

MAR 12 1981

# U.S. Taking Turn Toward Atheism?

**I**F PRESENT trends continue, the United States might be officially as atheistic as the Soviet Union by the end of this century, or before.

Whether we admit it or not, a religious war is being waged in this nation. Rulings by the Supreme Court is setting up a body of law that seems to be having the effect of outlawing most religions while approving of atheism and humanism.

The constitutional amendment providing for freedom of worship has not been repealed, and it is not likely to be. Yet, government, education, science and entertainment are being used to "evangelize" for evolution, atheism and humanism where Christianity is shut out.

One battleground is the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Lawton. The ACLU objects to a religious statue there, claiming to be trying to protect the Constitution. This stirred up the Ku Klux Klan to oppose ACLU, with the Klan claiming to be protecting the right to worship.

The California court battle over teaching of evolutionism and crea-

tionism is another symptom of deeper conflicts. Religionists hold that if the universe spontaneously came into existence by a "big bang," the concept of a supernatural creator would be negated. That seems to be precisely what atheists/humanists want the world to believe.

The March-April issue of a new magazine called *Next* contains an article titled "The Creationists Are Coming — Again." It observes that "although scientific creationists claim that they can argue their case while leaving God out of it, God keeps muscling in." It declares that the real issue is not evolution versus creation but humanism versus fundamentalism.

A film review headed "The Gospel According to Popeye" appears in *The Humanist* magazine for March-April. It points up how entertainment media are being used to ridicule religion.

The writer says:

"... recalling the release of 'Superman: The Movie' two Christmases before, the pieces of an unsuspected jigsaw puzzle started to

fall into place. I began to see curious links between the two films and suddenly became aware of the fact that Biblical elements were embedded in them." Both films seem to caricature the divinity of Christ.

The zeal of atheists/humanists to win converts puzzles many church members, because the unbelievers have nothing to offer.

When a certain minister boarded a plane, the only available seat was beside a passenger who may have had a few drinks before he began patronizing the airline's liquor service.

As the minister sat down and opened his Bible, his seatmate frowned and declared: "I don't believe that book you are reading."

The minister observed that he had a right to that opinion, but this didn't silence the blatant skeptic. "I don't believe in God or that book or anybody in it!" he asserted loudly.

The minister responded in a soft voice: "All right! Now will you please shut up and go to hell quietly?"