

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

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CEAFU has been at the forefront in the battle for education reform and against forced unionism abuses in public education for more than 28 years. CEAFU is 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 teachers and other employees whose human or civil rights have been violated by abuses of compulsory unionism.



Photo by Linda Stauleup

Congressman Dave Weldon (R-FL) recounts his experiences with teacher union officials during CEAFU's 28th annual conference.

CEAFU's 2003 Conference, "Meeting the Challenge of Compulsory Unionism"

CEAFU's annual conferences are the centerpiece of the program's efforts to support individual teachers and nonunion professional educator groups gathering under CEAFU as an umbrella organization. This year's 28th annual meeting proved to be a tremendous success.

Sixty-one leaders from 25 different state and national groups were in attendance this year, including two leaders from the newly formed Teachers Rights Advocacy Coalition (TRAC) from Miami, Florida. TRAC was formed as a response to the recent revelations of fraud and abuse perpetrated by Miami-Dade

Teacher Union president Pat Tornillo.

This year's conference addressed the challenges of compulsory unionism by concentrating on teacher union officials' power and ways that independent groups can fight back.

The conference also gave guests a special chance to attend a hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, during which TRAC Executive Director Damaris Daugherty testified regarding teacher union cor-

ruption opposite to Sandra Feldman, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

CEAFU staff kicked off the 3-day conference with David Denholm's presentation on Saul Alinsky's organizing manifesto "Rules for Radicals." In a 1979 interview with CEAFU founder Susan Staub, former National Education Association (NEA) president John Lloyd revealed the extent to which Alinsky's materials became the *modus operandi* of the NEA's hierarchy. Guests shared

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Photo by Linda Stautrup

Foundation Vice President Stefan Gleason (left) and President Mark Mix (right) pose with Damaris Daugherty and Mari Soto, TRAC, at CEAUFU conference..

their own experiences out in the field with NEA teacher union organizing tactics.

Mrs. Lori Yaklin, Senior Advisor on Family Educational Rights for the United States Department of Education, gave an authoritative overview on No Child Left Behind compliance.

Conference guests met with numerous congressional National Right to Work Act co-sponsors and staff at a Capitol Hill reception and heard Congressman Dave Weldon (R-FL) give a presentation on compulsory unionism abuses. These events gave CEAUFU guests the invaluable opportunity to voice their concerns with federal lawmakers.

Foundation attorney Milton Chappell reported on Foundation litigation of interest to teachers and public employees, and laid the groundwork for the ensuing presentations on union financial disclosure.

Chappell then opened the floor to Tracey Bailey, 1993 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Bailey gave an overview of the new, more stringent regulations being promulgated by

the U. S. Department of Labor, and introduced David Thompson, Senior Labor Counsel, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Mr. Thompson untangled the maze of state and federal laws that govern union reporting requirements, by defining public and private sector unions, and which institutions govern their financial disclosure.

Many CEAUFU guests were surprised to learn public sector unions are not required to report their financial situations to any governing body, either at the federal or state level. While Mr. Thompson talked, CEAUFU staff distributed sample disclosure forms for those private sector unions that require federal disclosure.

Mike Antonucci, Director of the Education Intelligence Agency, then updated guests on the NEA and AFT teacher union activities, including predictions on membership growth and decline and their annual conventions. Antonucci also reviewed the ongoing news stories about the two AFT teacher union affiliate scandals: the Washington, D.C., teacher union, and the Miami-Dade

Teacher union. He also touched upon the NEA's Massachusetts Teacher Association's recent disclosure of embezzlement by a financial officer. See the following articles for further details on these news stories.

The only national meeting of its kind, the seminar continues to be a magnet for sincere education reformers. CEAUFU continues to work on a daily basis with independent state and nationwide groups, including the Coalition for Independent Education Associations, National Association of Professional Educators, Association of American Educators, and many of the education policy leaders who favor the Right to Work in freedom for all Americans.

“The Worm In the Apple” Elucidates Government- Granted Union Privileges in Education

Author Peter Brimelow has taken aim once again at the National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT/AFL-CIO) in his shattering exposé, “The Worm in the Apple.” Every teaching professional will want to read this book, which cites examples of the devastating effects of compulsory unionism, many taken directly from CEAUFU files.

