

(At the April 22, 1980 meeting of the Hillsborough County School Board, the following resolution was presented, bearing signatures of endorsement by 79 of 106 science teachers in the county's senior high schools.)

#### RESOLUTION

##### Inclusion of Nonscience Theories in Science Instruction

Throughout his recorded history, man has been vitally concerned in finding out all that he can about his universe. He has explored it in many ways, raised questions about it, designed methods by which he could increase and organize his own knowledge, and developed systems to aid him in understanding and explaining his own origin and nature and his place in the universe. Among these systems are philosophy, religions, folklore, the arts, and science.

Science is the system of knowing about the universe through data collected by observation and controlled experimentation. As data are collected, theories are advanced to explain and account for what has been observed. The true test of a theory valid in science is threefold: (1) its ability to explain what has been observed; (2) its ability to predict what has not yet been observed; and (3) its ability to be tested by further experimentation and to be modified as required by the acquisition of new data.

The National Science Teachers' Association upholds the right and recognizes the obligation of each individual to become informed about man's many endeavors, to understand and explain what each endeavor has contributed to mankind, and to draw his own conclusions in each area.

The National Science Teachers' Association also recognizes its great obligation to that area of education dealing with science. Science education cannot treat, as science, those things not in the domain of science. It cannot deal with, as science, concepts that have been developed in other than scientific ways. Moreover, the National Science Teachers' Association vigorously opposes all actions that would legislate, mandate, or coerce the inclusion in the corpus of science, including textbooks, of any theories that do not meet the threefold criteria given above.

NSTA President Elaine Ledbetter released the above NSTA position statement, March 1973.

The Florida Association of Science Supervisors concurs with the above NSTA position statement and strongly opposes mandating the teaching of theories which do not meet the above criteria, since this action would greatly damage the integrity of the study of Science in the public schools of the state of Florida.