



# The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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## Eagle Forum Education Center Opens

Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund opens its new Education Center this month in Clayton, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. It will serve as the national headquarters for its education activities and publications, including the Parents Advisory Center.

Eagle Forum Education Center will provide a permanent National Resource Center and Library in the areas of Eagle Forum expertise, particularly school curriculum, parents' rights in education, leadership training, the role of women, and college outreach.



*Above:* One of the meeting rooms in the Eagle Forum Education Center.

*Right:* Some of the Eagle Forum State Presidents who toured the new Center during Eagle Forum's Leadership Conference in St. Louis in September 1993.



## National Education Association Announces 'Epic Struggle' to Halt School Choice

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The National Education Association (NEA) held its 131st annual convention July 25 in San Francisco, California. Nearly 9,000 education employees attended the convention as representatives of the 2.1 million-member association.

NEA members were largely jubilant throughout the conference in anticipation of President Bill Clinton's address to them on July 5 (88% of NEA delegates voted to endorse Clinton at last year's Washington, D.C. convention, and almost one in eight delegates to the 1992 Democratic National Convention were NEA members). But bolts of panic shot through the Representative Assembly when discussion turned to various school choice initiatives. NEA President Keith Geiger called the fight against school vouchers an "epic struggle" for the association's members.

"I want each and every one of you to know with certainty that when you stand up to the privatizers and the voucher pushers, you'll have behind you every bit of support that this organization can muster," Mr. Geiger promised. "We'll be there. We'll be in California, where our opponents have placed on this year's ballot a referendum on vouchers for private schools."

If passed, the November 2 California referendum would give parents vouchers worth \$2,500 for any child attending a private or parochial school. In his opening remarks to the conference, Geiger denounced the California initiative and pledged a \$1 million contribution from the NEA—a record NEA donation for a political campaign—to defeat the measure. "It's important because of

California's size and because there are many educational fads and fantasies which seem to begin in California and then blow east," Geiger said.

The \$1 million contribution was approved unanimously by the NEA's 166-member board of directors. "In our mind, there's no better cause for that money," said Geiger.

The California Teacher's Association (the California state affiliate of the NEA) is preparing to spend in excess of \$10 million of its own to defeat the voucher proposal. The CTA carried on strenuous political activities in 1992 to present the school choice initiative from going on the ballot. During the 1992 campaign, CTA President Del Weber explained that he opposed the school choice initiative because "there are some proposals that are so evil that they should never be presented to the voters. We do not believe, for example, that we should hold an election on 'empowering' the Ku Klux Klan. And we would not think it's 'undemocratic' to oppose voting on legalizing child prostitution."

Geiger and Weber were joined in their denunciation of the ballot initiative by California Assembly Speaker, Willie Brown. "Public education is under threat not only by under funding, but by term limits and school vouchers," the flamboyant Brown roared to the approving crowd and the raucous California delegation. "We need to make sure the voucher program goes down to defeat and replace [Governor] Pete Wilson with someone who puts public education at the top of their list."

In addition to opposing school choice, the NEA balks at parental involvement in



curriculum choice and at homeschooling. The NEA endorses "mandatory kindergarten" and calls for heavy regulation of homeschoolers. Further, the NEA opposes merit pay, standardized testing for teachers, and national educational standards for students. In short, competition is anathema to the monopolistic NEA.

In an NEA-prepared video medley shown at the convention just before Bill Clinton's address, flashes of the Kennedy brothers triggered huge cheers from the delegates. "The educated must lead," said Robert Kennedy in the video. The crowd hissed when George Bush appeared on screen stating that "the NEA stands for the status quo." And the

delegates booed loudly when Dan Quayle, speaking of the need for school choice, lamented that, "As always, the enemy of mediocrity is competition." The loudest applause came after a clip of President Clinton in which he boasted about his quick overturn of the abortion "gag rule" after taking office.

On the eve of his trip to Tokyo for the economic summit, Clinton spoke about competition to the NEA delegates. "The Cold War is over," said the President. "Democracy and free markets are on the rise. And above all we've entered a new global economy. . . . The European Community will require fluency in two foreign languages for high school gradu-

See NEA Fights on page 2

## Teachers Unions Discuss Merger

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Nine thousand delegates of the National Education Association (NEA) voted at their annual convention to "invite the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and/or other labor organizations to enter into discussions with NEA regarding the possible establishment of a unified organization."

