Amplifying Our Voice: Leading Boldly for Our Students, Our Professions, and Our Union

WHO ARE THE ADVERSARIES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HOW DO THEY IMPACT US AND OUR STUDENTS?

PRESENTERS: Diane Chapman, Janet Kilgus, Carol Schnaiter
Illinois Education Association-Retired: Legislative Action Committee
COMPETENCY: ADVOCACY

- Advances the cause of public education through advocacy for students including addressing racial and social justice in education and how it benefits our students and members' professional needs and rights.
  - Level 1: Foundational
  - Level 2: Mobilizing & Power Building
  - Level 3: Agenda-Driving

ADVOCACY COMPETENCY THEME ALIGNMENT:

- Utilizes best practices in advocacy and political efforts (CT1)
- Engages and builds mutually beneficial relationships to advance advocacy and political goals (CT2)
- Leads public education policy reform (CT4)
- Acts as a political advocate (CT5) Advances the cause of public education through advocacy for students including addressing racial and social justice in education and how it benefits our students and members' professional needs and rights.
NEA Strategic Goals

- Securing a pro-public education environment for students, educators, and families.
- Building the capacity of the local, state, and national union to ensure the success of public education.

• NEA Organizational Priorities
- My School, My Voice
INTRODUCTION: An Overview: Beginning with ALEC

ALEC: (The American Legislative Exchange Council) invites state legislators from around the country to a private retreat where legislators, licensed lobbyists, and “think tank” staff meet and work on ideas for legislation. After the retreat, the Policy Network endorses any ideas that reflect its philosophy. It is then engaged in direct communication with state legislators.

Bill Moyers United States of ALEC 2012

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0CaOhS7wJg
• Bill Moyers United States of ALEC follow up
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hmhdv_OSvA
What are the goals of our adversaries?

• Eliminate public education in favor of privatization

• Use government to suppress voting rights

• Eliminate the collective voice of voting blocks of groups of citizens

• Destroy unions and oppose pro-worker candidates' campaigns

• Undermine the power of government to act for the common good, i.e., social programs: Social Security, Medicare, SNAP, minimum wage, child labor laws, health insurance, environmental protections and regulations, food and drug safety, clean air and water, safety in the workplace, preserving public lands from privatization, free, public national parks, etc.
WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF OUR ADVERSARIES?

• Diminish the public’s confidence in government’s ability to legislate efficiently and effectively

• Eliminate all government regulations and taxes on business and commerce

• Oppose state tax reform that favors the average citizen
John C. Calhoun Senator from South Carolina shaped politics from the 1820s to the late 1800s and indirectly to the present.

His goals:

- One ruling class: his class - the wealthiest class
- Limit the rights and freedoms of those whom he deemed to be inferior and working to undermine his wealth
- Economic liberty that was free from taxation that would impede the wealthy
- Believed that property rights, i.e., individual rights should be superior to local, state, and federal regulation and control

His playbook included:

- Deny the legitimacy of the Federal government’s power to act for the common good; while using that government to suppress the rights of the collective majority
- Legislate to abandon a strong Federal government (Lincoln’s of the people, by the people, and for the people) to individual, centralized State governments controlled by the wealthy few whose own property rights were at the core mandate
- Oppression of a government ruled by the majority

“…government based in the naked principle that the majority to govern, ‘were sure to take away men’s property and violate their liberty.’”

WHAT IS FREE MARKET ECONOMICS?

Free market: an unregulated system of economic exchange, in which taxes, quality controls, quotas, tariffs, and other forms of centralized economic interventions by government either do not exist or are minimal.

WHO HELPED TO SHAPE FAR-RIGHT WING THOUGHT?

• Milton Friedman: economist, champion of free markets
• Ayn Rand: Libertarian viewpoint
• Friedrich Hayek and Ludwig von Mises: Austrian laissez-faire economists: Charles Koch supported this viewpoint with monetary support to the Austrian Economic Forum.
• Mont Pelerin Society: founded by the Austrian economists. It’s made up of economists, philosophers, historians, intellectuals and business leaders who believe in free market economic policies and seek to use free enterprise to replace many functions currently provided by governments. Charles Koch is a member.
WHO HELPED TO SHAPE FAR-RIGHT WING THOUGHT?

