

Natl. Education Assn. Votes "Choice" Policies

NEA Endorses Bill Clinton By Large Vote

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Education Association (NEA) delegates voted by secret ballot on July 8 to endorse Bill Clinton for President. The 8,500 delegates attending the annual NEA convention in Washington, D.C. gave their support to Clinton by a record-breaking majority of 88%. This was the highest margin ever given to any Presidential candidate.

The official endorsement vote count was 6,321 to 842. The NEA made its first presidential endorsement in 1976, when it supported Jimmy Carter. What the NEA wanted then was the establishment of the U.S. Department of Education, and they got this under President Carter.

The week before the NEA convention, the NEA-PAC Council had voted unanimously to endorse the Presidential candidacy of Arkansas Governor Clinton. The NEA-PAC Council is the governing body of NEA's political action arm, and the presidents of NEA's state affiliates make up the majority of the Council. Most of the NEA state affiliates had backed Clinton in this spring's primaries.

Clinton made an unscheduled drop-in visit at the NEA-PAC Council meeting just after its vote. By coincidence, he was staying at the same hotel as the Council, the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. Clinton told the Council that, if he is elected President, he will invite NEA President Keith Geiger to stay in the Lincoln Room at the White House.

Asked for his comment about Governor Clinton, Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander said, "In order to get the nomination, he's had to make the NEA happy, and the NEA only likes people they can control." Alexander said, "I've lived long enough to know that, when the NEA gives you a good grade, that means you don't stray very far from their agenda." He added that the NEA only approves of politicians "who generally promise the most amount of money for the least amount of change."

"You won't see any of their candidates coming out for giving all children choices of all schools — public, private or religious — because the NEA doesn't want that," Secretary Alexander said. "That's more change than they can stomach. It's an issue of control. . . They've got it now and they don't want to lose it to the parents or to the communities or to the publicly elected leaders."

During the debate last spring among the then five Democratic presidential candidates in the New Hampshire primary, Cokie Roberts of NPR radio asked each one, "If you were the mother of a child who was doing poorly in a crime-ridden inner city school, don't you think she should have the choice to transfer her child to a private school like the rich parents have?" Every one of the five Democratic presidential candidates answered "no."

Nearly 400 Delegates to the Democratic National Convention in New York the



Bill Clinton

week of July 13 were NEA members, and most of their expenses were paid by the NEA.

The packet of information provided to the news media covering the NEA convention in Washington included a 16-page booklet entitled "Bill Clinton and Education: The Arkansas Story," which was a glowing appraisal of Clinton's record on education. The cover and 12 of the 16 pages were printed in four-color process. ■

NEA Reports Political Spending

The financial report of the National Education Association (NEA), which was provided to delegates attending the 1992 convention in Washington, D.C., proves that the NEA is a very political union.

- The NEA reported spending \$8,534,943 in its 1991 fiscal year on what it categorized as "Government Relations." That is a euphemism for lobbying for the legislative goals endorsed in the NEA resolutions and electing NEA candidates to local school boards.

- The NEA reported spending \$4,746,442 on "Human and Civil Rights" during its 1991 fiscal year. This means "rights" as the NEA defines it, and includes such "rights" as abortion, the gay and lesbian agenda, affirmative action quotas, the Equal Rights Amendment, and banning "sexist" words and concepts.

- The NEA reported spending \$7,022,328 on "Communications" during its 1991 fiscal year. This is a euphemism for what is often called "grassroots lobbying," which means propagandizing a message among the public and through the media.

The \$164,347,425 NEA budget also includes millions of dollars spent for office and personnel overhead to support this direct spending for legislative purposes. The direct political contributions to candidates are in another account altogether, called NEA-PAC, which is one of the country's largest Political Action Committees donating to candidates. ■

"No" on Education Choice "Yes" on Abortion Choice

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Education Association (NEA) held its annual convention July 3-8 in Washington, D.C. The membership of the nation's largest single union stands at 2,133,418, a net increase of 37,944 members over the previous year. The convention attracted 8,500 delegates who passed scores of resolutions. These constitute the union's official policies and empower its staff to spend its \$164,347,425 budget for fiscal year 1992-1993 in support of those goals.

