From Phyllis Schlafly August JC/,

1993 JOYCELYN ELDERS IS A BAD CHOICE

The confirmation of Joycelyn Elders has been postponed until after Congress's summer recess. It's unlikely that a month of reflection will mellow either the tough-talking Elders or her critics.

The job description of U.S. Surgeon General consists mostly of moving the jaws. It's a talking job, and that's where Elders' qualifications break down. Her confirmation hearings showed her so inarticulate in response to questions that she had to be "rescued" by Senator Ted Kennedy's "clarifications."

Republican Senators challenged her about her distribution to teenagers of condoms that she knew were defective. Her defense? She didn't want to diminish teenagers' faith in the use of condoms by warning them that a particular lot was defective (in addition to the ordinary failure rate).

When Elders does get her point across, she reveals herself to be a hate-filled bigot who is absolutely the wrong person to be giving advice to teenagers. Here are a few of her more outrageous remarks.

Elders said on CBS's 60 Minutes that every girl should take a condom in her purse when she goes out on a date. That's tantamount to turning minor girls into sex objects by telling them that fornication is the expected social activity on a date.

In her frequent addresses to pro-abortion groups, Elders makes such polarizing statements as: pro-lifers need to get over "their love-affair with the fetus" and "they love little babies only as long as they are in someone else's uterus."

\ In fact, there probably has never been a social movement in which so any people gave so generously out of their own pockets to care for

pregnant women in distress and their babies. Joycelyn Elders, on the other hand, does all her social work on the taxpayers' money.

Elders attacks her conservative critics as "very religious non Christians ... having a slave master mentality." Nobody gave her any authority to define Christians. The "slave master" thrust is totally untrue and shows rank bigotry.

Elders charged that the pro-life movement is led by a "celibate, male-dominated church," which she criticized as not doing anything about slavery, the Indian problem, women not having the right to vote, and the Holocaust. Only an anti-Catholic bigot could talk like that.

Elders was quoted by the (BF)Arkansas Democrat(end BF) as saying she has "no qualms about using her official position to promote abortion rights." According to the (BF}Arkansas Gazette(end BF), she is an advocate of sex education starting in kindergarten.

She is notorious for displaying a "condom plant'' in her office. (BF)U.S. News & World Report(end BF) calls it her "trademark in-your face gesture."

Elders came to national attention as the "Condom Queen" of Arkansas. As the director of Arkansas' Health Department since 1987, she installed more Condom Clinics in public schools than any other state: Arkansas has 24 Condom Clinics out of fewer than 200 nationwide.

In 1989 Elders backed a bill to establish school-based health clinics in Arkansas but, when the legislature amended it to prevent the dispensing of condoms, she withdrew her support. The bill was defeated, but Elders installed Condom Clinics in schools anyway, with Governor Clinton's blessing.

The supposed purpose of the Condom Clinics is to reduce teenage

pregnancies, but condom distribution has miserably failed to achieve that goal. The pregnancy rate rose in ten of the eleven Arkansas counties where she installed school Condom Clinics.

According to Henry Masters, medical director for the AIDS/STD Division of the Arkansas Department of Health, since 1989 syphilis cases have risen 130 percent among Arkansas teenagers and teenage pregnancies have increased 13 percent. Both figures were declining before Elders came into office.

What is Elders's response to critics of her Condom Clinics? She says, "These are the same people who were against Indians, the blacks, the Jews."

Of course, as a typical liberal bureaucrat, there is indeed one thing Elders is good at -- spending more of the taxpayers' money. The budget for her Health Department (in the face of failed results) increased from $67 million in 1987 to $150 million in 1993.

Her tax-paid activities have been immensely profitable to her personally. She's a triple dipper, getting two salaries from the Arkansas taxpayers (the Department of Health and the University of Arkansas) totaling $103,297 per year, plus $550 per day salary and $135 a day in expense money from the federal taxpayers as a "consultant" to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Elders is supremely unqualified for a job whose principal "work" is public statements. She is an embarrassment even to the Clinton Administration, which has already distinguished itself by an unprecedented series of embarrassing appointments.

Of course, none of this is any surprise to President Clinton. As Elders boasted, "He's had five years of me (in Arkansas). President Clinton knows what he's getting."