



CLINTONWATCH™

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Proving Character Does Count in a President.

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Joycelyn Elders: Nazism Reborn

Clinton's pick for Surgeon General presumes to judge the "quality of life."

BY FLOYD G. BROWN

JUST WHEN YOU thought Bill Clinton's nominees for public office couldn't get any more outrageous, along comes Joycelyn Elders. The president's pick for U.S. Surgeon General attracts attention not only for her stridently liberal positions, but also for her unusually blunt manner of expressing them. From contraceptives in schools to taxpayer-funded abortions, she appears ready to advance the Clinton agenda on a host of social issues. Although she may be confirmed any day now, her radical views deserve examination nonetheless.

Like many liberal educators, Dr. Elders proposes school-based health clinics as a cure-all for sexual problems among youth. But since the central function of the clinics is the distribution of free contraceptive devices, one might question her rationale. Facing opposition from legions of decent Americans whom she derided as "very religious non-Christians," Elders took advantage of a 1991 amendment to the Arkansas health budget. It prohibited spending public money on contraceptives, but it applied only to state money. Arkansas schools could distribute all the condoms they wanted, provided

they were bought with local or federal funds.

If Dr. Elders thinks that free contraceptives are the answer, perhaps she should take another look at Arkansas statistics. In the early 1980s, before she took over as surgeon general for the state, Arkansas's high teen-pregnancy rate dropped 10 percent. Then, during her tenure, it rose by 17 percent. But why be surprised? A number of studies published in Family Planning Perspectives, a pro-birth-control academic journal, show that teen-pregnancy rates actually rise in the presence of school-based clinics, presumably because their unintended effect is to encourage teens to become more sexually active, and at an earlier age.

Nevertheless, President Clinton introduced Dr. Elders as someone who would implement "aggressive efforts" to "reduce teenage pregnancy." But can we trust this important job to a woman who told the *Evening Times* of West Memphis, Ark. the following: "We taught them what to do in the front seat. Now it's time to teach them what to do in the back seat." And the state, not the parents, should be the ones to impart this essential information, since "many parents are

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The Quotable Clinton

Yes, they really said that . . .

BILL'S FRIENDS

"I'm such a government junkie." -- Hillary Rodham Clinton, while in South Korea during the G-7 summit.

"We've been taught a great lesson about humanity -- that our momentum is inexorable and cannot be stopped." -- Roberta Achtenberg, assistant secretary for housing in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Achtenberg, who is an avowed lesbian, was addressing homosexuals in a June 27 Lesbian-Gay Freedom Day Parade.

"The breakdown of families . . . the deep trouble people are having in finding and sustaining . . . loving relationships -- all the core issues off crisis of contemporary life [are] rooted in the psychodynamics of the capitalist marketplace." -- Michael Lerner, the liberal Jewish editor who coined Hillary's phrase "the politics of meaning."

"I think that the administration got off to a bad start with Bosnia, because that was the first piece of evidence of how foreign policy would be done, and it's caused some dismay." -- Michael Mandelbaum of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, who advised Clinton during last year's election campaign.

"Elders is a lurch to the left in the person of a very engaging professional." -- Stephen Hess, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, speaking in favor of Joycelyn Elders, Clinton's nominee for U.S. Surgeon General.

BILL HIMSELF:

"She's a very passionate woman and sometimes she says things in stark and blunt terms that make people draw up." -- referring to Joycelyn Elders.

"I think there are ways you can carve out a federal enclave here that's still separate and apart, and let the rest of those folks become a state." -- speaking about D.C. statehood on *Larry King Live*.

"I haven't had enough sense to come in out of the rain for years." -- during his tour of Korea's Demilitarized Zone.

BILL'S CRITICS:

"Creating a government bureaucracy with the compassion of the Internal Revenue Service and the efficiency of the post office is not what we need in health care." -- Donald Devine, director of the American Conservative Union.

"If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free." -- P.J. O'Rourke in the July issue of the *American Spectator*.

"The Clinton administration has the most anti-capitalistic bias of any administration in this century." -- Jack Kemp



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uneducated," as she told the *Log Cabin Democrat* in Conway, Ark. in 1991.

Dr. Elders makes no bones about favoring birth control and abortion on demand for teenagers. "I tell every girl that when she goes out on a date [to] put a condom in her purse," she told *60 Minutes*. She advocates sex education as early as kindergarten and Medicaid payment for Norplant contraceptive implants, and she has endorsed the so-called Freedom of Choice Act.

