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Sociobiology Another Assault

A TERM that appears with some frequency in news and magazine articles these days is "sociobiology."

It is used to designate "new theories of behavior" and it refers to speculation that scientists have figured out the origin of man's mind and soul, as well as his body.

Actually, sociobiology represents a new wave of Darwinism, in which theories of spontaneous creation and automatic evolution are applied to mental and spiritual matters.

Sociobiology is another assault upon any belief or religion in which God is identified as creator.

Surveys show that a very high percentage of Americans believe in God.

Nevertheless, those who hold to the "Big Bang" theory of origin of the universe or to other materialistic hypotheses have obtained what amounts to official U.S. policy to support their positions.

Federal courts have ruled that it

is unconstitutional for public schools to use a 9th-grade biology textbook which presents the biblical story of creation. Other rulings uphold the privilege of teaching theories of evolution of mankind.

Courts have authority to rule on constitutionality but laymen may question whether their rulings are suppression of religion or limitations on freedom of the press and of speech.

Sociobiology is based upon the premise that mankind evolved from the same biological sources as other mammals, primates and "missing links". Sociobiology attempts to show that human social behavior, emotions, traits of character and family relationships also resulted from happenstance evolution.

Adherents to the theory speculate that the human brain had similar origin. A Cornell University astronomer has written a book, outlining his notion that man's "trilobe brain" has been inherited from reptiles, mammals and primates.

Not all scientists and probably no theologians are going along with sociobiology. Some have challenged its validity.

Sociobiology may be an issue between religious belief and scientific theory, but because government is a dominating factor in research support, it takes on a political aura as well.

This is extended by the possibility that genetic manipulation may be used to alter human characteristics or to determine by political processes the nature of unborn children.

People who consider mankind to be merely an accidental product of circumstances, without a God or a soul, likely would not hesitate to try to accelerate their ideas of evolution in whatever direction they might consider advisable.

The fundamental question is: Did God create man, or did man create God? As always, each individual must decide on the answer for himself. Sociobiology claims to be the answer.