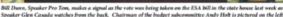
felt the sound and fury of numerous school boards across the state, less as advocates for students and children than as shills for teachers' unions. The National Education Association gave \$20 million in contributions to its favored



didates. From 2017-2018 The NEA had spent more continues to swirl after a General Assembly only. That is the state's marker our community is confrontthan \$19 million, while fierce fight inside the legis- affects those schools in "and a widely accepted led with data that tells us the American Federation lature. Knox County Board three districts, including indicator of both "college only 25% of these students of Teachers has spent in of Education member Jen- Shelby and Davidson court and career readiness. Ms. are actually ready for the excess of \$10 million. It's inifer Owen has issued a ties that are failing. Knox- Scarlett's article grewieven inext step." Scarlett rueful- Governor Lamar Alexander. not uncommon to see state. full-throated call for can-ville has its own schools, more alarming when she, iv noted the "reality is that. Considering the teachers organizations to spend lib- didates to challenge those that are failing. Tara Scar- shared "the state assess- the other 75% of MNPS stu- and their unions have usuerally in local races, hoping who did not hew to the lett, writing in the Nashville ment indicates 89% of our idents will likely struggle to to influence decisions on line favored by the teach. Tennessean noted "80% high school students are find and keep a job that way with issues involvpensions and benefits, all ers' union. Patti Bounds is of our students graduat- not proficient in grade level pays a living wage, or will ing charter schools and of which are paid for by the being urged to challenge ed high school on time", math, and 81% are not pro-spend their first year at col-vouchers, it is all the more taxpayers. In fact legisla- Bill Dunn, the champion of but "this same report also ficient in grade level Eng- lege or university in remer-remarkable newcomer Bill tors were besieged and lob- choice for children in Ten- shows that three out of lish Language Arts. Tara dial courses."

bers whose association is can primary.

candidates in 2016, while

the American Federation of

Teachers gave roughly \$12

million to its endorsed can-

and Republican leader William Lamberth is on the right.

Decade enocial mosting called council members recorded

ville Public Schools) stu- ed as the Metro Nashville not confined to David- families and students to

bied by school board mem- nessee, inside a Republi- four MNPS (Metro Nash- Scarlett's article conclud- Those statistics are made history in allowing

ally managed to have their Lee was the governor who funded entirely through tax- The ESA legislation dents did not score a 21 Public Schools continue to son County and Nashville have a choice in deciding payer dollars. The politics approved by the Tennessee or higher on the ACT..." passiout diplomas 'even as alone. Shelby County and their educational future.

cial funding he had provid-The teachers' union and their allies furned because it was the worst defeat they have suffered in the Tennessee General Assembly

since both chambers have

were spending 60% of their

time with coaches and only 40% with students. Bur-

chett pulled back the spe-

had Republican majorities. The only similar loss was when the teachers' unions could not stall or defeat the education reform legislation approached by then-