

The Blumenfeld Education Letter



"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

Why The Communists Love the NEA's Political Program

The National Education Association's (NEA) convention in Louisville in July was given a glowing review in the US Communist Party's newspaper, People's Daily World (July 16, 1986). Denise Winebrenner, the reporter, wrote:

"This year NEA political action focuses on a campaign to defeat the Reaganites in the November congressional elections.

"The NEA is a 1.8-million-member union representing public school teachers, professors, and school support personnel, the largest union in the country....

"The 8,500 delegates committed to the NEA to work in coalition with other unions and organizations 'which advocate a redirecting of national priorities in order to build a movement for funding education.'

"Marjorie Spirer, a delegate from Maryland, pointed out, 'redirecting national priorities means spending money on books, not bombs. For example, for the cost of one B-1 bomber, 16,000 new teachers could be hired next year at a

starting wage of \$25,000 a year.'

"The convention also empowered the NEA Board of Directors to endorse presidential candidates during the primaries, ensuring their input in the selection process....

"According to the NEA handbook on political action, 'Advancing NEA's Legislative Agenda for the 100th Congress,' the union averages 4,000 members in each of the 435 congressional districts. Organized in Congressional Contact Teams (CCT), NEA members lobby their representatives in Washington and at home.

"The CCTs have at least two members in each congressional district appointed by state (NEA) presidents with concurrence of state association boards of directors, (who) are trained, coordinated, and briefed at the state, regional, and national levels. They provide a well-informed and dedicated cadre of grassroots lobbyists who complement the efforts of full-time Washington-based and regional staffs. CCT members also play a key role in serving as contact persons for incumbents running for reelection by helping to re-

cruit and organize campaign volunteers,' the manual states....

"The National NEA Legislative Committee issues action alerts such as the one prepared for their convention by Citizens Against Nuclear War (CAN), a coalition of 60 organizations. It listed the dates of the congressional recess and urged delegates to lobby Congress at home to pass legislation freezing Star Wars spending at the existing level of \$2.8 billion, to continue observing the SALT II treaty, for a moratorium on testing ASATs, and support for the Schroeder amendment to cut off all funds for nuclear weapons tests....

"Although no politicians addressed this convention, NEA raised over \$200,000 for the '86 elections. Many states, including Ohio, New Jersey and Texas, had their own Political Action Committee fundraising booths.

"The successful convention, the NEA's commitment to work in coalitions, and its highly organized grassroots electoral apparatus is a winning approach to help defeat the Reaganite candidates in the fall."

No wonder the communists are pleased with the NEA. It represents the best organized, best financed political force for the radical left in America. It is using America's teachers, knowingly or unknowingly, as dupes to promote the left's radical political and social agendas.

U.S. Press Misleads Public On NEA

The communist press, unlike the mass media, captured the essence of the NEA's convention. The communists saw it as an anti-Reagan political convention and wrote it up as such. The regular press concentrated on non-political issues, such as teacher training. The Louisville Courier-Journal (6/16/86) characterized the convention as a "business meeting", adding that there would be "discussions on school-improvement proposals and how to continue momentum for education reform."

In an article covering both NEA and AFT (American Federation of Teachers) conventions, US News & World Report (7/21/86) breathlessly announced that the two unions "are embarking on a course of dramatic changes to improve the nation's classrooms." The unions have "set the stage for some sweeping innovations in the method of hiring teachers."

Both unions approved a key recommendation of the Carnegie Forum's "Report on Teaching as a Profession": creation of a national standards board. According to US News: "The new panel is aimed at screening out bad teachers, certifying good ones, and fostering the image of teaching as a profession much like medicine and law."

In other words, the hiring of teachers will be taken out of the hands of local school boards and placed in the hands of the "professionals" who have given this nation its greatest crisis in literacy. Everything we have in public education today is the result of "reforms" made in previous years by the same education establishment that has controlled education policy for the past 50 years.

Even the conservative Washington Times (7/7/86) was fooled. It headlined its story on the convention: "NEA slowly moves toward the center on education reform."

The simple truth is that the NEA has not deviated one iota from its long-range course: to lead America into a world socialist government.

