

*A Special Bulletin for Leaders
of
Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism*

Winter, 2002

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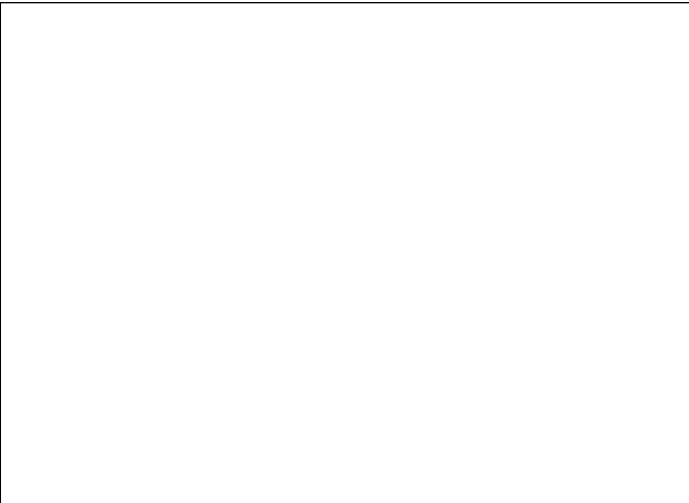
CEAFU has been at the forefront in the battle against forced unionism abuses in public education for more than 26 years. In order to enhance its effectiveness, CEAFU has been transferred to and become a Special Project of the National Right to Work Legal Defense and Education Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing free legal aid to employees whose human or civil rights have been violated by abuses of compulsory unionism.

consistently low-performing schools. More funding should be available for charter schools that are generally freer from teacher union boss influence.

Mrs. Rees reviewed efforts to improve teacher quality, more effective certification and teacher union officials' power plays with their restrictive monopoly bargaining contracts.

When asked what the Bush Administration could do to help teachers, CEAFU guests responded unanimously that the administration should work to pass the National Right to Work Act, expressed gratitude for the enforcement of the *Beck* decision and asked

Photo by Cathy Jones



The Honorable J. C. Watts (R-OK) with CEAFU Key Activist David Kirkpatrick.

CEAFU 26th Annual Seminar Precedes Teacher Union Conventions

CEAFU kicked off the summer season with a two-day 26th annual seminar. On Wednesday, June 20, CEAFU Key Leaders had a White House meeting with Mrs. Nina Shokraii-Rees, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for Domestic Policy. A staunch supporter of freedom for teachers, Mrs. Rees discussed the *No Child Left Behind* program, which delegates federal education dollars to states and individual school districts, fostering flexibility and local control.

Teacher union officials will no longer be able to hide behind monopoly representation contracts in

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Photo by Cathy Jones



The Honorable J. C. Watts poses with Professional Educators of North Carolina group leaders (left to right, Jim Stegall, Susan Carter-Hope, Congressman J. C. Watts, Susan Simpson).

that the administration continue to listen to the voices of freedom-loving teachers and concerned educators about education reform.

CEAFU hosted a reception for congressional National Right to Work Act supporters and staff. Congressman J.C. Watts (R-OK), House Republican Conference Chairman, greeted and posed for photographs with each guest. Among other congressmen present were Howard Coble (R-NC) and Sue Myrick (R-NC) as well as staffers from Representatives Jim DeMint (R-SC), Van Hilleary (R-TN), Floyd Spence (R-SC) and Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC).

Thursday's meeting consisted of a powerful lineup of speakers against compulsory unionism abuses, including Mrs. Stella Harrison, of the Juno Online Network. She discussed electronic mail's usefulness to groups like CEAFU and other independent education associations.

Dr. Elizabeth Gressette, Executive Director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association for 26 years, headed a panel of experts on alternative teacher certification programs. The panelists included Dr. Leo Klagholz, Dr. Michael Poliakoff and David Chester. The panelists outlined the certification process; explained how the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) was failing to ensure teachers were properly prepared and pointed out the effects of teacher union officials' influence on the certification process.

Mrs. Dianne Foster, a CEAFU Key Leader, joined Milton Chappell, a National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorney, in a review of the institution of mandatory forced dues last year in California and litigation currently underway to combat it. Mrs. Foster has fought California forced dues for the past 26 years.

