

**SEPTEMBER 23: DEMOCRACY GERMINATES AND GROWS IN THE SOIL OF THE PUBLIC COMMON SCHOOL**

*The delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1850 and 1851 crafted a provision that required the State of Ohio to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools. A review of the proceedings of the convention regarding education suggests that the convention delegates understood the nexus between the specified common school and educating youth for productive citizenship. There is not the slightest hint in those proceedings that private schools should be funded from tax funds. In fact, convention delegates seemed to yearn for a common system that would attract private school students.*

The delegates envisioned a system that would unify the body politic; one that would enable the public good and engender democracy.

The school privatizers are working toward an education arrangement (not a single system) that emboldens private choice benefits at the expense of the public good. Private school operation at public expense segregates students into various competing environments; disorients parents; disenfranchises disadvantaged students and students with disabilities; diminishes transparency and accountability; increases the potential of misuse of tax funds; and diminishes the quality of education and overall educational opportunities.

Privatization of the common school system devolves the concept of *E Pluribus Unum* into tribalism.

The school privatizers know not what they do.