NEA Favors Reds In Central America

This year the NEA passed another resolution showing where its sympathies lie in the ongoing struggle in Central America between communist and anti-communist forces. The resolution (I-8) reads:

"The Association condemns all governments for their roles in any acts of injustice against teachers and their organizations and, thus, the children of those countries. It urges the US

government to refrain from supporting any governments, such as those of El Salvador and Guatemala, that suppress academic freedom and literacy.

"The Association urges the US government to refrain from any plan for overt or covert action that would destabilize or overthrow any government, such as that of Nicaragua, or would adversely affect a government's successful campaign to improve literacy, equal education support, health care, and living and working conditions."

Since this resolution was first adopted in 1981, the NEA has continued to support Nicaragua's literacy campaign. What the NEA doesn't tell its members is that this campaign is first and foremost a political tool being used to indoctrinate the children and adults of Nicaragua in the precepts of the revolution. A recent article by Gary Moore in The Wall Street Journal (3/12/86) spells this out quite clearly by revealing the political and ideological contents of the books being used to teach reading. Undoubtedly the NEA is aware of this, for they have sent their own staff members to Nicaragua to see for themselves.

NEA's Revenues: \$91.3 Million

The NEA's 1985 financial report lists its total revenues for that year as \$91,335,896, most of which, \$90,386,193, came from membership dues. The NEA listed its expenses as follows:

Affiliate services.....	\$35,326,482
Communications.....	10,826,547
Government relations....	2,875,693
Human & civil rights....	2,618,062
Instruction & prof. dev.	2,806,388
Legal services.....	7,642,895
Political affairs.....	1,849,889
Research.....	4,051,311
Administration.....	7,473,435
Business & finance.....	4,197,045
Data processing.....	4,245,317
Governance.....	5,173,816
Total expenses.....	\$89,086,880

Notice that the largest expenditure is for "affiliate services." According to the report: "Affiliate Services

plans, implements and integrates NEA programs and services to affiliates. Nearly \$21 million of these expenditures goes directly to affiliates to implement projects and to maintain more than 1,200 UniServ professionals nationwide who provide on-site assistance members need."

Eugene Methvin, in his Reader's Digest article of May 1984, called UniServ "the largest grassroots political army ever deployed in the United States."

What political party has 1,200 full-time professional organizers at its command? No wonder 85% of the candidates the NEA backs win!

Incidentally, the NEA's budget reveals only a part of the enormous cash flow of this 1.8-million-member union. Each member of a local NEA affiliate is required to join both the state and national organizations, and the dues are apportioned among the three organizations. With 1.8 million members paying average dues of \$300 each year, the NEA and its affiliates wallow in a cash flow of over a half-billion dollars a year!

Also, in case you think the budget item "Instruction and professional development" has something to do with teaching, you ought to know that the Oklahoma Education Association sponsored a staff development conference in September 1985 under the heading of Instruction and Professional Development.

The theme of the conference was "The New Right vs. Academic Freedom." Presentation topics included: "Why Should Teachers Care About The New Right"; "Smear Tactics Of The Far Right"; "Censorship In Our Schools"; "Combatting The New Right." There was also a video presentation entitled "When the Righteous Rule."

Although millions of Christian children attend public schools, it is obvious that the NEA and its affiliates have no intention of accommodating or even listening to Christian parents.

UniServ Director Caught Red-Handed

Richard Cornstuble, 42, UniServ director for the Indiana State Teachers Association (NEA affiliate) in the Lafayette area, was arrested on March 2, 1985 by an off-duty police officer who spotted him at the home of a Michigan City school board member.

According to the Lafayette Journal and Courier (8/7/85), "The officer said he saw Cornstuble holding a bag filled with paint and varnish remover over board member Don Stewart's car on Stewart's property."

Police found, in the car Cornstuble was driving, a sledge hammer, a can of red enamel spray paint, a large piece of concrete, and a map with the neighborhood residences of three School Board members circled. Police also found an open can of paint stripper on Cornstuble when he was arrested. (Michigan City News Dispatch, 8/7/85)

Cornstuble was released from the LaPorte County Jail March 4 on a \$3,500 bond. He was suspended with pay by the Association March 4 and was reinstated March 29.

On September 6, 1985 Cornstuble pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges — criminal trespass and attempted criminal mischief — which carry maximum fines of \$6,000 and a maximum prison sentence of 1½ years.

The above gives you an idea of the kind of people who serve in the NEA's UniServ army. We'd be curious to know if the expenses for the sledge hammer, concrete, spray paint, and paint remover were covered by the budget of the Indiana State Teachers Association!

