



DOCTOR MILDRED JEFFERSON

**An Exclusive
Interview With
The Distinguished
Boston Surgeon Who
Has Thrown Her Hat
In The Ring Against
Teddy Kennedy**

by James J. Drummey

■ MILDRED FAY JEFFERSON, M.D., who is seeking the Republican nomination to run against Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Massachusetts), has long been recognized as one of the nation's most forceful and articulate defenders of the unborn. Her concerns, however, are not limited to pro-life activities; she is also knowledgeable on a wide variety of important is-

sues facing America in the 1980s.

A native of Pittsburgh, Texas, Mildred Jefferson is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Texas College in Tyler and is the first black woman graduate of Harvard Medical School. She has engaged in the private practice of general surgery at the Boston University Medical Center and is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery.

A devout Methodist, Dr. Jefferson helped to found the National Right to Life Committee and served three terms as its president. She later established the Right to Life Crusade to help preserve and protect the inalienable right to life of all Americans. Mildred Jefferson also serves on the Advisory Board of Western Goals, the organization founded by Congressman Lawrence P. McDonald (D.-Georgia) "to rebuild and strengthen the political, economic, and social structure of the United States and Western Civilization so as to make any merger with totalitarians impossible."

Q. Dr. Jefferson, what will be the major issues stressed in your campaign for the U.S. Senate?

A. First, the lack of representation that the citizens of the Commonwealth have had in Senator Edward Kennedy. The fact is that his elitist focus has been on the things that would get him national recognition rather than on what would do most for the people of this Commonwealth. Equally important is to put the people back into control of their government. Our model of government, based on individual responsibility, was an exciting and daring experiment at its founding. But there has been a drift away from that model towards the Socialist scheme. This has been one of our principal failings as a nation, and I think the senior Senator has been entirely too active in pushing us toward Socialism.

Q. What do you object to about Senator Kennedy's policies in the

Senate over the past two decades?

A. In general, he is someone without personal convictions, an aging Ken doll without a mind of his own. I think he has been led along a course of elitist thinking which he has found acceptable, and has let himself be programmed to reflect the collectivist fad of the moment. Now those fads are "old hat" and more quaint than relevant. The man is tired, has nothing new to offer, and has let his post become nothing more than a ceremonial seat.

Q. In your announcement for the Senate, you said, "I do not seek to become known as a champion of the poor, but to be one who has helped the poor become champions of themselves." Senator Kennedy bleeds for the poor, with whom he has nothing in common and never associates. What does Mildred Jefferson know about the poor?

A. I am a minister's daughter. I am also the granddaughter of a minister. I have spent my whole life among people from all walks and stations of life. I know the very rich and the very poor. I know the weak, I know the strong; I know the powerful, and I know those who are powerless. Above all, I know that the poor are not just an amorphous mass. They are individuals with hopes and aspirations — some whose hopes have long since been destroyed.

The problem today, especially in our city population, is that the social welfare system of the "Liberal" years has been used to destroy people's sense

of initiative. It has relieved some of the poor of one form of slavery only to entice them into another which is perhaps more damaging. People become accustomed to it, they become bound to it, and it destroys their desire to be responsible for themselves.

Frankly, "Liberal" elitists see the social welfare system as a way of controlling the poor. I want poor people to learn to use the Free Market system and thus take responsibility for their own lives.

But the kind of social programs that have been advocated over the last decade, and in many cases over the last 40 years, have become a way of enslaving the poor. If you give a man with a broken leg a crutch, you do him a favor. But if he has two strong legs and you give him a crutch and insist that he cannot walk unless he uses that crutch, you are likely to make a lifetime cripple of him. I think most of the policies advocated by the incumbent Senator, and those who follow his particular line of thought, have had this crippling effect.

Q. What would you suggest as alternatives to the present Welfare system?

A. Most people who are on Welfare can be trained for productive work. But the whole approach — the attitudes — must be revised. For example, instead of day-care centers, I believe that children should be taken care of in homes. Some mothers might become home-care nurses so that other mothers who were forced to go out to work may do so. This would be far

better than leaving children in government day-care centers, which I think are usually just repositories for brainwashing the very young.

Some support will continue to be necessary in cases where there is no other way of providing for families. But, rather than have it be self-perpetuating, every Welfare system should be designed to make people as self-reliant as possible as soon as possible. The problem now is that most of the programs are devised with the idea that they are permanent programs, that the people on them will stay on them, and that the next generation will be on them as well.

