program allowing such exemptions was suspended a year ago. Many patients use marijuana illegally.

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and other groups are hopeful that the Clinton administration will allow medical marijuana use. Allen St. Pierre, NORML's assistant national director, even suggests that this could happen by year's end.

"Probably quite foolishly, we rest a lot of hope with the new surgeon general," says St. Pierre. "She is a very forceful woman, and she feels very strongly about this particular issue."

The issue may be forced by a suit now before the U.S. Circuit Court of appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Filed in 1972 by NORML, the suit -- which has been bounding between the Drug Enforcement Administration and the courts for 20 years -- demands that the DEA allow marijuana use for medical purposes.

The Justice Department must submit its brief by May 12.

Kevin Zeese, vice president of the Drug Policy Foundation and lead counsel for NORML's case, notes that if the Justice Department continues to oppose medical marijuana use, it will be contradicting the publicly stated views of the surgeon general of its own administration.

Justice Department spokesman Dean St. Dennis could not say what the department's position will be.

#### **Hope for medicinal pot**

Chicago Tribune, April 14, 1993

Irvin Rosenfeld, a stockbroker whose body is riddled with hundreds of bone tumors, underwent eight operations but could not prevent constant pulled muscles and hemorrhages. Heaven would be lying on a rack to stretch his tight muscles, he says. Chris Woiderski, a psychology student paralyzed from the chest down, used to take 490 prescribed pills a month to stop his muscle spasms and kill pain. He says he lived in a pharmacological stupor.

Bound by their pain, both men sought relief in marijuana and found it. The difference is, one of them is breaking the law.

Woiderski, of Tampa, and others like him say they have no choice but to defy a law they deem both irrational and cruel. Using their own lives as examples of marijuana's medical value and pinning fresh hopes on a new political climate, they are part of a movement putting medical marijuana back on the nation's agenda.

More people in Florida than anywhere else in the United States use marijuana legally for medical reasons. And more Floridians were approved for and awaiting legal marijuana supplies when the Bush administration banned new users in 1991. At least 20 people who had been previously approved were cut off.

"Every time I buy it in the street, I don't know what it's going to be mixed with," says Ronald Shaw, a Cocoa, Fla., engineer who suffers post-polio muscle spasms. Shaw was approved for the 14-year-old program but never received any legal marijuana. "The government is making me a criminal. I don't want to be a criminal."

But times are changing, and many illegal medical marijuana users believe they may not be considered criminals for long. They're counting on U.S. Surgeon General-designate Joycelyn Elders, whose office at the Arkansas Department of Health has been flooded with pro-marijuana letters.

She supports its medical use, although aides say she may be reluctant to speak out immediately. More pressing are other, less controversial health issues, they say.

"Her belief is that if there is some medical benefit to the patient and the doctor feels it's in the best interest of his patient, the doctor should have (marijuana) as a tool," said Carol Roddy, Elders' executive assistant. "It's just not her battle."

People with AIDS say marijuana reduces nausea, a side effect of chemotherapy, and stimulates appetite. In other words, marijuana gives AIDS patients a classic case of the "munchies."

Federal drug agencies prohibit marijuana's medical use. Among their reasons: Smoking may cause lung cancer. Marijuana may damage brain cells and compromise the immune and reproductive systems. "Highs" may lead to anxiety, panic and dizziness.

The Drug Enforcement Administration says "claims that marijuana is medicine are false, dangerous and cruel" and refuses to classify it as a Schedule II drug, such as morphine and codeine, which may be prescribed by doctors. Heroin and marijuana are among Schedule I drugs that cannot be prescribed.

"There are other medicines that are just as good with less damaging side effects," said Wayne Roques, the Miami-based DEA demand-reduction coordinator. "Marijuana gives false hope to people."

Rosenfeld disagrees.

Each week, the Lauderhill, Fla., stockbroker leaves his office several times a day for the confines of a Honda Civic. He places a beige towel over his gray suit pants and lights a marijuana joint, slowly filling the car with its heavy, sweet odor.

"This is not a cure-all," he says, popping a mint into his mouth when the cigarette is exhausted. "It's for someone who has nowhere else to go."

At 10, he was diagnosed with multiple congenital cartilaginous exostosis and pseudo-pseudo hypoparathyroidism - bone tumors that consume most of his body.

Standard therapies and drugs, such as Demerol, failed to halt the tumors' growth or deaden his pain, he says. Then Rosenfeld tried marijuana.