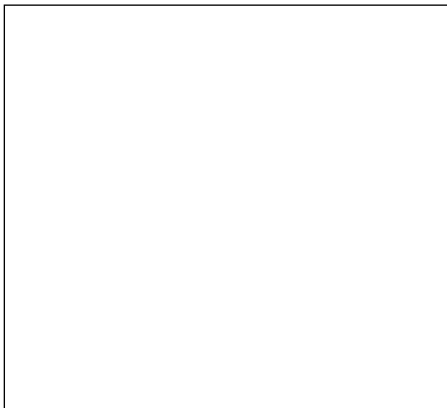
Mike Antonucci, Education Intelligence Agency (EIA) Director, spoke about the imminent teacher union conventions and gave predictions on the issues which would affect CEAFU members: the NEAFT Partnership, political spending, monopoly bargaining and the NEA's Sexual Orientation Resolution. CEAFU's Spring 2001 *Insider's Report* featured a report on the NEAFT Partnership. As its name suggests, the NEAFT Partnership agreement will allow National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) union officials to work together on certain projects. See "NEA Partnership Provides Opportunity for Freedom-loving Organizations" on 6 for more details.

The annual CEAFU seminar provides a venue for the exchange of ideas and strategies to keep teachers tuned in to the reality of forced dues and teacher union officials' power.

Oklahoma Teachers Freed From Forced Union Dues

Oklahoma state Right to Work leaders dealt a major blow to NEA and AFT teacher union officials with voters' majority consent to Question 695, Oklahoma's Right to Work amendment. On Tuesday, September 25, Oklahoma joined the 21 other states which allow teachers the freedom and the right

Photo by Cathy Jones



Education Intelligence Director Mike Antonucci gives the scoop on NEA teacher union officials.

to refrain from membership in a labor union. Indiana Professional Educators President, Jane Ping, worked with Right to Work forces in Indiana to pass a Right to Work law for teachers in 1995.

This is a momentous occasion in the story of Right to Work for teachers. In the past decade, teacher union officials have had little success forcing their compulsory dues and monopoly bargaining strictures on teachers in other states. In 1999, New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson allowed the monopoly bargaining law there to “sunset” or lapse so that monopoly bargaining now occurs only at the will of local school boards.

Union officials have already filed a federal court lawsuit to overturn Oklahoma’s new Right to Work law, and the National Right to Work Legal Defense & Education Foundation, Inc., has vowed to defend the law with “all resources necessary.”

In the successful passage of Right to Work in Oklahoma,

National Right to Work forces were joined by the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators (APOE), led by Executive Director Ginger Tinney, a staunch CEAFU supporter for many years. Over two thousand of Oklahoma’s 40,000 public school teachers have already chosen freedom by becoming APOE members. Many more are now free to follow.

APOE leadership polled their members in weekly email updates and those who responded overwhelmingly supported freedom of choice for educators. Even though APOE fully supports the Right to Work principle, it is not generally their policy to use members’ dues to finance political issues, as they are a non-union education association that believes in their members’ right to choose the political issues they will support.

Even with the Right to Work protection afforded Oklahoma teachers, CEAFU forces must remain diligent to ensure teachers’ rights are not violated through monopoly bargaining which still exists in the state.

NEA and Democratic National Committee Political Spending Scandal Unearthed

For years CEAFU has reported on various schemes by NEA teacher union bosses to subjugate honest, hard-working teachers to their ideological campaigns by

exactng fees for “representation” they have neither wanted nor requested. Teacher union officials can no longer run and hide from allegations of dues for political purposes. Recent revelations have blown the lid off the biggest NEA political spending scheme ever.