The NEA went firmly on record *against* choice in the matter of allowing parents to select their children's schools or curriculum, but just as firmly *in favor* of choice in the matter of abortion. Several resolutions reaffirmed and updated the NEA's contrary positions on "choice," showing that it is meaningless to talk about choice unless it is clearly stated what is being chosen.

The NEA resolutions blasted as "deleterious" and "detrimental" all plans involving tax credits or vouchers to pay tuition to private or parochial schools, and the NEA called on its affiliates "to work for the defeat of such legislation." The NEA resolutions confirm the union's aggressive leadership in the battle to oppose parental choice in education, both choice of schools and choice of curriculum.

The NEA doesn't even want parents to be able to choose at what age they put their children in school. The NEA resolutions endorse "mandatory kindergarten and compulsory attendance," as well as "early childhood programs in the public schools for children from birth through age eight." The NEA wants all sorts of regulations on homeschoolers.

The NEA demands a larger role for the public schools in determining the curriculum of sex education, and asserts the right of "every individual" to "live in an environment of freely available information" about sex, with "confidential access" to "health, social and psychological services." This means that the NEA is asserting the right of the schools to teach anything they want to minor children without parental knowledge or consent.

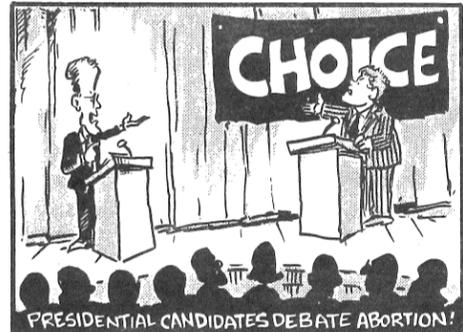
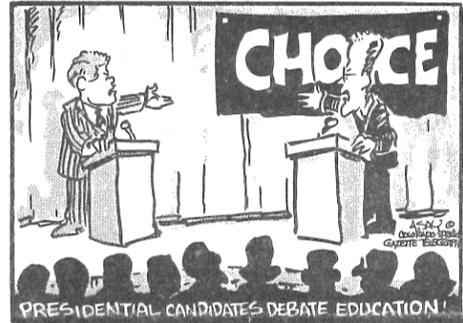
Another Kind of 'Choice'

On the other "choice" issue, several resolutions reaffirmed the NEA's position proclaiming total support for abortion. In addition, New Business Item 22 orders the NEA to "take a proactive stance" in favor of abortion and to "provide assistance to the state affiliates to defeat pro-life legislation." New Business Item 29 orders the NEA to establish a \$50,000 annual fund to make grants to state affiliates working for abortion rights, and decrees that this NEA expenditure "shall continue until the Freedom of Choice Act is passed in Congress."

Fifty New York delegates offered New Business Item 46, which states that "the NEA will advocate no position on the abortion issue including: pro-life, pro-choice, or pro-abortion." The delegates argued that "any position other than neutrality divides

the NEA and diminishes its membership." Apparently the NEA high command could not tolerate such reasonableness. To prevent this resolution from coming to a convention vote, the chair ruled Item 46 out of order.

In another contradictory position, the NEA came out strongly *against* any "censorship" of classroom materials by parents or the public, but just as strongly *in favor* of censoring teaching materials to "eliminate" all the societal patterns and words in the English language that the feminists call "sexist." The NEA "endorses positive action plans that establish procedures and timetables for eliminating sexism in the curriculum."



School Board Politics

Two new resolutions put the NEA on the warpath against anyone who runs against NEA-endorsed candidates for local school boards. New Business Item 5 complains that "conservatives" are trying to get elected to school boards, and therefore the NEA will provide "information and training" to NEA members to oppose candidates whom the NEA thinks "threaten intellectual and academic freedom." New Business Item 6 calls on the NEA to conduct workshop presentations to train NEA members in how to deal with "censorship attacks" (the buzz word for parental inquiries about offensive curricula).