NEA Hosts Women's Peace Conference

According to People's Daily World (7/22/86), a "peace" conference, organized by the coalition group Women for a Meaningful Summit, was held at National Education Association headquarters in Washington July 17-19. Workshops, plenary discussions, and an afternoon of lobbying, where conference

participants met with more than 30 members of Congress on their arms control records, were among the activities.

NEA President Mary Hatwood Futrell was the keynote speaker. She called for people across the country to unite for peace. "To have world peace, we must have an effective grassroots peace movement," she stressed, and pledged NEA's support. She noted that "the Reagan Administration spends billions of dollars on research and development for new ways to send deadly weapons into space, but spends only miniscule amounts on research and development for education."

Futrell accused the Administration of launching a "full-scale attack" on the US education system. "If the Administration kills the American dream for millions of American children," she asked, "what is left for the Defense Department to defend?"

Comment: What kind of educational research do the educators need? Research has proven that intensive, systematic phonics is the best way to teach children to read. But the educators refuse to use it. Functional illiteracy is killing the American dream, but functional illiteracy can be prevented by the use of intensive, systematic phonics in the first grade. Why won't the educators use it?

NEA Spokesman Reveals All

Jim Lewis, member of the NEA Executive Committee and likely nominee for NEA president, 4/27/85 spoke before the 1985 Kansas Educational Association Representative Assembly, telling anyone who would listen a great deal about NEA thinking and goals. Some excerpts:

"I want to talk to you about a new threat from the Radical Right aimed at public education and directed at NEA. The Radical Right in this country is a growing group of individuals with huge sums of money to spend and who are often helped by public apathy and ignorance....

"I am talking about fanatics, extremists, and ideologues who will say anything and stop at nothing in order to achieve their goals. I'm talking about Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority. I'm talking about Terry Dolan and NCPAC, Paul Weyrich and the National Conservative Union, Susan Staub and the National Right to Work Committee, Jesse Helms and the Congressional Club, Sally Reed and the National Council for Better Education.

"I'm talking about Samuel Blumenfeld and his book, NEA: The Trojan Horse in American Education. I'm talking about Mel and Norma Gabler and their efforts to censor textbooks in Texas. I'm talking about Richard Viguerie and the Conservative Digest, and I'm talking about Eugene Methvin and the Reader's Digest. I'm talking about TV evangelists like Tammy and Jim Baker, Pat Robertson and the 700 Club, Jimmy Swaggert and James Robinson....

"They say that in this country there is an anti-American, anti-God conspiracy everywhere and it must be eradicated, and the places where it must be eradicated most are with the NEA, the secular humanists, and the communists....They lie, they distort, they defame, and what's worst of all, they scare me, because they hear God speaking only to them and they have no sense of humor.

"Now we've had radical right movements throughout history, and you can't have a radical right movement if they don't have a scapegoat or enemy. For instance, for the Nazis it was the Jews. For the Catholic Church it was the heretics....For McCarthy, it was the communists. But for the New Right, the enemies are public education and secular humanism. Radical right-wing groups always polarize and emotionalize their issues....

"They're beginning to demand prior parental permission before teachers can talk about certain subjects in school — subjects like values clarification, death education, nuclear war, political affiliation, personal religious beliefs, and sensitivity training. And they're encouraging parents to turn in

to school boards and the proper authorities any teacher they suspect of teaching secular humanism....

"What is secular humanism? No one really knows. A pamphlet circulated by the Pro-Family Forum, a Phyllis Schlafly group, calls it among other things a belief in equal distribution of wealth, control of the environment, the removal of American patriotism, disarmament, and creation of a one-world socialist government....

"It's not surprising that the Radical Right attack schools and try to discredit them, because they can't control them. It's not surprising that they would attack the NEA, because we stand in their way. Our membership nationwide this year is up 27,000 members and we have become the largest independent labor organization in the US, surpassing even the Teamsters Union....

"As a union, we must work to see that appropriate academic freedom clauses are in place in our contracts, employment language is solid, and policies for parental challenge to materials used in school are spelled out....

"For 128 years, the NEA has been in the business of protecting its membership, and we cannot and will not turn aside from those responsibilities now. We have to go on the offensive against these evangelical bigots. We have to go on the offensive against these right-wing fanatics. And we have to go on the offensive against the political poltroons they have put in place and defeat them when they run for reelection to office.

