

A Disastrous Futu

North Carolina is still near the bottom of the nation in SAT scores, and the state unfortunately is moving away from nationally standardized tests toward more subjective end-of-year tests of the state's own creation.

If this weren't bad enough, the solution to our educational woes is supposed to be the new "ABCs Accountability" plan. However, most people do not know that there were no large school systems among the 10 pilots for the plan. The State Board of Education will set the standards for each school in the state (so much for "local control" of education). And if these standards aren't met within a certain length of time, local systems will be taken over by the state.

Think about it! The educators inhabiting the \$40 million "Pink Palace" Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh (while children are in leaking classrooms around the state), could be taking over your schools.

Consultant Gets \$80,000 A Year

But the N.C. Standards and Accountability Commission is supposed to assure that we have high educational standards. Right? They've even paid Grant Wiggins \$80,000 each of the last two years to assure this. But who is this consultant, Grant Wiggins? Mr. Wiggins is a supporter of Outcome-Based (or Performance-Based) Education (OBE), where students must demonstrate or exhibit what they know or are able to do.

But in the newsletter, *Horace* (March 1990), Mr. Wiggins admit-

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ted "Exhibitions are not necessarily reliable." He also has complained, "Why must the (student's) transcript reduce performance to a letter grade," and he said things like "cooperation" are "complicated to assess — they involve values, attitudes and the like." Thus you can see that education in N.C. will not be just about academics, but will involve your children's values and attitudes. Think about it!

'Impractical, Unworkable, Vague'

Denver Post columnist Michael Rosen wrote on July 2, 1993 about Mr. Wiggins' work with Littleton High School's OBE curriculum there, saying: "I've seen it. I think it's impractical, unworkable, vague, will be excessively costly to administer, and is spiked with subjective values-traps. If I had a choice, I wouldn't want it for my kids."

But wait! Jim Hunt has just been reelected Governor and tells us he knows what to do about education. Right? Well, he's promoting \$734,012 in the 1996-97 N.C. budget benefiting the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, of which he is still chairman, when Gov. Jim Martin's administration had emphasized: "Our position has been and will always continue to be that (teacher certification) is the state's role and the state's right."

The Record Of NCEE

Until recently, Gov. Hunt has been vice-chairman of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), and what's in their record?

After NCEE virtually took over the Rochester, N.Y., school system, the city's *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper on May 7, 1995 wrote:

"Forty percent of ninth graders don't make it through high school. Fewer graduates attain the state's more stringent Regent's diploma.