Henry Manne: founding theorist of the libertarian economic approach to law: control the viewpoints of those in the judiciary and control all government

James McGill Buchanan (1919-2013) native of Tennessee

• Worked at the University of Virginia
• Brown v. Board of Education, 1956
  • A turning point
  • Saw as an opportunity to privatize public education, first in Virginia, then the rest of the nation
  • Became an architect of the far right, free market economic and political movement
  • Adopted ideals/methods of John C. Calhoun to achieve his goals of privatization and individual liberty
• Won the Nobel Prize in Economics
• Established the George Mason Law School with Henry Manne
WHY DID OUR ADVERSARIES BECOME MORE ACTIVE 1920’s-1950’s?

The reforms of the depression and the New Deal: saw they were losing some of their power: had to negotiate with unions and meet new regulatory rules and standards

After Truman’s 1949 fair deal speech; which advocated health insurance for all, an increased minimum wage, and equal rights for all; this group felt they had to work to undermine it.

Took libertarian view:

• The market was the most efficient means of allocating goods and services and the best social decision maker
• A government-controlled economy with regulations was the enemy of true economic freedom
• Saw the rise of strong labor unions, like the United auto workers, as agents of coercion that needed to be stopped
• Felt that union monopolies hurt the wage structure and that they were the reason for rising unemployment
• Worked to turn the average person against the unions that were there to help them
As the Collective Action of Average Americans Took Hold, the Wealthy Few Saw a Need to Counter This Action to Maintain Their Wealth and Power

William Volker Fund
• Operated from 1932-1965
• Was set up as a charitable foundation promoting free-market and libertarian economics by far right businessmen
• Funded research and sponsored the work of Old Right economists
• Gave libertarian books to college libraries through the National Book Foundation
THE BEGINNING OF THE KOCH EMPIRE

• Fred Koch: 1900-1967
• Born in Texas
• 1927: Invented improved process to extract gasoline from crude oil
• 1930’s: Began his fortune by helping Stalin set up modern oil refineries
• 1930’s: Aided the Third Reich in building refineries, one of which produced the high octane gasoline needed for fighter planes
• 1958: Became one of the original members of the John Birch Society
• Instilled in his sons, Charles and David, ultra-conservative beliefs, a belief in right-to-work laws, contempt for those who need government assistance, and a hatred for taxes and organized collectivism
• 1976-1983: The family helped to fund the Libertarian Party
• 1980: David Koch ran as the Libertarian Vice-Presidential candidate with Presidential candidate, Ed Clarke
THE KOCH BROTHERS NETWORK

This group works to achieve its goals through many different entities within the network. Some of these entities are Americans for Prosperity, Freedom Partners, Freedom Partners Action Fund, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, and Concerned Veterans for America.

This group, which is active all across the U.S, wants to destroy teachers’ unions, privatize education with public funds, allow families to join together to create their own “micro-schools” as an alternative to public education, expand educational saving accounts, and develop technologies that let parents pick and choose private classes and tutors much like on-line shopping.

This network also funds outside groups to promote their conservative agenda during election years and to lobby for its conservative agenda on business and social issues.

Video:
Koch Brothers Exposed
by Amazon Digital Services LLC
Learn more:
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B079Q98JK3/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp__pMJaCbP3PSF6K=
• Charles Koch created the think tank, The Cato Institute, with a mission to demolish collectivism in American government and to eventually overthrow what he considered to be the *ruling class*: the majority of American voters who want social programs, regulation, and programs that benefit the many, not the wealthy few.

• He considered this ruling class to be:
  • The leaders of labor unions, corporations, and businesses associated with special benefits for the people through lobbying.
  • The intellectuals who supported collective action of the many.

• After the 2008 election the Koch supported groups, including the Cato, gained more and more control over the Republican Party through their “by invitation only” seminars.

