

# Christmas Becoming Pagan Holiday

**T**HIS the week before Christmas and all through the mall you will find about Christ nearly nothing at all.

The secularization of this religious holiday is almost complete. Greeting cards, for example, usually have no reference to the birth of Jesus Christ, the saviour, heart of the celebration.

Material gifts, rather than spiritual gifts, are paramount. The exchanging of gifts arose among families and neighbors as an expression of God's love. Emphasis apparently shifted from giving to getting about the time the legend of Saint Nicholas was introduced.

Later the family Christmas dinner increasingly was converted to a feast, often accompanied by excessive drinking.

Commercial and charitable institutions have so grossly overplayed Santa Claus as a symbol of Christmas that few children believe the myth about him. Unfortunately, many may regard the story of Jesus as another fable because they observe other things given preeminence.

That is the way anti-religionists want it. They do not believe in God and they seem to resent others exercising such faith. Our constitution bars government from interfering with freedom of religion but atheistic organizations manage to do so with lawsuits and other devices. They sometimes distort the meaning of the constitutional amendment which was designed to assure separation of church and state.

Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union seem to be continually looking for opportunities to file lawsuits to keep the message of Christmas out of public buildings, schools or wherever they may be. Their actions obviously interfere with freedom of religion.

A new case is blocking display of the Nativity scene in front of the Denver City and County building.

In Oklahoma, ACLU continues its threats to go to court to force removal of a statue of Christ from the Wichita Wild Life Refuge. The statue pertains to an annual Easter pageant observing the resurrection of Christ, but the action is a part of

a nationwide drive to minimize the influence of religion anywhere in America.

Probably ACLU obtains funds from a number of sources, including patriotic and religious citizens who may be unaware of the communist-related background of ACLU. Not everybody knows that ACLU lawyers may be billing U.S. taxpayers for their services. Recently, Federal Judge Luther Bohanon allowed \$300,000 to ACLU lawyers for fees and expenses related to litigation over prison reforms in Oklahoma.

In the National Geographic magazine the story is told of how Enver Hoxha, dictator of Albania, substituted his own books for the New Testament, closed all churches and declared that nation's only religion should be "Albanianism."

Communist Karl Marx's oft-quoted slogan, "Religion is the opium of the people," expresses the attitude that non-religionists take in usurping Christmas as a pagan holiday. They don't object to having the weekend off. They just want religion eliminated.

Guthrie, Okla.

Dec. 18, 1980

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
Editorial Dept.,  
Daily Oklahoman

Dear Mr. Deering:

After reading your splendid editorial in today's issue I feel compelled to offer my congratulations.

I feel we have two things in common: a devout belief in the Christian religion and utter contempt toward the

so-called ACLU! I feel their attack on the Wichita Holy City and its symbols which we hold dear are extremely contemptible and utterly misdirected. When the so-called Doctor (of what) first began his vicious attack, I began a bombardment of letters and news clippings. I defied him to start an attack on the Christ of the Ozarks and the Star of David on the mountain near El Paso. Toward that he is, he never once responded!

I also lambasted known officials  
not only <sup>in</sup> Oklahoma, but nationally,  
accusing them of a misnomer of  
the letters A.C.U. I suggested they  
change to Atheistic Communistic.

Libertine Union, which would  
more rightly conform to their beliefs  
and practices. Still no comment!

I am utterly dismayed at the de-  
cision of Judge Bohannon in relation  
to prison reform fees.

At 76, I guess I am getting too easily  
prejudiced about too many happen-  
ings of our present day. Over fifty  
years in news media field moulded some  
very strong convictions in my feeble  
mind.

Thanks for your time in read-  
ing this outburst of mine.

Sincerely yours,

Guy L. Love

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