

## THE ROCHESTER CONNECTION

## Hillary &amp; Gang Jumped at Chance to Nationalize Schools

Contrary to what the apologists for Big Government say, Goals 2000 is not just another program of federal aid to public schools. Nor is it merely a continuation of George Bush's misguided America 2000. Rather, it is one of the key pieces of a scheme that the Clinton administration pushed through the previous Congress to integrate education into a complex national system of human resources development.

Governor George Allen's instincts are sound in holding Virginia back from participation in this monstrosity until it is clear whether the new Congress will succeed in salvaging local control. Let the statist nannies fret about the loss of a penny a day per child in new federal aid, or bemoan the fact that Virginia stands almost alone in spurning Goals 2000. One day New Hampshire may cave, too; then Virginia would be the only holdout. So what? Sometimes principled leadership has to be lonely.

A good idea of just how systematic was the restructuring launched by the Clintons and their sycophants came in an 18-page letter from Marc Tucker, president of the Rochester-based National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), to Arkansas First Lady Hillary Clinton on November 11, 1992, just a few days after Bill Clinton's plurality win over Bush and Ross Perot. The "Dear Hillary" missive (which recently was discussed on a Prodigy online bulletin board, and which long-time Tucker aide Andy Plattner confirms as authentic) opened as follows:

"I still cannot believe you won. But utter delight that you did pervades all the circles in which I move. I met last Wednesday in David Rockefeller's office. . . . It was a great celebration. Both John [Sculley, then the chairman of both Apple Computer and the NCEE] and David [Rockefeller, the financier and NCEE board member] were more expansive than I have ever seen them — literally radiating happiness. . . ."

THE UNABASHED JOY among the *creme de la creme* of the industrial/education complex resulted, as Tucker exulted to Hillary, from the opportunity "to advance the agenda on which you [Hillary] and we have all been working," and to put "all the major components of the system in place within four years, by the time Bill has to run

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again." He described a post-election strategy session on education and labor legislation that included such luminaries as the NCEE's Mike Cohen (who became a full-time consultant to Secretary of Education Richard Riley and wrote Goals 2000), David Hornbeck (the Business Roundtable's Outcome-Based Education consultant to Kentucky and several other unfortunate states), and Lauren Resnick (the University of Pittsburgh testing guru who heads the NCEE's New Standards Project, which intends to write the assessments for a national OBE-style curriculum).

Tucker also noted that Ira Magaziner had been invited. Magaziner and Hillary Clinton also were NCEE board members and they had collaborated in the 1990 NCEE-sponsored Labor Department report of the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which first espoused OBE principles on the grand national scale — i.e., that sociability was more important for the new American worker than basic literacy, and

that "real-life" student projects (portfolios) should supplant objective testing.

In 1987, the Carnegie-backed NCEE took a high-profile role in pushing its style of school reform on Rochester, which was hailed as a model for the nation. The next year, Arkansas governor Bill Clinton, no doubt having heard glowing accounts from Hillary, exclaimed that "if Rochester can do it, it can be done most anywhere. It gives the rest of us hope."

The word should have been hype, not hope. Not much has increased in Rochester over the past eight years except spending on teachers salaries, which has almost doubled. In a series of articles last month headlined *A City's Dream Unfulfilled*, the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* reported that since the start of restructuring, the proportion of graduates receiving the demanding Regents' diploma has dropped from 23.1 percent to 17.5 percent. Most middle and high school test scores have

remained flat or declined. Some 40 percent of ninth graders don't make it to a high school commencement. "We have failed," said Rochester Mayor William Johnson.

SOCIAL ENGINEERS pushing an agenda, however, rarely are deterred by evidence of failures, which always can be blamed on "poor implementation." Perhaps if academic-minded teachers and principals were replaced or indoctrinated, then the New School of Social Relevance and Self-Esteem would work just fine and dandy. Certainly, much of the apparatus for nationalizing education, training, and labor policy on the Rochester paradigm has been put in place since that 1992 "Dear Hillary" letter.

In it, Tucker called for:

■ "A seamless system of unending skill development that begins in the home with the very young and continues through school, postsecondary education, and the workplace."

■ National standards for student performance, with government-issued Certificates of Mastery necessary at age 16 to allow students to go to the next stage of their prescribed training.

■ A national system of education with curriculum, pedagogy, examinations, and teacher training and licensing linked to national standards.

■ A national system of skills standards to cover every type of job in the country.

IN LINKAGE WITH other enactments (notably, School to Work), Goals 2000 creates the machinery to implement much of The Agenda to micromanage American lives. Don't be fooled by the Clintons' going along with the congressional axing of the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, which would have certified national education standards. That function simply will shift to the National Education Goals Panel, another Goals 2000 bureaucracy (and creator of the Community Action Tool Kit for propagandizing the joy of nationalized education in every neighborhood). And the National Skills Standards Board remains intact also.

Hillary Clinton and Ira Magaziner had a Byzantine agenda for nationalized health care, too, but when their secretive ways backfired, it couldn't survive serious scrutiny. If their agenda for education had received equivalent exposure in the media, it wouldn't have been put in place either. The question now is whether Capitol Hill's new leadership is bright enough and determined enough to dismantle it completely.



ROBERT HOLLAND



Mrs. Clinton



Tucker

Over