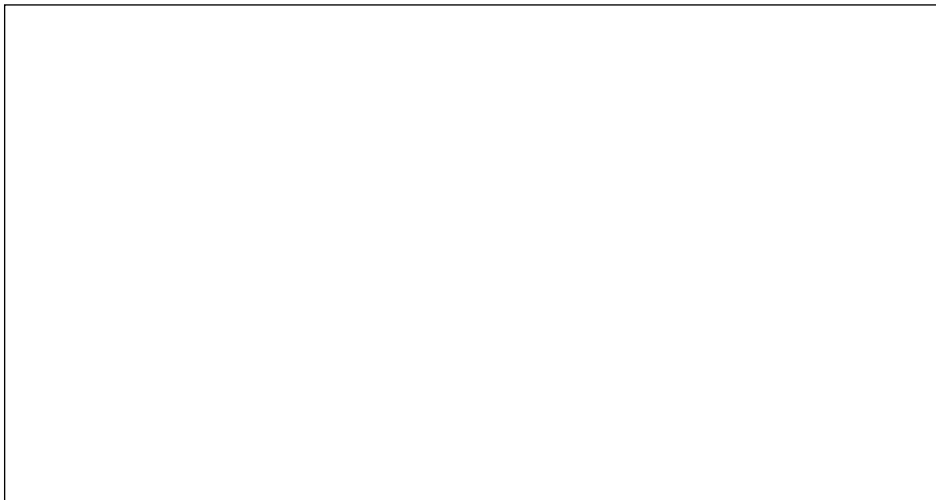
Internal communications of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) reveal the NEA was considered one of that political party’s “national partners,” exercising almost complete veto power over the party’s platform and election tactics during the 1996 campaign.

Recent disclosures resulted from a Federal Election Commission (FEC) investigation into Democratic Party funding of 1996 political candidates. NEA teacher union officials funneled unprecedented amounts of forced dues into Democratic Party coffers and were rewarded with positions on state party steering committees.

Teacher union and Democratic Party officials have sued to repress this information, and U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler temporarily sealed the records, prohibiting further examination. Before the suit was filed, however, copies of the incriminating documents were made public, forcing NEA President Bob Chase and his helpers to scramble for some powerful and far-reaching damage control.

William McGurn, chief Editorial writer for the *Wall Street*

Photo by Cally Jones



CEAFU Key Leaders confer with Nina Shokarai-Rees, Deputy Assistant, Education Policy, to Vice President Cheney.

Journal, commented, “Those of us who have long dismissed the National Education Association as a tool of the Democratic Party have been badly mistaken. Apparently it’s just the opposite. As documents now sealed under a judge’s order indicate, it’s the Democratic Party that is the tool of the NEA.”¹

The Demoratic Party memos form a record of talks between party and labor officials, detailing tactics used to contact, register and ensure that citizens vote for Democrats. NEA teacher union officials are attractive to political machines because of vast resources they can call up: money from forced dues, a plethora of office space, and people to volunteer for campaign activity.

With approximately 16,000 local UniServ and affiliate offices

at their disposal, NEA teacher union bosses had plenty of office space to lend to political activities. Their two million members constitute a large army of staff to help with various campaign activities.

The various documents subpoenaed by the FEC contained the following shocking revelations.

- While he was president of the North Carolina Education Association, John Wilson was a member of the National Coordinating Campaign Steering Committee that worked to elect Democrat candidates. The committee was involved in early vote programs, staff development, and canvassing voters, as well as voter registration. The committee also gathered demographic data on selected voters, took public opinion polls,

and directed opposition research. Wilson was recently appointed the NEA national affiliate’s Executive Director.

- A 1995-96 “National Coordinated Campaign Steering Committee” meeting at DNC headquarters “normally included” NEA teacher union operatives. The committee held at least 6 meetings, during which it planned to register voters and worked to ensure they voted for the Democratic ticket. Other representatives at the table included members of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; the Clinton/Gore ’96 Primary Committee and General Committee; and Emily’s List, a fundraising group for female Democratic candidates.
- Project ’95/’96, a coalition including NEA teacher union officials, brought “in-kind contributions” to the table in an effort to counteract the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.
- Both NEA national and state affiliate teacher union officials played significant roles in Democratic campaigns in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Minnesota and Nebraska.²

Although NEA teacher union operatives steadfastly denied

¹ William McGurn, “Are the Democrats Teachers’ Pets?”, *Wall Street Journal*, 8/2/01, <http://interactive.wsj.com>.

