

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

Communists Praise NEA as a Militant Progressive Union

The Communist Party of the United States has praised the National Education Association as a "bona fide, progressive union," a "militant fighter for better teaching conditions, affirmative action, and peace." These were some of the words emblazoned on the front page of the U.S. Communist Party's official newspaper, People's Daily World of June 25, 1987. The article, which cited the NEA as the nation's largest union, with 1,800,000 members, was published just prior to the organization's 125th annual convention in Los Angeles in July. Here are some excerpts from that article:

"The National Education Association, established originally as a professional association to promote public education, lobby for funds and advance high standards, has become over the years a bona fide, progressive union. . . .

"Critical to the evolution of NEA was its merger with the American Teachers Association in the late 1960s. The ATA represented Black teachers; its merger with the NEA united Black and white chapters in single, integrated NEA chapters. In the ongoing struggle

for full equality, the NEA was far ahead of most unions in its support for equal rights and affirmative action. The election of Mary Hatwood Futrell, an Afro-American teacher, as president of the NEA gave further evidence of the membership's anti-racist stance.

"The growing support for affirmative action throughout the labor movement, which resulted in the historic AFL-CIO resolution calling for affirmative action even if seniority had to be modified, stands in sharp contrast to the right Social Democrat USA policies of Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers. When his editor and associate Linda Chavez was named by President Reagan as director of the Civil Rights Commission, the NEA was among the first to denounce her role in turning the CRC away from affirmative action. . . .

"During the 1985 convention in Washington, D.C., the NEA interrupted its convention proceedings for a march of 2,000 delegates from the convention floor to scores of special buses to picket the South African Embassy. The remaining delegates watched the demonstration in the convention hall on

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