The NEA is the nation's largest union, with 2.1 million members. The AFT has about 800,000 members. Traditionally, the NEA has presented itself more as an organization of teaching professionals, while the AFT has emphasized its labor identity and its membership in the AFL-CIO umbrella.

The NEA has also increased its strong internal bureaucracy at a time when the AFT has focused more on decentralization. The AFT is considered more moderate than the far-left NEA; the AFT supports merit pay for teachers, for example, which the NEA opposes.

However, the leadership in the two unions view their agendas as becoming increasingly similar. Both organizations, for example, exist primarily to protect and increase teacher's salaries, and both are strenuously opposed to all school-choice initiatives.

According to AFT President Al Shanker, the merger "would mean we'd stop fighting each other and could devote the money and energy that we now use to fight each other to obtain the same general goals and objectives."

Many feel that, since the NEA is so much larger and more powerful than the AFT, any merger would result in a much larger teachers union that retains the radical policies and politics of the NEA.

Discussion of the possible merger will last throughout the next 12 months. No final commitment can be made without the approval of the 1994 NEA Representative Assembly.

## "National Extortion Association?"

NEW YORK, NY — The National Education Association (NEA) came under fire in a June 7 cover story in *Forbes* magazine, entitled "The National Extortion Association?" The nine-page story by Peter Brimelow and Leslie Spencer calls the NEA "the worm in the American education apple."

"As the NEA has gained in monopoly power," said *Forbes*, "the cost of education has increased while its quality has deteriorated." But monopolies are by nature unstable, and this undemocratic labor union may have met its match in the movement for school choice.

The *Forbes* article exposes the NEA's education monopoly and political activities, and includes an indictment of the NEA's profitable insurance marketing to members. The article also reveals: teachers' compensation makes up 65% of all

school budgets; NEA President Keith Geiger takes a \$214,000 annual salary and works in a "palatial" Washington, D.C. office; the NEA's Political Action Committee raised about \$6.5 million last year, and spent \$2.3 million on congressional candidates; and, in January 1993, the NEA "celebrated its victory by sending posters entitled 'Bill Clinton's and Al Gore's Most Excellent Inaugural' to more than 26,000 junior and middle schools."

*Forbes* editor James W. Michaels says he can't "remember a cover story that has evoked a greater response or more positive one (at latest count 70% favorable)" than the expose of the NEA.

The *Forbes* article offers a good rebuttal to the national television campaign started by the NEA in August in an effort to improve its image.

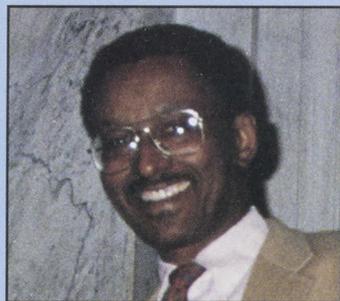
*Education Reporter* has been published monthly by Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund since February 1986. It reports on news about public school curricula, especially the unfortunate replacement of the 3-R's with psychotherapy and values clarification. The newspaper also covers parents' efforts to exercise their First Amendment rights to direct the education of their children.

*Education Reporter* is the only publication in the nation that regularly publishes the text of the resolutions adopted by the National Education Association (NEA) at its annual convention. Copies of this unique newspaper are distributed to school board members all over the country.

The Parents Advisory Center is the most rapidly growing department of Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund. The Center counsels parents in their efforts to protect their children against dumbed-down courses, Outcome-Based Education, and psychological courses on sex, drugs, self-esteem, death and dying, and guided imagery.

## Feminism vs. Private Enterprise Annual Conferences

Eagle Forum conducts scholarly conferences every year on various aspects of feminism and its attack on the private enterprise system. The addresses by experts in the field are subsequently published in books such as those pictured to the left. Topics of these conferences include Child Care, Comparable Worth (the feminist code word for wage control), and Glass Ceiling (the feminist code word for quota promotions of women in management).



## Eagle Collegians

Phyllis Schlafly speaks on college campuses more than any other conservative, and she frequently appears in debate. Her typical college audience numbers a thousand students, as, for example, the one pictured below at the University of Iowa.



## RADIO LIVE with PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Radio Live with Phyllis Schlafly, a call-in program exclusively on education issues, is heard every Saturday, 12:30 to 1:30 eastern time, on 45 stations coast to coast. Recent guests include Dr. William Coulson, Mary Cummins, Joe Clark, David Barton, Polly Williams, and William Bennett.

Phyllis Schlafly's 3-minutes-a-day, 5-days-a-week commentaries have been running on 270 radio stations since 1983.



