

has been the policy of having boards of education and on the state level, this is extremely necessary, and a policy that should be in the constitution.

The papers talk about educators. Boards of dedicated people who study education keep the power in the hands of the people, and this is not giving it to the educators.

The day of the rubber stamp board is gone, but educational interests are fighting a defensive rear-guard action on a state-by-state basis against a nationwide movement with a well entrenched philosophy. While we have all been worrying in education about the dangers of federal control, either real or fancied, we have ignored the possibility that the control of education is being threatened at the state level. The advice that is being given to governors, and I will also say Constitutional Convention delegates, about the organization of state governments and about financing state services is coming primarily from political scientists and economists, rather than from people who are greatly interested in education.

In the book, *THE REORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES* by A. G. Burke, he says,

“Even when managed by able, well-intentioned men, boards are not altogether satisfactory. They tend to be slow to act and difficult, if not impossible for the governor and legislature to supervise. Consequently, it becomes one of the principal tenets of the state reorganization movement to replace boards and commissions with single officials.”

The democratic way may often have meant a slower pace, but in this country, it produces superior results. Would anyone suggest that we should sacrifice our democracy for the efficiency of dictatorship? But why are we so concerned with education, and why spend such a large proportion of our budget on schools? It is the child. He is the heart of the matter. His future is dear to us. He is the reason we cling to our traditional belief that the policies and operational management of our public schools should be in the hands of lay boards of education, responsive to local needs, fully endowed with the authority that comes from a constitutional basis, and these last words are from Dr. Wayne Reed of the United States Office of Education.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one minute, Delegate Robie.

DELEGATE ROBIE: The constitution is the place to state the policy of the State. This was quoted from Mrs. Bothe yesterday, when she was talking about collective bargaining.

I agree with her on that point, and I say that the policy of having our schools controlled by lay boards should be in the constitution. Today this concept is being challenged, and I urge you to join with the majority of the Committee in our fight to preserve it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Lord.

DELEGATE LORD: Mr. Chairman, I will yield three minutes to Delegate Frank Robey.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Frank Robey.

DELEGATE ROBEY: First, as a teacher in the State, I would submit that it is a tough act to follow when you must follow your boss, as Kathleen Robie certainly is as a member of the State Board of Education.

I would speak and address my comments to the minority amendment on line 12 and 13, and that is the phrase which says, “headed by a governing board appointed by the governor.” If not for this phrase I would not be speaking today for the minority.

Most of the States of the United States have a State Board of Education appointed by the governor, and as Delegate Wheatley said, almost half of the states of the United States, not only have a State Board of Education appointed by the governor but have a State Board of Education appointed by the governor in the constitution.

It is indeed a good practice which now prevails in most states. By having a State Board composed of able laymen, they can and have been free from partisan political control and can be true representatives of the will of the people, free from any allegiance except to us, the citizens of the State in this vital area. We insure to the people of this State that education will be free from the realm of politics.

Secondly, by having this board appointed by the governor, we have a theory which is in keeping with the responsibility for this function in our State government as it is in the executive branch of the government, but shared in part with the legislative branch. Any other method of selecting the governing board of members of the