Teacher union officials have spent millions of dues dollars lobbying state legislatures to deny teachers their right to choose or to refrain from union membership. Their efforts have paid off tremendously. Today, millions of teachers in 43 states are legally forced to endure mandatory – often unwanted – “representation” from teacher union officials, and 20 of

those states also force teachers to pay dues or be fired from their jobs.

Peter Brimelow teamed with Leslie Spencer in 1993 to write the first really mainstream article attacking the NEA teacher union. Titled "Suffer the Little Children," the *Forbes* magazine article exposed how the NEA's monopoly power explosion drove the cost of education sky-high and the quality deteriorated at the same time. They followed up two years later with another *Forbes* article, "Comeuppance," which further revealed the NEA's well-hidden, left-leaning agenda. A limited number of reprints of these articles are available. Please see the enclosed Action Reply Memorandum to order.

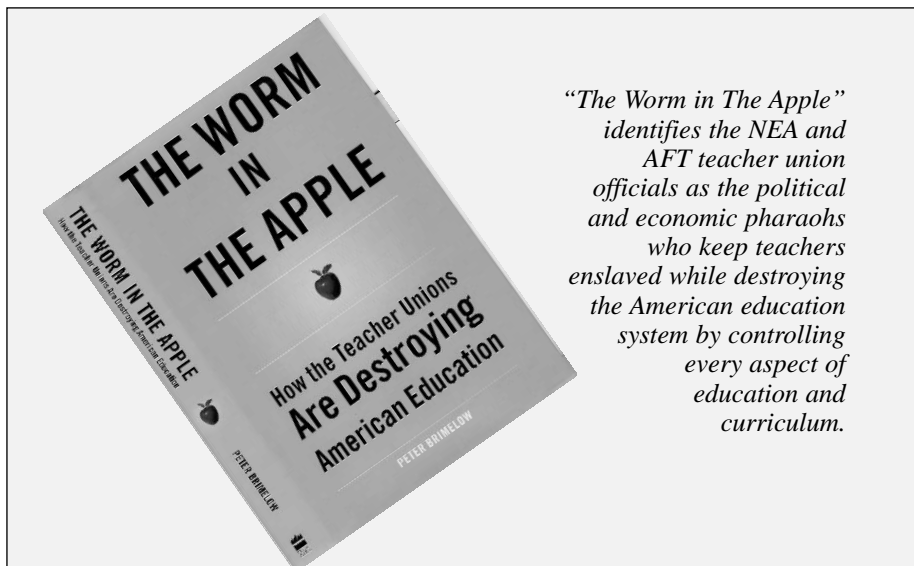
In his newly published book, "The Worm in the Apple," Peter identifies and examines the government-granted monopoly privileges of teacher union bosses as the root of many other stumbling blocks to education reform.

Peter refers to NEA and AFT-AFL-CIO teacher union officials as "the Teacher Trust," while exposing them for what they have created from teacher unions: a political and economic monopoly that is choking the education system.

The NEA is undoubtedly the largest of the unions with nearly 3 million members.

Peter compellingly reveals the teacher unions' hidden agenda: to control every aspect of education, from working conditions for teachers to curriculum, textbooks, and grading standards.

The author outlines the thirty-year decline in U.S. education, tying it to the simultaneous tidal



"The Worm in The Apple" identifies the NEA and AFT teacher union officials as the political and economic pharaohs who keep teachers enslaved while destroying the American education system by controlling every aspect of education and curriculum.

wave of education spending, which began shortly after states began to legislate monopoly bargaining for teachers.

He concludes with several recommendations, including passage of state Right to Work Laws, and that monopoly-bargaining laws be replaced with a form of members-only bargaining.

Peter cites National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation attorney Milton Chappell's model under which no one union is granted exclusive representation powers.

Brimelow makes the convincing argument that, until teacher union officials are held accountable and public schools are transformed by market-driven forces, any meaningful education reform will continue to be doomed to failure.

"The Worm in the Apple," reveals the "most contemptible . . . teachers unions' piggish consumption of educational resources that could be used to overcome lamentable deficiencies in public education," declared Robert Holland, senior fellow at the Lexington Institute.¹

Mr. Brimelow has taken deadly

correct aim and hurled another journalistic bombshell with "The Worm in the Apple." He has done an outstanding job of exposing the threat that compulsory unionism poses to America's educational system.

