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# *America's Religious Freedom in Peril*

**R**ELIGIOUS persecution was a driving force that led to settlement of the colonies in North America and later to the founding of the United States. Settlers sought religious and political freedom.

Most Americans today deplore the lack of religious freedom in other countries, where atheism is the official spiritual doctrine. Many of the same people fail to perceive the growing influence of atheist dogma as the official attitude in this nation.

Officials retreat behind the constitutional separation of church and state when their advocacy of unbelief is challenged. It is held that since our government is forbidden to espouse any particular belief in God, it is proper to deny any faith at all.

So while prohibiting the teaching in schools of the story of creation by a supreme being, government permits and even encourages the teaching of the theory of evolution as scientific truth.

Evolutionism is no more provable than creationism, but it has become

at least a semi-official line of political-religion.

The tenets of evolution are the foundation of humanism, a political movement that advocates a unified world government. In this respect it is compatible with communism and there are other similarities.

Humanist enterprises not only are condoned by government but humanist activities have been subsidized by federal grants.

Humanism is hostile toward Hebrew-Christian religions and does not admit the existence of God, but it is regarded by many theologians as an atheistic form of religion. Atheists have been defined as people who hope there is no hereafter.

Injunctions obtained by atheists against prayers in school, against the recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and against the singing of Christmas carols are interpreted by some as efforts to make government conform to anti-God religion.

Such actions have been initiated by the American Civil Liberties Union under the guise of protecting in-

dividual rights.

Last year the ACLU fought the use of public facilities for an altar for the visiting Pope John Paul II to observe mass, and also to light a menorah for observance of the Jewish Hanukkah.

Likewise, the ACLU has opposed posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools and attacked the ideals of those who hold belief in the supreme authority of God. If those things do not amount to religious persecution, dictionaries should revise their definitions.

The ACLU does not come into the arena of conflict for protecting public morals with clean hands. Last fall, for example, the San Diego chapter raised money by selling tickets to an X-rated pornographic film at \$10 each. One feature of the promotion was a lifetime pass to 33 pornographic theaters in California.

The cry of "Let there be no God!" is being heard in America. Under the cloak of religious freedom, religious persecution is being systematically waged against believers.