

January 30, 2006

Dear Colleague,

On January 13, 2006, there was a 20/20 broadcast by John Stossel entitled "Stupid in America." An eight-minute segment of the program was played for the delegates at the January 18 Delegate Assembly that so inflamed the chapter leaders and delegates that they voted for a resolution to take action and tell Mr. Stossel and Capital Cities/Disney ABC-TV that the prejudiced attack upon organized labor, teachers and the UFT was deplorable.

The purpose of this letter is to motivate you to:

- a) take action.
- b) dispel the myth that teaching is an easy job with short hours and long vacations.
- c) heighten your awareness of the nationwide attack on the labor movement in general and on teachers and their unions in particular, a nationwide attack played out by the Chancellor's tremendous assault on core values in the recent contract battle.
- d) to alert all our members that we will have to collectively stand together against all attacks if we are going to succeed in combating the organized assault against rights and benefits.

If you did not see "Stupid in America" the UFT Borough Offices have VHS tapes and DVDs of the program and DVDs will be available at the February 8th D.A. and a petition entitled "Protest ABC-TV '20/20' Lies" is available by visiting uft.org where there is a hyper-link to the 20/20 website so individuals can express their personal outrage.

This week Randi and V.P. Richie Farkas will go to the AFT Executive Council to seek their support for the action. They will seek support from the N.E.A.

Here is what you are asking you to do:

- a) watch the program
- b) go on line and sign the petition
- c) volunteer to be part of a representative group of UFT members from around the city to go to a Rally tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2006, in front of Capital Cities/Disney ABC-TV, located at 7 Lincoln Square, 4:30-6:00p.m.

Please sign the petition no later than February 9, 2006, so that we can package the petitions and give Mr. Stossel and Capital Cities/Disney ABC-TV a Valentine's gift that says we are not the ones who are "Stupid in America!"

Sincerely,

Michael Mendel
Director of Staff

Richard Farkas
Middle School V.P.