

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

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

Vol. 9, No. 3 (Letter # 91)

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March 1994

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 these risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

Homeschool Network Scores Dramatic Victory on Certification As Congress Accelerates Cultural Revolution in Education

The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) must be given credit for initiating the fax alert and phone blitz that hit Congress from February 15th to the 24th over Rep. George Miller's vaguely worded amendment to H.R. 6 which would have required private, Christian, and home school teachers to be certified by the state. Miller, a "progressive" California Democrat, and other Congressmen were deluged with over one million calls from Christians, conservatives, and homeschoolers who were furious over the liberals' intentions to force private and homeschoolers to accept government control. The *Des Moines Register* of Feb. 25, 1994 reported the story as follows:

House kills provision in school bill

Washington, D.C. — Swamped by complaints from home-school advocates, the House on Thursday fixed, and then fixed again, a problem that sponsors of the elementary and secondary education bill insisted did not exist.

At issue was language requiring school districts receiving federal money to certify that their teachers are qualified to teach their assigned subjects. Bill sponsors said the provision applied only to public schools.

But conservative Rep. Richard Armey, R-Texas, found the language too vague. He said it could apply to private school teachers and parents who teach their children at home.

The Christian right agreed, and launched a lobbying campaign that overloaded lawmakers' phone lines and fax machines.

The House responded by passing, by a vote of 424-1, an amendment deleting the language. Then it passed, 374-53, an amendment by Armey that declared certification would not apply to private, religious or home schools that do not get federal money.

Some Democrats voted yes, then fumed. Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, called House action an "unnecessary solution to a non-existing problem."

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who crafted the offending language, said it had a "tragic ending." His effort to ensure that teachers are qualified had been "manipulated and inflamed for ideological and political purposes," he said.

Calling Miller's comment an "insult," Armey said he was only correcting a problem. With other amendments expected, the House quit for the week, planning to pick up on the bill Tuesday. The measure — called the Improving America's Schools Act — reauthorizes existing federal programs for five years, starting Oct. 1.

The Network Lights Up

According to Mike Farris, president of

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