The author supports his assertion that teacher union officials block reform by examining their efforts to eliminate school boards' powers to carry out the wishes of their districts, as well as unearthing the doubling of per-pupil spending costs nationwide.

In April 2003, Peter was awarded the prestigious Carol Applegate Education Award for his work in exposing compulsory unionism in education.

The Carol Applegate Education Award, established in 2000, is bestowed by the National Right to Work Committee's Board of Directors upon that person, or persons, who has been most effective in communicating the evils resulting from the coercive policies of the NEA labor union.

Because Carol Applegate upheld the principle of free choice in her decision not to pay dues to the NEA teacher union, she was fired from

¹ "Critic Takes on Teachers Unions as Enemies of Good Schools", Robert Holland, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 3/9/03.



Photo by VDARE.com

Peter Brimelow has written extensively about the nation's largest teacher union, the NEA, and the economics of education. He is a financial journalist, who serves as editor of VDARE.com and a columnist for CBS Market Watch.

her long-time, career position as a teacher of English.

Carol's courageous stand, summarized in the following statement, has inspired Americans from coast to coast: ". . . The pervasive deadening influence on education of requiring teachers, by law, to join and/or contribute to the teacher unions, is still, after these many, many years, very much with us, and must continue to be balanced by the presence in education of teachers [and authors] such as yourself, who understand the devastating effects on the thinking mind of requiring support of a philosophy and an organization with which one does not agree."

Carol's experience demonstrates the power of one courageous and principled individual who is willing to stand and fight the coercive demands of a giant labor union determined to crush any individual who stands in its way.

Former award recipients are G. Gregory Moo, Ph.D., former princi-

pal and teacher, for his hard-hitting exposé of the NEA, "Power Grab, How the National Education Association is Betraying our Children," and Charles Baird, Ph.D., for his extensive writings and other work to eradicate compulsory unionism in education.

Washington Teachers Union Officials Indicted in \$5 Million Forced-Dues Fraud Scheme

Washington, D.C. has one of the highest per capita incomes in the nation, and per pupil spending ranks third, behind Alaska and Connecticut. By all rights, D.C. schools should be among the best in the nation.

Yet D.C. student performance validates Peter Brimelow's assertions about the quality of education where teacher union officials call the shots. According to economist and commentator Professor Walter Williams, only one of D.C.'s 19 high schools can boast that 50% of their students are proficient in reading. In 12 of these high schools, more than half of the students test below basic level in reading skills.²

Recently, however, members of the Washington, D.C. Teachers Union (WTU) have had to focus their attention on union officials instead of students. Top WTU officers apparently created massive, convoluted schemes to embezzle union dues by writing WTU checks and charging personal items on WTU American Express credit cards. Federal Bureau of Investigation charges include tax,

mail and wire fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion. The theft of more than \$5 million in forced dues has led even parent affiliate AFT (an organization itself thought to be corrupt) to file a lawsuit against WTU and take over the local's administration.

An investigation began in July 2002 when a WTU member alerted AFT teacher union officials he had been charged \$160 instead of the usual \$16 automatic dues charge.

WTU teacher union officials had just negotiated a salary increase, and school district employees were supposed to have deducted an additional \$16 for the resulting dues hike. With an overcharge of \$144 per member, with approximately 5,000 members, the resulting overcharge netted WTU officers \$700,000.

WTU teacher union officers urged members not to talk to the public or reporters about the overcharge. Speaking under the condition of anonymity, several members acknowledged to a Washington Post reporter that union officials had not returned their phone calls and that the overcharges were to be applied to future dues payments instead of a refund.³

When national affiliate officials insisted WTU officers reimburse members immediately, they refused.

Apparently WTU teacher union personnel had used the \$700,000 overcharge to cover its overdue per capita payment to the AFT national affiliate. Each AFT local affiliate must pay an annual per capita fee to the parent organization. WTU coffers seemed to be so depleted there was no money to repay the overcharges.

The next teacher union antic even stunned a federal judge when he learned of ". . . the desperate

² "Washington's Education Establishment," *TownHall.com Online*, Walter Williams, 1/8/03.