Q. Do you then agree with President Reagan's proposal to turn some 43 federal programs back to the states along with the money to fund them?

A. I do indeed. And it is difficult for me to understand the strong opposition to this from people like Ted Kennedy. If you look at the complicated and crippling machinery tied around every federal program you know very well that almost five times more goes into administering them than is provided for the people who need help. I also believe that the greater the need is, the closer that help should be to its source of funding. So I think almost everything that relates to personal requirements must be met by the people directly or at the state and local level. The federal government should be far away, dealing only with those needs that require national action. For example, those matters

that relate to preserving, insuring, and guaranteeing our inalienable rights and national sovereignty.

Q. Historically, huge Budget deficits have caused high inflation, which most hurts the elderly and the poor because of their fixed or marginal incomes. What is your attitude toward the massive Budget deficits projected in the next few years?

A. I am not at all happy about them. But recent Administrations, certainly through the Carter years, failed to assure the adequate and reasonable upkeep of our defense preparedness. So President Reagan is forced into the position of having to catch up. And, if we look at the federal Budget itself, other than defense spending, we find that entitlements represent approximately 44 percent. Of that 44 percent in entitlements, I guess about half — 50 percent — would be Social Security. If you look at that part above Social Security, with its automatic increases, with the indexing for cost of living increases, you find that there is little the President can get Congress to do to keep the lid on. The problem is a political one, and it is "Liberals" in Congress who are refusing to deal with the entitlements.

Meanwhile, the risk of inflation is high, and tight money policies are going to create a further problem because they are already putting a brake on the kind of economic recovery that the President has in mind.

But if people are realistic, and look at the figures, they will see that inflation is substantially less than it was

when the President started his programs. The future is another matter. We have at least three different government computers projecting what will happen with any given set of figures. You have the one that the President's team uses, the one that O.M.B. and David Stockman use, and a separate one used by the House Appropriations Committee. All of these start with the same basic figures, but they come out with different conclusions.

Q. Do you see places where significant cuts could be made in government to reduce at least some of these entitlement programs?

A. I certainly do. If you look carefully over the planning and personnel components of these programs, you will find that you could cut 50 percent and still do a better job for the people who actually need whatever help is provided. The problem of course is that the bureaucrats are very well protected in their jobs and it would take an Act of Congress to deal with the personnel sector. I am afraid many people sitting in the Congress do not have the courage to address this matter. But I am willing to look at it, and so are people in my campaign who have direct experience with the federal bureaucracy. They know where the fat is. They know which departments have 90 people when 10 could do the job more efficiently.

If we cut one half of this massive bureaucratic army, government wouldn't have the machinery even to gear out the tons of paper that have

crippled every aspect of our society. Also, I like the President's approach — cutting many regulations and reducing what can't be eliminated.

Q. Because of the projected deficits, some Senators want to concentrate on economic issues now and leave such social issues as abortion, busing, and prayer in the schools for another time. How do you feel about that?

A. I don't think that makes a great deal of sense. Of course I know that many professionals advise people who are entering campaigns to stay away from the social issues. But, when they gave me such advice I told them to forget it. The key concerns — forced busing, the right to life, prayer in the schools, gun control — are real concerns of the real people. They are not some candidate's options. The one thing that I want my campaign workers to do is always to be forthright and let people know exactly what I represent.

Q. Let's talk about a couple of those social issues. Now before the Senate are several pieces of legislation to curb or halt abortion. If you are a Senator in 1983, what course will you advise the Senate to adopt on abortion?

A. I will advise the Senate to follow a course that will lead to a Human Life Amendment. Other approaches would let the states legislate. But that would return the country to a position worse than what we had on January 22, 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision on

abortion, essentially making it a private decision between the pregnant woman and her doctor. The best airing of the issues would result from letting the Human Life Bill, which is the Helms-Hyde proposal, go forward. It could serve as an opening wedge while we proceed to a Constitutional Amendment.

Q. There is also legislation pending that would put an end to court-ordered busing to achieve racial balance in the public schools. Would you support or oppose that?

