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AGENDA OF THE ELITE

Convening Governors-Only Meeting on Education's National(ization) Goals

Concerning Robert Holland's Wednesday column regarding a plan to nationalize schools under Goals 2000, a private meeting of the nation's governors has been requested "to renew our commitment to achieving the National Education Goals and to identify the next steps for governors." In a June 1 letter, Governors John Engler of Michigan and Roy Romer of Colorado, who are members of the National Education Goals Panel, asked for a "Governors-Only" meeting Monday in Washington. Afterwards, the governors were supposed to meet with CEOs represented in The Business Roundtable, which



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backs school restructuring based on the National Goals.

At about the time in the mid-1980s that a Carnegie organization was persuading the National Governors Association (with Lamar Alexander as chairman and Bill Clinton as vice chairman) to adopt the radical notion of state takeovers of local schools that didn't meet state standards, Carnegie's National Forum (later, Center) on Education and the Economy (NCEE) was begun with Marc Tucker as president.

I REMEMBER attending a meeting at the National Institute of Education (where I was a senior associate) with Tucker on the left side of the table from me and Dr. Henry Levin of Stanford University on my right. As Dr. Levin was reporting on the future needs of society in service industries and elsewhere, Tucker became very agitated, saying that we needed to shape the future direction of society rather than respond to future needs based on existing trends.

Not long after, in January, 1988, Ernest Boyer as president of the Carnegie Founda-

tion for the Advancement of Teaching argued that schools should be turned into "social-service centers," that school-based health clinics should be combined with day-care facilities, and that schools should assume the responsibility for feeding students all three meals a day because they would be in the school building from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The next month (February 10, 1988), NCEE board member David Rockefeller in *The Washington Post* praised George Bush as being "in a better position [if he became President] than anyone else to pull together the people in the country who believe that we are in fact living in one world and have to act that way." Yet, as Holland noted, right after Bill Clinton defeated George Bush in 1992, Rockefeller continued the power elite's dialectic process by "celebrating" Clinton's victory.

THAT WAS included in the November 11, 1992, letter from NCEE president Marc Tucker to Hillary Clinton — a letter that described their plan to integrate education

into a national system of human resources development. In addition to aspects of the plan referred to by Holland, other important quotes from the letter include the following:

What is essential is that we create a seamless web... from cradle to grave and is the same system for everyone... We would replace rules defining inputs with rules defining outcomes... one national system... a commitment to implementing an outcome and performance-based system for human resources development... Develop computer-based system for... outcomes, including subsequent employment histories for graduates. Design all programs around the forthcoming general education standards... We propose that Bill [Clinton] take a leaf out of the German book: One of the most important reasons that large German employers offer apprenticeship slots to German youngsters is that they fear, with good reason, that if they don't volunteer to do so, the law will require it. Bill could... do the same... Radical changes in attitudes, values, and beliefs are required to move any combination of these agendas.

That Carnegie's Marc Tucker plans to be involved in this in a major way is revealed on page 17 of his letter to NCEE board member Hillary Clinton, when Tucker uses the term "our" council in referring to his proposed National Council on Human Resources Development.

This is important in the context of the Engler/Romer call for a closed-door meeting (which emits an odor similar to Hillary's secret Health Care Task Force palavers) on implementing the National Education Goals. After all, it was the NCEE's *To Secure Our Future: The Federal Role in Education* (1989) that played an important role that year in the National Education Summit in Charlottesville. After that meeting of Bush and the nation's governors, the National Governors Association asked the NCEE's staff "to help in developing the National Education Goals" that we have today.

Those goals serve as the basis for national education standards under President Clinton's Goals 2000 — and the consequent nationalizing of American education.

(over)