³ "Teacher Union Overcharged Members," *The Washington Post*, Valerie Strauss and Justin Blum, 11/23/02.

⁴ "Membership Has Its Privileges," *Washington City Paper*, David Morton, 1/24-1/30/03.

maneuver. . .” during a hearing.⁴

AFT union officials secured a loan of \$250,000 on the WTU's behalf to pay the per capita fee and reimburse WTU members. WTU officials would repay the loan over the next three years.⁵

Member George Parker called the loan “ridiculous.” “It's actually forcing teachers to pay for their own refund.”⁶

In February, parent affiliate AFT union officials announced they would refund the overpayment directly to teachers from their own coffers, and would repay the loan WTU union officials took out.

WTU's delay in repaying the overcharge, plus numerous complaints from the local's members may have caused AFT officials to hire an accountant to review WTU financial records. An accountant testified there were no WTU financial statements after 1996. Incidentally, the last WTU accountant had passed away in 1996 and the position had never been filled. The independent forensic audit unearthed financial irregularities, and AFT teacher union officials notified the U.S. Attorney's office.

By the week of Christmas, 2002, FBI agents searched the homes of the three union officials, several relatives, and a fur storage business. Agents seized paintings; electronics equipment; artwork; a Baccarat designer vase; a 288-piece silver set, valued at \$57,000; antiques and \$20,000 worth of wigs, all believed to have been purchased with teacher union dues. An additional \$358,000 worth of merchandise purchased at exclusive local retailers and \$25,000

worth of dry cleaning bills were also alleged to have been paid by teacher member dues.

Inappropriate personal charges totaling \$1.5 million appeared on the union's credit cards; \$948,000 were under question, and another \$700,000 in ‘undocumented expense reimbursements’ were unearthed in the forensic audit AFT officials ordered.

AFT teacher union officials filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in



“American Federation of Teachers”

Washington under the Racketeer Influenced Corruption Organizations (RICO) Act and other federal and state laws. It is possible the total amount stolen will top \$5 million when all pertinent records are audited and restored.

The suit charges WTU officials Barbara Bullock, James O. Baxter, and Gwendolyn Hemphill, “in their positions as union officers, agents, representatives and employees, or through their relationships with union officers, agents, representatives and employees, aided and abetted, participated in, and used the

union as part of their conspiracy to embezzle and convert funds of the union” for personal use. This was allegedly accomplished by “forging checks, illegally converting them or using checks without authorization and that some of the individuals made ‘substantial unauthorized purchases’ with union credit cards.”⁷

The suit alleges Bullock wrote \$381,000 in checks to herself or others. Hemphill was charged with charging \$492,000 in unauthorized credit card purchases and checks, and Baxter funneled \$537,000 to buy personal items for himself, by writing himself checks, some of which were labeled as “pension payments.”⁸

Former WTU treasurer James Baxter allegedly received thousands of dollars in direct payments, and made tens of thousands of dollars in American Express charges for various restaurant, bar and nightclub expenses, gas and maintenance expenses for assorted cars, art, and other purchases.⁹

Other dues dollars went to other union officials for personal vacations, furniture, and gifts to friends.

In early February, more allegations surfaced that WTU dues were also paying for Hemphill's personal cell phone bill — the most recent one totaled \$6,000.

Additionally, Bullock's chauffeur, Leroy Holmes, was alleged to have been paid \$1.2 million in union funds. Holmes stated his salary on his 2001 tax return as being \$105,000 as Bullock's chauffeur. This salary would have made him the highest paid WTU employee, second only to President Bullock.

⁵ “Teachers Union Takes Out a Loan,” *The Washington Post*, Justin Blum and Valerie Strauss, 1/8/03.

⁶ “Teachers Union Takes Out Loan,” *The Washington Post*, Justin Blum and Valerie Strauss, 1/8/03.

⁷ “D. C. Teachers' Union Plagued with Scandal,” *Fox News Online*, Liza Porteus, 1/17/03.

⁸ “D. C. Teachers' Union Plagued with Scandal,” *Fox News Online*, Liza Porteus, 1/17/03 and “Audit Sets D. C. Union Loss at \$5 Million,” *The Washington Post*, Justin Blum, Petula Dvorak, Valerie Strauss, Craig Timberg and Clarence Williams, 1/17/03.