A. Court-ordered busing is racist nonsense, patronizing, and contrary to good sense. Consider the terrible cost — money wasted which could have been used to build better schools, to provide better curricula, to assure better practical training. And the whole thrust is completely contrary to the spirit of the 1954 school desegregation decision. That decision was handed down to prevent Southern children from being bused for miles because they were denied admission to the school nearest them. Now the concept of the neighborhood school has gone completely by the board. The objective should be neighborhood schools where good teachers are determined to produce well-educated, capable children who can make reasonable lives for themselves.

Q. Are you in favor of federal controls on handguns? Would that have any effect on stopping or slowing down crime?

A. No, I think the kind of gun control that most people in the anti-gun

everyone to a sort of neuter state, so the only ones who have anything to gain by it are those of no defined gender. I have long urged my friends to join Phyllis Schlafly and others to stop the E.R.A. effort.

Q. Dr. Jefferson, have you been discriminated against as a black female in medical school or in the practice of medicine?

A. I am not sure because I don't look around for such things. Of course I was essentially the first of the line of women graduated from Harvard Medical School who went into surgery. If I was discriminated against, it was because of sex rather than race as far as I could tell. However, I am not sure that sex discrimination is an accurate description. In general, surgical chiefs tended to appoint people in their own image. Since most surgical chiefs were men, they naturally chose other men. And it is very funny. You look at the chief residents who were the hand-picked choices of most of the great, old surgical chiefs, and they were very much similar in physical build and temperament and attitudes. Those who wanted to reach those positions tailored their own development and deportment to that of the chief.

In general, I think that was the problem more than sex prejudice. But there was some. I remember one chief who spoke to me and said, "Well, you know, there never has been a great woman general. Some people refer to Joan of Arc; but others don't believe she really existed." Imagine! But I always feel life is something of a

game. If you participate in the game, the only way really to enjoy it is to play according to the rules in force; once you succeed at it, then you might get much more out of it than if you can have the rules changed to accommodate yourself.

Q. You mention women generals. Should women be required to register for the military draft?

A. Oh, no, no, no! Our refusal to do that is one thing that differentiates us from the Socialist and Fascist countries. And there are sound biological reasons behind it.

No one wants to sacrifice our young men. But a country can lose all of its young men and its older men can carry on the responsibility of propagating. But a woman does not have that kind of unlimited productivity. Child-bearing years for women are very limited and we don't have anything else to replace them during that time. If they don't produce children before their middle years then they can't. I would suggest to those Feminists who want a universal draft to include women that, once they are 45, they might themselves volunteer for military service and fill out the ranks that way. But I would not want women to be drafted or placed in combat.

Q. As a physician, are you for or against more federal involvement in medical care? Would you, for instance, vote for national health insurance?

A. I am for much less involvement of the federal government in everything. I believe that the only useful

groups speak of only serves the purpose of disarming the public so that the criminal will be able more safely to carry on his activities. The only one who is going to be hurt is the law-abiding citizen. The criminal is already breaking the law. His intent is to shoot someone. He is not going to avoid shooting them because that is against the law. He is certainly not going to worry about gun-control laws since he is already bent on breaking the law.

There is a constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and it is one of the important guarantees of our Bill of Rights. It is called the Second Amendment.

The fact that people are killed with guns is certainly no argument for their confiscation. People are also killed with knives. Indeed, here in Boston there is a surprisingly high murder rate with knives. And people are even killed by hand. Some are killed by being tossed over the guard rails of our bridges. What are we going to do, register knives, hands, and the right to walk on bridges?

Having been born in Texas, where over the years many people simply would not have survived if they had not had guns, I have never been able to understand the great-fear and trepidation that the mere word "gun" seems to provoke among "Liberals" in Massachusetts. Obviously we are in a very lawless environment here, and people are not safe on the streets or even in their homes. Until such time as the safety of one's person can be secured, both outside and inside, the average

citizen cannot afford to be without the right to arm and protect himself.

Q. You are taking the tough questions, Doctor. Here is another one: Do American women need the Equal Rights Amendment?

A. No, the women in our country do not need the Equal Rights Amendment. It has a nice sound, but it has nothing at all to do with equality. Worse, it seeks to create sameness. The federal E.R.A. is part of the radical feminist agenda for creating what they refer to as a gender-free society. In order to create this gender-free society, it is necessary to remove all gender-distinct language from the law. The only way this is possible is through the federal Equal Rights Amendment. If it were ever ratified, it would be possible to remove every sex-oriented reference from the law — whether that was to husband-wife, man-woman, male-female — so that eventually you wouldn't be able even to use the terms mother and father because they are gender distinct.

