



INSIDER'S REPORT

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

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CEAFU has been at the forefront in the battle against forced dues and other union-leader excesses for the past 21 years. Now, even the Wall Street Journal (8/26/96) reported union members' growing awareness and consequent disillusionment with union officials' radical agendas. As others join us in battle, we will continue to enlighten the teachers of this nation to the coercive agenda of the National Education Association's (NEA) hierarchy.



Photo by Roman Rice

David Smith, President of Arizona Professional Educators, gives an update on AZPE growth during the past year.

23RD ANNUAL CEAUFU SEMINAR

Fifty-seven group leaders and CEAUFU members gathered in Washington, DC for the two-day, 23rd annual CEAUFU seminar. This year's meeting was particularly successful.

The agenda provided a variety of venues for suggestions and solutions to the problems of forced unionism in education and the provision of an alternative voice to that of national teacher union officials.

CEAFU hosted the three national independent educator coalitions: the Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), the National Association of Professional Educators (NAPE), and

the Association of American Educators (AAE), as well as 15 other independent teacher groups.

The seminar also attracted several small independent educator group leaders to Washington, DC, allowing them to network and get help in establishing themselves as alternatives to the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers.

The seminar commenced on June 25 with a lively panel discussion of tactics and strategies for making the most of the possible merger between the NEA and AFT.

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While the outcome of the merger vote would not be known until the first week of July, the panel covered all aspects of the merger including what benefits would result from the defeat of the merger plans by NEA delegates.

Of special interest was the fragmentation of the NEA's affiliates if the merger did not garner enough votes to pass at the annual NEA convention.

As it turns out, this is exactly what happened, so merger plans have been delayed. (See related story on page 3).

David Denholm, President of the Public Service Research Organizations, gave a thought-provoking talk on the philosophy behind monopoly bargaining; why monopoly bargaining leads to forced dues; and simply, why Right to Work supporters should be and are against monopoly bargaining. David's comments were well received and very appropriate to the meeting. With new group leaders and those who

are struggling to keep their independent groups independent and alive, it is necessary to think and reflect upon core beliefs and why we hold them.

Tom Lizardo, Chief of Staff to Congressman Ron Paul of Texas, gave a stirring speech on education and the freedom teachers should have to pursue their rights, not only as teachers and professionals, but as those who are in charge of the education of our children. He stressed the importance of local control, parental involvement in the education policy process and the necessity of putting children's education first. His words were followed by a spirited discussion on freedom in education.

On Friday, CEAUFU members testified before Congress once again. This proved to be a highly successful part of the program for

our independent group leaders. Not wanting to become a "national group," but needing a national voice, these groups depend upon CEAUFU to provide this support.



Photo by Roman Rice

Elizabeth Gressette, Executive Director, Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA), testifies before House of Representatives staffers

CEAFU guests met on Capitol Hill with nine staffers from the House of Representatives in order to give testimony on national testing, both of teachers and students.

Norman Singleton, also on Congressman Ron Paul's staff, once again stressed the importance of independent groups and their participation in federal education issues. Mr. Singleton stated once more that unless others appear on Capitol Hill with opinions on education reform, the only voice heard by staffers and congressmen alike will be that of the NEA and AFT teacher union officials. Those voices are heeded by too many in education already.

After national and state groups gave their views the talk turned to H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act.

Bernard Bull, Chairman of the Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), reminded us all why we had



Photo by Roman Rice

House of Representative staffers listen as CEAUFU members urge passage of a National Right to Work Bill.

come here to Washington when he stood up and asked everyone who was in favor of Right to Work to rise also. There was thundering applause when no one in the room remained seated.

Nancy Roman, Bureau Chief for the Washington Times, talked about the importance of education in the upcoming elections and stressed the importance of independent education reform and accountability in the field. She also answered questions about freedom of the press and how federal funds are allocated for education spending.

