



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

VOL. 28, NO. 2

Box 618, ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002

SEPTEMBER 1994

Look Who's Teaching Our Children!

As schoolchildren start their fall term, the nation's largest teachers union is focused on politics rather than reading, writing and arithmetic. With one of the nation's largest Political Action Committees (PACs), the National Education Association (NEA) will be a big player in the November elections.

At the annual NEA convention, held this year in New Orleans over the Fourth of July weekend, the headline speaker was Hillary Rodham Clinton hawking her health care plan. As she basked in the applause of a rapturous 15,000 delegates, oversized screens projected images of her under the captions "Hillary in '96" and "Hillary in 2000."

The Michigan delegates made up the largest caucus at this year's convention, and ousting Governor John Engler was their number-one goal, with many delegates sporting "Out with Engler" buttons. Every morning for five days, the Michigan Education Association plotted to dismantle the reforms pioneered by Governor Engler, and then spread out to collect tens of thousands of dollars from other state caucuses to finance the campaigns of union-backed candidates in Michigan.

The Michigan Education Association spent \$800,000 on a gubernatorial candidate who lost in the Democratic primary, and spent \$12 million to oppose Engler's school tax reform, which was overwhelmingly approved by the voters in March.

NEA President Keith Geiger's address to the convention lashed out against the "far right," private schools and homeschoolers, "bigotry and oppression," "school funding inequities," and oppression of gays and lesbians. He praised Nelson Mandela, Jesse Jackson, Cesar Chavez, Outcome-Based Education, and the Brady bill.

Geiger described parents and legislators who support school privatization as "money hungry" and "merchants of greed." Toadying to the feminists, he said that "Today, women in America remain a maligned, mistreated, and abused majority."

The NEA's Gay & Lesbian Caucus (GLC) was very prominent. The bright pink GLC ribbons were very Politically Correct, worn on the delegate passes not only of GLC members but of some of the most prominent leaders on the floor of the Representative Assembly.

The GLC successfully introduced many resolutions and new business items designed to put radical homosexual curricula into the public schools. The recipient of the 1994 Creative Leadership in Human Civil Rights Award was the GLC nominee, Jerry Newberry, a teacher who was hailed for his success in bringing gay and lesbian issues into the public schools in Virginia.

"The worst thing that ever happened in education is the radio talk show," declared David Berliner, who received the NEA's "Friend of Education" award. Following his convention speech, the NEA delegates voted to boycott Florida orange juice unless the Florida Department of Citrus canceled its \$1 million advertising contract with Rush Limbaugh.

Berliner's speech was a rousing summary of all the NEA's favorite themes and a show of solidarity with President Clinton. It was punctuated with the recurring refrain, "The crisis in education is manufactured!", and the assertion that the dramatic drop in SAT scores is "trivial."

The NEA's newest caucus, the Men's Issues Caucus (MIC), was formed out of the frustration of male teachers who say they are oppressed by the feminization of the American education system and by being labelled "male chauvinists" by NEA women. MIC members assert that male teachers are becoming a rare and persecuted species, declining from 31.3 percent of teachers in 1961 to only 27.9 percent in 1991.

MIC members seek to "promote men as important to a child's development," and to deal with the difficulties posed by the lack of father figures in an increasing number of American families. MIC

members also expressed concern about their own increasing vulnerability to bogus child molestation charges.

The NEA passed its usual list of radical leftist resolutions, including support of nationalized health care, statehood for the District of Columbia, and animosity against parents, private schools, and homeschoolers. A new resolution called "Sexual Orientation Education" put the NEA on record as supporting "the acceptance of diverse sexual orientation and the awareness of sexual stereotyping whenever sexuality and/or tolerance of diversity is taught."

Translated, this means that, whenever a school gives instruction in sexuality, health, family living, multiculturalism, diversity, or tolerance, the curriculum must include teaching the "acceptance" of homosexuality. Another NEA resolution demands affirmative action recruitment and hiring of homosexual teachers.

At the various NEA's caucus meetings, discussion centered on the tactic of forming "cadres" to advance

"progressive" goals. Cadres were formed to raise women's awareness, to protest sexual harassment, to promote diversity training, and to attack policymakers who are "anti-education" (*i.e.*, opposed to Outcome-Based Education).

Anti-private enterprise cadres were formed to propose resolutions to boycott Politically Incorrect businesses: Florida citrus (for advertising on Rush Limbaugh's program), Coors Beer and Marriott Inns (for being anti-union), Whittle Communications and Education Alternatives, Inc. (for managing schools for profit), Dole Fruit Co. (for laying off migrant workers), and Crazy Horse Malt Liquor (because the name is insensitive to Native Americans).

