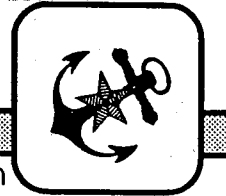


APRIL 26, 1996

Starboard Views



By Al Woodson

# Goals 2000, a bill of goods

**Ships log:** Friday, April 26. Location: In port, moored outboard of ship of state. Weather, fair. Situation: Skipper Clinton vetoes ban on partial birth killings. First Mate Dole questions Clinton's character. Helmsman Newt investigating "dirty trick." Seamen Warner and Miller plan boxing match on fantail.

**Shore lines:** In a recent Recorder article "Highland Board Wants Goals 2000 Funds," school superintendent Donald Ford and school board members said "entanglements" and "problems" of Goals 2000 are things they "do not see" in implementing the state standards of learning here in Highland.

Accepting Goals 2000 money requires accepting federal certified standards of learning — is there a difference? You bet. Goals 2000 was enacted by the Democrat controlled Congress two years ago precisely to gain control of education, including curriculum, shifting it away from state and local dominion to the liberal bureaucracy in Washington.

Says Gary Bauer, Director of the Conservative Family Research Council: "What is revolutionary about Goals 2000 is the idea that the federal government should be involved in creating and certifying standards for education and in determining official knowledge."

Passed in obvious disregard of the Constitution's Tenth Amendment, Goals 2000 is a giant leap of federal interference in local education. The legislation says acceptance of the federal stan-

dards is voluntary. The Feds are famous for that little ploy; they get you involved by giving you funding; this creates your dependency on those funds, then if you don't play ball, they just withdraw financial support leaving you with an unfunded obligation.

If you think that's just an "imaginary horrible" be assured it's a reality.

The Goals 2000 legislation also established, in addition to federal learning standards, the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC). This is a federal curriculum board to monitor, review and, in the end, certify voluntary content of standards plans submitted by the states to the Education Department for approval.

A specialist in education issues, Will Lauber, of the Heritage Foundation, says in a March 1995 issue of Human Events, "The NESIC is certainly the most dangerous aspect of Goals 2000. They intended to make it a national school board that would give the federal government a strong influence over curriculum."

Well, so much for "state standards" and the Highland school board's influence and independence.

It's already a proven that the federal standards are highly politicized, unorthodox and unpopular. Last year's 271-page document, "National Standards for U.S. History" produced by the government after spending \$2.2 million of the people's money, stifles creativity, produces new layers of bureaucracy and trig-

gers a war over ideas. The radical liberal agenda emphasizes political left wing issues of race, class and gender; the liberal biases permeate almost every page.

In addition, big government is almost always praised, whereas, the failure of government programs is ignored or glossed over while private enterprise is portrayed as "gross" or those "nasty industrialists."

The history of the Civil War is so distorted that U.S. Grant and Lincoln's Gettysburg address are mentioned only once and Robert E. Lee not at all. On March 27, meeting in Palisades, N.Y., the National Governor's Association attempted to improve on the federal approach, but, even if they are successful the federal takeover of education and unfunded federal mandates survive to render local school board irrelevant.

The dismal history of government performance in a number of federal programs can only be described as disastrous. Remember the teenage pregnancy and venereal disease crises of the sixties? According to Walter Williams of "The Washington Times," teenage fertility rates and venereal disease rates were declining between 1950 and 1960; then came congressionally funded sex education. Williams said, "We all know the story after Sex Education ... teen pregnancy rose from 68 per 1,000 in 1970 to 96 per 1,000 by 1980. The venereal disease rate skyrocketed 350 percent between 1965 and 1978 ...

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it's the same with poverty and dependency."

Williams continued, "When the war on poverty began in 1965, the number of people living in poverty had been rapidly declining since World War II." Today, people classed by the Bureau of Census as living in poverty is much higher than in 1965 and there's much more dependency on the "welfare state" than ever before. It's the same story with the war on drugs, the war on crime and the environment, all brought about by the Democratic controlled congressional elites of the past 40 years, who saw and still see themselves as nobler and wiser than the rest of us members of the "great unwashed."

Anyone who defies Clinton and the Democrats' social wisdom or resists the process that has engineered one disaster after another, is called "ignorant" or "extremist."

In "The Washington Times" Feb. 28, columnist Cal Thomas asked, "Just who are the real extremists in America? The ones who want to re-establish concepts such as right and wrong in our schools, or those who kicked out the Bible and put in condoms and weapon detectors? The ones whose curriculum produced well-educated young people, or those whose ideas have given us functional illiterates who can barely read their worthless high school diplomas?"

Meanwhile, it's obvious that Goals 2000 is just another federal bill of goods and Virginia is not buying. Gov. George Allen said, "I have a healthy distrust of centralized power." He thinks our hope for the future lies in safe and strong families and "it also lies in quality education — an education that opens doors for our children to have a fair chance to compete and succeed."

Keep decisions about educa-

tion at the local level where parents can have an effective voice, said Allen. When the Department of Education tried to hold hostage \$50 million in Goals 2000 special education funds, Allen took the Feds to court and won; Virginia being the only state to stand up to the Feds on this issue.

Well done, Governor, it's just more proof that Clinton's pseudo-elitists gang running his Department of Education cannot be trusted.

These elitist ideas have already been tried and failed ... where? In the Soviet Union. In the words of Lady Margaret Thatcher in an interview with Joseph A. Cannon, of Human Events: "It was the creed of the pseudo-intellectuals, of the arrogant pseudo-intellectuals, so bright, that we can take away, deprive everyone else of all powers. Take away freedom of worship, take away freedom of speech, take away freedom to find a job, so that we, the self-appointed, arrogant few, can plan everything."

The bottom line shipmates, friends and neighbors, is: We must ensure liberty through eternal vigilance, not force-feed our youth these failed leftist ideas; to do otherwise is to lose our freedom and our nation.

Highland school board and Highland school superintendent, take note — a bill of goods is a bill of goods; be careful what you ask for, you just might get it.

**Galley gossip:** Seaman Salty says, "Teaching children to count is not as important as teaching them what counts."

**Ships log:** Clinton milks a shipmate's death for all it's worth in a week of impious eulogies. Godspeed until next time.

*Sources: The Recorder; Cal Thomas and Walter Williams, "The Washington Times;" Gary Bauer, Will Lauber, Gov. George Allen and Lady Margaret Thatcher, Human Events; E.C. McKenzie, Wings Books.*