

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to have my membership to my local (KEA), state (WEA) and national (NEA) unions cancelled as soon as possible.

The reason for this, after some thirty-eight years of faithful membership, is that I cannot in good conscience send funds to organizations that are undermining values I have long held and still cherish. I believe in the vision of racial justice espoused by MLK where we judge others by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

Black Lives Matter and Critical Race Theory are doing just the opposite. Both of these movements are divisive and dangerous in my opinion, and have a definite Marxist flavor to them. I am convinced that many of the supporters of these movements like the WEA (you had a BLM flag flying over headquarters—maybe it is still there) are sincere in their desire for social justice. But the brains behind these two movements have a larger ideological goal of socialism.

As a faithful Catholic, I cannot subscribe to this ideology of soft totalitarianism where the government and its ruling party is always right, and one may be castigated, sanctioned, fired—whatever you can imagine—if they step out of line with the party policies.

It's ironic to me that people like myself who hold more conservative views are being called "fascists." The Latin root for this word *isfascio*, which means "bundle" like a bundle of sticks or bundles of people. The idea is that all the sticks must stay strapped together. We are seeing this happen all over the United States today, and I am sorry to say, teacher unions are a major player. Conformity to the popular social trends of our day enforced by government sanctions is the antithesis of a liberal democracy where all ideas are placed on the table and freely discussed.

My beloved mentor in the teaching profession was a hard-core liberal Democrat who would cringe at the narrow discussion of today and the coercion used to mute opposition. If one doesn't agree with the current Leftist party line and breaks from the bundle, then one is taking serious chances. I find this sobering fact actually unbelievable. I can't quite wrap my head around how this has happened.

The true fascists are calling conservatives like me fascists. Hitler defunded the local police and replaced them with the Gestapo, burned books, cancelled ideas he didn't like, and used a physical identification marker for the demonized Jews in order to round them up and destroy them. How might our government today spot a person like me on the street or in a grocery store and know that I have probably extricated myself from the Biden bundle?

The modern "Star of David" markers in American society are any of the following: a Christian cross or crucifix, any pro-Republican hat or shirt, any pro-second amendment or anti-abortion attire, and the lack of a mask or a COVID vaccination card. And I would also add to this list "withdrawal from teacher unions."

Before I sign off, I just want to share a quick story from my sociology class. About fourteen or so years ago I had a Chinese exchange student from Beijing. I will call her "Sue." We were discussing "groupthink" and "social control" during this unit, and I asked Sue what she thought about the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989. I wasn't sure at that point to what extent the CCP controlled information in China.

She claimed she didn't know anything about a massacre in her hometown. My American students began looking around at one another in disbelief, and a big reason for that was because Sue had

inadvertently built up a reputation of being the most brilliant student in the school. She was quietly and modestly the top in everything but knew nothing about this simple and infamous historic fact. So I pulled up the video of “Tank Man” and his courageous stand against a line of Chinese tanks in the square after the massacre.

Sue’s response was that “This did not happen; this is American propaganda. Our leader loves his people and would never massacre Chinese students.” The American kids in the class were stunned, and I didn’t press it any further. I could see it on their faces though: “How could a person this educated have such a massive blind spot?”

Just a side note: My wife is strongly advising me to delete all but the first sentence of this letter. What is her motivation? It’s FEAR . . . and that should tell you something about how serious and crazy things have become. I don’t expect to make a dent in the thinking of WEA or NEA leadership, but I do feel compelled to give you an explanation—an unbundled point of view that my wife is concerned could be used against me in the future as “hate speech” or a “thought crime.”

Ps. In case you have pigeonholed me as a lunatic ultra-conservative, it might stun you to know that I voted for Barak Obama twice on the idea that he would finally end the racial divide in our country and bring at least some limitation on abortion. Unfortunately, he did just the opposite in both cases.

Sincerely,

Kurt D. Clemmens