In addition to reaffirming last year's resolution on multiculturalism and global education, two new resolutions put the NEA solidly on track in favor of the trendy new dogmatism designed to enforce "diversity." New business Item 94 orders the NEA to "disseminate and/or make available a How to Teach or Tips on Teaching Diversity Curriculum Guide for Elementary and Secondary Schools." The guide is directed to include all subjects, including math and

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

New York City Board of Education agreed June 24, after weeks of intense fighting, to adopt an AIDS curriculum for elementary schools. The 119-page teaching guide, which in its initial form was considered to be one of the most "advanced" in the state, was revised to include far greater emphasis on abstinence and to remove information on how to clean syringes. Another revision deleted a passage that read, "HIV can be transmitted during all forms of intercourse — vaginal, oral, and anal." Though many claim victory because of the revisions, others claim victory that the majority of the curriculum remains intact, including the introduction of condoms in the 4th grade. (See earlier news report in *Education Reporter*, June 1992.)

Two high school principals in Parkland, WA have been issued 6-pound, \$700 bullet-proof jackets. District officials say they bought "this drastic protection because of the frightening escalation of teen violence." Jim Ridgeway, assistant principal at Washington High School, who has worn his jacket around school, says, "I am out on the grounds a lot at school and I am very visible. At times we have non-students on campus and they are a concern." Next year the district will be adding a fulltime, uniformed officer as extra protection to patrol campus.

The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty announces plans to continue its second annual "Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" seminar series. Designed to introduce religious leaders and advanced students to the basic principles of free market economics and their relevance to moral concerns, the second half of the 1992 seminars will be held September 24-27, in San Francisco, California. Full student scholarships are available. More information and applications are available by contacting Monica Kirk Carman, c/o The Acton Institute, 161 Ottawa NW, Suite 405K, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; phone(616)454-3080; fax: (616)454-9454.

According to a new Illinois state report, public school teacher salaries ranged from as high as \$61,627 in a suburban Chicago district to as low as \$15,081 in a central Illinois district during the 1991-92 school year. The average teacher was paid \$39,967 in Chicago and \$35,580 in the rest of the state. The survey found the statewide median scheduled salary for beginning teachers at the bachelor's degree level was \$19,235, while the median for the maximum scheduled salary for experienced teachers was \$28,415. For those with master's degrees, the figures were \$21,228 and \$33,648. Teachers' salaries are paid on an annual basis, but generally require only 180 days work per year, as contrasted with the 240 days worked by Americans employed fulltime.

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Planned Parenthood Sues to Censor Teen-Aid

At Issue in Case: What Does 'Comprehensive' Mean?

JACKSONVILLE, FL — Planned Parenthood of Jacksonville has filed suit against the Duval County School Board, charging that the Teen-Aid sex education curriculum adopted by the county in 1991 does not meet state mandates. School officials are seeking dismissal of the suit on the grounds that Planned Parenthood does not have "standing." The curriculum is also used in five other Florida counties — Baker, Bradford, Clay, Seminole, and St. Johns.

LeAnna Benn, executive director of Teen-Aid in Spokane, Washington, scoffs at the pretext for the suit. According to Mrs. Benn, it is not respect for state statutes that motivates Planned Parenthood. Duval County, she explains, is "the largest school district in the country that's not teaching birth control and giving out condoms." If other school districts across the nation were to follow its lead, this could reduce the need for Planned Parenthood's abortion and condom services. Planned Parenthood could not ignore this threat.

"What they want is the power to go into the schools and teach what they want," says Mrs. Benn. "It bothers them that they're not getting free rein."

According to Mrs. Benn, Planned Parenthood operatives first launched an aggressive media campaign to try to force the removal of Teen-Aid from Duval County schools. They accused Teen-Aid of using a high-pressure sales pitch to get its curriculum adopted by the district. Far from making any solicitations, however, Teen-Aid had in fact been first approached by Duval County parents.

