

5/1/94

To the C-Span staff

Yes. Read it and weep.

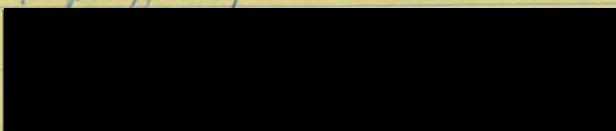
When Stahl says, "To everyone's astonishment etc.", she betrays a consummately self-delusory belief that everybody thinks as she and CBS-TV News do. On the contrary, many knew (!) that the H.C. contraption, built from the top storey downwards, must fail.

The philosophy, methods and people that helped wreck our public schools were retained. The only change was that pressures in the wrong directions were intensified by \$1,200,000,000. No account was taken of what worked in the past here, or of what is working now overseas. All of this experience, knowledge, valid data and success remained in the dust-bin where it was chucked by the American Education Establishment. Instead, the pipe dream of education professors and others, whose minds are similarly disconnected from the actual world, were given free rein.

An idiot federal judge pressed the firing button; a marvelous Rube Goldberg thing-amajig roared off in all directions and, of course, missed everything.

Read it and laugh, if you can.

Respectfully

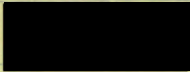


Conshohocken, Pa. 19428

P.S.

It is always instructive to ask who benefited from another government bondoggle. Remember Stahl's words, "they gave teachers huge raises." We know that at least they are able to laugh ~~~~~ on their way to the bank.

It would take a Shakespeare to do justice to this K.C. tale of tragedy, comedy and dementia in a looby-hatch peopled by "educators" and lawyers, which was run by its inmates.



Good Money After Bad

In order to improve school facilities and attract white students back into the inner-city schools, in 1986 a federal judge ordered the Kansas City public schools to correct, regardless of cost, funding disparities between urban and suburban districts.

In a February 27 piece on *60 Minutes*, CBS reporter Lesley Stahl asked the question, "Is money the answer?" In Kansas City, with nearly 1.2 billion dollars, "Old schools were demolished all over town, and new ones built. They stocked them with the latest materials and thousands of computers. They gave teachers huge raises, and mandated that no class could have more than 25 kids. They did just about everything recommended by the reformers." Seven years later, Stahl revealed: "To everyone's astonishment and dismay, academic achievement has hardly improved at all. Junior high and high school test scores in reading, writing, and arithmetic are exactly where they were before, way below national averages."

The spending jump has not succeeded in attracting more white students either. Stahl confronted the superintendent of schools: "You cannot deny that system-wide, the desegregation numbers are a disaster. I mean, there are...proportionately fewer whites than there were when the money started coming in." In closing, she pointed to a successful alternative: "One school in Kansas City that is making an impact is Martin Luther King Middle School, and they didn't

spend through the roof. They didn't get a new building, just a facelift. There's no exotic theme, just a basic curriculum. But the kids wear uniforms...Test scores at King used to be the worst in the system, now they're just about the best."

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