The National Education Association reports a membership of 2,110,000 and a 1994-1995 budget of \$179,157,000. Among the itemized expenditures planned for the coming year is \$648,246 for "Far Right Censorship & Academic Freedom." Translated, that means two-thirds of a million dollars is budgeted in the current year to attack parents who criticize the curriculum forced on their children.

Some of the 1994 NEA Resolutions

A-13. Basic Financial Support of Public Education. Funds must be provided for programs to alleviate race, gender, and sexual orientation stereotypes in the public schools. Public funds shall not be expended . . . to promote race, gender, or sexual orientation stereotypes and/or bias.

A-27. Deleterious Programs. NEA believes that the following programs and practices are detrimental to public education and must be eliminated: performance contracting, . . . voucher plans, . . . and evaluations by private, profit-making groups.

A-28. Federally or State Mandated Choice/Parental Option Plans. NEA opposes federally or state-mandated choice or parental option plans

A-29. Tuition Tax Credits. NEA believes . . . tuition tax credits [are] detrimental to the public interest and urges its affiliates to work for the defeat of such legislation.

A-30. Voucher Plans. NEA believes that legislation designed to establish . . . voucher plans is detrimental to the public interest and calls upon its affiliates to work for the defeat of such legislation.

B-1. Early Childhood Education. NEA supports early childhood education programs in the public schools for children from birth through age eight . . .

Early childhood education programs should include . . . child care . . . diversity-based curricula . . . and appropriate bias-free screening devices These programs should . . . include mandatory kindergarten

B-26. Multicultural/Global Education. NEA urges its affiliates to develop . . . educator training programs for Multicultural/global education and to work [for] legislation that would provide adequate funding for effective implementation

B-60. Home Schooling. NEA believes that home schooling programs cannot provide the student comprehensive education experience. Instruction should be by persons who are licensed . . . and a curriculum [should be] approved by the state

First New B. Sexual Orientation Education. NEA supports the development of . . . training programs for the education of employees for the purpose of identifying and eliminating sexual orientation stereotyping in the educational setting. Such programs should extend to but not be limited to:

a. Accurate portrayal of the roles and contributions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people throughout history, with acknowledgement of their sexual orientation.

b. The acceptance of diverse sexual orientation and

the awareness of sexual stereotyping whenever sexuality and/or tolerance of diversity is taught.

c. Elimination of sexual orientation name-calling and jokes in the classroom.

C-12. Extremist Groups. NEA condemns the philosophy and practices of extremist groups . . . and urges active opposition to all such movements that are inimical to the ideals of the Association.

C-22. Student Health and Personnel Services. NEA believes that every student should have . . . access to health, social, and psychological services within both school and community settings. These services must include: . . . school-based, community-funded student health care clinics . . .

NEA urges that . . . these health care services include family-planning counseling and access to birth control methods and instruction in their use.

C-23. School Counseling Programs. NEA believes that guidance and counseling programs should be integrated into the entire education system, beginning at the prekindergarten level.

C-26. Student Sexual Orientation. NEA believes that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, should be afforded equal opportunity within the public education system Every school district should provide counseling by trained personnel for students who are struggling with their sexual/gender orientation.

D-7. Administrator Preparation. NEA believes that administrators and staff . . . instructional content and experience should include . . . cultural diversity training.

E-3. Selection of Materials and Teaching Techniques. NEA believes that teachers and librarians . . . must have the right to select instructional/library materials without censorship or legislative interference.

E-5. Instructional Materials and Teaching Techniques Challenges. The NEA deplors . . . attempts to ban books from the school library/media center and school curriculum.

E-9. Academic and Professional Freedom. NEA 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.

F-1. Nondiscriminatory Personnel Policies/Affirmative Action. NEA believes that personnel policies and practices must guarantee that no person be . . . dismissed, suspended, demoted,

transferred, or retired because of . . . sexual orientation. To address societal needs . . . NEA 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 to certain . . . women or men to overcome past discrimination.

F-36. Employees with AIDS. NEA believes that education employees shall not be fired, nonrenewed, suspended (with or without pay), transferred . . . solely because they have tested positive for (AIDS/HIV)

H-6. National Health Care. NEA believes that the federal government should adopt a national health care policy

H-11. Statehood for the District of Columbia. NEA urges its affiliates to support efforts to achieve statehood for the District of Columbia.

I-11. Civil Rights. NEA is committed to the achievement of a totally integrated society and calls upon Americans to eliminate — by statute and practice — barriers of race, color, national origin, religion, philosophical beliefs, political beliefs, gender, sexual orientation

I-22. Freedom of Creative Expression. NEA supports freedom of expression in the creative arts and therefore deplors any efforts by government to suppress . . . such expression. NEA supports . . . publicly funded agencies . . . in the awarding of grants to individuals and organizations.