² Hannah Gladfelter Rubin, “Legal Group: NEA Doesn’t Report Political Spending,” *Education Daily*, 7/30/01.

spending any dues money on politics, the NEA 1996-1997 Strategic Plan and Budget tells another story. A total of 2,183,800 members paid a total of \$194,135,050 in dues for the 1996-1997 fiscal year.

CEAFU's Fall 1996 *Insider's Report* reported that the 1996-97 Strategic Plan & Budget indicated a \$20.7 million allocation for building "a broad-based support for a public quality education system." Strategic Objective Activity 1.4 called for the union to "build bipartisan constituencies among those running for and elected to public office to support public education."

Another component calls for technical assistance and training in political campaign work to affiliates and members at all levels, and increasing efforts to rally NEA members for legislative and campaign activity.

Components 3 and 7 of Strategic Objective Activity 1.4 call for expansion of PAC fundraising activities and to "identify and evaluate new/innovative ways to affect election results. . ." "Component 7 allocates \$56,100 for carrying out unified campaigns and mobilizing members to assist in the election of candidates at all levels of government and to win ballot measures."³

Established in 1972, NEA-Political Action Committee (NEA-PAC) became the first education organization PAC. A mere 4 years later, NEA-PAC became the leader of the PACs devoted to electing Democrats. NEA teacher union officials sent 405 delegates to the 1996 Democratic National Convention, more than all the other states combined sent, except California. The AFT, as an affili-

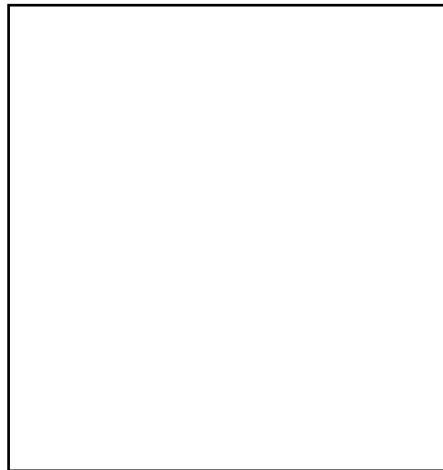


Photo by Cathy Jones

Congressman J. C. Watts with CEAFU Key Activists Dr. Don Senese, Vice President, Sixty Plus and Linda Cross, CEAFU Key Leader and high school English teacher from Wisconsin.

ate of the 13-million member American Federation of Labor/Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), sent 117 delegates to the same convention.

NEA-PAC paid the airfare plus a \$400 stipend to all NEA delegates attending the 1996 Democratic convention.

Convention delegates could obtain interest-free loans for meeting expenses. Delegates were encouraged to wear distinctive yellow NEA jackets which made them stand out in the crowd.

Debra DeLee was appointed Executive Director of the DNC in 1993 during her tenure as NEA Government Relations Manager; three years later, she became the Chief Executive Officer for the 1996 Democratic Convention in Chicago.

NEA teacher union officials openly admitted their involvement in the 1996 campaign. "Since the beginning of the Clinton Administration, NEA involvement with the Democratic National Committee/White House initiatives has been substantial . . . The Association works closely with the Association of State Democratic Chairs on a regular basis."⁴

Mary Elizabeth Teasley, NEA Government Relations Director, declared the NEA's 2000 Strategic Plan and Budget language was "misleading"; and while she admitted to having served on the National Coordinated Campaign Steering Committee, her presence was strictly "for 'informational purposes' . . . and 'every dime' contributed to any political campaign was given through a political action committee."⁵

³ The "National Education Association of the United States Strategic Focus Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year: 1996-97," a report of the National Education Association, Washington, DC, 1997.

⁴ Myron Lieberman, "The Teacher Unions," *The Free Press*, New York, 1993, p. 80.

⁵ William McGurn, "Are the Democrats Teachers' Pets?," *Wall Street Journal*, 8/2/01, <http://interactive.wsj.com>.

NEAFT Partnership Provides Opportunity for Freedom-Loving Organizations

CEAFU continues its important work of reporting on the two teacher union conventions. These conventions always herald some new attack on teacher freedom.



