

## Teachers Confront the Assault on Public Sector Unions: A Conversation with NYSUT's John Coverdale

*by Alan Singer*



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declare a fiscal emergency in order to do that. Do you think there is a fiscal emergency and do you think that wage freezes or cuts in teacher staffing and so on are the way to deal with the county or the state fiscal problems?

JC:

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A  
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C

Q: In Nassau County as in New York City, where the mayor is talking about 5,000 teacher layoffs, there is a lot of talk by politicians about the need for shared sacrifice and public sector employees having to accept layoffs and/or wage freezes. NYSUT has held big demonstrations in Albany and elsewhere calling for a broader shared sacrifice, calling for an extension of New York's so-called "millionaire's tax," which is on the books until the end of this year. What is the NYSUT argument in terms of that kind of shared sacrifice?

JC:

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B