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Homes, Not Houses, Need Attention

THE HIGH COST of building houses and financing them is a critical matter of widespread concern.

Even more vital to the future of our nation is the establishment of homes in which responsible, respectable citizens may be reared.

Statistics indicate that American homes have been deteriorating more rapidly than houses have been falling into dilapidation.

The housing problem may be solved with money and materials, but it takes a lot more to solve the home problem. One writer said: "Anybody can build a house; we need the Lord for creation of a home."

Numerous marriages are consummated with no intention of creating a permanent home. The divorce rate mounts, while millions of individuals "shack up" together without bothering to marry. The government subsidizes such arrangements by allowing tax advantages and often paying for birth and support of illegitimate offspring.

Two of every six children reportedly are born out of wedlock now, in

spite of widespread legal and illegal abortion.

Oklahoma Cityans are engaged in a hassle over use of taxpayers' money to institute teen-age pregnancy service through a federal grant to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG).

A group of area physicians has advocated changes in state laws to allow freer access of teen-agers to birth control devices and to encourage schools to institute more sex education courses.

These trends are being resisted by parent and church organizations, but to date they seem to be losing ground. Humanist attitudes of federal agencies tend to encourage promiscuity and they have abundant funds available to subsidize their programs.

Sex education textbooks and curricula for Oklahoma so far are hard to find, but a new draft curriculum in sex education being reviewed by the California Department of Education may serve as an example.

It begins with a mixed-group restroom visit in kindergarten, followed by teaching human sexual inter-

course to children 3 to 5 years old. At age 12 students are to visit drug stores to check on availability of contraceptive methods and products, and visit a family planning clinic. "Values clarification" is planned for high school.

A year or so ago, TEEN TIMES, a magazine distributed to Future Homemakers of America, reprinted an article from a national women's magazine in which a teen-age girl rationalized her first premarital sexual experience. Morality was not mentioned as a consideration.

As a follow-up to the White House Conference on Families, workshops are scheduled to be held next fall in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Duncan and Woodward. Literature says the program "will reaffirm the essential role of families while at the same time it will direct attention to new life options." Humanists are doing much of the planning.

While we are worrying about how to acquire and pay for houses, we should be even more concerned about our decaying homes. And we should not look to Washington to save them.