

Opinion Page

MARCH 14, 1997

Indoctrination alive and well

Ships Log: Friday, Feb. 28: Location: Navigating through the reefs of financial wrongdoing. Situation: Skipper Clinton unveils another bum budget that's as unbalanced as a mad-dog in a butcher shop. Helmsman Newt embarks on a new course; no more Mr. Bad Guy. Weather: Ominous winds blowing in from the far east, seas rough.

Starboard Views

By Al Woodson



General Quarters: The Clinton budget was not dead on arrival, but it's obvious it will be in intensive care for some time. The Cato Institute reports that Clinton's budget puts new meaning into the words "hocus pocus," his "targeted tax cuts" are here today, snatched away tomorrow. His tax increases are permanent but, his tax cuts expire after 2000. Fiscal fraud and fantasy? So, what else's new? New spending on education, that's what.

The Education Department gets an increase from \$29.4 billion to \$39.5 billion or an increase of 34 percent. The federal take-over of education, Goals 2000, gets a 26 percent increase; 35 per-

cent more for bilingual education and 200 million for the brand new "Reading Corps," and a 31 percent increase for Americorps, Bubba's personal army of "paid volunteers."

Way back during the campaign, our wonderful "Prez" was selling these and other ideas such as free college education, to all, through tax write-offs, etc., etc., etc. On Sept. 24, Clinton, in Monmouth County, N.J. announced, "And we're gonna pay for it with the balanced budget amendment!" What? I thought, I really must get my hearing checked. The next day I understood.

In Philadelphia Clinton explained, "We cannot go back to telling people we're going to give them something we cannot pay for." Translation: We'll just lie and the one who pays remains the same; the American taxpayer. The non-news truth is the President has no intention of living up to his call for a balanced budget amendment; he's already proven just the opposite!

Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute, writing in the Washington Times said, "The Congressional Budget Office says the Clinton budget is still in deficit by at least \$37 billion in 2002. Surprise, surprise, — O.J. is innocent, there

really is a tooth fairy, and the era of 'big gov-mint' is over.

The truth about the decline of education was finely addressed by my good friend Paul Klein, in his column "The death of American Education" The Recorder, Feb. 7. His father, and mine, were members of a remarkable generation; born at the turn of the century they were educated in the classical sense. They went from candlelight to laser beams, from horse and buggy to space travel and from folk medicine to heart transplants. During their lifetime they also found time to fight two world wars and secure for us, their children, a future of freedom, prosperity and safety.

Education may be dead but indoctrination is alive and well. Today, many other thinking Americans, like Paul, recognize that public education in our "government schools" is a dismal failure. No amount of new money, promised by Bill Clinton or any future president, is likely to improve the situation. The problems in education are firmly entrenched.

The Department of Education, without any constitutional authority, has usurped the rights of parents to govern or make essential decisions about their children's

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education and has taken over public education policy and the rights of states who voluntarily surrendered them because of their greed for federal dollars (it's really our money). Selling our freedom for our money, what a deal!

According to Linda Bowles, Washington Times columnist, the National Education Association (NEA), a labor union, has emerged as "an iron-fisted, heavy-booted trade union who has an agenda. It's one of total indoctrination promoting pro-choice abortions, and anti-choice educational freedom. The NEA is actively pro-homosexual and anti-prayer in schools. They are against merit pay and competency testing for teachers. The union values condom orientation, feel-good morality and views parents as totally inadequate to participate in the educational process ... and, they are Democrats!"

Convinced they're on a roll, the Democrats demand more money to promote the illusion they are the champions of public education. Their record? Forty years of dismal failure according to the Concerned Women of America. Since 1980 less than three-fourths of students who reach the ninth grade finish high school. SAT scores have dropped almost 80 points. Verbal scores have dropped more than 50 points and according to one survey 47 percent of all Americans now function only at the lowest literacy levels. The U.S. Navy reports that one-fourth of its new recruits cannot read at a ninth-grade level. Their solution? Lower the standards.

Since President Carter established the Department of Educa-

tion, it has grown from 130 programs and a \$14 billion budget to over 240 programs costing \$32 billion per year. The department now spends \$233.6 million a year in AIDS/sex programs; \$172.8 million on "family planning" and health education, including condom distribution and abortion. Another \$5.1 million to improve family planning services and \$16.4 million for education to prevent and treat AIDS. Little Johnny and Jane still can't read or add without a calculator. That's very high-priced indoctrination masquerading as education!

But, laments Bowles, "the indoctrination" is more important than the three R's, "God is irrelevant, big business is ruining the environment, bi-sexual individuals are under the command of unstable genes, the Alamo was a great Mexican victory, society is responsible for crime, teachers are underpaid, the colonists were racists, Columbus infected the Indians with syphilis, sex between children is inevitable, teachers are grossly underpaid and the only hope of the world is for workers everywhere to unite!" Dumbing-down happiness, feel-good freedom, equality of outcomes. How wonderful!

Galley Gossip: Seaman Salty says, "Every new generation is simply a new wave of savages who must be civilized and tamed by their parents, their churches and their schools." Good old Salty, he can simplify anything.

Ship Log: Godspeed until next time.

Sources: The Washington Times, Human Events, Concerned Women of America and The Recorder.