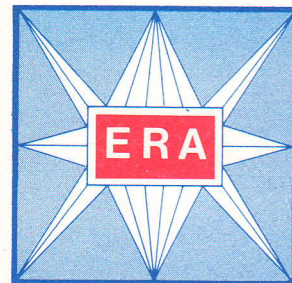


a nonprofit  
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# EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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19 December 1984

Samuel L. Blumenfeld  
6 Roseclaire St.  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Sam:

Thanks so much for your kind card and note. Both are very much appreciated.

We kept a close watch on your visit to Idaho and even have a video tape of your press conference, in the capitol building, including ABC, CBS, and NBC "clips" concerning you and the now famous Shippy case. However, you need to know that the case has been completely blacked out in Western Oregon. No mention of it has been made by either the print or electronic media.

In no way could this have been accomplished without the connivance of the OREGONIAN--the state's only major newspaper and extremely liberal! It is also possible--even probable--that the AP and UPI offices also were involved.

You no doubt have seen the December 5 editorial in the IDAHO STATESMAN, and the key paragraph, which starts: "As for the Shippys, they must realize that their children are not their property; neither are they the state's."

The fact that the STATESMAN office was not assaulted and its editors confronted . . . tells us, I fear, more than we want to hear: that most of the American people have (for various reasons) acquiesced to this insidious, non-benign concept.

If we subscribe to the unalienable right to educate (or not educate) our children, there are risks, of course; but life is full of risks and especially so where there is freedom. The alternative, however, is the greatest risk of all: a brutalized, traumatized, tyrannized society.

Normally, freedom is lost in bits and pieces, not in large chunks. But by any standards, compulsory school attendance is an unusually large, dangerous, and significant quantity.

So large, in fact, that it may be too late to challenge. But it is not too late to try!

Sincerely,

Carl W. Salser

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