

Atheism Already Present in Schools

THE WELL-publicized atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair of Texas, has declared that "Oklahoma is in need of an atheist influence to combat the religious evangelism that comes out of the state."

Mrs. O'Hair doesn't need to bother. Oklahoma already has an effective, widespread program going for promoting atheism and humanism, thanks to the Supreme Court of the United States and the system for adopting textbooks for use in Oklahoma public schools.

Children are denied the benefits of learning traditional American moral principles by court rulings and are exposed to atheist and amoral teachings in textbooks adopted by the state.

An abundance of additional evidence showing how widespread the problem is has been received by this writer after publication of a column on this subject about three weeks ago. Many citizens have become disturbed to learn how critical the situation is. It is even worse in other states.

A book titled "Change Agents in the Schools" by Barbara M. Morris

was received from J.D. Fleming, assistant to the president of the Oklahoma Farmers Union. It reveals how "educationese, the language of change" uses familiar terms to disguise unacceptable doctrines.

Mary Jane Fielden of Edmond provided a copy of "Textbooks on Trial," by James C. Hefley, and other publications. The Hefley book tells of Mel and Norma Gabler's 20-year battle against objectionable textbooks in Texas. The Longview couple has almost made a career of the fight.

One example cited is an eighth grade text on "Civil Government" that equates Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi with Jesus and devotes more than six pages to sex symbol Marilyn Monroe, while mentioning George Washington only five times.

Textbook commission members and advisers in Oklahoma receive hundreds of books annually, many times the number that they are able to review with thoroughness.

Mrs. Lewis Mayer, of Hooker, and Mrs. Ralph Kelly, of Stigler, who served on the Oklahoma Farm Bu-

reau textbook evaluation committee in 1980, provided sample pages of Oklahoma-adopted textbooks mentioned previously. Materials supplied earlier by Mrs. Charles B. McFarland and Mrs. F.B. Chambers, of Oklahoma City, indicate that some supplementary teaching materials may be getting into local schools without critical review.

An organization at Edmond called Committee of Concerned Parents is encouraging fathers and mothers to read textbooks used by their children. Dr. Ken Dormer and Janet Kem are co-chairmen.

C.W. Raney, of Oklahoma City, writes that as long as the federal Department of Education can tell them "What and How," threatening to cut off funds for non-compliance, parents and local school boards have little authority in selection of materials used in schools.

"Dedicated educators and parents must pressure our Congress to rescind the laws, discontinue funds, thereby returning education in public schools to the states and local school boards," Raney says.

Who Needs Madalyn?

MAR 1 1981

TO THE EDITOR:

Ferdie Deering sure was correct in his Jan. 27 article about Madalyn Murray O'Hair not needing to come to Oklahoma since we already have a widespread promotion of atheism and humanism in our public schools.

With Stratton-Taylor and Claude Dyer "keeping things under control," who needs Madalyn?

L. Bule, Stigler

Prayer for Today

Help me to learn, O God, that true human fulfillment lies in serving Thee alone, that I become my own person as Jesus became His person only as Thou dost make it possible, and that the way Thou dost fulfill me is through my will surrendered to Thy authority. Lead me to surrender me to serve Thee today and every day. Amen.

Guthrie, Okla.

Jan. 27, 1891.

Dear "New-Found-Friend":

How my heart rejoiced when I read your editorial in today's Oklahoman! I so agree with you in its entirety.

My friend, my attempts at letters to the Editor has not been the sum-total of my writing attempts. I have recently completed a 48-page booklet, which is now in the hands of a publisher, titled "Shadow-Casters," a semi-religious discussion based on Acts, with Peter healing the blind, sick and lame. It relates that belief was so overpowering that his assistants began bringing them in from the street with the hope that Peter's shadow falling over them, they would be healed.

In that booklet, I included a section about our public schools in which I quoted Edwin Osgood Grover, a leading educator of more than 50

years ago, before a convention of teachers:

"I believe in boys and girls, the men and women of a great tomorrow; that whatsoever the boy soweth, the man shall reap.

"I believe in the curse of ignorance; in the efficacy of schools; in the dignity of teaching, and the joy of serving others. I believe in the wisdom as revealed in human lives as well as in the pages of the printed book; in lessons taught, not so much by precept as by example; in ability to work with the hands as well as to think with the head; in everything that makes life large and lovely.

"I believe in beauty in the schoolroom, in the home, in daily life, and out of doors.

I believe in laughter, in love, in faith, in all ideals and distant hopes that lure us on.

"I believe that every hour of every day we receive a just reward for all we are and all we do. I believe in the present, and its oppor-

termites; in the future and its promises; and in the divine joy of living."

What more could be said, and how applicable to our aspirations and desires of the present day!

Thanks for an interruption of your time.

Truly yours,

Guy D. Love

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Oh yes - my next inspiration comes from the article on pg. 18 of Sunday's Oklahoman, which I will title: REWARDS - Atheist vs. Christian. See any possibilities for me?