



IMPACT

BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO

Volume 9, Number 1

October 8, 1980

Then

And

Now.

CARTER vs. REAGAN

The single most important decision made at the Convention in Detroit was the endorsement of Jimmy Carter by AFT. Rather than bore you with information about an otherwise dull Convention, I would like to offer you the rationale for this position.

Perhaps the overriding sentiment expressed by the delegates was that we were selecting "the lesser of two evils". To some extent, I must concur. President Carter has not been our most strident ally. The Convention Delegates would undoubtedly, by their reaction, have preferred Ted Kennedy as their candidate.

There were many vocal delegates who strongly expressed their concern that we give no endorsement in the Presidential contest. While I can understand their point of view, I cannot agree with it. My reasons are offered in the hope that you may agree and support the President in his bid for reelection.

First of all, withholding support for President Carter is, in effect, giving support to Ronald Reagan. Does this make a difference? It most surely does!

There are many areas where the candidates have clearly taken divergent positions. Most significantly for us in public education, the candidates represent undeniably different positions. Concerning Federal Aid to Education, Carter has demonstrated his support by increasing that budget category by an unprecedented seventy-three percent. Reagan, in keeping with the conservative philosophy, offers little except probably cut-backs in aid to education.

November, 1913: Bridget Pexitto, a teacher in the Bronx, was dismissed from her duties for being "grossly negligent by being absent to have a baby." The Board of Education dismissed her by a vote of 27-5. The New York Times, commenting with its usual insight, stated editorially that it found the school system was a

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Notice on WWII Retirement Credit

ALBANY — A NYSUT-supported bill, passed by the legislature and signed into law, permits members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System enrolled before July 1, 1973 but who were on unpaid or partially paid leaves of absence between July 20, 1976 and Oct. 15, 1977 to purchase retirement credit for up to three years of World War II military service if being on leave was the sole reason for ineligibility for such credit in 1976.

It is important to note that the time limit for such application under the newly passed law is Oct. 14, 1980. Applications made after this date will not be honored. Initial payment must be made at the time of application.

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BTA TO GO SKIING

The BTA ski trip will be held the weekend of January 23-25, 1981 in New Hampshire. You can ski Cannon Mt. or Waterville Valley for only \$128 (downhill) or \$98 (x-country).

The package includes two nights lodging for double occupancy (for 4/room, \$8 less) at the Woodwards Motor Inn in Lincoln, N.H., private bath, coach bus transportation, 3 meals, 2 days' lifts (for downhill), and live entertainment. Ski rentals are available at \$9/day (downhill) and \$7/day (x-country).

Carter vs. Reagan

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Possibly more important than money is the respective positions on Tuition Tax Credits. Carter has been and is solidly against this Credit, while Reagan firmly supports his party platform which unequivocally stands in favor of Tuition Tax Credit. For us in public education, already faced with declining student enrollment, this could be utterly devastating.

As educators and unionists, there are other differences between the candidates that are perhaps equally important. The respective positions on collective bargaining rights for public employees, the creation of jobs and training programs, and Federal dollars for educational and social programs make a clear choice available.

The delegates at the Convention overwhelmingly chose to endorse President Carter as the clear choice for educators. Given the current situation, it was the only choice.

"IMPACT"

is published by the
Brentwood Teachers Assoc.
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of Communications



A \$40 deposit check payable to Danrail, Inc. must be sent to the BTA Office, 350 Motor Pkwy, Suite LL5, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787 no later than October 17, 1980.

For more information, contact Mike Fasullo at Sonderling (435-2391) or at the BTA Office (273-4402).

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THEY AND NOW---

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"victim of that comparatively new and disturbing malady called feminism. Time was when women married and took up the conjugal relation expected thereafter to devote themselves to the care of their home and training of their children. This woman is representative of a new order. She claims the right to hold her place in the public service when she is obviously unfit to perform the duties attached to it ... There are plenty of widows and women with living husbands well fitted to serve as teachers. But the action of the Board of Education in the case of Mrs. Pexitto was in the public interest."

August, 1980: Interviewing a female candidate for an administrative position in this District, at least one current administrator asked if the candidate's husband would object to her becoming a principal implying, one would suppose, an inherent threat to male ego or a reference to all those night meetings

Reprinted from The United Teacher (Northport), Sept., 1980, Volume 10, Number 1.