

# Knox Calls For Increased Emphasis On Children's Issue

"The children of North Carolina are 30 percent of our population, but 100 percent of our future," said Democratic gubernatorial candidate Eddie Knox.

Knox, speaking in Asheville last week, said that life was "not what it should be" for some of the 1.8 million children in North Carolina under the age of 19.

"I'm concerned that some of the handicaps our children face in their formative years may become crippling disabilities when they become adults."

Knox said that 29 percent of the state's ninth grade students drop out of school.

These dropouts will each earn approximately \$4,700 a year less than a high school graduate.

"I believe we should bring the current competency testing program down to the sixth or seventh grade level," Knox said. "We need to identify children who cannot pass the competency tests early enough to provide the necessary remedial programs for them. We have to find ways to help these children stay in school if they are to become productive members of our society."

Knox proposed increased efforts to ensure col-



Eddie Knox  
...Gubernatorial candidate  
lection of child support payments and a consolidation of government programs dealing with child

abuse prevention.

"The family of today is more frequently being headed by a single parent," he said. "Such a change not only brings emotional stress to children and parents, it often brings financial stress. We need to help these people overcome their difficulties."

Knox also pointed out that North Carolina has a half million children who need some type of day care, but the state has only 130,000 slots in licensed and registered day care facilities.

"We now have 50 percent of the women in this state working outside the home

and that's 12 percent higher than the national average," he said. "These working parents need quality day care services at a price they can afford."

Knox called for a combined effort from public and private resources to address this need. He said that state and local agencies, day care providers and businesses should be able to develop mutually beneficial solutions to the day care shortage.

"Education is the taproot to everything," Knox said. "Education can ensure better career opportunities for our young people, reduce prison populations

and eliminate widespread welfare.

"As I see it, education is an investment in the future of North Carolina."

# Gov. Hunt Launches Crusade For Public Schools

Editor's Note: This article is written especially for non-dailies by Governor Jim Hunt. It concerns our plans for improving the public schools.



Jim Hunt  
...Senatorial candidate

By Governor Jim Hunt  
Special To The Post

Our goal in North Carolina this year is nothing less than to launch a crusade for the public schools and for the young people who are our future.

The Commission on Education for Economic Growth spent six months drawing up a blueprint for changes in North Carolina's schools that will prepare our children for the economic and social changes they will face during their lifetimes.

The theme of all these recommendations for change is raised expectations - raised expectations for students, for teachers, for parents, for school leaders; indeed, raised expectations for

them to do.

In just two months, the North Carolina General Assembly will convene in Raleigh for its budget session. Education should be the first and primary order of business.

I will ask the legislature to act on recommendations from the Commission report that would:

- Raise teacher pay and commit North Carolina to a career growth program for teachers.
- Reduce class size.
- Raise pay for school administrators and establish career-growth opportunities and management training programs for them.
- Increase funds to buy new textbooks, laboratories and vocational education equipment.

For the next two months, the challenge before the Commission, friends of education and me as Governor is to talk to

people all over this state about this blueprint for change, mobilize public support for it and win its passage in the Legislative Building.

Throughout the rest of this year, I will be working with the State Board of Education, with the Department of Public Instruction, with local school boards and county commissioners and with educators and citizens across the state to carry out other recommendations in the Commission report:

- Strengthen the curriculum to insure that students master the competencies they will need in life.
- Promote students only when they have mastered those skills and provide remediation for those who have not.
- Reduce interruptions and distractions in the classroom.
- See that we are teaching students values such as responsibility, honesty,

loyalty and patriotism.

- Serve the special needs of students who are gifted and talented, as well as those who are handicapped or who live in rural areas.
- Our schools have achieved tremendous progress in the past few years:
- Students scoring above national test levels for the first time.
- A Primary Reading Program.
- A rigorous testing program and a minimum competency test required for high school graduation.
- A reduction in the dropout rate.
- The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

But our progress in years past will not help us meet the tide of economic and technological change that is coming. It is critically important that we take bold action this year.