• The Cato used its staff and hundreds of scholars to initiate non-stop propaganda against its foes.
According to its website the mission of the Cato Institute is to “originate, disseminate, and increase understanding of public policies based on the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace. Our vision is to create free, open, and civil societies founded on libertarian principles.”
https://www.cato.org

The “scholars” of the Cato Institute research and inform the participants in its seminars on topics such as energy and the environment; finance, banking, and monetary policy; foreign policy and national security; government and politics; health, welfare, and entitlements; international economics and development; law and civil liberties; political philosophy; regulatory studies; tax and budget policy; telecom, internet and information policy; and trade policy.

An example of one of their topic articles about the evils of public education is from POLICY ANALYSIS NO. 842.

THE KOCH BROTHERS NETWORK

The LIBRE Initiative: This grass-roots group was founded in 2011 under the umbrella of the Koch Brother’s Americans for Prosperity group to “empower” the Hispanic community so it can thrive and contribute to a prosperous America.

Current goals:

• To inform this community about the benefits of a constitutionally limited government and the other libertarian beliefs held by the Koch Network

• Target Hispanic families to push the agenda of public funding for private and charter schools.

• Encourage families (during National School Choice Week) to learn more about how educational freedom will allow students from different backgrounds to achieve a better education

www.thelibreinstitute.org
KOCH NETWORK: THE REASON FOUNDATION

• Created in the 1970’s as a think tank
• Funded by the Koch network
• Preached selling of public lands and properties
• Promoted outsourcing public services to private corporations
• Promoted hacking away at government one step at a time by privatizing one function after another
• Saw a need to sell this to the public as a justified need: key word- sell
• Encouraged doing this work quietly before any collective voices could protest
DISCUSSION: WHY DO WE NEED PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Things to consider:
• Access for all
• Cost
• Standards
• School Code
• Additional Examples
• What’s happening in your state?
WHY ATTACK PUBLIC EDUCATION?

• By 1973 James Buchanan and his followers were expanding their thinking and showing hostility toward college students, public employees of any kind, any kind of government assistance, and liberal intellectuals. The new strategy was to move the concentration of privatization and disinformation from the South to the Midwest to the West and to ethnic, i.e., blue-collar workers in the Northeast.

• The enemy was nearly everyone in education, except academic economists who favored Buchanan’s version of economics.

• How do you shape the way people think about government? Train intellectuals for a battle of ideas and concentrate on training teachers at community colleges, colleges, and universities.
WHY ATTACK PUBLIC EDUCATION?

• Charles Koch
  • Harper: a founding member of the Mont Pelerin Society

• Harper believed
  • Scholarships at schools of higher education remove the satisfaction of acquiring an education on one’s own
  • The shorter work week is the source of crime
  • Child labor laws and mandatory school cause juvenile delinquency in the teenage years
  • The cost of collective organization of workers is like a “bank robber” with some gaining an advantage over others at the expense of those who work
  • Union contracts with benefits like health insurance, pensions, etc. create a welfare state and freeze workers in place and keep them from moving from one job to another
  • Workers should individually negotiate their contracts and determine how to spend their earnings in the marketplace and pay fees for the services they need, i.e., pensions, health care, etc.
THE WAR ON HIGHER EDUCATION

2010: Koch Foundation project moved forward in the states with the goals of

• Cutting their state public university budget while raising tuition
• Ending need based scholarships
• Limiting or curtailing tenure
• Reducing faculty governance
• Undermining support for liberal arts curriculums especially those known for cultivating dissent.
• Ousting chancellors who did not “get with the program”
• Advocating for a business model: students are the customers who pay full price, while the taxpayers and donors are the stockholders.
• Limiting dissent at universities
• Adopted by schools in Texas, North Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Iowa, Wisconsin, and at UVA
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE COURTS

Henry Manne’s approach

• Investors including many blue-chip corporations, the Earhart Foundation, and Charles Koch, helped to fund law and economic programs so they could influence what was taught in law schools including the “originalist” view of the U.S. Constitution

• Influence the professors and the students, so the American legal system could be turned to their property rights/individual liberty viewpoint

• Make the protection and enhancement of corporate profits and private wealth the cornerstones of our legal system

