

# The Daily Record

REEK BENSON ANGIER LILLINGTON GODWIN FALCON LINDEN NEWTON GROVE BUNNLEVEL

Page 4

## Not Too Busy To Be Governor?

**D.L. CUDDY,  
Ph. D.**

address praised Gov. Hunt's educational efforts. The president called for "national standards" and to gauge these standards in the next two years "develop national tests of student achievement in reading and math."

Many people are concerned about nationalizing education. And what about the standards? What if the math standards were like the disastrous "new math?" And what if the English standards were based upon the faulty "whole language" reading instruction method used in most schools rather than the proven successful intensive phonics method?

### Severely Criticized

President Clinton also called for "character education," but what if the values reflected the "political correctness" of the national history standards released a couple of years ago? They were severely criticized by Lynne Cheney, former head of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

U.S. Department of Education Secretary Richard Riley's Special Assistant, Jennifer Davis, told me Gov. Hunt and several other governors supported the president's "national standards."

On Feb. 12, I asked Gov. Hunt's press secretary, Sean Walsh, if the governor supported Clinton's call for "national standards." Mr. Walsh said he'd check and later called me saying Gov. Hunt supported higher standards, serving

on several commissions in that regard. When I stressed President Clinton had specifically called for "national standards," Mr. Walsh replied: "I'm going to say the same thing 100 times that I've already said to you, and that's all I'm going to say about it."

I thought Mr. Walsh's statement on Gov. Hunt's behalf was strange, given that in March 1996 Gov. Hunt and five other governors along with six CEOs adopted a policy statement at the National Education Summit then calling for all states to establish internationally competitive standards, assessment tools and accountability systems within two years.

### Measure Progress

The policy statement also indicated an entity called ACHIEVE would be established "to measure and report each state's annual progress in setting standards." Although the standards would be "voluntary," one of the CEOs, IBM's Lou Gerstner Jr., said his company is the largest in North Carolina and companies could easily threaten not to open plants in states that didn't comply.

Gov. Hunt does promote national teacher certification, as he is chairman of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (largely controlled by members of the national teachers' unions).

In fact, the governor supported \$734,012 in the 1996-97 N.C. budget for the organization.

This raises the question of why a governor can use his office to promote tax funding that benefits

a private organization of which he is chairman?

### Under Investigation

Until recently, Gov. Hunt has been vice-chairman of the National Center on Education and the Economy, which is being investigated by New York State Attorney General Dennis Vacco for payments of \$23,000 and \$150,000 to Hillary Clinton and/or the Rose Law Firm.

NCEE president Marc Tucker wrote to fellow NCEE Board member Hillary Clinton after Bill Clinton won the presidency in 1992, telling her that her husband's victory would give them a chance "to integrate education into a national system of human resources development from cradle to grave and is the same system for everyone."

Perhaps if Gov. Hunt were not so involved in activities other than his governor's duties, he could have improved education over his past 12 years in office (North Carolina is still 48th in SATs).

His North Carolina Standards and Accountability Commission is supposed to be seeing that we have high educational standards.

But, the American Federation of Teachers' Making Standards Matter 1996 states: "Apparently, the commission is recommending using the English Course of Study as a model for new standards in other subjects.

"These standards don't provide any indication of when students should learn what's in the standards... Standards this unclear are not useful at all."