⁹ “Washington's Education Establishment,” Walter Williams, *TownHall Online*, 1/8/03.

The rest of the stolen dues were most likely funneled between Bullock and Hemphill. Holmes also testified that the WTU paid expenses on his three personal Cadillac vehicles.¹⁰

Holmes was also charged with having received 228 checks, amounting to more than \$1.2 million, from Mrs. Hemphill, from 1998 until 2002. Some of the stolen dues money was turned over to Bullock and Hemphill. Audit figures put Mr. Holmes' take at \$390,000 out of the \$1.2 million.

No one is quite sure how this astonishing funneling of dues dollars, which occurred over several years, was allowed to go unnoticed for so long. The U. S. Treasury stipulates that banks must report cashing checks in the amount of \$10,000 or more, and especially suspicious checks just under that amount.

Most of WTU's checks were cashed at the Independence Federal Bank, by Holmes where WTU business was usually conducted. The bank seemed oblivious to these blatantly suspicious activities. Checks in amounts just less than \$10,000 were cashed without comment by the bank, even though the name on the check was frequently scratched out and Holmes' name written in. Evidence shows checks meant to pay bills, made out to such companies as Blue Cross & Blue Shield, and Verizon phone company, had been scratched out and Leroy Holmes' name hand written in the "Pay to the Order of" line.

The AFT teacher union's executive board asked WTU president Barbara Bullock, treasurer James O.

Baxter, Bullock's special assistant, Gwendolyn Hemphill, and Ms. Bullock's driver, Leroy Holmes, to resign. Vice President Esther Hankerson was appointed interim president.

Hankerson herself was later implicated in several reported as being illegal schemes. Hankerson admitted to having knowledge of president Bullock's forging her signature on checks. However, even as vice president, Hankerson allowed the forgeries to go unreported.¹¹

Hankerson also received a salary



Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

as General Vice President, in direct violation of the WTU's union constitution. She was asked to resign during the investigation.

WTU union officials repeatedly refused to meet with members. Stymied, outraged members held two unsanctioned meetings in January 2003 to sort out the debacle. Elizabeth Davis, a member and meeting organizer, declared, "The leadership declined because they believe they are the ultimate authority of this union. . . They just don't

want to respond to the questions we want to discuss."¹²

During the second meeting on January 13, all but 2 of the 150 members present cast a vote of "No Confidence" in WTU's 21-member executive board.

WTU Member, Creditors, File Suits to Protect Themselves Against Further Fraud

WTU member Nathan Saunders filed suit against the WTU's 21-member executive board, charging them with violations of the union's constitutional bylaws and lack of oversight. Saunders' suit accuses both WTU and AFT officials with "prearranged schemes, campaigns of misinformation and conspiracies," breach of contract and gross mismanagement, among other allegations. Fearing on-the-job retaliation and more fraud, he requested a temporary restraining order over his dues, to be put in escrow until the case is settled.¹³

Mr. Saunders petitioned the court to dissolve the union's executive board and appoint an independent body to hold an emergency campaign to elect a completely new board, and to provide oversight of the union's transactions.¹⁴

Other WTU teacher members asked a U.S. District Court judge to certify their complaint as a class action lawsuit against the AFT teacher union officials and former union managers for failing to require audits of WTU's books, and against Independence Federal Savings Bank for cashing the fraud-

¹⁰ "D. C. Teachers' Union Plagued with Scandal," *Fox News Online*, Liza Porteus, 1/17/03.

¹¹ "\$5 Million and Rising," *The Washington Post*, Editorial, 1/18/03.

¹² "Teachers Vote to Dissolve Board," *The Washington Times*, Brian De Bose, 1/3/03.

¹³ "In Whose Best Interests?," *The Washington Times* editorial, 1/9/03.

¹⁴ "Membership Has Its Privileges," *Washington City Paper*, Washington, DC, David Morton, 1/24-1/30/03.

ulent checks.

The American Express Co. is suing the WTU for unpaid credit cards, amounting to \$92,000 in unpaid purchases and approximately \$14,000 in interest.¹⁵

AFT teacher union officials also instituted lawsuits seeking restitution on behalf of WTU local members against the former president, assistant and treasurer on charges they embezzled over \$5 million in teacher dues.