"We also have to work with school boards and administrators to form coalitions to ward off the attacks of the radical right....Let me tell you, I believe we can do it. We are the leaders, the heart of a profession....We must succeed, and I believe we will succeed."

Radical Educators Define Literacy

The following quotation is taken from an article entitled "The Decline

of Literacy and Liberal Learning" by Barbara Ann Scott of the State University of New York, New Paltz. This article was published in Boston University's Journal of Education (Vol. 168, No. 1, 1986):

"'Back to Basics' is basically a demand for functional literacy and, to a degree, cognitive literacy within the bourgeois tradition....The main concern of the mainstream literacy crusade is the short-term, extrinsic payoff, for both the individual and the society, not the intrinsic, long-term pleasure to be found in educational excellence.

"Thus, the literacy crusade currently being mounted by the educational establishment is fundamentally anti-radical and anti-democratic. An authentic, and consequently radical, concern for literacy starts with the assumption, in Stanley Aronowitz's words (1982), that 'critical thinking is the fundamental precondition of an autonomous and self-motivated citizenry' (p. 283).

"This means, in turn, appropriating the bourgeois tradition of liberal learning in order ultimately to transform it in the interest of intellectual and social empowerment. Critical literacy, in short, is the essence of the radical democratic agenda."

From this article we gather that "critical thinking" is a Marxist tool to be used in the classroom to wean American children away from bourgeois or traditional values. As Ms. Scott writes: "Critical literacy is the essence of the radical democratic agenda."

God's Law Is Supreme In Pennsylvania

Visitors to the State Capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, will find the following inscription, proclaiming the supremacy of God's law, on one of the edifice's walls, taken from the writings of William Blackstone, the famous English jurist:

"The Law of Nature dictated by God himself is Superior to any other. It

is binding all over the Globe, in all Countries and at all times. No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this, and such of them as are valid derive all of their force and all their authority mediately and immediately from this Original. Upon these two foundations, the Law of Nature and the Law of Revelation, depend all human laws. Human laws are only declaratory of and act in subordination to Divine Law."

Also, in the chamber of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in the same capitol building, one will find over the seats of the seven judges, a painting of the Mosaic Decalogue with the First Commandment inscribed on the wall.

We wonder when the ACLU will go to court to order the removal of these inscriptions and murals. They would be illegal in a public school! In any case, if you happen to be visiting the State Capitol in Harrisburg, take a camera with you. Who knows how much longer these inscriptions will remain on those walls?

Boy Hangs Himself In Vacant Classroom

Matt Hokenson, a 17-year-old junior at Mounds View High School in suburban St. Paul, Minnesota, hanged himself in April 1986 in an empty classroom after school.

According to the school's principal, Philip Leonard, the student had been under treatment for psychological depression.

The boy, characterized as a "very good student" and member of the school's golf team, hanged himself in a classroom often used by members of the golf team to study.

On the day after the suicide, about 70 or 80 of the school's 2,000 students sought counseling. The principal noted that the school held a suicide-prevention workshop last fall, but said he did not know whether the Hokenson youth attended it. The suicide was the first in the school's history. (Source: Edu-

cation Week, 5/7/86)

Educating For A Socialist America

The big topic of discussion in education circles these days is the Carnegie Corporation's much-heralded report on reforming teacher education. The 140-page report, "A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century", was unveiled at a highly publicized conference of movers and shakers on May 15th.

The new study's most important (and potentially most dangerous) recommendation is the plan to establish the first US nationwide system of certifying elementary and secondary school teachers. The proposed National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is expected to begin functioning by June 1987 and will give "practicing teachers" (read NEA and AFT), rather than state boards of education, control over who is "qualified" to enter the teaching profession.

Reportedly, key members of the National Governors Association, the Education Commission of the States, and the Council of Chief State School Officers are favorable toward the plan and will promote it. The NEA, of course, will use its clout to get local school boards to give preference to National Board-certified teachers in hiring, promotions, and salaries. The Carnegie plan is, in essence, a plan for nationalizing American education.

The Carnegie group of foundations (Carnegie Corporation, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Carnegie Endowment for the Advancement of Teaching) has been exerting a subversive influence on education since the first decade of this century when they were established.

