

SAMUEL L. BLUMENFELD
6 ROSECLAIR STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125
(617) 282-0299

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Linda Shelton
Martha Hewitt
835 S. Hebron Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47715

Dear Misses Shelton and Hewitt:

Thank you for your letter of March 13th with the NEA's "Thirty-One Flavors of Extremism." The title of their booklet clearly indicates that it is little more than propaganda. To designate as "extremist" anyone who criticizes the NEA is typical leftist propaganda. They even admit that "extremist accusations" 8, 11, and 30 are true. So in their minds even the truth is an "extremist accusation."

Also, the NEA is very adept at double talk. Take "Extremist Accusation # 12." They claim they are not for abortion but merely "support the right of all women to reproductive freedom." What is "reproductive freedom" if not a euphemism for abortion on demand? Also, in accusation #9, they state that "the whole notion of secular humanism is, in fact, entirely the invention of Radical Right leaders, writers and fund-raisers." My chapter on the Humanist Curriculum can be used to expose that falsehood.

I suggest that you concentrate your response on those aspects of the booklet that can easily be shown to be propagandistic double talk or simple falsehoods. Don't get bogged down in areas that require an intimate knowledge of technical detail. Concentrate on those accusations that can easily be shown to be false, distorted, or propagandistic.

I wish I had the time to do a thorough rebuttal of the 31 flavors. Unfortunately, I am in the middle of a speaking tour and cannot do it right now. I'm sure that Susan Staub of CEAUFU and Eugene Methvin of Reader's Digest can help. Also, you should get a copy of the NEA's resolutions published in Today's Education. Your library should have it.

My book documents everything I say about the NEA, so feel free to quote from it.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Samuel L. Blumenfeld", with a stylized flourish at the end.