Bullock, Hemphill and Baxter had escaped being charged even though they have been named in repeated court filings since December, 2002. As our newsletter is going to print, October 3, 2003, Miss Bullock was charged with conspiracy and mail fraud to rob teacher union members of more than \$2.5 million in dues.

Bullock's plea, made in what is termed a "criminal information," implies guilt, and cannot be made without the defendant's approval. The criminal information will not be heard by a grand jury. Bullock pleaded guilty at her October 7 arraignment.

Bullock has yet to be charged in connection with the falsification of Internal Revenue Service and U. S. Department of Labor reports, performed to cover her tracks.

Prosecutors have also charged Errol Alderman, a business partner with Michael W. Martin in Expressions Unlimited. Alderman also consented to a criminal information, but further details have not come to light.

Alderman reportedly hoped his role in laundering teacher union dues through Expressions Unlimited would be rewarded with a D. C. government job. He resigned September



Photo by Linda Stealcup

Damaris Daugherty, Esq., Teacher Rights Advocacy Coalition, testifies before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, on corruption within the Miami-Dade Teacher union affiliate of the AFT.

30 from his data processing position at the city Health Department.

Foundation Provides Relief for WTU Members and Other Teachers

Even though WTU teachers may be forced to support WTU under DC law, these teachers do have remedies which can be provided by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation.

Those teachers who resign their formal memberships in the WTU can demand that the union provide an independent audit of union expenditures, and they can reclaim the portion of their dues that the union does not spend on collective bargaining. If the union does not provide the audit, then the employees cannot be lawfully forced to pay any dues whatsoever to the union.

Employees have this right pursuant to the First Amendment as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Teachers Local No.1 v. Hudson* (1986). In that case, argued and won by National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation

attorneys, the Court ruled that union officials must provide objecting employees an advance reduction of forced union dues used for activities not related to collective bargaining. Under *Hudson*, the Court said union officials must also provide audited disclosure of their books and justify expenditures made from forced union dues seized from employees who have chosen to refrain from union membership.

The problem for WTU officials? It appears the union's books are unauditable, and auditors cannot even begin to determine the amount teachers can be charged for activities relating directly to collective bargaining. This means that those teachers who exercise their rights under *Hudson* can stop subsidizing a corrupt union until it gets its house in order, whenever that may be.

Of course, this is only a band-aid on a much larger problem. While filing for a *Hudson* notice may temporarily free employees from paying mandatory union dues, the long-term solution is to end compulsory unionism altogether. Until teachers are freed from the draconian obligation of financially supporting a private

¹⁵ "Alleged Theft From D.C. Union Yields Probe," *Education Week*, Julie Blair, 1/8/03.



Used with permission Miami Herald, May 2003.

club that moonlights as a political organization and a piggy bank for corrupt union officers, rank-and-file teachers will continue to be virtually powerless to hold union bosses accountable.

Teacher Union Official Builds Corrupt Miami-Dade Empire Over 40 Years

The United Teachers of Dade (UTD) union has long been known as the fiefdom of its president, Pat Tornillo. Elected president of the Dade Classroom Teachers Association by a wide margin in 1962, King Tornillo has reigned supreme over the local ever since. The chief teacher union official made almost a quarter of a million dollars in annual salary. Tornillo employed 12 other teacher union officials, all making six-figure salaries.

At its zenith, with approximately

28,000 members paying about \$800 annually, the local was the largest in the South, with a \$4 million annual payroll. Over the years he negotiated a merger with another teacher bargaining unit in Miami and transformed the United Teachers of Dade into a powerful political machine for the past 40 years.

Almost all UTD-endorsed school board candidates won election over the years. The nomination of Bill McBride as the 2002 Democratic gubernatorial candidate was financed in large part by UTD teacher union dues.

Tornillo leveraged the local union's political power for many business deals that profited both him and his cronies. Just as WTU teacher union officials were busy ensuring their relatives held Washington, D.C. government positions, Tornillo ensured the compliance of the school board to clinch juicy deals with the Miami-Dade district administration.

Tornillo has been under scrutiny and criticism for years for his autocratic management style and dicta-

torial manner.