Photo by Cathy Jones

CEAFU guests chat with Congressional staffers.

The most important news to come from the summer's teacher union conventions was the establishment of the NEAFT Partnership. After 3 years of futile attempts, officials of both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers teacher unions voted to form the NEAFT Partnership.

NEA Representative Assembly delegates voted during the first week of July for the NEAFT Partnership, New Business Item A, by a secret ballot. The following week, AFT teacher union officials reaffirmed their vote to unite with the NEA national union. AFT teacher union bureaucrats had

voted in favor of the partnership last year, when the idea was soundly voted down by NEA Representative Assembly delegates.

While teacher union officials celebrated the NEAFT Partnership, EIA Director Mike Antonucci remained skeptical about its future: "While the partnership is a step on the road to merger, it remains to be seen whether or not it will be the last step on that road. Partnership was a half-measure, taken only after time ran out on attempts to draft a new merger agreement. Nevertheless, even a half-measure failed to get a two-thirds vote. Ultimate national merger of the two teachers' unions is still an uphill battle."⁶

The NEAFT Partnership will establish a 30-member joint council to coordinate activities of this giant octopus of teacher union power. The Partnership instituted a permanent, binding "no raid" agreement, whereby neither union will attempt to take members from the other. The no-raid agreement will remain in effect until the end of July 2003, or until the complete, official merger of both affiliates into a single national organization, whichever occurs first.

Desperate for members, both NEA and AFT teacher union officials have long engaged in this raiding, which remained a principal deterrent to merger during past conventions. The "no raid" agree-

ment provides an opportunity for independent professional groups to establish an alternative to monopoly representation.

Under the "no raid" agreement, if membership in one affiliate in a specific area is no greater than 5% of the competing affiliate, neither will be able to hold a representation election in that area. Additionally, both affiliates agree to refrain from reducing membership dues in order to entice teachers to switch allegiance.

More state affiliates of both unions plan mergers in an attempt to further consolidate their financial and political power and tighten the forced-dues noose around teachers' necks.

NEA Officials Call Again for an Increase in Monopoly Bargaining

The newly appointed Executive Director, John Wilson, has promised to increase NEA membership by stepping up monopoly bargaining strictures, especially in southern Right to Work states. Fresh from his tenure as president of the North Carolina Education Association, Wilson is prepared to launch a full court press in southern Right to Work states.

The South boasts the greatest number of Right to Work states. It is also the epicenter of states

⁶Mike Antonucci, "EIA Summer School", *The Education Intelligence Agency Communiqué*, <http://members.aol.com/educationintel/>, 7/6/01.

which prohibit monopoly bargaining, either by statute or local custom.

NEA President Bob Chase continues to concentrate on his usual soapbox subjects: smaller class size, "rigorous yet reasonable standards," higher salaries, more teachers, national board certification, and teacher quality.

While these proposals may be worth some consideration, they also serve to increase teacher union membership, forced dues and more teacher union official control over education. Implementation of these demands would require more teachers, more taxpayer money for salaries, more control over curriculum, and more control over professional development.

NEA Assembly Delegates Still Wrestling With Sexual Orientation Resolution

The 1995 NEA Representative Assembly shocked and enraged moral-minded teachers by passing Resolution B-9, which encouraged schools to develop objectionable curriculum materials for homosexuality and programs that address problems such as suicide and "health risk behaviors." The revised 2001 "New B" Resolution made its debut at this year's con-

vention, sparking more vehement protests.

"The 'New B' Resolution consisted of the following components:

- providing curriculum and instructional materials devised to "meet the needs" of gay students;
- involving gay educators in generating classroom materials;
- programs which stand up for gay and questioning students;
- which speak to the high dropout and suicide rates and their health risks;
- acknowledging gay educators as role models;
- ensuring gay people's role in U.S. history, culture and heritage is not diminished; and working with other groups to promote understanding of gay people's contributions to heritage, culture, history and health."⁷