I-45. English as the Official Language. NEA believes that . . . efforts to legislate English as the official language disregard cultural pluralism . . . and must be challenged.

I-47. Sexual Harassment. NEA recognizes that sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination or abuse. NEA encourages its affiliates to . . . : Develop a grievance procedure that encourages the reporting of incidents of sexual harassment

I-48. Equal Opportunity for Women. NEA insists that all persons, regardless of gender, be given equal opportunity for employment, promotion, compensation . . . and leadership in all activities. NEA supports the proposed Equal Rights Amendment NEA believes that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission must have cease-and-desist authority to act in all cases of discrimination based on . . . sexual orientation, and gender. NEA . . . endorses the use of nonsexist language.

NBI 10. NEA shall establish a coalition that promotes and implements strategies that ensure that school environments are free from intimidation and discrimination based on . . . sexual/affectional orientation . . . family structure

NBI 13. Unless the Florida Department of Citrus cancels its contract with Rush Limbaugh, NEA shall initiate a boycott of Florida orange juice.

NBI 34. NEA will increase lobbying efforts to . . . ratif[y] the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child by . . . encourag[ing] teachers to educate students about the U.N. Convention on Rights of the Child

NBI 62. NEA will develop model language for state-level Gender Equity laws similar to Title IX of the 1972 Education Act . . . require pre-service teachers to take course work in gender bias and mandate state departments of education to provide staff development opportunities for certified and classified personnel.

NBI 69. NEA shall . . . study . . . domestic partner benefits for public and private sector employees.

NBI 71. NEA shall incorporate diversity training in its standard modules for NEA leaders and NEA staff. Rationale: We must move from cultural awareness to cultural activism.

The NEA's Legislative Agenda

"NEA was instrumental in gaining passage of the Goals 2000 Educate America Act, President Clinton's first major education initiative. This measure codifies the National Education Goals and establishes the framework for a new federal, state, and local partnership to help attain them. . . . At the same time, the Association was able to defeat attempts to include private school vouchers and other mechanisms that would divert public funds to private schools.

"NEA helped shepherd through the House the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. . . . During the six weeks of House debate on the bill, the Association successfully defeated amendments to use federal funds for tuition vouchers at private schools and to institute organized school prayer. . . .

"The Association was active in a number of Senate confirmations of Clinton Administration appointees. For instance, NEA supported the nomination of District of Columbia Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg as Associate Justice to the U.S. Supreme Court. NEA also actively supported such nominations as that of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders. . . .

"Much of NEA's legislative success is attributable to the effectiveness of the Congressional Contact

Team (CCT) program. 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. . . .

"NEA's Political Advocacy program is responsible for the operation of NEA's political action committee (NEA-PAC). . . . In the last election cycle, NEA-PAC ranked third among more than 4,000 political action committees in spending — with more than \$5.8 million in total expenditures to help friends. . . ." *(The above is quoted directly from the NEA publication called "Advancing NEA's Legislative Agenda, July 1994."*

NEA Lobbying for National Health

The NEA was one of the principal special interests working actively for a federal takeover of all health care in America. Here is the way the NEA's own publication brags about it:

"NEA continued its prominent role in shaping the debate on national health care reform throughout the 103rd Congress. NEA supports the goal of a national, tax supported, single-payer health care system. . . . In 1994, Congressional Contact Team members traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby Members of Congress for a health care bill."

Phyllis Schlafly, the author of *First Reader* (a system designed for parents to teach their children to read at home), has her B.A. from Washington University, her M.A. from Harvard University, her J.D. from Washington University Law School, and an honorary LL.D. from Niagara University. Before her marriage she was a librarian. Mrs. Schlafly taught all her six children to read before they entered school, and all had outstanding academic careers. Mrs. Schlafly's best-selling book, *Child Abuse in the Classroom*, was called "required reading for every parent" by Hoover Institution scholar Thomas Sowell. Mrs. Schlafly is the president of Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund which publishes the monthly *Education Reporter*. Her nationally syndicated daily radio commentaries and weekly Saturday call-in radio programs (heard on over 300 stations) are devoted primarily to education topics.

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Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002

ISSN0556-0152

Published monthly by the Eagle Trust Fund, Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002. Second Class Postage Paid at Alton, Illinois. Postmaster: Address Corrections should be sent to the Phyllis Schlafly Report, Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002.

Subscription Price: \$20 per year. Extra copies available: 50¢ each; 3 copies \$1; 30 copies \$5; 100 copies \$10.