At the height of his reign, Tornillo coerced the school board into healthcare and goods and services contracts that benefited himself and his associates. A contract was granted to HIP HealthCare in 1996. Tornillo's lobbyist and close friend Ric Sisser was \$4 million richer for the deal. The school board knuckled under once again to Tornillo in 2001. Ignoring a consultant's advice to the contrary, school board officials renewed the contract with HIP HealthCare.

Mike Sheridan, another Tornillo minion, established Public Employee Services Company and the Fringe Benefits Management Company, both of which have profited from school board patronage for years, providing flex benefits plans and school products.

In 2001, Tornillo oversaw the leasing and outfitting of UTD's new \$20 million headquarters building overlooking the exclusive Biscayne Bay. This reportedly depleted the union's budget so severely that UTD officials were forced to take out loans from two banks to continue operations.

The year 2002 seems to have been Tornillo's last hurrah. Bill McBride's defeat, combined with the tremendous strain on UTD coffers, contributed to the debilitation of Tornillo's political power.

Protracted contract negotiations left teachers without a raise since 2001. Florida's Right to Work law provides teachers some protection, even though UTD is the sole bargaining representative in the district. Many teacher members expressed their dissatisfaction by dropping their membership entirely and thus withholding dues payments.

UTD teacher union officials

could not provide actual membership figures. Miami-Dade school officials, who provide automatic dues deduction for the teacher union, reported dues deductions decreased from 17,342 in September 2000, to 14,039 in April 2003.

Moreover, in early 2002, Channel 10 television revealed Tornillo and UTD officers had spent an astonishing \$1.2 million in teacher dues for furnishings for the new headquarters building.

The executive offices were outfitted with mahogany furniture and chrome and cherry finish bath accessories. Both UTD members and the public were shocked over such items as \$500 hand towel holders.

Reporters calculated teacher union officials would have to pay out \$200,000 a year for the next 20 years in order to lease office furnishings.¹⁶

On April 15, 2003, citing the union's embarrassing financial condition, the American Bank and Trust called in a \$1 million loan. The loan was taken out to pay for the new headquarters, opulent furnishings, and to invigorate the teacher union officials' rapidly diminishing treasure chests. UTD teacher union officials had missed several payment deadlines.

The bank took advantage of a loan provision to garnish union dues for the loan payment. Each full time teacher pays approximately \$84 per month in dues. The bank requested that the school district render \$250,000 in automatically deducted dues each pay period until the loan is paid off.

Tornillo blamed the uncertainty of the economy and declining membership for UTD's shaky financial situation, instead of his own greed, which led to the FBI raid. He showed no remorse for his part in bringing the union's finances to such a calamity, claiming the building will be "our legacy for the future."¹⁷ Mike Antonucci reported Florida Education Association (FEA) delegates would vote on a substantial per capita dues increase at their May meeting, citing rumors of a sharp decrease in UTD membership and UTD's dues payment being in arrears as the most likely reasons for this dues increase.¹⁸

One day later, working on a tip from school district personnel and corroborating evidence, a dozen FBI agents and Miami-Dade police raided UTD's new headquarters on April 29. Agents hauled away boxes of records, but confined their search to specific records about the purchase of certain properties, and the payment of trips and monies to Tornillo and his associates. UTD spokeswoman Annette Katz confirmed UTD's full cooperation with the investigation.

Records show Tornillo used four personal and two UTD corporate credit cards to finance trips as far away as Indonesia and Brazil, as well as four family vacations in the Caribbean, creating letters to back up his claims the trips were work-related. He also helped himself to funds earmarked for teachers earning advanced degrees, cashing checks to himself in amounts as great as \$15,000.

A 2001-2002 audit failed to unearth any of Tornillo's personal expenditures.

The former teacher union president placed himself on indefinite paid leave on April 30, pending the outcome of the FBI dues embezzlement investigation. Although declining to seek reelection, Tornillo insisted he would serve his complete term, which ends in 2004.

In late August, Tornillo pleaded guilty to tax evasion and mail fraud and now faces 2 to 2 ½ years in federal prison. Terms of the agreement prevent any further federal prosecution for any future allegations stemming from his career with UTD. The former president is not protected, however, from any suits union officials may bring against his pilaging of the teacher union local. Although the federal plea bargain will shield his wife from prosecution, she also enjoyed the fruits of this dues harvest.