"It truly is a David-and-Goliath situation," Mrs. Benn says of the battle between Teen-Aid, which receives one small Title XX grant of several thousand dollars, and Planned Parenthood which receives about \$30 million from Title X. "They're trying to force their will on the school district," she charges. "They felt that they could circumvent communicating with the school authorities and pressure the school board into changing the curriculum." When the tactic failed, she says, "they went to court."

LeAnna Benn says Planned Parenthood was obliged to allege "inaccuracies" and "bias" in the Teen-Aid curriculum in order to pursue its real objective, which is to use the court case to establish a right of privacy for children. "In actuality, the case is about

giving children sexual rights so they can be consenting minors," Mrs. Benn argues. "I believe they're trying to set a precedent."

The Florida law sets up a "comprehensive health education and substance abuse prevention program" in the public schools, but does not define "comprehensive." Mrs. Benn asserts that "there are two kinds of 'comprehensive' — comprehensive contraceptive education and comprehensive abstinence education. Contraception and abstinence are contradictory terms, and a fair

plies its abstinence-based curricula in schools in all 50 states and 17 foreign countries. The goal of Teen-Aid, says Mrs. Benn, is "to give kids the social skills and understanding so they will choose abstinence. We want them to be prepared for life."

Mrs. Benn has seen a dramatic change in the public school approach to sex education in the last decade. "Even districts that haven't chosen Teen-Aid have had to give lip service to abstinence, as has Planned



reading of the Florida statute indicates that abstinence must be given preference."

On the other hand, Planned Parenthood argues that Teen-Aid is not a "comprehensive" sex education curriculum because it fails to teach contraceptive methods in the classroom.

Mrs. Benn insists, however, that "comprehensive" should not be defined as contraception. "We are a comprehensive program," she says, "we're just not a comprehensive contraceptive program."

"They believe we should make all four forms of contraception available to kids — chemical, surgical, lifestyle, and self-gratification," says Mrs. Benn. In layman's terms, she explains, that means birth control pills, abortion, homosexuality, and masturbation.

Founded in 1981, Teen-Aid now sup-

ports its abstinence-based curricula in schools in all 50 states and 17 foreign countries. The goal of Teen-Aid, says Mrs. Benn, is "to give kids the social skills and understanding so they will choose abstinence. We want them to be prepared for life."

Not surprisingly, most parents "prefer to have their children abstain, and they prefer abstinence materials." Mrs. Benn contends that such materials are more effective and have "an impact that's positive and uplifting." She believes that rapid developments in contraceptive technology will make directive, family-oriented, age-appropriate abstinence programs like Teen-Aid even more important and popular in years to come.

NEA Votes Pro- and Anti-Choice Continued from page 1

science (the resolution doesn't say how "diversity" impacts math and science), and a "multicultural calendar to give a suggested time line for teaching."

Support for the homosexual/lesbian agenda has been part of the NEA resolutions for a number of years. The NEA urges that "diversity of sexual orientation" be part of the schools' teaching on sex education, and that homosexual counseling for students be given in public schools. The NEA supports the right of homosexuals to teach in public schools, plus affirmative action in recruitment and hiring for "under-represented categories" in order to overcome past discrimination. These resolutions were reinforced this year by New Business Item 106: "The NEA, in coordination with the NEA Gay and Lesbian

Caucus, will develop a training program for local elected leaders to improve their awareness and sensitivity to the issues and concerns of gay and lesbian employees."

Virginia Uribe, author of the controversial homosexual curriculum and counseling project in the Los Angeles public schools called "Project 10," was honored on July 6 with the National Education Association's Creative Leadership in Human Rights Award. She and Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) were also the attractions at a July 7 dinner sponsored by the NEA Gay and Lesbian Caucus.

The scrubbing of New Business Item 56 provided a little levity in an otherwise somber gathering. If passed, this Item would have directed "the National Education Association, also known as the NEA,

to use its influence through whichever office is appropriate to persuade the National Endowment for the Arts, also recently known as the NEA, to change its name and/or initials so as to avoid confusion with us." NEA Resolutions in 1991 and 1992 vigorously deplored "any efforts" to interfere with the judgment of the National Endowment for the Arts in awarding grants. This year, however, some members of the nation's largest teachers union must have realized that the acronym "NEA" is now associated in the public mind with obscene and sacrilegious "art."

