

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."

Futrell Boasts of NEA Political Power and Chooses Dukakis

Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of the National Education Association, left no doubt in anyone's mind as to what the NEA would be doing in the next few months: getting Michael Dukakis elected President of the United States.

In her address to the delegates at the NEA convention in New Orleans on July 4, Mrs. Futrell said:

"I have met with the candidates, I have reviewed their positions on matters important to our members and to the education of our children. Based on my reviews I have decided that the most electable and desirable candidate is Michael Dukakis.
. . .

"I did not come to this decision lightly or easily, but I am very confident it is the right decision for NEA.

"The son of a teacher, a teacher himself, Governor Dukakis understands and embodies the link between education and the American dream. . . .

"As Governor, Michael Dukakis has supported, with both money and imagination, school reform programs, teacher excellence funds, quality child care efforts, and new anti-drug alliances. . . . And most of all, he understands that if we are to succeed in that effort, the federal government must join us as a full partner, not a silent partner.

"Our job now is to help elect this kind of person. Our job is to turn out the vote of every one of our 1.9 million members. To get information out to each of them, to get each of them involved. It is the most critical battle you and I have faced in the struggle for our children, the struggle for America's future. . . .

"Fortunately, we have an effective weapon in our struggle on behalf of children. That weapon is our political power. We have worked so hard, we have come so far. We have succeeded in building one of the most powerful political networks in the nation. There are now literally thousands of organized and motivated NEA members in each congressional district in America.

"Starting today, we are going to completely mobilize that network, and we are not going to rest until midnight, November 8, 1988."

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Organized Teachers: Most Powerful Political Machine in America

Mrs. Futrell had good reason to boast of the NEA's political power. Their effectiveness, of course, is due to the fact that the teachers are politically organized in every school district. Each NEA state affiliate maintains a strong, aggressive lobby in each state capital, and more and more NEA members are running for political office -- on school boards, in city councils, state legislatures, and in the Congress. They are militant, arrogant, self-serving, self-righteous, and intolerant of any opposition.

They claim that they are doing all of this to help the children. But in reality their goal is to promote the social and foreign policies of the radical left and make them the policies of the U.S. government.

Mrs. Futrell's words speak for themselves:

"Leadership is up to us. If America is to move forward, then we must be leaders. . . . Can we do it? Of course we can. Each year we get bigger. Each year we get bolder. Each year we get better. Each year the public pulse for justice and fairness beats a little stronger because of us. The truth is, my friends, our house -- our Association -- has never been in better order.

"In politics, our successes are universally admired by our allies, and respected by our adversaries.

"No other organization in America has sent as many delegates to the last three Democratic and Republican National Conventions as NEA. This year we will send a combined total of close to 400 delegates and alternates to these conventions, more than any other organization in the country.

"We are strong politically because we are strong organizationally. We are everywhere. And we are growing. In organizing and collective bargaining, in the ongoing struggle for dignity in the workplace, we continue to mobilize and energize American educators as no other organization in the history of our nation.

"Two years ago I challenged you to expand membership in each state. I set an ambitious goal of two million and one by 1991.

"I am proud to announce to you today that we are ahead of schedule! Once again you have exceeded my wildest hopes, and everyone's expectations. This year alone we have added more than 50,000 new members."

NEA To Control Teacher Certification

Until the present, the public schools have been owned and operated by local communities, managed by local elected school boards theoretically accountable to taxpayers and parents, and supervised by state departments of education in charge of teacher certification. Teachers were hired as employees to do the teaching.

But the NEA wants to take direct control of the system -- away from taxpayers, parents and school boards and into the hands of the organized teachers. In other words, the employees would usurp the duties of management and make policies for the system. The NEA is well on its way to achieving this goal. Mrs. Futrell told her audience:

"Let me give you an example of our leadership. Today, for the first time in the history of the United States, there is a fully operational National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. And not just any Board, but a Board governed by a working majority of classroom teachers! Only one organization stood up and

insisted on a teacher majority for the new national Board, and that one organization was the NEA.

"The new Board -- which includes 18 NEA members -- has already met several times. By 1991 the Board will draft national standards, design assessment instruments, and develop voluntary certification procedures for our profession. The members of this new Board are wading in truly uncharted waters and deserve all our support and encouragement.

"I am also very proud of the many states that continue to lobby their legislatures to establish teacher-majority professional standards boards. These states include Maryland, West Virginia, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Vermont. I'm especially proud of Oklahoma, which this year strengthened the teacher presence on its standards board, and of Michigan, which now has a standards commission responsible for teacher education and or revamping certification procedures."