• Form a close relationship between law firms and The Institute for Contemporary Studies, The Chamber of Commerce, The Pacific Legal Foundation
INFLUENCING THOUGHT:
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

• Began in 1957 as a two year college in a shopping mall in Fairfax County, Virginia
• Was helped by our adversaries, so the members of the economics department and law school could create a research and design center for the right wing political movement
• Undoing the modern democratic state became a priority
• Hired James Buchanan: he could teach his “public choice” ideas to a large audience
• Promoted the libertarian philosophy: the only role of government is to ensure the rule of law, guarantee a social order, and provide for the national defense
• Promoted the “originalist” interpretation of the U.S. Constitution
• Was called the pentagon of conservative academia by the Wall Street Journal
• Many advisors of the Reagan administration had attended George Mason and advocated for cutting domestic programs and taxes and regulations while promising to return authority to the states
• By 1990 40% of the U. S. Federal judiciary had been part of the Koch-backed law curriculum at George Mason Law School, that is, more than 2 out of every 5 sitting Federal judges had participated in Henry Manne’s libertarian economic program for the law.
THE KOCH NETWORK GOES INTO OVERDRIVE

More and more Americans accessing their right to vote and exercising that constitutional right to vote

• Brought power to large collective groups of Americans

• Those large groups of voters elected officials who adopted and expanded Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public education, improved infrastructure, and expanded regulations on food safety, drug safety, safety in the workplace, clean air and water, and preserving public lands from privatization

• Unions gained power with a collective voice for higher wages and benefits: health insurance, paid vacations, etc.

The network’s reaction:

• Saw their wealth and profit margin’s being eroded by increased taxation

• Increased their assault on unions, public education, and that collective voice of blocks of voters

• Wanted control over the government to maintain their status quo of wealth and power.
MORE WAYS TO ACHIEVE KOCH’S GOAL OF A MODERN TAX POLICY

• The actors: James Buchanan and Henry Manne

• Actions:
  • Use threats of primary challenges to coerce elected officials to “get with the program” or lose their seats
  • Bring an end to the graduated income tax in favor of a flat tax
  • Put an end to public education which nurtures community values and social norms instead of the values of a free economic society
  • Deal with feminism
  • Use the anger of local Tea Party groups to push the agenda of Americans for Prosperity and FreedomWorks
  • Invite members of Congress to attend seminars at various think tanks supported by the Koch network
KOCH NETWORK: POLICY NETWORK

There are over 60 Policy Networks and over 100 affiliates across the country with a presence in every state.

Its main priorities are

- Opposing Unions
- Privatizing public schools and public-school services
- Fighting environmental standards, such as emissions

- In Illinois the Illinois Policy Institute also uses the tactic of anti-tax advocacy. In this way it can address such topics as local and state government revenue as it promotes its issues, one of which is the idea that educators and firefighters are overpaid. It is a way to gain leverage to promote and enact its legislative agenda. Its staff of skilled vocal advocates for its issues has grown from 18 persons to over 50 in the past few years. IPI is adept in traditional and local media and has invested heavily in social media such as FaceBook and the creation/marketing of websites.
INFLUENCING THOUGHT AT THE STATE LEVEL THROUGH THE POLICY NETWORK

Work within a state to

• Limit unions
  • Pass laws debilitating teacher’s unions
  • Cut funds for public education: “Where did the funds go? To Private schools.”
  • According to the International Monetary Fund, “The decline in unionism is strongly associated with the rise of income shares at the top.” p.219*
  • IMF concluded that “the rights of workers to bargain collectively must be restored to slow the growth of inequality and enable economic growth.” p.220*
  • Pass right to work laws with the help of ALEC and Americans for Prosperity: did so in Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and West Virginia – not just in sparsely populated areas anymore – it’s everywhere

INFLUENCING THOUGHT AT THE STATE LEVEL THROUGH THE POLICY NETWORK

Work within a state to

• Privatize correctional facilities with little government oversight
  • Push for tougher sentencing to drive up prison populations
  • Cut costs for job training and substance abuse programs
  • Incarcerate more juveniles for minor offenses

• Fund campaigns of state judges to take over the state judiciaries
  • If one can control the courts, one can control the laws and make it more difficult for citizens to pass the kind of laws they want and need

• Pass laws with the help of ALEC to limit local municipalities to
  • Have control over minimum wage laws
  • Have control over environmental laws
  • Limit anti-discrimination measures
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FIND THEMSELVES UNDER THE CONTROL OF STATE POLICY NETWORK

• In Illinois there are over 29 local newspapers that are now under the control of the Illinois Policy Network, a part of State Policy Network, a Koch funded entity.