Before Tornillo's sentence is handed down this coming November, he must also repay \$650,000 to the UTD union, a \$25,000 fine, and \$160,000 in unpaid federal income taxes. These figures do not include penalties and interest, and it is currently unclear if these will be charged to him.¹⁹

UTD is a merged affiliate, belonging to both the NEA and AFT. Perhaps fearing another debacle like the WTU embezzlement scheme, FEA officials asked parent affiliate AFT to appoint a temporary administrator immediately following the FBI search. NEA's oversight responsibilities as a merged affiliate were not clarified.

¹⁶ "The Investigators Uncover Extravagant Expenditures," *Click 10.com WPLG Online*, 2/25/02.

¹⁷ "Bank Demands UTD Repay \$1 Million Loan Now," *The Miami Herald Online*, Matthew I. Pinzur, 4/30/03.

¹⁸ "Communiqué," The Education Intelligence Agency—April 28, 2003, On the Web at <http://www.eiaonline.com>.

¹⁹ "Tornillo Admits Plundering Funds for a Life of Luxury," *The Miami Herald Online*, Larry Liebowitz and Matthew Pinzur, 8/26/03.

AFT spokesman Alex Wohl insists the parent organization will take up the administration of what is left of the union local.

Although Florida teachers are not forced to join or support the UTD or any other labor union, they must still submit to teacher union officials' exclusive, mandatory representation. This power is the root of compulsory unionism and a primary catalyst for union official corruption.

Teacher Strike Turns Violent in Ohio

An alleged hate crime and violence marked a bitter strike last fall in the Maple Heights district of Ohio. There are 61 teachers and 900 students in the district. Ohio is one of ten states that allow teacher union officials lawfully to disrupt education by ordering teacher strikes.

The strike, which began September 4 of last year, marred the opening of the school year. Administrative staff scrambled to certify replacement teachers for striking teacher union members. Replacement teachers included certified teachers who could not find a job and certified teacher substitutes, including some from neighboring Pennsylvania.

Replacement teachers reported strikers made rude gestures at them, and taunted with the epithet "scabs." Many replacements used false names for fear of being black-

balled from permanent employment after the strike.

The strike polarized the community. Realtors reported homebuyers hesitating to buy in the community because of the strike. Senior citizens and other taxpayers feared the government would raise property taxes to pay for benefits negotiated in the contract. Parents worried about the effect of the strike on their children, especially for their safety as teacher union officials riled up striking union militants outside school entrances in daily picketing.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Eileen Gallagher knuckled to pressure from the 5,000 member Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU) and ordered the district to reveal the replacement teachers' names. Neither the judge nor the CTU revealed any reason for CTU union officials' intervention in the strike occurring in their own district.

The school board's attorney refused to say whether the district would be able to comply with the order, citing difficulties presented by other requests from parents and other community members.

CTU attorney Susannah Muskovitz dismissed concerns that this might lead to reprisals against anyone, adding that the replacement teachers had made their own decision to cross the picket lines.

District attorneys were successful in limiting the number of pickets outside schools.

Using false names did not prevent a minority principal, however,

from becoming the victim of what appears a racially motivated hate crime.

Shortly after midnight on November 5, 2002, Maple Heights High School principal Deborah Houchins, an African-American, ran visibly horrified and crying from her home and summoned two police officers nearby.

She reported to them that she had opened a brown package that had been delivered to her house the Saturday before. Inside the package was a severed raccoon's head in a Zip-Loc bag.

Although Houchins had not reacted to the threatening and harassing phone calls she had received during the nine-week strike, she felt the message was a violent threat against her safety and well-being and informed police.

Police investigations revealed that Don Sullivan, band director for Bedford High School for almost 25 years, had sent the head. He was arrested the same day and released pending determination of jurisdiction and appropriate charges. His wife happened to be one of the striking teachers at Maple Heights Elementary.

Sullivan, caught on a video surveillance camera at a local post office, was suspended with pay pending investigation.

Catherine Jones, a 1975 graduate of the University of Maryland in Catonsville, MD, serves as Director for Concerned Educators Against Forced Unionism. Nothing here is to be construed as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of legislation.

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