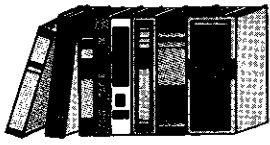


The Blumenfeld Education Letter



"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 these risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

NEA Endorses Clinton And Bashes Whittle Private School Plan

Delegates at the National Education Association's 130th annual convention, held in Washington on July 5-8, voted overwhelmingly to endorse Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas for the presidency. The 8,500 delegates voted 6,321 in favor of Clinton and 842 against, making it the largest plurality (88%) ever given a presidential candidate by the NEA. Clinton told the convention that he supports pre-school programs and school restructuring.

But he received the loudest cheers when he said he would not back any use of public money to support private schools. The Bush administration favors allowing parents to receive vouchers that could be used against the cost of tuition at public or private schools, an idea the teachers fiercely oppose.

"I don't mind good, healthy competition," Clinton said. "If private schools want to get up and get going, let them have at it. I just don't think that with the situation we're in now, we can afford to divert public funds to private schools when we're already uncompetitive," he said to cheers. According to the *N.Y. Times* (7/8/92), "They cheered nearly every remark Mr. Clinton made in a setting that was much like the atmosphere of

a national political convention."

During a question-and-answer session, Clinton said he would consider appointing a teacher as education secretary. "I don't want to promise it since I'd never thought about it before about two minutes ago when you asked the question," he said. "I certainly wouldn't rule it out. I want to appoint someone who understands what is going on in the classrooms of America today."

His answer prompted the delegates to shout "Ma-ry, Ma-ry," suggesting that he choose past NEA president Mary Hatwood Futrell for the job.

Clinton added that he believes in the nation's education goals drawn up in Charlottesville, Virginia, in the fall of 1989 when he was head of the National Governors Association because he helped write them and "believes the president has an obligation to help meet them."

After the NEA convention Clinton made an unscheduled stop at the Capitol Hilton Hotel to thank the NEA Political Action Council for its endorsement and to invite NEA president Keith Geiger to stay in the Lincoln Room at the Clinton White House next year.

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