• The majority of our citizens get their news from local newspapers and TV stations. State legislatures and news agencies within the states have limited funds to “fact check” news at the local level.

www.lakecountygazette.com (The paper’s website includes a list of partner sites across the state of Illinois.)
INFLUENCING THOUGHT AT THE STATE LEVEL THROUGH THE POLICY NETWORK

• The Influence of the Mackinac Center in Michigan

• The water crisis in Flint, Michigan was allowed to happen because
  • State governments run by people trained at the Koch think tanks who govern in this way:
    • The public health does not matter especially if it’s the health of the non-elite
    • Uses a coordinated effort to prevent state governments from responding to the demands of the takers
    • Example: The 1994 quote by Michigan governor, John Engler, “When the Mackinac center speaks, we listen.”*

Liberty Justice Center - This is the legal arm of the Illinois Policy Institute. The Liberty Justice Center filed a lawsuit to prevent same-day voter registration in Illinois, filed as petitioner in complete support of Mark Janus, and supplied legal counsel for the petitioner in the recent fair-share Supreme Court case, Janus v. AFSCME.
GROUP DISCUSSION

How is the control of the wealthiest few diminishing the collective rights of the majority of Americans?
OUR ADVERSARIES IMPACT ON THE MEDIA

Former news anchor, Dan Rather had a very pointed opinion about Sinclair Broadcasting.

Rather, Dan. “News Anchors looking into camera and reading a script handed down by a corporate overlord, words meant to obscure the truth not elucidate it, isn’t journalism. It’s propaganda. It’s Orwellian. A slippery slope to how despots wrest power, silence dissent, and oppress the masses.”

2 April 2018. 1:54 PM. Tweet.
Sinclair Broadcasting Group - This group is the largest TV broadcaster in the United States and reaches 38% of U.S. households. It is currently on a merger/business quest to increase to 72% of U.S. households. This group requires the inclusion of “must-run” conservative elements in its local programming, with many news items which are not pro-public education. 42% of registered voters trust their local news; while only 27% trust the national news. This group has taken a major role in forming public opinion.

“Why Sinclair's 'false news' script sounds so familiar.” USA Today. 2 April 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PlTDeTrELk
SINCLAIR BROADCASTING GROUP’S IMPACT ON THE MEDIA


• “Sinclair's Soldiers in Trump's War on Media.” Deadspin. 2 April 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fHfgU8oMSo
RUPERT MURDOCH’S IMPACT ON THE MEDIA

• Born in Australia in 1931
• Acquired the British tabloid *News of the World* in 1969
• Entered the U.S. newspaper business in San Antonio, Texas in 1973
• Chairman and CEO of News Corporation from 1979–2013
• Became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1985
• Executive Chairman of News Corp from 2013 to 2017
• Approximate net worth in October 2018: $18.1 billion (US)
MURDOCH AND THE FOX EMPIRE

- Acquired 20th Century Fox Corporation in 1985
- Chairman and CEO of 21st Century Fox from 2013–2015
- Executive Co-Chairman of 21st Century Fox from 2015 to 2017
- Acting CEO of Fox News from 2016 to 2017
- Chairman of Fox News from 2016 to 2017
- Handed the reins over to his sons for Fox Corporation in 2017
MURDOCH GAINS PRESTIGE

• Purchased Dow Jones & Company, which publishes the Wall Street Journal for $5 billion in 2007

• According to the New York Times this made him “...the most formidable figure in business news coverage in the country, perhaps worldwide.”
RUPERT MURDOCH: MEDIA MOGUL

