

Stan Kawczynski letter to Senator Vasconcellos

By Stan Kawczynski

Stan Kawczynski
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Honorable John Vasconcellos
Chairman of the Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 30, 2002

RE: AB2003

Dear Senator Vasconcellos:

AB2003 has been brought to my attention, and after careful review with representatives of a number of Polish-American and other Eastern European groups in California, I have found that there are several major historical misrepresentations and omissions in the proposed text in this bill. As a concerned citizen and possible legislator, I feel there maybe significant costs associated with the commissions actions in the near future related to education expenses i.e. textbooks that may have to be replaced.

Knowing that this is a busy time for you and the Education Committee members, I want to keep this as brief as possible and get to the point. Thereby I offer three suggestions for the Education Committee consideration as follows:

1. Request a postponement of the vote to allow for more time for this Committee to review additional information that the above mentioned groups would like to present. This new and additional information may bring to light the unpredictable expenses as regards to the above mentioned textbooks.

2. I and the above mentioned groups will support the bill with the following amendments:

(a) Chapter 3.64 Article 1(d) If the intention of the bill is to define Holocaust, meaning those groups being the major victims of the Nazis, than the definition should reflect the following materials: British historian Norman Davies, Europe: A History, Oxford 1996; Richard Lucas, The Forgotten Holocaust, U. of Kentucky Press, 1986; Witold Lukaszewski, Polish Losses in WWII, Sam Houston State U., 1998; table 1 from the University of Arkansas research by Karen Silverstrim, see attachment A.

(b) Chapter 3.64 Article 2 (3) should add the following after "... due regard to,": provide proportional representation of the major victim groups, "but not ..."

3. Even though this bill has a lot of merit and we all look forward to legislation of this kind, at this time with a State budget crisis of major proportions (over \$25 billion), that the Committee reconsider this bill in the future as the Governor did in 1989 on a similar bill, see attachment B.

John, if I can be of any additional help please call me at 408-773-8880 or my cell phone 408-314-5136.

With warmest regards,

Stan Kawczynski

cc: research team

Steve Kucklinka, Ukrainian-American community member

Edmund Lewandowski, Polish American Congress

Waclaw Szudelski, California Polish American Teachers Association