Together with the Rockefeller and Ford foundations, they have brought on much of the debacle that is contemporary American education.

In 1953, Congress created a Special Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations, headed by Rep. Carroll Reece. The powerful foundations pre-

vailed upon friends in Congress to stifle the investigation, but the Reece Commission did succeed in exposing subversion. The committee reported:

"The impact of foundation money upon education has been very heavy, largely tending to promote uniformity in approach and method, tending to induce the educator to become an agent for social change and a protagonist for the development of our society in the direction of some form of collectivism. Foundations have supported text books (and books intended for inclusion in collateral reading lists) which are destructive of our basic governmental and social principles and highly critical of our cherished institutions.

"Foundations have supported a conscious distortion of history, propagandized blindly for the United Nations as the hope of the world, supported that organization's agencies to an extent beyond general public acceptance, and leaned toward a generally 'leftist' approach to international problems."

The Carnegie Corporation had, as early as 1934, made a grant of \$340,000 to the Commission on Social Sciences of the American Historical Association for the development of a program to indoctrinate students through social studies classes in the schools. The Carnegie-financed AHA report, Conclusions and Recommendations, stated: "Cumulative evidence supports the conclusion that, in the US as in other countries, the age of individualism and laissez-faire in economy and government is closing and that a new age of collectivism is emerging."

Of this "new age", the Carnegie/AHA report said approvingly: "Almost certainly it will involve a larger measure of compulsory as well as voluntary cooperation of citizens in the conduct of the complex national economy, a corresponding enlargement of the functions of government, and an increasing state intervention in fundamental branches of the economy previously left to the individual discretion and initiative."

Fabian Socialist historian and philosopher Prof. Harold J. Laski conclud-

ed of this Carnegie report: "At bottom, and stripped of its carefully neutral phrases, the report is an educational program for a socialist America."

Another example of the Carnegie collectivist bias is the economics book, Business as a System of Power, written by Prof. Robert A Brady, under a grant for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In the introduction to this volume, we are told that "capitalist economic power constitutes a direct, continuous, and fundamental threat to the whole structure of democratic authority everywhere."

Over the years, the Carnegie group has extended its malignant influence throughout the education field by giving millions of dollars to universities and organizations such as the Social Science Research Council, American Council on Education, American Council on Learned Societies, American Economic Association, American Sociological Association, and American Historical Association.

This latest task force is still further evidence of Carnegie commitment to bringing about a socialist America. (Data from New American, 6/30/86)

NEA Pushes Nuclear Freeze

Senator Orrin Hatch, in the Congressional Record, July 20, 1983:

"I have just learned that the President of the United States receives over 100 letters a day on the subject of nuclear war. That is more than he receives on any other subject. Those letters are not from mature, well-informed citizens. They are from frightened, ill-informed school children who, in writing to the President, are fulfilling classroom assignments....

"...is very wrong in this free country of ours for a teacher to indoctrinate a classroom full of students with a particular position and then give a letter-writing assignment on the subject. I find it scandalous that the

largest teacher organization in America is promoting such political indoctrination in the classroom. Yet that is exactly what the National Education Association is doing."

The NEA curriculum to which Senator Hatch refers is a nuclear disarmament guide for students called "Choices: A Unit on Conflict and Nuclear War." (Data from NFD Journal, 2/85)

NEA's True Goals

Perhaps you believe that the NEA actually has as its primary goal the education of American children. If so, consider the following passage from the January 1981 NEA Bulletin:

"The major purpose of our organization is not the education of children; rather it is, or ought to be, the extension and/or preservation of our members' rights." (Data from Idaho Statesman, May 18, 1983)

What Do Public School Teachers Think Of Public Schools?

Who would know best how good or bad public schools really are? Public school teachers, of course!

Would you believe that twice as many public school teachers send their children to private school as does the general public? The following table, from the Wall Street Journal (8/28/86), shows the actual data, a clear vote of no-confidence from the people who really know what's going on in public schools!

Informed Consumers		
	% of Public School Teachers Who Send Children to Private Schools	Overall % Students in Private Schools
Albuquerque	30%	14%
Denver-Boulder	22	13
Atlanta	25	14
Memphis	36	21
Nashville	30	16
Austin	25	13
Los Angeles-		
Long Beach	29	17
San Francisco	28	19
Seattle	23	14

Source: Preliminary analysis of census data by American Enterprise Institute.