NEA: Enemy Number One of Conservative Causes

The NEA is quite proud of the great success it has had in defeating conservative causes and initiatives. Listen to Mrs. Futrell boast again:

"Last summer, we were the first organization in America to oppose the Supreme Court nomination of Robert Bork. We took that action right here at the Representative Assembly.

"We were the first to say what proved to be in the heart of most Americans. That this court is too big, and this man is too small.

"We won that battle over the Bork nomination. . . .

"But the Bork nomination wasn't this year's only civil rights battleground. We were also called upon to oppose another insidious threat to our liberties. This threat is a malignancy called discrimination. . . .

"Three years ago, we helped write the Civil Rights Restoration Act to fight that injustice. We lobbied, held press conferences, filed legal briefs, and testified before Congress.

"This spring Congress passed the bill we helped write. But the President vetoed it, becoming the first President in 131 years to veto a civil rights bill.

"On the day of the vote to override the President's veto, nearly 200 NEA Congressional Contact Team members from more than 40 states descended on the Capitol. Opposing us that day were the armies of the so-called Moral Majority and the Eagle Forum, groups that had just concluded a well financed campaign of fear and disinformation.

"It was a tense moment, a historic moment.

"When the votes were counted, the veto was overridden in the House of Representatives -- by only nine votes! Thanks in part to your efforts, we continue to be a nation of civil rights, not civil wrongs."

What Has the NEA Done for Education?

Most of Mrs. Futrell's speech was about politics and power and control. But then she was obliged to pay some lip service to "education," which is what the National Education Association is supposed to be about, but isn't. The public schools, as we all know, are a disaster area, and it was the Nation at Risk report

in 1983 that told us how much of a disaster the schools were. What has the NEA done to improve education since 1983?

Mrs. Futrell was able to come up with the following "accomplishments": (1) an anti-dropout effort called "NEA Operation Rescue"; (2) establishment of the Christa McAuliffe Institute for Educational Pioneering; (3) enlarging the grant-giving capabilities of the NEA's National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE), to put it on a par with the Carnegie and Ford foundations.

One of the biggest rackets in government education today is the research grant: federal grants, state grants, university grants, foundation grants -- all of which have the education research business booming. Unfortunately, most of the research is trivial, useless, irrelevant, incredibly boring and often mischievous. Most of the research papers are stored in archives and data banks where they will remain, unread by anyone.

Considering that educational research has been going on in earnest since the turn of the century at a cost of millions of dollars, is it not amazing that the educators haven't yet found out how to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic effectively!

The Teachers Fight Back!

After victory upon victory, the NEA can afford to be arrogant, boastful and confident. Mrs. Futrell was particularly proud of how the NEA had defeated teacher competency testing. She said:

"We have come a very long way since the first year of reform, the year that began with ambitious politicians blaming teachers for every single shortcoming of our nation's schools. Those same politicians demanded competency testing for practicing teachers.

"Today, those exams are history. We challenged them in court, we fought them in state legislatures, we aced them in examination halls. Ladies and gentlemen, no state has proposed in-service testing in three years! That's what I call organizational slam dunk! . . .

"On other issues from class size to career ladders, the story is the same. You have won over the skeptics. You have turned a movement that was aimed at teachers to a movement of teachers, a movement that belittled those who do the work to a movement led by those who do the work.

"But we in NEA never rest on our laurels. Yesterday is not the test. Tomorrow is."

So what does the NEA have in store for us?

"If current trends continue," said Mrs. Futrell, "in a decade we could have more than four million members. We could have six times the number of retired members, ten times the number of higher education members, and fifteen times the number of education support members that we now have. . . .

"I promise you: we will meet the future on our terms."

Brave New Learning Laboratory

And to convince the public and the media that the NEA is just boiling over with creative new ideas, Mrs. Futrell proposed that the NEA embark on a radical experiment in education.

"I want you to designate at least one entire school district in your state as a learning laboratory for education reform," she said.

"I want you to go back to your states and meet with your elected and school officials, as well as community groups. Together with them, I want you to choose one school district, and then build that district into an education laboratory larger than any yet proposed, a learning laboratory made up of real schools and real teachers and real students.

"And I want you to use those schools to develop innovative and creative programs to systematically and fundamentally restructure the ways our schools function. I want you to use these learning labs to help redefine not only what we teach, but how we teach America's children. . . . And finally, yes, we will ask the federal government to become, this time, a helpful partner."

Should Gov. Dukakis become President of the United States and appoint Mary Futrell as his Secretary of Education we will most likely see this experimental program funded by the Department of Education. It will be the education boondoggle of the century.