Eagle Forum Collegians was started in 1992 by Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund, and now has chapters on 50 college campuses. Young people are trained for leadership and participation in government. Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund also conducts an intern program for college students.



## Training Leaders in Public Policy

### e Enterprise

George Gilder, pictured at the top left, Walter Williams, bottom left, and Jeremiah Denton, below, all have delivered addresses at Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund Conferences.



Leadership Training Conferences to develop community leaders are a major focus of Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund. Dozens of Eagle seminars over the last 20 years have trained hundreds of women and men to participate in the public policymaking process at every level of government.

## Fulltime Homemaker Awards

Eagle Forum's Fulltime Homemaker Awards are presented annually to one national winner and to a homemaker in each of the fifty states, Canada and Australia. Each honoree is a fulltime career homemaker who has made the commitment to be a resident mother in the home, providing constancy, stability, and emotional security to her children. These annual awards help raise public respect and encouragement for this worthy and honorable role.

## U.S. Constitution Projects

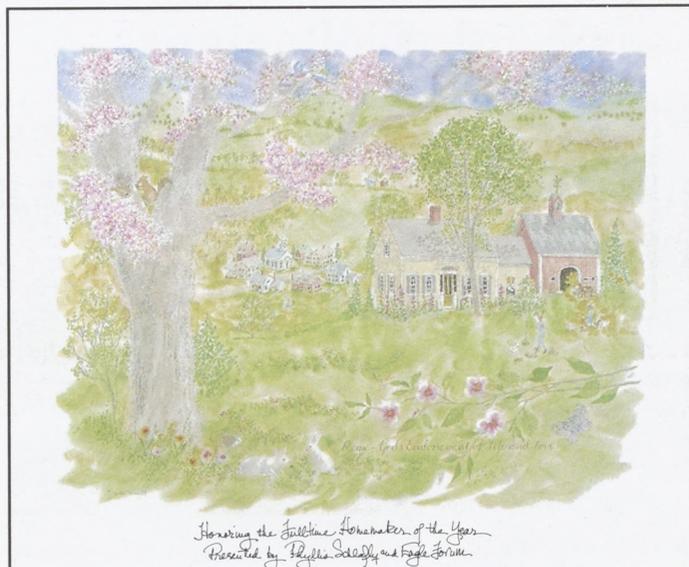
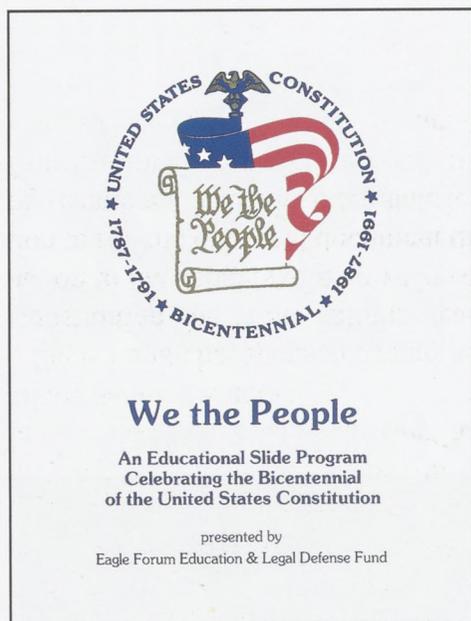
Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund's 35-minute educational slide program called "We the People" has been shown to hundreds of local community groups. It has now been translated into Spanish. This and other

Eagle Constitution projects were granted official recognition by the U.S. Bicentennial Commission as having "exceptional merit with national significance, and substantial educational and historical value."

Eagle Forum's original 40-

minute multi-media program, "American Inventors," shows how the American Constitution is the fountainhead of our free economic system, which in turn produced so many remarkable inventions in agriculture, communications, transportation, industry, the home, the military, and medicine. A copy of this video has been placed in all public school distribution centers for use by all the nation's schools.

Eagle Forum has sponsored many seminars on the U.S. Constitution and is the national leader in alerting the nation to the dangers of a new Constitutional Convention to rewrite our great document that has endured for two centuries. The final three state legislatures defeated Constitutional Convention resolutions in 1993, as a result of expert witnesses and training provided by Eagle Forum.



Pictured above is the original print which is the Fulltime Homemaker Award presented to each honoree for the last ten years.

## Phonics Reading Project

Providing parents with materials to teach their children to read has always been a major project of Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund. These activities will continue to expand as the nation realizes the disastrous consequences of widespread illiteracy.



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