"I was playing a game of chess and I stood up," he recalled. "It dawned on me that I had been sitting for one hour. Before, I couldn't sit for more than 15 minutes."

Rosenfeld is among 10 people left in the country - half of whom live in Florida - entitled to receive free marijuana.

Woiderski submitted his medical marijuana application in November 1990. Four months later, he was approved and awaiting delivery. The supply never came.

"I go through a friend of mine who feels sorry for my situation," Woiderski said. "It's cheap, it's effective, and we don't have anything better. There's no cure for us, and apparently there's no compassion."

**Elders questions condom centerpieces**  
The Washington Times, May 26, 1993

Lunch yesterday in a fancy Washington hotel. Big crystal chandeliers. A member of Congress. A member of the administration. Someone from the mayor's office. And a silver bowl of assorted condoms at each table.

Salt, pepper, cream, sugar, condoms.

Even President Clinton's choice for surgeon general, Joycelyn Elders, was taken aback.

Dr. Elders isn't bashful about saying she thinks condoms should be given out in the schools, but she does draw the line: "I'm not going to put them on a lunch plate."

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, Colorado Democrat, complimented the choice of centerpieces.

Dr. Elders and Rep. Schroeder were speaking to the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, an organization to educate others about reproductive and health issues.

**Tug of war over school clinics // Health care up against birth control**  
USA TODAY, May 19, 1993

Last fall, Laticia Warren went into her high school health clinic for her routine physical.

The 14-year-old Walbrook High School freshman learned she had a hernia, which required surgery. And doctors discovered a low blood sugar condition that will keep her off the school track team for awhile.

That was bad news for Warren. But to proponents of school health clinics, which include the Clinton administration, it was evidence that clinics meet a critical need.

Without them, students may get "no health care. . . . Zero," says Baltimore school health chief Pat Fosarelli. But while expanding in-school clinics has strong support in Hillary Rodham Clinton's health-care task force, religious and conservative groups are up in arms.

Upset that many school clinics offer reproductive health services such as condoms and birth control pills, the groups promise a major political battle if new clinics are part of health reform.

"Parents send their children to school to learn to read and write and find Mexico on a map - not to copulate," says Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition.

Reed and other conservatives say they want better health care for children but claim school-based clinics abridge parental rights.

Schools "should be providing a strong abstinence message," says Nancy Jacobs of Maryland's chapter of Concerned Women for America. By (dispensing) contraceptives . . . it's giving them a license (to have sex)."

There are about 300 school-based clinics in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Surgeon General-appointee Joycelyn Elders - who pushed to open 24 clinics in Arkansas - is lobbying for more.

Like about 20% of clinics nationwide, Walbrook dispenses contraceptives. Teen-agers who come to the clinic - under Maryland law - don't need parental permission to get birth control.

At many clinics in other states that provide contraceptives, parental permission is required for everything from aspirin to condoms.

Health-care workers say providing contraceptives is a small part of what clinics do - a preventive health measure in an age of soaring teen pregnancy rates and AIDS.

The clinics, which are financed with private, state and federal money, cost up to \$ 150,000 a year to operate. But supporters say they save money long term by providing preventative health care and nutrition counseling.

School clinic workers across the country also report about 35% of their work involves mental health issues.

At Walbrook, "the counselor is just like a mentor," says Julia Scott, 18, a senior with a 4-month-old daughter. "I just come in and talk to her when I have personal problems that I don't want to talk to my mother about."

Says senior Constance Martin, 19, eight months pregnant: "It's more convenient (because) our mothers don't have to take a day off work when we're sick. It's kind of like a safety net."

When contraceptives are dispensed in Baltimore, the teens are counseled about pregnancy prevention, abstinence and risks of AIDS.

"They don't get out of here with just . . . condoms, " says clinic head Pat Hauptman.

Some say that's not enough.

"Kids see school as an authority figure, and if (it) is giving out contraception, it must be all right," says Jacobs.

She also charges the clinics, many of which are located in primarily black, inner-city neighborhoods, are racist.

"I think it's racially motivated," Jacobs says. "They don't want a lot of black welfare babies being born."

Some Baltimore black community leaders have complained a plan to allow school clinics to offer Norplant, a surgically implanted contraceptive, is racist.

But defenders say clinics often are located in primarily black neighborhoods because those are the poor areas where children don't get health care. Norplant, they say, is a birth-control option.

Still, expansion of clinics will be tough.