"So let us begin," said Mrs. Futrell. "Let us unleash our creativity. Let us dare to break old molds. Let us start building the schools of tomorrow!"

Comment: Now that the NEA is about to "unleash" its creativity, watch out! The job they've done on the kids until now will seem positively benign compared to what the NEA will be doing in its "innovative" learning labs. We can't wait to see what innovations the NEA will come up with!

Meanwhile, how can Christian schools and home schoolers fight this growing NEA monster that seems capable of gobbling up every legislator in sight and reducing to bowls of jello every school board it "bargains" with? Christian home schoolers will have to mobilize all of their strength to defend parental rights and Christian freedom. It will not be easy, but it must be done.

The sad truth is that without Christian support of the public schools, the NEA would not be the power it is today. It is beyond comprehension how Christians can keep sending their children to atheist, humanist, blasphemous public schools, thereby supporting institutions dedicated to the destruction of their religion.

That there are millions of Christians who cannot yet recognize the evil that public education has become, indicates to what degree Christian leaders have failed in their responsibilities. They are permitting Christian children to be devoured by atheist wolves.

NEA Out to Destroy Christian Educational Freedom

If the NEA gets its way, Christians will have as much educational freedom in America as they now have in the Soviet Union: None.

The NEA is determined to bring all private education under state and eventually NEA control through mandated accrediting and licensing regulations. This was spelled out quite clearly in

the Resolutions passed by the NEA's Representative Assembly at their convention.

Concerning private education, Resolution A-1 states:

"The Association believes that individuals, at their expense, should be free to choose, to supplement, or to substitute education in privately supported, nonsegregated, nonpublic schools. The Association also believes public and nonpublic schools should be

accredited under uniform standards established by the appropriate agency.

"The Association urges its affiliates to seek and support legislation that denies tax-exempt status to those institutions whose policies and/or practices prevent the integration of those institutions."

Concerning teacher licensure, Resolution G-4 states:

"The National Education Association advocates rigorous state standards for entry into the teaching profession. . . . A teaching license must be recognized as the primary requirement for employment in every public and private school (pre-K--12). . . .

"The Association supports regulations that would put professional educators, the majority of whom are licensed and practicing public school teachers, in state licensing agencies."

In other words, NEA members would control the licensing of teachers for Christian schools.

NEA Declares War on Home Education

In 1988 the NEA has virtually declared war on home schooling. Here is what Resolution C-34 says:

"The National Education Association believes that home-school programs cannot provide the child with a comprehensive education experience.

"The Association believes that, if parental preference home-school study occurs, students enrolled must meet all state requirements. Instruction should be by persons who are licensed by the appropriate state education licensure agency, and a curriculum approved by the state department of education should be used.

"The Association further believes that such home-school programs should be limited to the children of the immediate family, with all expenses being borne by the parents."

Clearly, the war is on between the NEA and home-schooling parents. Apparently the NEA does not believe that parents have any rights at all concerning the education of their children. Since teacher licensure is coming more and more under NEA control, it is obvious that many parents, particularly Christian parents, will be unable to pass the NEA screening process. In short, teacher licensure will be used as the means of forbidding parents to teach their own children at home. Unlicensed home-schooling parents will be prosecuted as criminals, will be fined and/or jailed, and will have their children taken from them.

What kind of a free country will this be if parents have to be "licensed" in order to teach their own children at home? If the NEA totalitarians get their way, that will be the end of freedom in America.

As for the state-approved curriculum, what home-schooling parents would, in their right minds, adopt the very state curriculum that has made it imperative for them to remove their children from the public schools in the first place?

The state-approved curriculum has put millions of children at risk with look-say reading programs, values clarification, death education, evolution, sex education, multiculturalism, occultism, New Ageism, anti-Christian humanism, etc.

The NEA has become America's most powerful engine for totalitarianism. In other words, America's professional educators, who should be in the forefront of those spreading the gospel of American freedom, have actually become the leading advocates of totalitarianism in America! What a crime it is to place the education of American children in their hands.

Of course, there are many fine, freedom-loving teachers in our public schools, and we know some of them personally, but they do not represent the

thinking of the organized profession. They have no voice, no leadership within the profession.

NEA's Political Machine: Well Oiled and Well Financed

When the Progressives took control of the NEA around World War I, their aim was to transform the association into a large teacher membership organization that would be able to exert irresistible political pressure on American legislators. Seventy years later, the NEA has become the single most powerful political machine in America with permanent, full-time lobbies in the U.S. Congress and the 50 state legislatures. An excellent description of how the machine operates is given in the NEA publication, Advancing NEA's Legislative Agenda, July 1988. Here's what it says (we've underlined the most salient facts):

"Much of NEA's legislative success can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Congressional Contact Team (CCT) network. NEA, with an average of 4,000 members in each of the nation's 435 Congressional Districts, is in a unique position to use at-home lobbying efforts to advance the cause of public education and improve the status and security of its members.