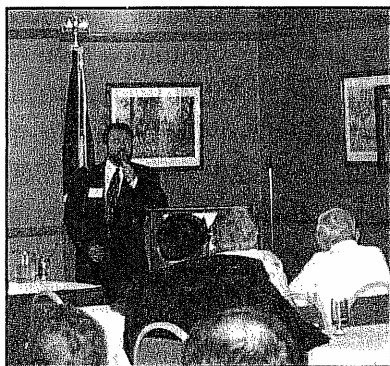


Photo by Cathy Jones

National Right to Work Legal Defense & Education Foundation Attorney, W. Jim Young, updates seminar guest on Foundation litigation cases.

National Right to Work Legal Defense & Education Foundation Attorney W. Jim Young gave an animated update on the Foundation's work with educators, especially in Alaska. The talk was relevant to all attendees in forced-dues states. Of the eighteen states represented at the seminar, exactly half were from states where teachers have no freedom of association.



Photo by Cathy Jones

C.J. Tosto, NRTW Committee Federal Liaison, explains why "paycheck protection" initiatives do not replace Right to Work laws.

Of greatest importance to guests was our last speaker, C.J. Tosto, Federal Legislation staffer for the Committee. C.J. gave a concise and stirring overview of the National Right to Work Act, as well as the Committee's efforts to bring about a vote, the commitment of cosponsors and why a vote on the Act is of the utmost importance in this Congress.

His parting speech left guests with a renewed sense of commitment to Right to Work and CEAUFU and imbued them with a fresh spirit of activism as they returned to their respective states.

NEA/AFT MERGER PLANS PUT ON HOLD; INDEPENDENT GROUPS SEE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

While teacher union leaders plied their union merger snake oil, NEA Representative delegates voted down the

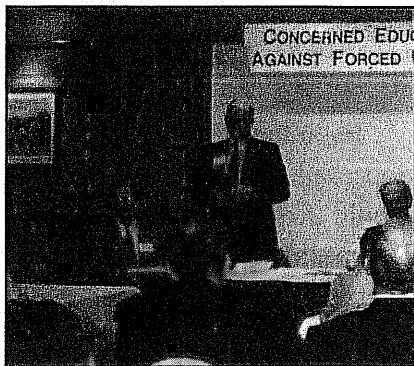
proposed merger at the NEA's annual conference in early July.

Even though union leaders appeared confident the merger would take place, the Representative Assembly overwhelmingly defeated the measure.

"To spend millions battling the AFT seemed ridiculous at best for the NEA. . . at a time when public education is under attack in Congress and in statehouses, and at a time when the right wing is waging ideological and legal wars over the soul of public schools, and when the violence of the world is spilling into our schools, engaging in battles with fellow educators is suicidal," said Bob Chase in his keynote speech to the more than 10,000 attending delegates.

Much has been made of NEA affiliation with the association of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), but this was only one of several reasons for the dissension within the ranks of NEA state affiliates. Nor was the dissension confined to NEA state organizations. The Oklahoma Federation of Teachers, an AFT affiliate already affiliated with the AFL-CIO, reportedly refused to vote for the merger due to disagreement with the NEA's extensive bureaucracy and more expensive dues structure.

Photo by Roman Rice



Jim Hawkins, President of Professional Educators of Iowa, discusses the implications of an NEA/AFT merger during a panel discussion.

A merger would have considerable implications for the CEAUFU program. Not only would a merger produce the largest union in the United States, it would increase drastically the percentage of teachers who would be forced to work under the yoke of forced unionism.

If a united organization consisting of the NEA and AFT teacher unions does eventually become a reality, expect to see this renewed focus on monopoly bargaining turn into well-funded and forceful campaigns to repeal Right to Work laws and institute forced dues in these and other Right to Work states. The increased political clout sure to accompany a merger will restrict teacher freedom even more.

CEAFU stands ready to guide them and their efforts to remain independent. Whatever changes occur within state affiliates is certain to affect state independent groups.

Further merger talks should be a call to arms to all freedom-loving teachers and those who keep the frontline against compulsory unionism.

WASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MAKES HEADLINES ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH POLITICAL SPENDING VIOLATIONS

Washington state has been a hotbed of controversy over the past year concerning the issue of compulsory unionism in education. Washington Education Association (WEA) union leaders have been investigated for campaign finance violations by the Attorney General's office and the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). WEA union officials also filed a lawsuit against two CEAUFU members, Cindy Omlin and Barb Amidon, who attempted to keep like-minded, freedom-loving teachers in touch with a monthly newsletter on compulsory unionism features across the state.

Unfortunately, Washington state's attempts to tame compulsory union power have failed.

WEA union leaders' forced-dues powers remain intact despite investigations by the state government into illegal use of union dues. The story remains the same: teacher union officials

continue to use forced dues to finance their radical agenda.

Initiative 134 (I-134), passed in 1992, has not restrained WEA officials from collecting and using forced dues for their own ends. While the initiative requires written permission from teachers before dues can be used for political purposes, it has provided little or no relief to Washington's teachers. In fact, union bosses are richer today than they were prior to I-134's passage.

Despite the rhetoric, nothing has changed in Washington. Union bosses continued their shell game. WEA leaders established the "Life After [Initiative] 134 Committee." The purpose of this group was to find ways to circumvent the regulations set forth by the initiative and to keep union leaders' forced dues power intact.

In an effort to keep their coffers filled, WEA officials organized the Community Outreach Program (COP) and assessed all 62,000 WEA bargaining unit members \$12 annually for this program.

Ultimately, passage of Initiative 134 proved to be the goose that laid the golden egg for WEA union officials. COP contributions amounted to almost \$1,000,000 annually, much more

than WEA had ever collected before I-134 passed. Not only had WEA union chiefs found a way around the new regulation meant to eradicate forced dues for politics, they even managed to increase the amount of dues spent for political purposes.

Additionally, WEA union bosses were actually able to get an additional \$12 from 11,000 teachers for their PAC on top of the mandatory \$12 assessment on every member.

Some of the charges against the WEA after the 1996 election included:

- accusations of money laundering by NEA of more than \$400,000 through its state affiliate to influence the results of Washington state elections.
- failure by the NEA to report contributions, specifically \$10,000, to the Washington state Democratic Party.
- WEA was found to have spent \$410,000 in illegal funding of campaigns to defeat school voucher and charter school initiatives in 1996.
- WEA Executive Director James Seibert and NEA lobbyist Kristine Hanselman falsely listed WEA, not NEA, as their employer on lobbying

forms. Both denied any mistakes, claiming they were directed by WEA officials, not NEA leaders.

- charges to both unions that NEA transferred hundreds of thousands of dollars to WEA for political purposes.
- CEAUFU member Barb Amidon discovered WEA union officials had forgiven a \$162,000 loan to the Washington Education Association Political Action Committee (WEA-PAC) in 1995. The PDC has finally designated the COP as a PAC, subject to PAC-regulating laws, including Initiative 134. In the suit against WEA, the PDC says of the COP, ". . . one of its primary purposes was to influence the political process by supporting or opposing candidates and ballot measures."
- WEA officials were charged with \$574,000 in improper political expenditures, of using the Community Outreach Program (COP) fee to cover up PAC spending. After all this they ended up better off than prior to I-134.

The result of the allegations brought against WEA officials was disappointing to everyone but themselves. It was agreed that



Photo by Cathy Jones

Jonh Gentry, Vice President of Professional Educators Group of California, reads an essay he wrote comparing compulsory unionism to slavery.

WEA collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in dues money and failed to correctly report how the money was used in the 1996 elections.

WEA union leaders still won the day by convincing the Attorney General that the violations were unintentional and resulted from a misunderstanding of campaign finance law. A set of guidelines was agreed to ostensibly addressing the political spending of union dues.

