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The Honorable Ember Reichgott
7701 48th Avenue N.
New Hope MN 55428

Dear Ember:

Pete says Becky told him Monday that McEachern says he will get the charter schools law killed this year. Loritz told me he saw something to this effect in the Pioneer Press.

Should we have a short meeting of interested folk next week to compare notes about 'what's up' and plan a little strategy?

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I'm in New Jersey the rest of this week. They have a bill in the Legislature that would introduce public school choice, private school choice, the post-secondary option and charter schools all at once. Whew. Unk its prospects.

I will have a chance to talk charter schools with the Business Roundtable and Florio's education aide tonight, and at a public meeting and with legislators tomorrow.

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Sue Burr called from California to report on reaction there since Sen. Hart introduced his bill.

CTA officially has it on the 'watch' list but in private is 'implacably' opposed. Federation is open to it. Teachers in LA (where there's a kind of merged union) are quite friendly, she says. Minority groups generally like it.

Bill comes up for hearing in Hart's committee first week in April.

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Minneapolis board voted 4-3 Tuesday against Bob DeBoer's proposal for a charter for his Way to Grow/Learn program; then voted to give him a contract instead. Not a bad outcome.

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Mounds View board will discuss the Alternative Learning Center's proposal to 'go charter' at 8 p.m. Monday the 23rd. Popovich is representing the ALC!

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Hardly a day goes by without a story on the Metro page about some wonderful new school being set up by one district or another.

Vanderpoel told me the MEA is assessing its members \$5 to create a fund of about \$500,000 which it will use to finance demonstrations.

Why do you suppose they are doing this? Who says the charter schools law isn't working!?!

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Let me know about a meeting next week. I'd be glad to make the calls but it ought to be built around your, and Becky's, schedules.

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Next week I have to finish the piece for Will Marshall on the charter schools idea.