With the purchase of Fox News Murdoch was able to

• Bring tabloid journalism to television
• Replace costly actual reporting, which requires research and fact checking, with less expensive sound bites and opinions
• Promote the idea that real journalism is unprofitable, while using a business tabloid model which is more profitable
• Provide an insulated forum for conservative views and dogma
• Present the appearance of balanced unbiased news, while using bias and partisan talking points in its news casts
• Push partisan stories, have a political party quote them, then accuse the other media outlets of being bias
• Add to his huge media empire
• Influence millions of American citizens
A November 2011 report on how the people of New Jersey watch television news by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind Poll found that “some outlets, especially Fox News, lead people to be even less informed than those who say they don’t watch any news at all.”*

The goal of Murdoch and Fox News is to promote news stories that:

- Eliminate trade unions
- Abolish or privatize public education
- Increase economic inequality and the power of billionaires and corporations
- Downplay environmental issues
- Promote the military and military actions
- Influence elections and the judiciary

Illinois Radio Network - This network was purchased by the Illinois News Network. Across all IRN affiliates throughout Illinois the radio show, *Illinois Rising*, has replaced the typical news roundup show, *Eye on Illinois*. A classic example of their news format was in their first show where the host and guest discussed the progressive income tax using only negative information about this kind of tax structure. Research reveals that 39 Illinois radio stations receive their news exclusively from the Illinois Policy Institute.
OUR MEDIA ADVERSARIES VENTURE INTO PRINT MEDIA

**Meredith Publishing** – This magazine group based in Des Moines, Iowa and founded in 1902 by Edwin Thomas Meredith publishes family oriented titles including *Better Homes and Gardens, Family Circle, AllRecipes, Eating Well*, etc. Meredith Corp. purchased Time, Inc in November 2017 and acquired *People, Food and Wine, Travel and Leisure, Cooking Light*, etc., but stated its intent to sell *Time Magazine, Sports Illustrated, Fortune, and Money*. 

**National Geographic** – In 2015 the National Geographic Society and 21st Century Fox created a for-profit joint venture. It included the *National Geographic Channels* cable television group and National Geographic’s other properties: its magazine and other print publications, studios, digital media, maps, children’s media, travel, licensing and e-commerce.
ILLINOIS NEWS NETWORK (INN) - This media arm of the IPI hires reporters and generates its own media content. It is often referred to as a “project of the Illinois Policy Institute.” In present day Illinois, the struggling newspaper industry is understaffed and relies on wire services such as the Associated Press and INN for news articles, so opinion/editorial pieces submitted as free news articles are routinely used. At the end of the article it will state the name of author. Sometimes that author is listed as on the staff of the Illinois Policy Institute, a non-partisan think tank. Newspapers in Illinois use this approach with great frequency.
OTHER ADVERSARIES

**Stand For Children** - This organization undermines public schools by touting the virtues of alternate forms of education and has a strong presence on FaceBook.

**StudentsFirst** - This group was founded by Melissa Rhee of Sacramento, CA to advocate for the creation of more school choice for parents and accountability for teachers. It operates in various states under the banner of StudentsFirst, but has merged with the national, Washington, DC based organization 50Can.
DISCUSSION: HOW OUR ADVERSARIES IMPACT US AND OUR STUDENTS

Now we know who they are and what they’re doing.

LET’S GET REAL!!

What is their impact on our

• Schools
• Educators
• Students
HOW OUR ADVERSARIES IMPACT US AND OUR STUDENTS

They use their wealth and influence to

• Sway public influence against unions and public education, the needs of students, public pensions, Social Security, Medicare, etc
• Promote right to work laws
• Promote private schools, vouchers, charter schools and the diversion of tax dollars to weaken public education
• Elect politicians who will work against unions and public education, the needs of students, public pensions and social services/programs
• Weaken the middle class and its earning power
• Support big business and corporations
• Support deregulation to gain more wealth and power
WHO FUNDS OUR ADVERSARIES?

