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MEMO TO: "Key Communicators"
FROM: Joan Campbell, Organizer/Communicator for C.A.P.E.
RE: Building C.A.P.E. Network

A KEY COMMUNICATOR IS . . . .

This title is quite familiar to some of you and quite new to others. Due to the expense of mailings and the scarcity of secretarial time you will, I trust, forgive me if I address this mailing to both present and potential "Key Communicators".

For those of you just being invited to joing the ranks of Key Communicator and for those already playing the role let me "be perfectly clear" what is meant by the words KEY COMMUNICATOR. As CAPE moved into its second year of operation we began to identify key persons across the state. We are what CAPE calls "movers and shakers" -- persons who feel the crisis in public education deeply and are moved to do something about it. More specifically they are persons who are in contact with others either thru formal or informal channels and often find themselves organizing or informing others about the education situation. It is CAPE'S desire to equip more persons with information that either could be useful in their particular situation and when requested to offer organizational assistance.

A KEY COMMUNICATOR DOES . . . .

In return CAPE hopes that each Key Communicator who agrees to receive CAPE services will provide CAPE with feed back as to their particular local educational situation -- both problems and promising possibilities. In this way CAPE can begin to build a network of persons across the state interested in change and ready to move when the situation demands it.

HOW THE CAPE NETWORK WILL FUNCTION?

Communication Identified

A Problem is Communicated

A decision is made

Two of our key communicators are members of an organization called La Raza Unida. La Raza is an organization concerned about the quality of life for persons with Spanish surnames living in Ohio. One of their major concerns is the quality of education received by "Spanish" children. At the CAPE conference and in a subsequent field visit specific education related concerns were lifted up. These problems were discussed by the CAPE executive committee (list enclosed) and it was decided that CAPE would place a high priority on offering assistance to La Raza.

CAPE seeks allies to change state policy

Ohio State Legal Services writes bill seeks feed-back proof of injustice

One of the basic problems expressed by La Raza is the lack of bi-lingual educational opportunities. One of the ways to change the present inadequate educational system is by legislative mandate (this is called changing institutional policy or systemic change). CAPE thru its state wide contacts has succeded in bringing La Raza's concern to the attention of Ohio State Legal Services who have written a bill calling for "the establishment and implementation of programs in transitional bilingual education". (enclosed)

LaRaza provides feedback on bill data on injust	The bill now having been written will remain just a piece of paper until sponsors are found, data on injustices of present system are gathered, until support is marshalled. This is where you come in. CAPE will now go back to La Raza and ask them to provide documentation of educational inadequacies in the present system. They will be fed to O.S.L.S
Public Support is sought, sponsors found	The Bill will be rewritten building in feed-back and sponsors for the bill will be determined. If you think the bill has merit you ought to speak to your legislator about becoming a sponsor.
Bill goes to Committee, voice of citizen lobby is heard	The next step is the introduction of the bill and placement in a committee. At this point CAPE will ask the communicators to garner all the public support they can for the passage of such a bill. We will supply you with data as to the problem and as to specific measurers included in the bill itself. We will tell you who are key persons to speak/write to and when. If the voice of the people is loud enough, persistent enough and organized effectively the bill will pass and one small step will have been taken to make education more relevant for Spanish speaking children.
Bill passes-- citizens watch-dog implementation of policy.	

WHO IS PART OF THE CAPE NETWORK?

At present we have 35 persons (list enclosed) each of whom is in contact with from 5 to 100 other persons. CAPE estimates that they can reach thru a mailing about 6,000 persons across the state. This is barely a beginning, but it is a start. Our present communicators represent a broad cross section of the state including man/women/black/white/Spanish speaking/youth/lay and clergy/ Presbyterians/Disciples/Methodists/U.C.C./Heads of Citizens Groups/ and informal communicators.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE. . . . IT IS UP TO US

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