

JUL 17 1979

## Pre-Darwin Theories Enjoy Revival

**E**VER since the famous Scopes trial in Tennessee a half century ago, evolutionists have had a clear field for propagating their theories.

Now a growing band of scientists is leading a movement to reestablish the teaching of creationism, not as religion but as alternative scientific views of how the universe and mankind began. It is centered in the Institute for Creation Research, San Diego.

The Scopes decision was based upon teaching the Bible in schools, which was ruled unconstitutional. This left the way open for unlimited teaching of theories of spontaneous creation and evolution. In the eyes of many people, this is teaching anti-religion or atheism.

Advocates of creationism, the idea that the universe came into existence as the orderly work of a supreme Creator, insist that their beliefs are just as provable scientifically as those of evolutionists.

"Big Bang" theorists, they say, don't explain where the explosive

materials originated and who or what set them off.

Numerous statements made by evolutionists as "scientific facts" raise questions about their validity because of wide variances with statements by their colleagues also purporting to give "facts."

Concerning time, evolutionists theorize in some detail about what happened and when, but disagree with each other over whether it happened billions, millions or thousands of years ago. Creationists generally hold to a period of about 10,000 years for life on earth, conceding that the earth existed as a formless mass for much longer.

Creationists hold that man always was man, apes always have been apes, and fish, birds and animals began their existence as creatures of water, air and land. They agree that adaptations to changing conditions occurred but deny that species changed into others.

Followers of British naturalist Charles Darwin argue that living creatures transformed themselves,

deliberately or otherwise, from one species or genus into another, until evolution stopped.

"Creationists maintain that highly ordered systems could not arise by chance, since random processes generate disorder rather than order, simplicity rather than complexity, and confusion instead of information," says Henry M. Morris, PhD, editor of publications of the Institute of Creation Research.

Leaders in the movement to reintroduce creationism into public schools urge proponents to become familiar with scientific evidence as well as with the biblical story of creation.

In a few schools already, both evolutionism and creationism are taught, but in most places only evolution is presented as provable scientific truth.

Presumably, scientists on both sides are seeking the truth and will consider all available facts; not just those which support their own theories. The issue is far from being settled.