The opponents are "very strong, and it's the holy war for them, there's no question about it," says Debra Hauser of the Center for Population Options.

file: Elders

POLITICAL DISPATCHES

Calif. Democrats fuss over governor's freebie



Gov. Pete Wilson

By Tupper Hull  
SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California Democratic Party is asking the state's political watchdog agency to investigate a private foundation's leasing of a luxury Los Angeles condominium for the use of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson.

"Pete Wilson is accepting free luxury housing from his wealthy political cronies. This violates government ethics and this clearly violates California election law," Democratic State Party Chairman Bill Press said Monday in a letter to the Fair Political Practices Commission, or FPPC.

The condominium, located in a 14-acre gated complex in Century City, is leased by the California Governor's Foundation, a non-profit foundation established in

1992. The foundation is financed with money from Mr. Wilson's inaugural committee and contributions from major corporations.

Mr. Press said he believes the arrangement violates a state law that limits gifts to public officials to \$270 per year.

FPPC spokeswoman Jennette Turville said the agency would neither confirm nor deny it is undertaking an investigation, but she

San Francisco Examiner

said it could be months before the results of such a probe are made public.

John Davies, a longtime friend of Mr. Wilson's who is chairman of the foundation, said the arrangement is legal.

"It's a gift to the state, not to Pete Wilson," he said.

Dan Schnur, a spokesman for Mr. Wilson's re-election campaign, labeled the Democratic Party's complaint an election-year effort to embarrass the governor:

Mr. Schnur said the foundation is similar to a foundation that bought a suburban Sacramento home for former Gov. George Deukmejian's use during his eight years in office. That foundation still owns the home, and it is now used by Mr. Wilson; the Wilson foundation has taken over maintenance expenses.

Mr. Schnur said the arrangements, which he insisted violate no laws, save California's taxpayers money. Were it not for the condominium, he said, Mr. Wilson would be forced to bill the state for hotel accommodations on his frequent trips to Los Angeles.

"This is classic Democratic philosophy," Mr. Schnur complained.

"Never, ever let something be handled by the private sector if you can find a way to bill the taxpayers for it."

The controversy is reminiscent of a trade trip Mr. Wilson and members of his administration took to Asia last fall that was paid for by several major corporations. Mr. Press also complained that the trip violated the limit on gifts.

But the FPPC, a majority of whose members are appointed by the governor, decided against taking any action against Mr. Wilson. Although the agency said the contributions for the trip may have technically violated the law, it said the trip was part of Mr. Wilson's official duties.

The FPPC also concluded that the contributions were not for Mr. Wilson, but for the state's Trade and Commerce Agency and for California as a whole. That, ac-

ording to the FPPC, made them proper and legal.

• Distributed by Scripps Howard

Bill Clinton Chose This Doctor

Elders on why we should spend more on AIDS research (#9 killer) than on heart disease and cancer (#1 and #2):

"Most of the people who die with heart disease and cancer are our elderly population...we all will probably die with something sooner or later."

Washington Post, June 23, 1994, p. A29

Elders on the Boy Scouts:

Q: Did you say you believe the Boy Scouts should admit homosexuals?

A: Yes. I also think girls who are lesbians should be allowed to join the Girl Scouts."

USA Weekend, June 3-5, 1994, p. 5

Elders on sex and drugs:

On CNBC's "Talk Live" program on June 19, 1993, Dr. Elders said, "I would hope that we would provide them [drug-abusing prostitutes] Norplant, so they could still use sex if they must to buy their drugs."

Larry Witham, "Elders Lashes Out at the Religious Right," The Washington Times, June 23, 1994, p. A4

Elders on free drugs for addicts:

"When we say 'legalize,' I'm really talking about control. We [could] have doctors or clinics set up where addicts can get their drugs free or pay one dollar."

The Washington Times, June 2, 1994, p. A3

Elders on abortion:

"Abortion has an important and positive public health effect."

The Washington Times, August 14, 1993

Elders on fighting crime:

"...we would markedly reduce our crime rate if drugs were legalized."

Washington Post, December 8, 1993 p. 3

Elders on gay adoption:

"Elders says gays and lesbians can play an important role by adopting children..."

The Advocate, March 22, 1994, p. 36



Dr. Joycelyn Elders  
Surgeon General of the United States

Now He Wants To Choose Yours

The Clinton health plan would permit Big Government to control who enters medical school, who enters which medical specialties and where they can practice. You will lose your choice of doctors.