In other resolutions, the NEA reaffirmed its demand for socialized medicine, for statehood for the District of Columbia, and for shifting federal monies from defense to the public schools.

National Education Assn. 1992 Resolutions

A-8. Public School Buildings. The National Education Association believes that closed public school buildings should be sold or leased only to those organizations that do not provide direct educational services to students and/or are not in direct competition with public schools.

A-12. Public Education/National Defense. The Association supports a policy of economic conversion to facilitate the orderly redirection of resources from military purposes to alternative civilian uses, including education.

A-26. Deleterious Programs. The National Education Association believes that the following programs and practices are detrimental to public education and must be eliminated: tax credits for tuition to private and parochial schools, voucher plans (or funding formulas that have the same effect as vouchers), planned program budgeting systems (PPBS), and evaluations by private, profit-making groups.

A-27. Federally or State-Mandated Choice/Parental Option Plans. The National Education Association opposes such federally or state-mandated choice or parental option plans.

A-28. Tuition Tax Credits. The National Education Association believes that all federal and state legislation designed to establish or implement plans for prekindergarten through grade 12 tuition tax credits is detrimental to the public interest and urges its affiliates to work for the defeat of such legislation.

A-29. Voucher Plans. The National Education Association believes that legislation designed to establish or implement prekindergarten through grade 12 voucher plans is detrimental to the public interest and calls upon its affiliates to work for the defeat of such legislation.

A-35. National Health Insurance. The Association believes that the federal government should adopt a national health care policy that will mandate universal access to the highest quality health care at the lowest possible cost.

B-1. Early Childhood Education. The National Education Association supports early childhood education programs in the public schools for children from birth through age eight. The Association believes that such programs should be held in facilities that are appropriate to the developmental needs of these children. The Association further believes that early childhood education programs should include a full continuum of services for parents and children, including child care, child development, appropriate developmental curricula, special education, and appropriate bias-free screening devices.

The Association believes that federal legislation should be enacted to assist in organizing the implementation of fully funded early childhood education programs offered through the public schools. These programs should be available to all children on an equal basis and should include mandatory kindergarten and compulsory attendance.

B-6. Sexism in Education. The National Education Association recognizes that many instructional materials portray females and males in sex-stereotyped roles. It urges educators to use instructional materials that portray various careers and personal roles as acceptable and attainable for all individuals.

The Association endorses the use of

nonsexist language by all schools. It further believes that sexism and sex discrimination must be eliminated from the curriculum and effective training of education employees is necessary for this purpose. The Association endorses positive action plans that establish procedures and timetables for eliminating sexism in the curriculum.

B-25. Multicultural/Global Education. The National Education Association believes the goal of multicultural/global education is the recognition of individual and group differences and similarities in developing self-esteem as well as respect for others. The Association urges its affiliates to develop comprehensive educator training programs for multicultural/global education and to work to secure legislation that would provide adequate funding for effective implementation of such programs.

B-28. Career Education. The National Education Association believes that the career education concept must be interwoven into the total educational system and needs to include programs in gender-free career awareness and exploration to aid students in career course selection.

B-32. Sex Education. The National Education Association believes that the public school must assume an increasingly important role in providing the instruction. Teachers must be qualified to teach in this area and must be legally protected from censorship and lawsuits.

The Association urges its affiliates and members to support appropriately established sex education programs, including information on sexual abstinence, birth control and family planning, diversity of sexual orientation, parenting skills, prenatal care, sexually transmitted diseases, incest, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, the effects of substance abuse during pregnancy, and problems associated with and resulting from preteen and teenage pregnancies.

To facilitate the realization of human potential, it is the right of every individual to live in an environment of freely available information, knowledge, and wisdom about sexuality.

B-33. AIDS Education. The National Education Association recommends that educational institutions establish comprehensive acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) education programs as an integral part of the school curriculum. AIDS education must include education about all means of transmission, including sex and intravenous (IV) drug use.