DONORS TRUST

THE BRADLEY FOUNDATION
SEARLE FREEDOM TRUST
FORMER IL GOV. B. RAUNER
DEVOS FAMILY
KOCH BROTHERS NETWORK

ALEC
FRANKLIN CENTER
AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY
CATO INSTITUTE
POLICY NETWORK
ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE
HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
NRA
CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY
COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE
CITIZENS FOR SOUND ECONOMY
CLUB FOR GROWTH
LIBERTARIAN PARTY
HERITAGE FOUNDATION
FREEDOM PARTNERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TC4TRUST
CENTER TO PROTECT PATIENT RIGHTS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY/A. SCALIA LAW SCHOOL (FORMERLY GEORGE MASON LAW SCHOOL)
THE TAX FOUNDATION
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
HOW MUCH HAVE OUR ADVERSARIES SPENT TO UNDERMINE OUR PROFESSION AND OUR NATION?

The use of private foundations helps to mask where the money goes

• Hide the names of the donors
• Wield power in secret
• Disguise philanthropy with partisan political actions
• 501(C)(4) June 2018: tax law rules that benefit these groups

The Kochs and their allies have

• Given over $760 million to many non-profits (2010-2015)
  • Freedom Partners
  • Chamber of Commerce
  • The Center to Protect Patient Rights
  • The TC 4trust
  • Other undisclosed non-profits

Donated nearly $8 million to Donors Trust (2005-2011)
FUNDING SOURCES: DONORS TRUST

Donors Trust and its affiliated group, Donors Capital Fund has

• Raised more than $500 million for far right causes
• Distributed over $400 million to more than 1,000 conservative and libertarian groups
• Helps wealthy contributors who want to anonymously donate millions to what Donors Trust views as the most important causes
• Supported The Heartland Institute, ALEC, and the attack on collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin
• Received donations from over 200 right-of-center funders who have each given at least $10,000. “Charities bankrolled by Charles and David Koch, the DeVoses, and the Bradleys, among other conservative benefactors, have given to Donors Trust.”

According to its website, Donors Trust is a donor-advised fund committed to supporting and promoting the principles of liberty. It makes grants to charities that do not rely on government funding to support the principles of a civil society: limited government, personal responsibility, and free enterprise. Through their contributions they encourage philanthropy and individual giving as an answer to society’s needs instead of governmental involvement to solve our society’s problems. It was founded in 1999 in “collaboration with a small group of donors and nonprofit leaders who were actively engaged in supporting and promoting a free society as understood in America’s founding documents.”

Lawson R. Bader has been the President and CEO since 2015. He has also worked for free-market research and advocacy groups such as:

- Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Mercatus Center at George Mason University
- As special assistant at the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
- Legislative analyst/paralegal with Pierson, Semmes & Finley
- Managed government relations at SRI International
- Former weekly columnist with Human Events

https://www.donorstrust.org/
FUNDING SOURCES: THE BRADLEY FOUNDATION

It was founded in 1985 by Lynde and Harry Bradley in Wisconsin as a philanthropic donor group. It is one of the cornerstone’s of the nation’s far-right conservative philanthropy.

According to its website the principles which inform the Foundation’s grantmaking include:

- Fidelity to the Constitution, with its principles of limited government, federalism, separation of powers, and individual liberties
- Commitment to free markets that allow for private enterprise, entrepreneurship, and voluntary exchange within the rule of law
- Commitment to the fundamental institutions of civil society that cultivate individuals capable of self-governance
- Dedication to the formation of informed and capable citizens

This group was formed over 40 years ago and according to its website advertises itself as “a research and educational institution whose mission is to build and promote conservative public policies.” They communicate these policies, which include anti-union and anti-public education policies, on a daily basis through their website, The Daily Signal, and social media.
FUNDING SOURCES: COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

According to its website the Koch Network funded, Competitive Enterprise Institute

