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Family of the Future Could Become Another Federally Run Institution

THE American family is going to make it into the 21st century, in spite of sexual "freedom," women's liberation and other erosion.

That is the consensus of psychologists, theologians and sociologists interviewed by Wall Street Journal reporters. They concluded that "the family of the future will be smaller, less permanent and more vulnerable to change, but it will survive and even thrive."

Maybe so, but if bureaucrats have their way, the family of the future may become just another federally-regulated institution. We are closer to it than most people realize.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) stirred up a row last year when it issued regulations setting standards for care of children whose mothers are on welfare and raising costs of day care for working mothers.

As a result of protests, Congress temporarily delayed application of the rules, but eventually, probably later this year, they will be put into effect and Washington officials will dictate how Oklahoma children must be cared for each day.

This is not all. Legislation is pending in Congress that many feel has sinister potentialities for setting up child and family controls comparable to regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other bureaus.

On the first page, the bill states that "The Congress finds that the family is the primary and the most fundamental influence on children," but from there on, it spells out ways in which the federal government will regulate or replace the family.

Funds are authorized for "planning and developing" in-home and in-school child and family service programs. The list of activities includes food and nutrition, health care, social and recreational activities, and "regular and frequent dissemination of information to assure that parents of children served are fully informed" concerning program activities.

If the bill becomes law, expect rapid action. Section 201 provides that within six months after enactment, the HEW secretary may "pro-

mulgate a common set of program standards which shall be applicable to all programs providing child care services under this or any other federal act." Comprehensive!

If this bill is passed and HEW utilizes authority to write voluminous regulations, as may be expected, its effects would be far more extensive than the public has been told.