If you look at the just claims of women to equal pay for equal work, you will find that the existing laws provide that. The Constitution itself is sex-neutral. It doesn't matter who wants to go back to the 1700s and say, "Well, the framers of the Constitution didn't mean to include women, didn't mean to include minorities, didn't mean to include any number of things." We have to look at the wording of the Constitution, and there is no inequity there.

The federal E.R.A. would reduce

place for the federal government in medical care is to provide vital financial support where private charity, local communities, and the states cannot. I do not believe there should be a massive, monolithic, federally controlled national health service, and I would certainly vote against it.

People have to understand that collectivists see nationalizing of health care as the best way of increasing their control of every American. It would amount to a major breakthrough in forcing Socialism on this country. And people would not even recognize that they had been maneuvered into accepting a new political system. So I am one of the firmest opponents of Senator Kennedy's approach to health care.

From a purely medical point of view, even if there were no political implications, I would also have to object to one system provided for everyone. There are many different medical requirements, and different population groups have different requirements. But most especially I do not like and would not support a system where the patient cannot change doctors or freely select the place where medical care is provided. The Kennedy nostrums are pure quackery.

Q. Dr. Jefferson, many Americans are concerned about subversion and terrorism in our own country and the lack of an effective internal security apparatus to deal with these threats. Is this an area where you believe action is necessary?

A. Yes, it is, and I think the con-

certed drive to destroy every effort to investigate terrorism and subversion has made it possible for such things to continue. We must face the facts realistically. The kidnappings and other atrocities that are now being committed in other countries will become common here if we do not create an effective means of controlling them. Essentially that means knowing what is going on and who is conspiring to commit terrorist acts.

Q. As you know, there is growing criticism of the United Nations. Mayor Koch of New York City recently called the U.N. a "cesspool" of hypocrisy. Do you think the United Nations serves a useful purpose, or has the time come to reconsider United States membership in that body?

A. Well, Jim, I have never been an advocate of the United Nations, and I never wanted it in New York. Either we must regain respect, strength, and influence in the United Nations, or we should disengage. As it is, we are paying the bills for U.N. activities that are not in our national interest while its presence here is used as a revolving door for bringing in Communist agents and operatives under cover of diplomatic immunity.

Q. We talked earlier about national defense, and I take it that you support President Reagan's call for increased military spending?

A. Yes I do, but I think a more careful look will have to be made at this spending. I have long been convinced that we have put such focus on

advanced military technology that we may have jeopardized our capability of waging a successful conventional war. Although the Soviet Union has a great deal of advanced equipment — and we don't know what Mainland China has — most of the rest of the world does not have sophisticated warmaking capability. Therefore many of the military problems we are going to have to deal with will have to be approached with a credible ability to wage conventional warfare, and I think that is where we are not adequately prepared.

I would also use the defense appropriation as a way of trying to bolster the economy and to reduce unemployment.

Q. The Soviet Union is now intervening in Central America in violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Do you favor strong action to block Communist takeovers in our hemisphere?

A. Indeed I do. But I think the lesson of Vietnam is that we do not always act efficiently to defeat such insurgency. I am not in favor of Americans being sent anywhere they are not trained to fight and where they will not be allowed to win. The Vietnam war was conducted in a manner which is incomprehensible for a civilian like me. The very idea of carrying on a war where you have to send back to Washington to get orders for a strike when everyone knows the enemy is intercepting your messages is insane! One thing I would do as a U.S. Senator would be to make absolutely

certain that sort of thing never happens again without someone letting the people know how deep the betrayal goes.

Q. If you are elected to the U.S. Senate, Dr. Jefferson, on what Committees would you seek to serve?

A. I would like to concentrate my efforts in three broad areas. The Judiciary Committee would be a principal choice because I am concerned about crime. And, when that Committee was chaired by Senator Kennedy, it spent years botching revisions of the criminal code and rubberstamping "Liberal" appointments to the federal bench. Part of our problem with rampant crime springs from that. I think also we need a better intelligence apparatus, and would like to be involved in oversight of the C.I.A. Another interest of mine is the problems of the aging, where I would like to do what is possible to get government off the backs of our elderly.