"Americans don't want a Big Government-run health plan. Nor

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

7-13-94

Carol -

Fog Offroad tells me that  
the response to the Kamehameha  
letter is still pending - but  
this is what you gave out  
already. I have boxed a  
copy to Secretary Shaleen.

Fog

Rog

Attached



I need another copy of  
Kamehameha letter - I assume  
you kept the one you faxed  
to me. Mine is in the Post  
bag.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1994

Dear 1-:

Thank you for your letter regarding recent comments made by Dr. Joycelyn Elders. As you noted, the Surgeon General has challenged the consensus surrounding several controversial issues. Dr. Elders is, however, attempting to accentuate issues, central to the health and welfare of many Americans, that have been often overlooked or ignored by the mainstream. Moreover, while the opinions expressed by the Surgeon General do not necessarily reflect those of the President or his Administration as a whole, the President remains confident in Dr. Elders and her ability to perform the tasks of the Surgeon General.

Sincerely,

Susan Brophy  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable 2-  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you ask for the resignation of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders.

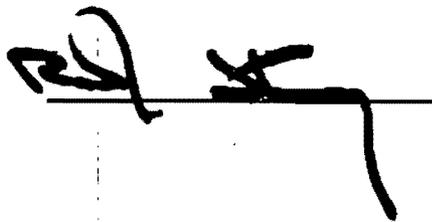
Throughout her career, Dr. Elders has repeatedly made remarks and taken stands outside the mainstream of American thought. In contrast to previous Surgeons General, she has not chosen to utilize her position to advance the general health and welfare of all Americans, but rather to advocate views antithetical to the majority of citizens.

Most recently, Dr. Elders denounced the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America for their alleged discriminatory policies against homosexuals. Not only were her comments offensive in mischaracterizing the policies of the Girl Scouts, but they also displayed an inexplicable hostility to two of the most valuable character-building institutions in this nation. In the past, Dr. Elders has also recommended that the United States legalize narcotics, stated that "I tell every girl when she goes out on a date -- put a condom in her purse," and condemned those opposed to abortion for "their love affair with the fetus." She has also made comments offensive to senior citizens at a Senate hearing in May, justifying comparatively low spending on research into heart disease and cancer with the statement, "most of the people that die with heart disease and cancer are our elderly population, you know, and we all will probably die with something sooner or later."

Whether one agrees with these statements or not, and I suspect that the majority of Americans do not, they clearly serve to divide Americans rather than unite us behind our common interest in public health and welfare. That is directly contrary to the role that the Surgeon General should perform for the country.

There are many outstanding individuals who could perform this important role without sending our children messages that do not reflect the values of most Americans. We ask you to request the resignation of Dr. Joycelyn Elders and hope that you nominate a Surgeon General dedicated to bringing Americans together behind our common values and interests.

Sincerely,



Tom DeLay

Chas. T. Conroy

James L. ...

Bill ...

Dick Amey

Cass Ballinger

John T. ...

Tom ...

Bill Baker

Richard ...

[Signature]

[Signature]

Howard "Buck" ...

[Signature]

[Signature]

Howard ...

[Signature]

Ben ...

Wallis ...

Roscoe ...

Beefy  
Nick Smith  
Don Smith  
Henry J. Hyde  
Colin's 603  
Jo Kuller  
Paul Kelly  
Craig Thomas  
Don Lewis  
Bob Walker

Robert K. Thomas  
John Boehm  
Bob Smith  
James Smith  
Tom Kelly  
Aris Cox  
Ernest Smith  
Dana Rohrbach  
Jim Bunning  
Bob Smith

James V. Whelan  
New York

Bob Langford  
Bill McElroy

Bob

John J. Meyer

James Talent

Mike K. Fowler

Bob Goodlatte

W.A. By

Steve Lee-Kettner

Steve Miller

Jim Rasmussen

Mike Baker

J. Glavin

John Gardner

Tom R. V.

Steve J. ...

Bill ...

Tommy ...

Steve Buyer

Phil Crane

Dan Dreier

Jim Luke

John ...  
Barbara ...

Mike Cross

Martin ...

Ed Royce

John ...

...  
Lamar Smith

Jack Kingston

Sam Johnson

Mike Bilirakis

Frank Baker

Spencer ...

Bob ...

Jim ...

John ...

Jack Fields

Carl Wilson

Tom Schaefer

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Don Bailey

Hal Rogers

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