By the year 2000, North Carolina's population will grow by about one million people. We must create 900,000 new jobs.

Many of those jobs will be in new industries and new technologies. Many will be in service industries. We will face stiff competition for jobs from other states and from abroad.

We must prepare North Carolina's young people for that changing, competitive world. That is what our crusade for education this year is about.

# Martin Supports Deficit-Reduction Package

Washington - Having voted in support of a tax package that closes \$50 billion worth of tax loopholes, Congressman Jim Martin (R-NC) announced that he would support "fiscally responsible" legislation to cut federal spending by more than \$100 billion over the next three years.



Jim Martin  
...U.S. Congressman

In announcing his support of further budget-cutting measures, Martin challenged Congress to "Go to the medicine cabinet and take a big dose of political courage." He called upon Congress to enact, before its summer recess, spending cuts of at least \$100 billion.

"The deficit problems calls for changes in the politics-as-usual approach. In an election year, Congress usually shows the courage of an ostrich, but we've kept our heads in the

sand long enough."

Martin, a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, called upon Congress to "take a closer look at the recommendations of the Grace Commission as well as other deficit-reduction measures. 'Time is running out; the solutions are

not easy. But under no circumstances must we abandon the fight simply because it's an election year."

The Republican Congressman, in voting in support of the tax bill, noted that it contained the Martin amendment he offered in committee to reduce the federal cigarette tax from 16 cents to 12 cents. "It's a simple matter of fairness and equity that the tobacco industry and our farmers not be given the entire burden of the federal deficit problem. North Carolina's tobacco workers and farmers have shown their willingness to share in the necessary sacrifices, so I think today's vote is a victory for the people of our state."

Martin added that "political courage does not necessarily mean major

slashes in our defense improvement program. Certainly we must cut costs and encourage competition in defense contracting, but to me political courage does not mean cutting vital defense programs just because it is the politically popular thing to do."

"We've got to look beyond a 'down payment' on the deficit. To ensure a continued economic recovery, Congress has to undo the spending excesses of the past."

Martin concluded that "Congressmen made no friends when they enacted the draft on the eve of World War II, but without it, the United States might well have lost the War. Congress has to show that sort of strength again to ensure a long economic recovery, and at the same time provide for the national defense."

# Faircloth To Reduce Medical Costs For Elderly

Special To The Post

North Carolina candidate for Governor Lauch Faircloth said today he would work with the General Assembly to reduce medical costs for the elderly poor.

Faircloth also released his position paper on the elderly which stressed supporting the elderly's efforts to stay in their homes and out of institutions.

Because of a complex set of federal regulations, thousands of the elderly must pay a large deductible on their medical bills.

Because they are unable to pay the deductible, many elderly are leaving their own homes and entering nursing homes and other institutions, which ends up costing taxpayers more, according to Faircloth.

"There are too many cases where needy senior citizens have had to choose between paying doctor bills and eating," Faircloth said.

The costs to the elderly are tied to the payments made under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The General Assembly has been reluctant to increase that payment very often, which means help for the elderly also hasn't gone up.

Faircloth said he would consider supporting an increase in the AFDC payments, which will mean being able to help more of the elderly.

"It's a federal bureaucratic CATCH 22 that's unfortunately caught the elderly poor in the middle," he said.

"I'm going to work with the Congressional delegation to get the federal requirements changed, but in the meantime, the General Assembly must act to relieve the unnecessary suffering of the elderly," he said.

Faircloth's program also

included more financial support for adult day care services and in-home health services for the elderly.

He called for removing the compulsory retirement laws, which he said was legalized age discrimination.

And, he said the state

should consider giving a tax credit to children providing financial support to their parents, who do not live in the children's homes.

Faircloth said he would also oppose higher taxes, which hit those on fixed incomes the hardest.

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