
Outcome-Based Education

Is George W. Bush as bad as he looks?

by Brian Lantz

George W. Bush, son of former President George Herbert Walker Bush and managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, is now a candidate for governor of Texas, portraying himself as an opponent of outcome-based education (OBE). A number of people active in opposing New Age school reforms in Texas have known the Bush family since the 1960s, when their party of choice, the Republican Party, was a very small club. They are now being reminded that George W.'s father did win the state of Texas in the 1992 presidential election. "Maybe," they say, "George W. Bush is our best hope. Maybe George W. isn't as bad as he looks."

But George W. Bush is *worse* than he looks. In his educational proposals, he is fronting for the same dirty Wall Street crowd as his father did while occupying the White House. The "choice in education" reforms are being bankrolled by the junk bond and "venture capital" crowd of Michael Milken, Henry Kravis, and others. Corporate raiders are now eyeing the public education system of the United States. As Milken told *Forbes* magazine (March 16, 1992): "I think education in this country is going to be a multihundred-billion-dollar industry. That's where I'm going to put my time and money."

Satanic outcome-based education, being instituted throughout Texas in public schools, is also the curriculum of the "choice in education" mafia. The New American Schools Development Corp. (NASDC) and the Edison Project, among others, have been created to implement the OBE New Age agenda. Who better than convicted felon Michael Milken to teach children to be greedy, immoral little monsters?

Privatization of the schools

George W. Bush is a supporter of the Edison Project and advocate of "schools of choice." The Edison Project is a for-profit venture now planning private-sector takeovers of public schools around the country. Bush, who prefers to refer to vouchers as "scholarships," is making the Edison Project, and similar privatization schemes, a major part of his campaign for governor.

Bush announced his candidacy for governor on Nov. 8. According to his campaign press secretary, Deborah Burs-tion-Wade, Bush is "quite interested in a test project aimed at parents, kids, and families who would not necessarily be

able to afford" a private school. Gov. Ann Richards, attempting to diffuse the school choice issue, has reversed herself and announced that she will consider an experimental voucher program. Texas teachers' unions, instead of fighting from a principled stand, have taken a lesser-of-two-evils position, supporting the idea of "charter Schools," experimental schools in which existing, mandated curricula and contracts are suspended to allow New Age programs to be tested on children. Aware that a change is in the air, Houston's School Superintendent Petruzielo held a press conference in early November to announce that that district's next Bellaire-area middle school may be contracted out to a private company to operate.

In Texas, the major vehicle for "choice in education" propaganda is the Texas Public Policy Foundation. George W. Bush is an active member of the board. In 1990, the institute produced and disseminated a little study titled, "Choice in Education: Opportunities For Texas." The Education Task Force that produced this promotion for school privatization was chaired by John E. Chubb, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. Mr. Chubb is also a "core-team member" of the Edison Project.

The Edison Project is being promoted in Texas by George W. Bush and the Texas Public Policy Foundation; it is bankrolled by the Dutch multinational Phillips Electronics and the London-based Associated Newspaper Holdings. The spokesman for the Edison Project is Chris Whittle, creator of the commercial Channel One TV cable network for schools. Henry Kravis, President George Bush's crony and the leveraged buyout operator who put together the RJR Nabisco junk bond buyout, was sought out by Whittle for financing of the Edison Project, according to *U.S. News and World Report* of Aug. 16, 1993. The chairman and CEO of RJR Nabisco sits on the board of NASDC.

The Edison Project incorporates the "Great Books" curriculum of Mortimer Adler: Adam Smith, promoter of opium trade and usury, passes for economics; Thomas Hobbes replaces the Founding Fathers; Aristotle's "ethics" replaces Christian-Platonic morality; politics boils down to greed. Edison schools will be divided into "houses" of 90 students combining two or three grades. Each student would have his own personal computer. A network would make available system-wide electronic "assemblies" and lectures, thereby cutting teacher costs.

To make more money, Edison schools would lease out floor space. Retailers will sell videos and hawk other artifacts of "pop" culture to uplift grade schoolers. Psychologists would have their offices nearby. Whittle's Channel One TV network will air in Edison schools, complete with paid commercials targeting the youth market. Condom ads? Robocop XXX? "The school model is priced down to the pencils and erasers. There is ample margin to attract investors," says Edison Project operative John Chubb (*U.S. News and World Report*, Aug. 16, 1993).