"If Medicaid does not pay for abortions, does not pay for family planning, but pays for pre-natal care and delivery, that's saying 'I'll pay for you to have another good, healthy slave, but I won't pay for you to use your brain and make choices for yourself,'" Elders told the *American Medical News*. "It's a way to keep people poor, ignorant and enslaved. If you are poor and ignorant, you are a slave." Her cavalier acceptance of infanticide is designed, as she puts it, to make sure that "every child is a planned, wanted child."

But Dr. Elders sets some rather high standards for children to meet before they are considered "planned" and "wanted." At a January 1992 rally in favor of amending the state constitution to guarantee abortion, she told the crowd: "It's a matter of what you call living. I call living a child that's healthy, educated, motivated and has hope." As a result, she placed the number of "unplanned and unwanted" American children at 60 percent when she appeared on the *MacNeil/Lehrer* program. Dr. Elders has obviously concluded that more than half of all American children should have been



Donna Shalala: Elders' new boss?

slaughtered in the womb -- all to spare them the pain of an "unwanted" existence.

If you think her brand of compassion has a particularly chilling tone to it, consider the way in which she defended abortion before the U.S. Senate. Speaking on behalf of the Freedom of Choice Act she said, "Abortion was the single most important factor in the significant decrease in neo-natal mortality between 1964 and 1977." In other words, we should kill babies to keep them from dying.

The nomination of Dr. Elders has stirred up some understandably strong opposition, especially among conservative women's groups and even from her fellow blacks. Concerned Women for America (CWA) has joined with a number of other groups to apply a common strategy against the nominee. Kay Cole James, Vice President of the Family Research Council put it best at a recent news conference: "I'm a mother of three teenagers, and this nominee scares me."

Her cavalier acceptance of infanticide is designed, as she puts it, to make sure that "every child is a planned, wanted child."



Clinton Sides with the Owls

The president's timber plan will put loggers out of work.

BY CLIFF KINCAID

The president's plan will hurt timber production, increase the cost of lumber and make it harder for new couples to qualify for the purchase of first-time homes.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S so-called "compromise" on the Spotted Owl problem was a sell-out to the professional environmentalists that will result in the loss of 85,000 timber and related jobs. Mr. Clinton's "conversion" plan will, at best, throw a few of the unemployed into make-work jobs. The rest will go on welfare.

Looking at it from the point of view of a logger's wife, Senator Slade Gorton put it this way: "You hear pundits on TV telling you that your husband will just have to find a new job. But there are no jobs in your community. In fact, the only jobs in town outside of the timber industry also vanished when the timber industry was brought to its knees three years ago.

"So you consider packing up, moving, and selling your home. But you look out your window, and your next door neighbor's house is for sale. In fact ... most of your neighborhood is for sale.

"Is the President going to return to the Northwest to explain how the sacrifice of your family's future equals balance? Fat chance."

Mr. Clinton's plan was only a "compromise" in the sense that he didn't capitulate totally to tree huggers who want zero logging. But the "zero-option" wasn't seriously considered by anyone. In fact, the radical environmentalists had sponsored a

bill last year that would have produced more timber than the Clinton plan.

As it stands, the Clinton plan would reduce the annual harvest from 5 billion board feet in the 1980s to only 1.2 billion. The difference is one of slow or instant death.

Incredibly, one of the over-paid television commentators said that, now that Mr. Clinton has the forest problem behind him, he could concentrate on the economy. What hogwash! The president's plan will hurt timber production, increase the cost of lumber, and make it harder for new couples to qualify for the purchase of first-time homes. This *will* affect the economy, for the worst.

The well-financed green lobby came out the winner, and industry and labor came out the losers. But in defeat, we may see the possibility of a comeback and ultimate victory. It was a good sign to see representatives of industry and labor together, at the AFL-CIO headquarters, blasting the Clinton plan. Workers and management should now unite to combat the White House/environmentalist alliance.

Republicans, if they have any sense, will quickly make common cause with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the Western Council of Industrial Workers, the International Woodworkers of America, the United Paperworkers, and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers.

And the first item on the agenda must be to radically rewrite or eliminate the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the law that

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has served to implement the anti-growth agenda of the greens. Already, more than 500 plants and animals are on the list, and 4,000 candidates await listing!