According to the settlement, WEA leaders will refund about \$330,000 in dues, approximately \$5 to each of WEA's 65,000 members. Another \$80,000 was assessed in penalties and \$20,000 in attorney fees.

Ironically, the money to pay the fines will come from union members' dues. No one will be punished except rank-and-file union members. Even the \$330,000 rebate of illegal dues to

be refunded to WEA members will be handled as a temporary reduction of mandatory payroll deductions from those members' regular dues.

The NEA national affiliate will pay approximately \$40,000 of the \$80,000 penalty required for failing to reveal it contributed \$410,000 to kill charter school and voucher initiatives in 1996.

These fines mean nothing to WEA officials because they know they can always collect more money simply by increasing dues.

CEAFU member Cindy Omlin, in an editorial for the Spokesman-Review, (3/22/98) "State's Forced Membership Law an Engine of Corruption," stated succinctly, "Teachers, meanwhile, are stuck paying higher and higher fees to a union that pays less and less attention to their real interests. [Attorney General Christine] Gregoire's settlement does nothing to promote union accountability and fidelity to individual rights -- rights that are the key to maintaining union integrity."

As stated in Investor's Business Daily, "Government vs. The First Amendment" (3/19/98), "... less known is how some units of government are letting the unions trample on their members' First Amendment rights."

Not only does WEA escape unscathed as an organization, but union leaders are also absolved of any wrongdoing. No personal fines were levied against any of the officers.

WEA union officials continue to seize forced dues and spend members' dues on political action.

John Webster wrote in the Spokesman Review, a Spokane, WA newspaper, "Penalty? What penalty? Armed with dues teachers must pay whether they agree with the union's agenda or not, WEA now enjoys a degree of power that's as audacious as it is unmatched."

In a recent Seattle Post-Intelligencer editorial, Cindy Omlin hit the nail on the head saying, "It seems clear that no carefully crafted initiative . . . can overcome the natural evolution of a forced union law into union corruption and worker abandonment."

**DON'T BE FOOLED:
PAYCHECK
INITIATIVES PROTECT ONLY
UNION LEADERS'
INTERESTS**

So-called "paycheck protection" bills and initiatives are now on the legislative agenda in other states. It should be obvious from the failure of Initiative 134 in Washington state

that these measures will not bring about the elimination of forced dues and consequently freedom from compulsory dues. We need only look to California for another example of the lengths union leaders will go to in order to keep their political clout.

California Proposition 226, like Washington Initiative 134, would have required union leaders to obtain annual written permission to deduct membership dues for political activity. Proposition 226 did not address the issue of forcing teachers to pay dues in the first place.

The California Teachers Association (CTA), which spent \$4.8 million to defeat the initiative, did not plan to sacrifice any political clout regardless of whether the proposition passed. In fact, CTA planned to change the appearance of dues for politics simply by not classifying it as political spending.

As was the case in Washington state, teacher union leaders merely planned to funnel money to influence politics into innocuous-sounding "outreach programs."

According to Mike Antonucci of the Education Intelligence Agency, CTA's leaders prepared twin budgets, providing for the eventuality of Proposition 226 passage or defeat. Both budgets

required a \$9 membership dues increase.

Had the measure failed to pass, CTA would have funneled \$7.1 million into the Association for Better Citizenship Political Action Committee and Initiative Fund.

If Proposition 226 had passed, \$7.1 million would have gone into the establishment of a Public Policy Center to "engage in organizational outreach to other interested groups with common goals and objectives to obtain visibility and coordinated advocacy on educational issues."

As the Public Policy Center would be prohibited by law from funding political candidates or initiatives, forced-dues payers would still be compelled to fund political action with no recourse whatsoever.

In other words, Proposition 226 would have no affect on CTA's plans to realize their political agenda. CTA's leaders counted on collecting the same amount of dues money whether teachers had given their written permission to collect it or not.

These so-called "paycheck protection" initiatives do nothing to restrict union leaders from seizing illegal dues nor provide protection from spending members' dues for politics, from

increasing membership dues or from using those increased dues for political activity.

