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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

October 14, 2002



"Public" Equals "Poor"

There is not much "public" in public service...in fact most public servants prefer to use "private."

In the Hawaiian Islands, a bastion of a liberal culture that rivals Berkley, the two candidates for Lt. Governor are, characteristically, on the left side of their party. They are the two major candidates with school-age children, some seven between them, and both candidates are strong supporters of "public" education. Do ANY of their children actually go to a public school? Of course not! All seven are in private school.

Around the country, liberals verbally support public education and send their own children to private schools. Bill Clinton, Al Gore and Jesse Jackson come immediately to mind. In fact, statistically, public school teachers send their children to private school at twice the rate that the rest of the public does. Do you think the teachers know something about public education that the rest of us do not know? (Yep!)

And, any reporter in any major city can get an instant article when their minds run dry, simply by going to the office of "public transportation," bus or trolley, and asking the top 10 executives of the system if THEY came to work this morning on the public conveyance that they espouse.

Commentary

In fact, this is such a slam dunk that no newspaper editor worth his salt will permit this sort of article more than once every few years. It is too much like shooting fish in a barrel.

In fact, if I could be permitted just one statewide initiative, it would be the Hypocrisy Initiative. It would call for all elected public officials who have praised public education in their campaigns to actually USE public education. It would call for ALL employees of the public school system to use the system that pays them. It would call for all the employees of the public transportation system to RIDE their own system!

Unfortunately, some additional ideas would be way over the top, since I am reasonably certain that even what I have recommended would be challenged, but at least what I have written so far has precedent. Some localities have required their police and fire employees to reside in the community they serve.

Now all of that is employment based...but how about this: Homeless advocates would be required to actually HOUSE the homeless in their own homes, defense attorneys would be required to have their clients LIVE in their family home until the trial is over, if they intend to plead their client Not Guilty.

There are obviously other variations on this theme, and you can probably think of some I have not.

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