Simple math tells you that if one owl can virtually shut down an entire industry in the Northwest, 4,000 of these critters can go a long way toward shutting down the entire economy.

In the case of the Owl, the truth is that logging could have proceeded at 1980s levels. Despite propaganda to the contrary, our forests in the 1980s were growing faster than they were being cut. But President Clinton bowed to those who have misled the public by talking about old trees -- "old growth" -- and cute owls.

The old trees (mostly Douglas Firs) will die because of disease, drought, insects or forest fires unless they're cut down. But the radicals would rather see them die -- even decay on the ground -- than be harvested for human benefit.

In fact, in July of 1992, more than 30 people were arrested for cutting Northwest

timber that had been blown down. They were threatened with 6 months in jail and/or a \$500 fine.

The radicals claim that the owls can only survive in "old growth" forests. But Dixie Lee Ray points out in her book *Environmental Overkill* that "the biological needs of Spotted Owls are few. They need a place to nest and lay eggs, and enough trees to provide cover, but open enough so they can fly after and capture suitable prey . . . the age of the forest is of no consequence."

And if the Owl doesn't survive, so what? Is the survival of this animal more important than the lives of those loggers and their families?

Let's get serious. If human beings are going to survive, we are going to have to exploit our natural resources to provide for a rising standard of living for our people. It doesn't make sense to literally throw away one of our best resources.

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Clinton: In Review

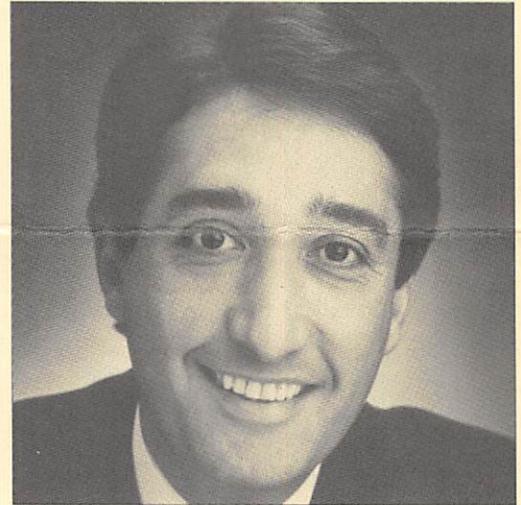
"I wish it were possible for us all to hide behind a tree and point at somebody else."

White House officials admitted favoritism played a part in the firings, a charge which forced the president to jettison his cousin, whom he had hired to take over the job.

- Does Bill Clinton ever read his mail? If he did, he might discover that nationwide support for his policies is at an all-time low. The president brags about the fact that he receives great quantities of mail, but he always forgets to mention that most of it is negative. According to *The Washington Post*, one week's worth of June mail on the military's ban on homosexuals reveals that out of 3,135 letters, only 386 supported lifting the ban. And sifting through more than 5,000 letters on the economy, Bill would have found only 96 in favor of his tax package.

- Speaking of White House mail, it seems that administration officials have also had problems with the mail going *out* of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Ronald and Lila Wilson of Santa Susana, Cal. found this out when they wrote President Clinton to express opposition to lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military. The official reply came back with a handwritten note on one side: "Dear Mr. & Mrs. Wilson, if you have 'many gays friends and relatives,' do you refer to them as 'fags' to their faces? Intolerance is a disease." White House officials apologized to the couple, attributing the note to an inexperienced student volunteer.

- The effect of the Clinton presidency continues to make its mark on special elections across the country. The latest one pitted Democrat Nate Coulter against Republican Mike Huckabee for the lieutenant governorship of Arkansas. In one



Henry G. Cisneros

of the biggest voter turnouts in that state, Huckabee managed a 51 percent victory over the Clinton candidate. Coulter served as Clinton's assistant legal counsel when the latter served as governor, so if Arkansas voters were happy with President Clinton, they would have voted for Coulter in a landslide. Republicans have now won 28 out of 42 special elections, so the president should consider himself warned.

- Yet another member of the Clinton administration has identified racism as the main problem facing the United States. Henry G. Cisneros, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, recently told *The New York Times* that "race is at the core of the problems which confront America's urban areas." Cisneros called racism "the great Achilles' heel of our nation's future." His solution? More government-subsidized housing. Another "new Democrat," perhaps?