Q. One last question. Where can supporters of your candidacy send contributions and offer their help?

A. I hope your readers *will* want to help me defeat Ted Kennedy. Our campaign address is: Friends of Dr. Jefferson, Box 935, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Massachusetts 02117. No corporate checks. And the contributor's name, address, and telephone number must be given. It must even be designated whether the check is for the primary or the general election. Why all the restrictions? Because, as you know, the government is determined to regulate everything but its own spending! ■ ■

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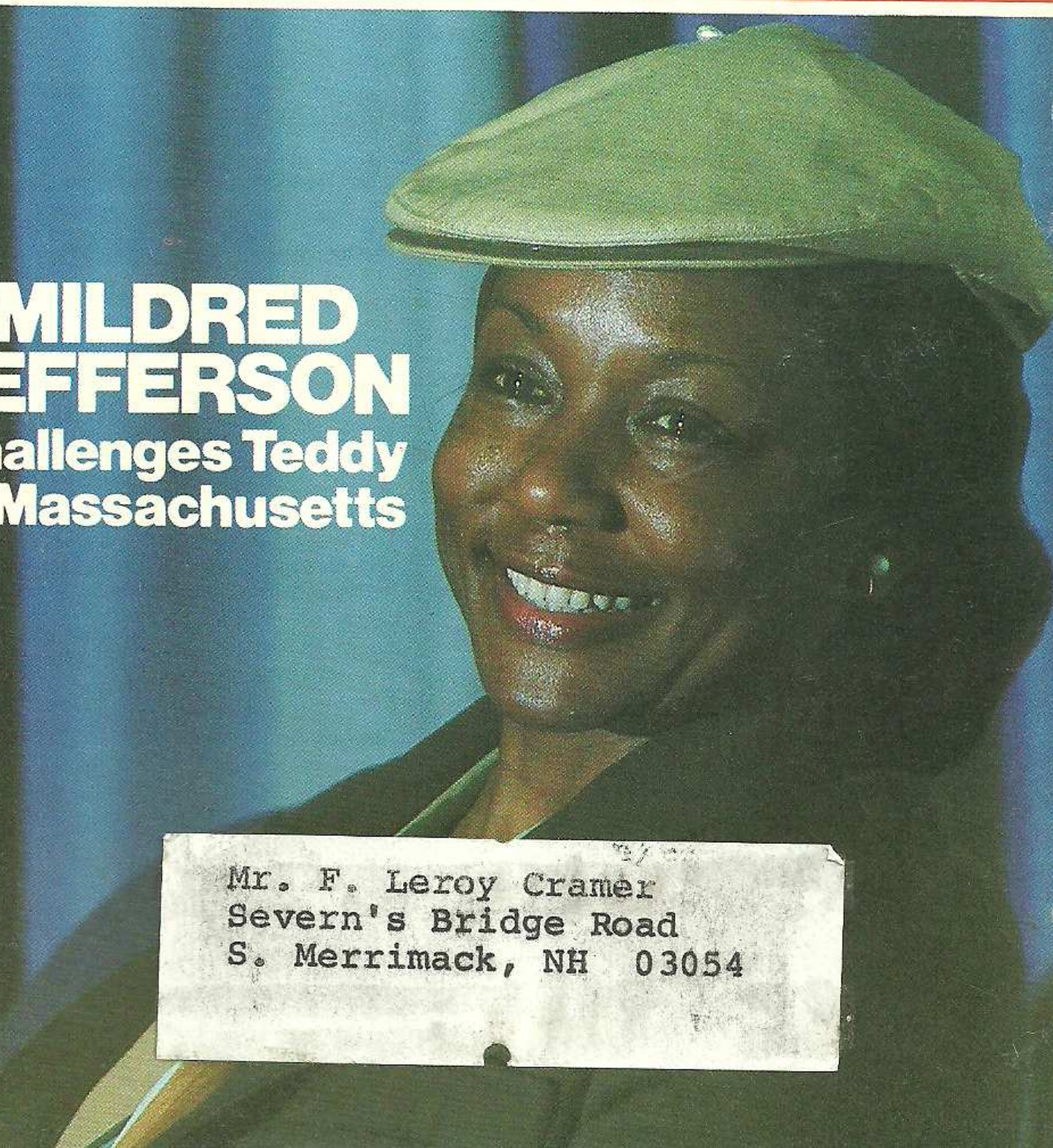
ONE DOLLAR

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Profile Of Television's Embarrassing Norman Lear

THE SOVIETS HAVE MOVED INTO CENTRAL AMERICA

**MILDRED
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