B-55. Home Schooling. The National Education Association believes that home schooling programs cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience. The Association believes that if parental preference home schooling 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 schooling programs should be limited to the children of the immediate family, with all expenses being borne by the parents.

C-1. Health Care for All Children. The National Education Association believes that every child should have direct and confidential access to comprehensive health care. The Association urges its affiliates to support legislation to provide com-

prehensive health care to all children.

C-5. Day Care. The Association encourages its affiliates to seek legislation governing day care center facilities, personnel, and programs.

C-10. Extremist Groups. The National Education Association condemns the philosophy and practices of extremist groups and their efforts to recruit young people in our schools. It urges its affiliates and members to oppose actively all such movements whose objectives are inimical to the ideals of the Association.

C-20. Student Health and Personnel Services. The National Education Association believes that every student should have immediate, direct, and confidential access to health, social, and psychological services within both school and community settings. These services must include —

Comprehensive school-based, community-funded student health care clinics that provide basic health care services (which may include diagnosis and treatment) to supplement, but not supplant, school nurses.

The Association urges that, if deemed appropriate by local choice, these health care services include family-planning counseling and access to birth control methods and instruction in their use.

C-21. School Counseling Services. The National Education Association believes that guidance and counseling services should be integrated into the entire education system, beginning at the prekindergarten level.

C-22. Student Stress. The National Education Association urges its local and state affiliates to support appropriately accredited and licensed mental health and aftercare programs for students and to provide staff development workshops for personnel in direct contact with these students.

C-24. Student Sexual Orientation. The National Education Association believes that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, should be afforded equal opportunity within the public education system. The Association further believes that every school district should provide counseling by trained personnel for students who are struggling with their sexual/gender orientation.

C-26. Suicide Prevention Programs. The National Education Association believes that suicide prevention programs including prevention, intervention, and postvention must be developed and implemented. The Association urges its affiliates to ensure that these programs are an integral part of the school program.

C-34. Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting. The National Education Association believes that with the increased number of adolescent pregnancies and adolescent parents, special efforts must be made by school districts to meet the needs of these students to live productive lives in our society. The Association recommends that special adolescent programs be implemented to include development of self-esteem and positive self concepts.

E-3. Selection of Materials and Teaching Techniques. The National Education Association believes that teachers and librarians/media specialists must have the right to select instructional/library materials without censorship or legislative interference. The Association urges its affiliates to seek the removal of laws and regulations that restrict the selection of a diversity of instructional materials or that limit educators in the selection of such

materials.

E-5. Instructional Materials and Teaching Techniques Challenges. The Association deplors republishing censorship, book burning crusades, and attempts to ban books from the school library/media center and school curriculum.

E-10. Academic and Professional Freedom. The Association further believes that legislation and regulations that mandate or permit the teaching of religious doctrines and/or groups that promote anti-public-education agendas violate both student and teacher rights. The Association urges its affiliates to seek repeal of these mandates where they exist.

F-1. Nondiscriminatory Personnel Policies/Affirmative Action. The National Education Association believes that personnel policies and practices must guarantee that no person be employed, retained, paid, dismissed, suspended, demoted, transferred, or retired because of race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, residence, physical disability, political activities, professional association activity, age, size, marital status, family relationship, gender, or sexual orientation.

To address societal needs, however, the Association urges the development and implementation of affirmative action plans and procedures that will encourage active recruitment and employment of women, minorities, and men in underrepresented education categories.

It may be necessary, therefore, to give preference in recruitment, hiring, retention, and promotion policies to certain ethnic-minority groups or women or men to overcome past discrimination.

F-28. Recording Devices in Schools. The National Education Association insists that the recording or electronic surveillance of the work of any educator without that person's permission must be prohibited.

F-35. Employees with AIDS. The National Education Association believes that educational employees shall not be fired, nonrenewed, suspended (with or without pay), transferred, or subjected to any other adverse employment action solely because they have tested positive for the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome/human immunodeficiency virus (AIDS/HIV) antibody or have been diagnosed as having AIDS or AIDS-related complex (ARC).

