

West Virginia Archives and History

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY SEPTEMBER 13

County Schools Closed In Face of Text Fight

On September 13, 1974, Kanawha County schools were closed in the wake of violence in the county's textbook controversy.

CSO: SS.8.25

Investigate the Document: (Sc93-3, Sc2002-053)

- 1. According to the "Genealogy of Textbook Controversy" chart, which two groups were in favor of the textbooks? Which four groups were against them?
- 2. After reading Alice Moore's re-election ad, can you conclude whether she was for or against the textbooks? Explain.

<u>Think Critically:</u> The Kanawha County Textbook Controversy stemmed from differing viewpoints on content as well as educational value versus ideological beliefs. After the controversy ended, a network of these type of schools started to spring up around the state, intended to teach "conservative" principles instead of those that surrounded the controversy.



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GENEALOGY OF TEXTBOOK CONTROVERSY The Anti Tree The Pro Tree Second anti-text group to form. This group is responsible for the boycott of classes which began Sept. 3. Ministers affiliated with this group are the Revs. Avis Hill, Darell Beach, Marvin Horan and Ezra Graley. Group of county parents voicing concern over the quality of education if the texts should be removed. They are in favor of the books and selection committee. First group to organize against the textbooks. Their first meeting was in August. The Rev. Henry Thaxton is spokesman. Group of teachers and principals represent-ing the board of education. They recommend the books to the board for adoption. These two groups have been supported by various organizations and individuals. Some have supported only the selection committee or books and not the coalition, however, Included among these giving support to either or both groups are: BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR BETTER TEXTBOOKS AMERICAN
AMERICAN
Group organized about two weeks ago. Ed
Miller is spokesman. He says members believe in God but call themselves non-Christian because they have not been "born
venting". BETTEK TEXTBOOKS

They anti-text group to organize. They do not support strikes, boycotts or demonstrations. One goal is to obtain a better image for the protest movement. Elmer Files is president, Bob Dornan, coordinator of protest activities, has been working out of the alliance office. Board of education members Russell Isaacs, Harry Stans-bury, Matt Kinsolving and F. Douglas Stump; former board member Albert Anson. A number of people and organizations have expressed their disapproval of the textbooks. At the same time, some of those people have not said they support any one anti-text group. Those opposing the texts include: 27 ministers: The Revs. Wal-lace York, Ralph Green, Charles Meadows, Walter Means, Clark Bryan, Darrell Moore, Harold Hall, Carl smith, Charles Swigger, Ber Swiger, Ber Swiger, Ber Kaymord Snodgrass, John Mick, John Chiek, Jim Efaw, David Williams, Ned J. Crouch, E. V. Rywant, Sher-man Witt, Bill Westlund; F. A. Giles, Paul Skages, Euzene Garlow, Peter Schultis, Mil-lard Mitchell. Board of education member Mrs. Alice Moore, first person to call attention to the books Kanawha County Assn. of Classroom Teachers, Roscoe Keeney, president, Supported selection committee only, but have worked with coalition members. Kanawha Valley Ministerial Assn. for the Church of God, Robert Carrell, Jessie Wood-ward and Arley K. Cravens, spokesmen. Kanawha County Personnel and Guidance Assn., Randall Bowles, president. Daily Mail Student councils at George Washington, St. Albans, Char-leston, South Charleston and Stonewall Jackson high schools West Virginia District Assembly of the Nazarene, Harold Maish, chairman. Church of God Missions, John W. King, president. Assn. of College Professors Lillian Wilson, president. R Upper Kanawha Valley Mayors Assn.: G. L. Stanley, Chesapeake; Bily Pauley, Marmet; John Hudnall, Cedar Grove: Sherman Jarrett, East Bank; Davids See, Handley; B. F. Tucker, Glasgow; Robert Baughan, Pratt; Sammy Fragale, repkesentating Montgomery. Coal miners' sympathy strike State Human Rights Commis-sion, Betty Hamilton, spokes-man. Supported the books West Virginia Council of Churches, the Rev. John Price, executive secretary. West Virginia Fundamentalist Pastors' Fellowship, Bobby Sizemore, James Efaw and Ralph Green, spokesmen. Church of Jesus Christ, Char-leston, the Rev. Lewis Har-rah, pastor. Wesleyan Churches of West Virginia District Board of Ad-ministration, Elmer Farmer, secretary. Upper Kanawha Valley Church; Marmet-Hernshaw area: Marmet Reynolds Me-morial United Methodist Church; Marmet Church of the Nazarene; Marmet Apos-tolic Gospel Church of Jesus Christ; Lens Creek Church of the Nazarene; Hernshaw Methodist Church; Hernshaw Wesleyan Church. Executive branch of the NAACP, William Lonesome, Calvary Baptist Church at Cross Lanes, Millard Mitch-ell, pastor. George Washington faculty. Nazarene Area Ministerial Assn., Merlin Provane, presi-dent. Kanawha County Assn. for Teachers of English, Richard Clendenin, president. Charleston High language arts faculty. Charleston Mountain Mission, Charles Scragg, pastor; Dun-bar Mountain Mission, Donald Gatewood, pastor. Fraziers Bottom Church of God; Teays Valley Baptist Church; Valley Freevill Baptist Church at Hurricane; Em-manuel Baptist Church at Hurricane; Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Evangelical Free Church at Hurricane; Pine Grove Church of Christ; First Baptist Church at Tyler Mountain. Mt. Calvary Missionary Bap-tist Church, the Rev. James Green, pastor. West Side Elections Reform Committee, Everette Knap-per, chairman. Kanawha County Schoolmas ters Assn., Gene Douglas president. Executive committee of Kan-awha PTA Council, Bill Sea-man, president. Charleston Chapter, National Assn. of social workers, June Sinclair, president Kanawha County Assn. for Curriculum Development. Glenda Smith, president.

RE-ELECT

ALICE MOORE

BOARD of EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

The schools belong to the people who pay for them, not Washington Bureaucrats, not School Administrators, not National Education Organizations.

Nationally, education is costing us more than 61 billion dollars a year, more than is spent on education by all the rest of the world combined. This is a 1000 percent increase in 20 years while enrollment has barely doubled. Yet almost one third of our high speaks are third. doubled. Yet, almost one third of our high school grad-uates cannot pass college placement exams and this num-ber increases annually.

Are your children getting the education you want for them? I am convinced most parents expect the schools, for which we pay and for which we provide the children,

- Offer the best academic education possible with emphasis on basic skills.
- Respect family privacy and our right as parents to rear our children according to our own moral, ethical and religious beliefs without interference.
- Provide a disciplined and morally up-lifting educational climate for the safety and peace of mind for both students and teachers. Stop coddling the class trouble-makers at the expense of serious minded students.
- Operate the schools as efficiently as private enterprise.

As a board member, I have tried to represent the public interest, not an Educational Bureaucracy. This is the kind of education I want for my five children. If this is what you want, please give me your vote and contact your friends on my behalf.

> Sincerely yours, (Mrs.) Alice Moore

The final board vote is at the May 11 primary. Democrats, Republicans and Independents can vote for me, for this non-partisan position.