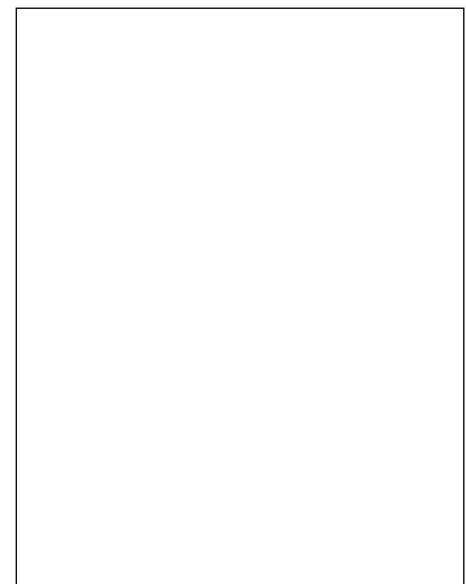
Despite the fact that Gay & Lesbian Caucus Co-Chair Kathy Figel suggested the resolution be put aside, NEA President Bob Chase remained determined to keep the sexual orientation resolution at the forefront of the NEA's radical agenda, demonstrating that NEA union officials continue to be at odds with their membership.

"There are those outside this hall who have attempted to interpret this as NEA backing away

from its position. They could not be any further away from the truth. We will not allow our policies to be dictated to us by people outside this organization," Bob Chase said of the concerned citizens who peacefully protested the resolution across the street from the convention hall.⁸

Assembly delegates eventually compromised by creating a task force, while President Chase demanded the right to appoint the task force members himself. This desperate last ditch effort to promote the agenda will be one of the last projects Chase may undertake, as his presidential reign will end next July.

Although this year's delegates voted to drop the "New B" Resolution and organize a task force, the issue is far from dead.



David Chester reviews alternative certification programs.

Photo by Cathy Jones

⁷Joel Hardi, "NEA's Chase Affirms Support for Gay Students' Rights", *Education Daily*, 7/9/01.

⁸Mike Antonucci, "EIA Summer School", The Education Intelligence Agency Communiqué, <http://members.aol.com/educationintel/>, 7/5/01.

Other resolutions regarding sexual orientation issues which call for counseling, curriculum, and affirmative action programs regarding "sexual orientation," remained untouched.

thousand children were deprived of an education and thousands of teachers were compelled to leave their jobs. Strikes are illegal in all three states.⁹

Teachers, the AFT's state affiliate, declared, "This is a democracy; we have a right to demonstrate in the workplace."¹⁰

Strikes

Strikes have been a part of the back-to-school scene since the introduction of monopoly bargaining in 1961. Only one month into the 2001-2002 school year, there had already been reports of three strikes in Pennsylvania districts, two in Rhode Island, and one in Illinois.

While NEA teacher union spokespeople declare "unions and districts are working hard to usher in an era of collaboration," over 15

The citizens of Granite City, IL, protested when the AFT-affiliate, Granite City Federation of Teachers voted to strike September 12, upon expiration of the current contract, the very day after the tragic terrorist attack on all of America.

By September 17, teacher union officials had coerced more than 400 members of the AFT affiliate to strike, citing disagreements on health care benefits, salary increases and the length of the pending contract.

Dave Comerford, spokesman for the Illinois Federation of

Comerford defended the position taken by pointing out that administrators contemplated a complete shutdown of the district's 11 schools on September 17 and 18.

Catherine Jones, a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland in Catonsville, Maryland, serves as Director for Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism. Nothing here is to be

Please support CEAUFU's work by making a contribution to the National Right to Work Legal Defense and Education Foundation, Inc. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

CEAFU will continue to educate the teachers of this nation about the coercive agenda of the National Education Association's and American Federation of Teachers' hierarchies as a Special Project of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation. You will, however, see some changes because the Foundation, as a Section 501(c)(3) organization, is governed by different rules than those under which we previously operated, such as restrictions on legislative and political action. As this is a transitional newsletter, I have, in part, reported on how CEAUFU spent its final months as a division of the National Right to Work Committee.

⁹Julie Blair, "Teachers Strike in PA, R.I.; Most Unions Report Quiet," *Education Week*, 9/12/01.

¹⁰Julie Blair, "Teachers Criticized for Striking During National Crisis", *Education Week*, 9/26/01.