



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION • 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 822-7700
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January 22, 1985

Mr. Arthur T. Boone
404 Florida Theatre Building
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Boone:

Your inquiry to the NEA regarding the John Birch Society press release has been referred to this office.

We have long been aware of the John Birch Society's position with regard to the National Education Association (NEA) and public education. We are also aware of the various conspiracy theories regarding both the NEA and the public schools that are contained in Samuel Blumenfeld's book, NEA: Trojan Horse in American Education.

The book by Mr. Blumenfeld is so riddled with inconsistencies, improbable leaps of logic, and gross distortions of the truth--not only about the NEA, but about the history of education itself--that it defies rational response.

The commitment of the National Education Association to the advancement of both equity and excellence in education is clearly expressed in the resolutions adopted by the organization's 8000-member representative assembly and is well known to anyone who honestly examines our public statements and actions. The NEA is also rightfully committed to advancement of the professional best interests of teachers. Recognizing that political events--who gets elected to local, state, and national office--ultimately determine educational conditions, the NEA and its affiliates, through the activism of teachers all across the nation, have become effective participants in the political process.

As a strong national organization working in the political arena, as well as in other areas, to further the cause of education and educators, the NEA, perhaps inevitably, has made enemies of those who are hostile to both public schools and public school teachers. That is, in fact, the only reasonable response to the allegations contained in the JBS column, "The NEA Exposed."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy C. Massie".

Dorothy C. Massie
Inquiry Specialist

cc: Joy Koletsky, Staff Counsel

DCM:cmh