Foster: Man of Mystery

Clinton doesn't seem to care what led to his friend's death.

BY PAUL GALLAGHER

IF THERE'S ONE thing the White House does not want, it's an investigation into the death of White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster, Jr. Clinton administration officials have expressed no interest in learning the facts of Foster's apparent suicide. They have even gone to the length of discouraging any attempts to find out what may have led him to take his own life.

"I'm not sure any investigation could ever determine why," White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "These things are mysteries." President Clinton picked up on this theme when addressing reporters: "There is really no way to know why these things happen. We'll just have to live with something else we can't understand."

On the day of the funeral, Clinton "repeated his belief that no one will 'ever know exactly why' Foster killed himself," as *Washington Post* staff writer Pierre Thomas reported. "Some things, Clinton believes, are beyond understanding. Some demons should remain entirely private. Some mysteries aren't meant to be unearthed," Thomas concluded, adding a gothic touch to Clinton's sentiments.

U.S. Park Police Chief Robert Langston did not share Clinton's lack of curiosity. "That seems awfully strange," Langston told *The Washington Times*. "People there [at the White House] seem accepting and just say 'Why? Why? Why?'" Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said later that President Clinton called Foster the night before his death and that the two spoke for 20 minutes or so.

What did they talk about?

Clinton can feign disinterest all he likes, but there can be little question that Foster's death deserves to be investigated, if only to quiet the rumor mills that have been working non-stop ever since. The conventional wisdom holds that Foster found life in the fast-paced, non-rural atmosphere of Washington to be too much, even though his friends characterized him as the sturdiest one among their small circle.

It has also been suggested that Foster blamed himself for the many missteps that have contributed to Clinton's low approval ratings, from the nominations of Zoe Baird and Lani Guinier to the firings in the White House travel office. But Clinton himself dismissed this possibility: "I certainly don't think that can explain it."

And then there is THE rumor -- the one that many mainstream newspapers have been admitting they know, even as they refuse to reveal it. This rumor has reached our ears as well, but since it remains an unproven assertion, we feel it would be irresponsible to repeat it in print. But the fact that White House officials have been hastening to assure reporters that there's no point looking into the matter only makes it more plausible.

Without an investigation, we will never know if Foster's death had something to do with Travelgate or some other matter of public policy. We will never know if it was simply a case of overwhelming personal problems. His death should be not left a mystery.

The conventional wisdom holds that Foster found life in Washington to be too much, even though his friends characterized him as the sturdiest one of the group.



The Last Word

Dear *ClintonWatch* Subscriber,

Have you ever read a news story that gives you a feeling of *deja vu*? That's how I felt when I turned to a recent Associated Press article about President Clinton's protocol gaffes during his trip to the Orient. It reminded me of the 1958 movie *Geisha Boy*, with Jerry Lewis playing a magician who travels to the Far East, victimizing the unwary at every stop with his unique brand of sight gags and pratfalls. It was easy to laugh at the movie because you knew it was fiction, but Bill Clinton's flubs were all too real.

The problems began when President Clinton made a stop-over in South Korea. He kept referring to the wife of President Kim Young Sam as Mrs. Kim. But since Korean women keep their maiden names, Kim's wife should have been called Sohn Myong Suk, or Mrs. Sohn. Then a more serious breach of Korean manners occurred during dinner. Clinton surprised his foreign hosts by allowing a translator to stand between himself and President Kim. "In South Korea, it is an insult for anyone to stand between two heads of state," wrote AP reporter Ju Yeon Kim.

Both leaders had agreed ahead of time that no translations would be used. But Clinton plunged ahead, apparently unaware that the translator's words differed from the prepared texts the guests were trying to follow. Then, in an effort to speed things up, Clinton skipped whole portions of his speech, which made reading along even more difficult. Only Jerry Lewis could have given this guy a run for his money in the gaffe department.

To put this incident in perspective, just imagine if the same scenario had played out a few years ago, with Dan Quayle taking Clinton's place. Then the story wouldn't have been buried on page A19 of *The Washington Post*, as this one was. It would have inspired banner headlines on front pages across the country and given the stand-up comics weeks' worth of material. But if it's King Clinton, the media simply (ahem) looks the other way. They regularly refuse to report Vice President Al Gore's embarrassing incidents, such as the time he got lost jogging in the woods shortly after Election Day.

Don't expect *ClintonWatch* to just roll over. Until next issue . . .