- Was founded in 1984
- Has become an advocate for freedom on a range of regulatory policy issues, including energy, environment, business and finance, labor, technology and telecommunications, transportation, and food and drug regulation
- Is a non-profit, free market, public policy organization
- Is dedicated to advancing the principles of limited government, free enterprise, and individual liberty
- States its mission is to promote both freedom and fairness by making good policy-good politics
- Believes economic freedom is essential for entrepreneurship, innovation, and prosperity to flourish
- Pursues a full-service approach to advancing public policy
- Publishes original scholarly studies that make the case for an issue
- Using its own research, it crafts advocacy campaigns in order to reach policy makers, influential opinion leaders, and grassroots activists.
- Produces, through its policy analysts, what it considers to be timely commentaries for major news organizations
- Appears on television and radio programs, and engages with other experts who cover its key policy areas
- Builds coalitions and joins with allies to advance specific issues at the state, national, and international levels
- Pursues, when appropriate, pro-freedom advocacy in court: has brought lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of statutes, interstate agreements, and onerous regulations
- Has sued government agencies to force the disclosure of public information

https://cei.org/about-cei
FUNDING SOURCES:
CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY

It was founded in 1988 by Frank Gaffney, Jr. as a think tank focused on foreign affairs, but according to the Southern Poverty Law Center it has become part of the growing conspiracy theory-based anti-Muslim movement in the United States.

According to its own website the Center for Security Policy
• Hosted four high-profile National Security Action Summits across the country with presidential candidates during the 2016 presidential campaign to showcase foreign and defense policy topics awaiting the new Commander-in-Chief
• Has recognized the work of dozens of accomplished national security practitioners to give them opportunities to share remarks intended to inform and inspire those who are following in their footsteps.
• Applauded the unveiling in December 2017 of the Trump administration’s new National Security Strategy – a document that closely reflects the positions the Center for Security Policy has fought for over the last three decades.

https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/about-us/
FUNDING SOURCES: SEARLE FREEDOM TRUST

This foundation was established by the late Daniel C. Searle in 1996. Its goal is to support public policy research that fosters individual freedom and economic liberty.

Its current President and CEO is Kimberly O. Dennis. She also

• Directed the National Research Initiative, a Searle-funded program of AEI
• Worked for the John M. Olin Foundation
• Was the first executive director of the Philanthropy Roundtable
• Co-founded and serves as chairman of the board of DonorsTrust.
• Has served on the boards of the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation, the Earhart Foundation, the W. H. Brady Foundation, the Philanthropy Roundtable, the Property and Environment Research Center, and George Mason University
DISCUSSION: WHAT CAN I DO?

We can no longer
• Bury our heads in the sand
• Pretend it affects someone else
• Look the other way
• Be complacent

The political atmosphere and the time is right for us to Stand Up! Speak Out! Be an Advocate!

So, What Will YOU Do?
I CAN...

• Stay informed
• Get connected to the NEA website at http://www.nea.org/ and my state affiliate’s website
• Read NEA Today
• Subscribe online to NEA Votes http://educationvotes.nea.org/ and Lily’s Blackboard www.lilysblackboard.org
• Be involved in my local and state affiliates of NEA
• Register to vote and be more politically involved
• Support and VOTE for public education-friendly candidates by working on campaigns, taking a yard sign, etc.
• Share what I know and learn with others in my local and state affiliates/with my friends and family
• Encourage others to get involved
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


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• Parramore, Lynn. “Meet the Economist Behind the One Percent’s Stealth Takeover of America.” History of Economic Thought/Institutions, Policy and Politics. 30 May 2018.
  

• “How the Kochs Are Trying to Shake Up Public Schools, One State at a Time.” *Politico*. 2017
• “How Public Schools Became The Koch Brothers ‘Lowest Hanging Fruit’. *Education Opportunity Network*
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• Rupert Murdoch Chief Executive Officer


• Image of Dan Rather: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DanratherGSFC.PNG

SLIDES ON FUNDING SOURCES:


• Donors Trust.org

SESSION OUTCOMES

“As trusted professionals, educators are best equipped to make school and classroom decisions to ensure student success.” Presenters webinar-Part II. NEA. 16 January, 2019.

The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:

- **Outcome #1**
  Identify the adversaries of public education at the local, state, and national levels

- **Outcome #2**
  Identify the strategies these adversaries use to sway the public against public education

- **Outcome #3**
  Create a plan to engage and empower your members to stay informed and to take action at the local, state, and national levels
CLOSING

• Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session by using the NEA Summit Mobile App!

• Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment