

September 27, 1996

Dear Friends:

I am writing to both "old" and new CEM Board members, so please forgive the mixed message.

**cem**  
cultural  
environment  
movement

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Since the last Board meeting on August 9, 1996, we moved into new and larger (but less expensive) quarters. Sheila Witherington went back the Arkansas, Bridget Mosley joined a Boston, MA, youth service, and Lot Hilvano joined us as Financial Officer and Office Manager.

The *Cultural Environment Monitor* is in press; advance copies are attached for your use.

Our work of the last six months focused mostly on realizing the mandate of the Founding Convention. The Convention documents are in the enclosed *CEM Monitor*. The response to that mailing will indicate the size and composition of the coalition and other affiliated and supporting organizations and individuals.

As you know, CEM is not a fire brigade trying to put out the brushfires that break out every week. Our affiliates do a good job of that, and we support them as much as we can. Treating symptoms on a "retail" basis is a necessary and useful task. But if we ignore the wholesale manufacturing of the conditions that produce those symptoms, we will be treating worse and worse symptoms every year. Our task, then, is to build a coalition that can address that basic structural condition. No other group is prepared to take on that challenge.

The "Viewers' Declaration of Independence" (see *CEM Monitor*), describes the transformation of a culture of human story-tellers into a culture of industrialized story-sellers. The "Peoples' Communication Charter" (also in the *CEM Monitor*), advances international standards of communication rights designed to address these distortions. The "Agenda for Action," proposes specific items for funding and doing.

Another follow-up of the Founding Convention is the reconstitution of our Board of Directors to include new leadership that emerged at and since the Convention. The status of each member of the reconstituted Board is indicated by footnotes on the attached list. (Incidentally, if you wish to make corrections or other changes in the brief description that follows your name, please let me know.)

The "old" members of the Board may recall that a list of proposed members was approved at the August 9 Board

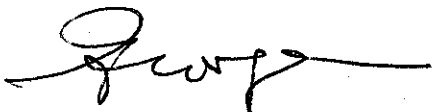
meeting. The current list contains a few changes. Turnover on the Board opened some new positions. Some candidates on the list of prospective members could not serve, opening more new positions. Invitations were extended and accepted (or awaiting final response) that will fill all open positions, plus a few more. If we suffer from an embarrassment of riches, I plead guilty and beg your indulgence and support. I think you will agree that this is an extraordinarily distinguished international group of leaders in public health, religion, labor, ecology, women's organizations, consumer and children's advocates, the African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and other communities, anti-violence groups, gay and lesbian groups, the human rights movement, media-watch associations, disabled or otherwise labeled and stigmatized folks, philanthropic and other foundation officials, and leading story-tellers, authors and educators.

In order to move quickly, we are trying to raise funds for a two-day retreat for our enlarged and reconstituted Board on November 15-16 probably at the Asilomar Conference Center in California. The retreat will be an opportunity for Board members to exchange ideas, review and make policy, and advance new initiatives. Please save the date; if you can help with funding, let me know immediately. With about 40 members expected, I estimate the need at \$50,000.

Please use the contact information below to let me know (1) any changes you wish to make in the Board list; (2) your availability for the retreat (or other possible dates); (3) suggestions about funding (contributions gratefully accepted); (4) if you can use more copies of the *CEM Monitor*; and (5) any other comments and suggestions.

I look forward to hearing from you and, if things move quickly and well, to seeing you at the Board retreat.

Sincerely yours,



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