"The Congressional Contact Team consists of at least two members in each Congressional District appointed by state presidents with concurrence of state association boards of directors. CCT members are trained, coordinated, and briefed at the state, regional, and national levels. They provide a well-informed and dedicated cadre of grass-roots lobbyists who complement the efforts of the full-time Washington-based and regional staffs. . . .

"While CCT activities emphasize in-District contacts with Representatives and Senators and their staffs, on occasion it is necessary to enlist these NEA members' help in the nation's

capital. In addition to their role in representing NEA's Legislative Program in Congress, CCT members are responsible for providing information and building support with other members and the general public. CCT members also played a key role in serving as contact persons for incumbents running for reelection by helping recruit and organize campaign volunteers.

"The CCT program has been widely recognized as the standard for grass-roots legislative action. Members of Congress are impressed and greatly influenced by continued contact with knowledgeable constituents in their own Districts who are active in the Association and in local politics.

"NEA's CCT program chalked up a major civil rights victory when the spring 1988 CCT Washington, D.C.-based activity coincided with the vote to override the President's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act. With some 200 Association activists on Capitol Hill, NEA was able to gain a number of swing votes that made a critical difference in the outcome.

". . . In addition, for the past several years, the CCT D.C.-based and at-home lobbying efforts have had a significant impact on education funding."

Lobby-By-Mail Campaign

"NEA has continued its Lobby-by-Mail campaign in which NEA members are asked to authorize the Association to send messages in their names to Senators and Representatives on a number of topics, including increased federal funding, public employee collective bargaining, preservation of the U.S. Department of Education, opposition to tuition tax credits and vouchers, preservation of Social Security, tax equity, and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

". . . The Lobby-by-Mail campaign was used most recently to urge Congress to support an FY89 Budget Resolution

that would protect education from any cuts, provide additional funding to offset inflation, and add resources in education programs serving the disadvantaged."

Political Action

"Political Affairs works with both the Republican and Democratic Parties to advance the NEA Legislative Program, and provides information and training to Association members to increase their effectiveness in the political arena. NEA also examines viable candidates for Congress and President and endorses the best friends of education, both Democrats and Republicans.

"NEA-PAC -- the Association's political action arm -- has raised more than \$1.8 million through voluntary contributions from members to help elect proven friends of education to Congress.

"NEA maintains relationships with a number of organizations and groups of various political orientations in an effort to enhance NEA's ability to influence legislation and elect pro-education candidates.

"Presidential politics took center stage beginning in 1987. Some 35,000 NEA members participated in a nationwide series of open hearings designed to share information and gather input from members on the candidates and the Presidential endorsement process itself. . . . Association members across the country were active in delegate selection activities on behalf of candidates who had fully participated in the endorsement screening process and who supported a majority of the NEA Legislative Program. . . ."

Training Teachers to be Activists

"To organize and train volunteers to help endorsed candidates, NEA maintains the extensive Political Data Systems and Services (PSDD) which includes the Political Activist System (PAS) and a political education program

-- using the NEA Series in Practical Politics -- which provides training to thousands of members. The series covers setting up a local PAC, endorsing candidates, managing volunteers, participating in party politics, preparing print communications, and more. NEA political activists can learn the whole spectrum of necessary campaign skills or hone a specific area of need."

Comment:

Wouldn't it be nice if the NEA devoted as much time, energy and organizational skill to teaching teachers how to teach children to read as they do instructing them on how to win elections and lobby legislators! There is no doubt that NEA members are the best trained political activists in America with a supporting machine that has no rival.

What particularly gives the NEA its power is its presence in every city, town and hamlet in America, its benign status in the community as an association of "educators," its intrusion into the lives of every family with children of school age, its enormous and endless cash flow, its long experience in political activism, its mastery of the legislative process.

What makes the NEA so dangerous is its totalitarian philosophy of education; its hostility to educational freedom; its promotion of socialism and humanism; its flagrant disregard of parents rights; its hatred of children by forcing them to attend worthless, dangerous, depressing, demoralizing public schools that destroy minds, souls, and morals; its hatred of Christianity.

PURE Seminar

Tulsa, OK, Fri Sept 30 - Sat Oct 1.
Holiday Inn I-244 at Garnett Rd.
Speakers include: Samuel Blumenfeld,
Sharon Pangelinan and Glen Ellis.
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