H-5. Statehood for the District of Columbia. The National Education Association urges its affiliates to support efforts to achieve statehood for the District of Columbia.

I-13. Family Planning. The National Education Association supports family planning, including the right to reproductive freedom. The Association urges the government to give high priority to making available all methods of family planning to women and men unable to take advantage of private facilities.

The Association further urges the implementation of community-operated, school-based family planning clinics that will provide intensive counseling by trained personnel.

I-21. Freedom of Creative Expression. The National Education Association supports freedom of expression in the creative arts and therefore deplors any efforts by government to suppress, directly or indirectly, such expression. The Association further supports the freedom of publicly funded

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NEA Spells out Its Political Activities

The following is quoted directly from 1992 NEA convention publications:

NEA's Legislative Agenda

Children and Youth

NEA Supports

- federal programs to facilitate and enhance school readiness;
- federal assistance for early childhood education programs...including Head Start;
- early childhood development and education services by certified personnel for all children, with access assured regardless of income, as a critical element of educational excellence;
- federal resources to enhance the availability and quality of public school child care programs, including preschool and before- and after-school programs;
- coordination with the public school system of those child care services delivered by nonpublic providers and assurance of standards of excellence, nondiscrimination, and the separation of church and state;
- stringent educational, health, and safety standards to protect and enrich preschool and school-age children, including strict regulation and enforcement to assure trained and licensed child care and development workers and qualified volunteer personnel;
- creation and maintenance of a national database on early childhood care and education programs.

National Health Care Policy

NEA supports a national health care policy that will mandate universal access to the highest quality health care at the lowest possible cost.

In pursuit of this goal NEA supports

- federal implementation of a national health care policy by a national plan and/or federal assistance to states in the design, delivery and funding of demonstration statewide universal health care plans;
- provision of employer-paid health insurance for all employees and their dependents.

Constitutional, Civil, and Human Rights Protection

NEA Supports

- full equality and opportunity — economic and educational — for all, including

the addition of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution;

- reproductive freedom without governmental intervention;
- the use of affirmative action to redress historical patterns of discrimination.

Tuition Tax Credits/Vouchers/"Choice"

NEA Opposes

- public funding of pre-K-12 nonpublic schools;
- tuition tax credits at elementary, secondary, or postsecondary levels;
- the use of vouchers or certificates in education;
- federally mandated parental option or "choice" in education programs.

Voting Reform and Election Rights

NEA Supports

- partial public funding of federal election campaigns;
- statehood for the District of Columbia.

Guidance and Counseling

NEA Supports

- elementary and secondary school guidance and counseling and other pupil services including school psychology and school social work through federal/state/local education agencies;
- establishment of administrative structures to facilitate effective integration of guidance and counseling into the entire education experience.
- grants to expand and implement guidance and counseling programs.

Personal Economic Security

NEA Supports

- repeal of the so-called right-to-work provision of the federal labor law.

Military Affairs

NEA Supports

- equal opportunity and responsibility for women and men in and following military service. ■

NEA's Lobbying & Politics

Congressional Contact Team

Much of NEA's legislative success can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Congressional Contact Team (CCT) network. NEA, with an average of nearly 5,000 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 Association members.

The CCT reflects NEA's diverse membership, including elementary and secondary educators; vocational, postsecondary, and retired education employees; and education support personnel. They are trained, and briefed at the state, regional and national levels. Teams provide a well-informed and dedicated force of grassroots lobbyists who complement the efforts of the full-time Government Relations staff based in Washington and in the field. NEA's message is delivered to Congress through lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill and at-home contacts with Representatives and Senators.

In addition to their role in advocating NEA's Legislative Program, CCT members are responsible for providing information to and building support among other NEA members and the general public.

During the 102nd Congress, the CCT program has focused on education funding, opposition to private school aid, higher education, and health care. In March 1992, some 200 Association activists traveled to Washington, D.C. to advance NEA's position on education funding and to oppose legislative efforts to channel public funds to private schools.

In the spring of 1992, CCT members were involved in coordinated at-home lobbying for increased education funding.

