

The Panic Over Pods

July 28, 2020

"You really want to get the best for your child," a father told *NBC News*, describing his family's motivation to secure private educational services.* They are part of the "Pandemic Pod" movement "now sweeping the nation" — as so many public schools offer only remote learning this fall.

Increasingly, parents are getting together to form small groups — or "pods" — and hire a teacher to better provide instruction to their children.

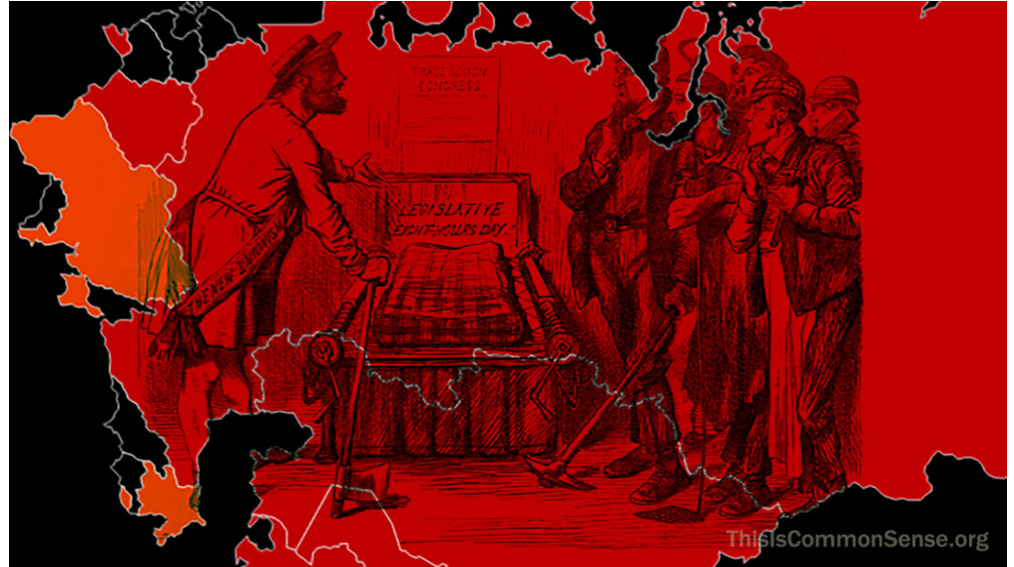
It shows *initiative* — and a refreshing sense of parental responsibility. Of course, not everyone can afford to hire a private teacher.

"It just seems really privileged," a Portland, Oregon, woman advised *The Washington Post*.

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"The frantic activity . . . of families soliciting private tutors for their children," San Francisco school board member Alison Collins explained, "is frightening to many black parents and parents of color."

L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy, associate professor of



sociology of education at New York University, called the private effort: "opportunity hoarding."

"For those families that are most vulnerable, particularly lower-income families, black families, brown families, language-minority families," declared the professor, "they are locked out of that."

"Experts say that will widen the education gap," NBC reporter Stephanie Gosk chimed in.

Ah, the experts — and their Procrustean** obsession!

Their fixation on gaps and inequality, as opposed to enhancing opportunities and achievement where possible, leads to the absurd notion that we should deny educational opportunities to *some* children (our children) *unless* we can provide those benefits to *all* children . . . city-wide, statewide, nationwide — or worldwide.

Read a bedtime story to your kid or grandchild tonight. Insist on *quality* . . . and leave the equality to feckless education theorists.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* The father and the family happen to be black.

** Procrustes, in Greek myth, was a robber who made his victims lie on a bed and stretched them out if they were too short for the bed, or lopped parts of them off, if too tall; killed by Theseus on said bed: "Procrustean" is a synonym for absurdly strict egalitarianism.