Only Right to Work laws would end union leaders' ability to collect forced dues for politics. But union leaders have learned the lessons of Washington Initiative 134 better than those who have proposed paycheck protection laws.

Union chiefs have a method to their madness. If dues cannot be collected by force for politics, they can still be forcefully collected for nonpolitical purposes. The call is for increased dues to fund "outreach" programs, which will "reach out" to other organizations able to contribute money to political campaigns.

For this reason, real paycheck protection must be the elimination of forced dues and not spurious paycheck protection initiatives.

WASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CHALLENGES CEAFFU MEMBERS IN LAWSUIT

The Washington Education Association (WEA) has filed a lawsuit against the WEA Challenger Network. Barb Amidon, a Washington state teacher, along with former teacher Cindy Omlin, formed the WEA Challenger Network in order to provide Washington teachers with

a platform from which to take a stand against the use of union dues for objectionable political activity on local, state and national levels.

The WEA Challenger Network was only the name of a newsletter published by Cindy and Barb. It does not exist as an organization and has no members or dues. It was designed merely to act as a means of support and communication among those public school employees who believe in freedom of association.

The Network believes that political and ideological activities on which a diverse membership disagrees should not be funded by mandatory dues and agency fees but only by voluntary contributions.

Unbelievably, Barb and Cindy are being sued by the Washington Education Association for trademark infringement, among other things, claiming that the WEA Challenger Network "... has consistently tried to undermine the WEA's work on behalf of members and public schools." (WEA Action, a publication of the Washington Education Association, February, 1998.)

Further allegations of "tortious interference" with "business expectancy" and "unfair competition" appear to be part of the case.

With an income of \$43,000,000 yearly from voluntary and forced dues, it is difficult to imagine the WEA officials could fear the Challenger Network's effect as "... undermining efforts on behalf of members and public schools."

**VIRGINIA UNION BOSSES
WHINE ABOUT NEA
BENEFIT FOR TEACHERS**

Every teacher is aware of the growing liability exposure they face in public schools.

In 1997, Former Virginia Governor George Allen outlined a \$2.4 million initiative which would protect teachers, principals, and teachers' aides by providing liability insurance coverage for those who are faced with lawsuits arising out of their attempts to keep order and discipline in the classroom.

The Virginia Education Association (VEA) used the initiative to show just how powerful their lobby is in the General Assembly, as well as to exert their influence to keep teachers under their thumb.

Cheri James, president of the Virginia Education Association, complained that the proposal may cut into teacher union leaders' recruitment efforts. Quoted by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, where news of the initiative was

reported, Ms. James said, "For some reason, Governor Allen thinks many teachers join the VEA because we offer liability insurance."

Governor Allen bravely shot down her assertions. "Teachers should not have to pay for their liability coverage," he said, "and they shouldn't have to join an association to get the insurance. . . . Why make them pay? It will [put] more money in teachers' pocketbooks."

Virginia public employees enjoy the benefits of a Right to Work Law, and public employee monopoly bargaining is illegal in the Commonwealth. Despite such protections, teachers are still badgered by union leaders to join. If the ploy of liability insurance had been removed with the institution of this initiative,

teachers would be free to join any professional association.

Newly-elected Governor James Gilmore fought bravely to keep the initiative, but VEA forces won the day. The House of Delegates bowed to the force of VEA union officials and refused to approve the budgeted dollars for the implementation of the program, although the program remained in effect until July 1, 1998.

CEAFU NEEDS YOUR HELP

Thanks to an ever-increasing group of business and concerned citizens, CEAFU is able to provide our members with the most up-to-date news on compulsory unionism in education.

And we need your help.

Please send in any articles on union activity from your local newspapers and publications. It also helps to let us know of education writers and media writers who cover your area. We can contact them and spread the word about compulsory unionism.

Please write or call CEAFU today.

Your "watchdogging" your state and local union activities is especially helpful to us.