Political Advocacy

The Political Advocacy program promotes members' knowledge of and participation in political activities, supports the election of pro-education candidates to federal office, and coordinates the NEA's Political Action Committee (NEA-PAC). ■

Through political advocacy, NEA maintains involvement in national political party activities and provides technical assistance to affiliates in special long-range activities such as redistricting and reapportionment. NEA also works with a variety of intergovernmental organizations such as the National Governors' Association, the Education Commission of the States, and the National Conference of State Legislatures in order to advance the cause of education at both the local and the state level.

NEA develops political training programs to enhance the effectiveness of members and staff in campaigns. The NEA Series in Practical Politics is being revised to reflect consistent design elements and to include topics which motivate members and teach skills. The increased use of video and other visual tools is a major part of the revitalization process.

New efforts to reach out to UniServ staff through the Cluster and Intern training programs have also been undertaken. Case studies and simulations have been used to promote the concept of organizing for Association political efforts and the use of computers as a campaign tool.

NEA-PAC was involved in several special elections in 1991. It endorsed Democratic candidate John Olver, who won in the First District of Massachusetts. It also endorsed Democratic candidate Harris Wofford, who won a hard-fought special U.S. Senate election in Pennsylvania, defeating U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

There will be at least 35 U.S. Senate and 435 U.S. House seats up for election in 1992. As of May 1, NEA-PAC had made 197 endorsements of candidates for the House and Senate. Congressional elections for the 103rd Congress will take on particular significance in the wake of congressional retirements and redistricting. At least 55 Members of the House and seven Senators will retire at the end of their terms, and some 55 open seats have been created as a result of redistricting. ■

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agencies to exercise judgment in the awarding of grants to individuals and organizations.

I-42. English as the Official Language. The National Education Association believes that efforts to legislate English as the official language disregard cultural pluralism; deprive those in need of education, social services, and employment; and must be challenged.

I-45. Equal Opportunity for Women. The Association supports the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because of gender.

The Association believes that sexism and sex discrimination must be eliminated and endorses the use of nonsexist language.

New Business Item 5. The NEA, through its Government Relations division, the political action arm, shall make avail-

able information and training to assist local and state leaders and staff in opposing local and state school board candidates whose statements and/or activities threaten intellectual and academic freedom.

Rationale: Conservative groups already have packaged programs to take over school boards. School employees need political information and assistance to help maintain and ensure boards that operate openly and democratically.

New Business Item 6. The NEA shall continue to encourage the membership to combat censorship by: (1) Providing local and state leaders and staff with materials for workshop presentations that allow them to alert and assist the membership in dealing with self-censoring and censorship attacks on public school employees and school district business. (2) Publicizing, in *NEA Today* on a regular basis, the availability of the support network for members who are

facing a censorship attack or other censorship-related issues, such as self-censoring.

New Business Item 17. Move that NEA train a cadre of trainers on cultural diversity. The trainers would be available for national conferences, regional conferences, and for state and local associations.

New Business Item 22. NEA shall take a proactive stance to protect the rights of women to choice and access to reproductive health care options and will provide assistance to the state affiliates to protect these rights as well as defeat any attempt at legislative limits against said rights.

New Business Item 29. That the NEA Women and Girls Center for Change establish a \$50,000 annual fund for grants to state affiliates actively participating in grassroots efforts to safeguard reproductive freedom without governmental intervention. In keeping with the NEA Action Plan for Sex

Equity, this effort shall continue until the Freedom of Choice Act is passed in Congress.

New Business Item 94. NEA will disseminate and/or make available a How to Teach or Tips on Teaching Diversity Curriculum Guide for elementary and secondary schools. The guide would include specific information on a variety of disciplines especially math, social studies, and science. The guide would also include sample lesson plans and units, for example, thematic units, cooperative learning and other resources. In addition, the guide would include a multicultural calendar to give a suggested time line for teaching.

New Business Item 106. The NEA, in coordination with the NEA Gay and Lesbian Caucus, will develop a training program for local elected leaders to improve their awareness and sensitivity to the issues and concerns of gay and lesbian education employees. ■