

Humanism Gets Foothold in Schools

HUMANISM is a religion. It is atheistic and parallels communism in beliefs and objectives.

Its spokesmen have declared it to be a religion and in 1961 the Supreme Court of the United States held "Secular Humanism" to be a religion. Its headquarters is the Aspen Institute in Colorado.

Humanism is being taught daily in the public schools of Oklahoma and a movement is going on to expand its influence.

"Oklahoma Educator" is an official publication of the State Department of Education, headed by Dr. Leslie Fisher, state superintendent. The October 1980 issue features an article headlined: "Teacher Advocates Humanistic School," written by Bennett Arthur, a resource teacher at Southeast High School, Oklahoma City.

"Many educators and lay people alike take issue with the quest to humanize our schools," the article begins. "The very attitude and spirit they reflect is an indication of the desperate need to evaluate the humanistic qualities of our educa-

tional institutions. The 'ivory tower' authoritarian concept of education without regard to what is happening in society will ultimately lead to frustration, confrontation and chaos."

Arthur concludes that "a humanistic school is simply people helping people to grow and mature within the structure of love, understanding and appreciation of individual worth."

That sounds good. Nowhere in his article advocating humanizing of our schools does Arthur refer to religion. But parents and other citizens should be aware of what Humanism stands for.

The Humanist "bible" is a book called "Humanist Manifestos I & II." It declares that "as nontheists we begin with man, not God" and holds that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces, that ethics stems from self-interest and rejects all religious or moral codes "that suppress freedom."

In a declaration that must delight adherents of Karl Marx's commu-

nism, the Humanist manifesto says: "We have reached a turning point in human history where the best often is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and move toward the building of a world community."

Like most religions, Humanism is aggressively evangelistic. It has been quietly making converts and placing its leaders in key places in education, the media, organizations and government for years.

"Many educators assume it is illegal to teach religion, for doing so is seen as a violation of separation of church and state," says Prof. Jerry Bergman of Bowling Green State University, writing in "Impact," a publication of the Institute for Creation Research, San Diego.

"In this controversy the position of Secular Humanists is often labeled non-religious and the Christian position religious," Bergman says. "Then the Humanists argue that because their position is labeled non-religious or secular, it can be taught."

That seems to be happening in Oklahoma.

Oct. 30, 1980

Dear Mr. Deering, —

"Thank you!" Your article
on "Humanism Gets Foothold in
Schools" was excellent.

Please keep it up.
Together, with prayer, we'll
win yet and put some values
back into the schools.

Sincerely,
Frances M. Sanger