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# Nation's Spirit of Freedom in Danger

SEVERAL weeks ago I received through the mail a copy of a new book titled "The Stealing of America" by John W. Whitehead, president of Rutherford Institute at Woodbridge, Va.

I read the book and marked passages for reference but it got covered by other books and magazines. When Evangelist Billy Graham expressed concern about deterioration of the family in one of his Crusade sermons, Whitehead's book again came to mind. It deals with this subject on a significantly broad basis.

Theme of the book is that the spirit of freedom which made America great and provided the basis for resistance against tyranny has been stolen by those who deny that spirit.

In its place is being raised the religion of humanism and a form of national socialism in which authorities have assumed increasing control over human life, the family, the church, the schools, and private property.

Whitehead reviews the history of

trends away from our original American ideals toward humanism and statism. He blames the Supreme Court of the United States for facilitating the trend:

"The court has on the one hand praised the traditional family while on the other it has systematically chopped at the roots of this most basic institution."

He points out that legislation adopted by Congress in 1789 said: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of learning shall forever be encouraged."

Whitehead also quotes from John J. Dunphy writing in a 1983 issue of The Humanist magazine, who said: "I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselyters of a new faith."

This Dunphy identifies as humanism, which he said will replace "the

rotting corpse of Christianity." Humanism is a religion with mankind as god.

Whitehead declares that the secular state inevitably will lead to authoritarian government, which "recognizes no right as absolute and no Creator as the father of rights, morality and human dignity." He said that with a "relativistic philosophy, the secular state can do or declare anything and justify it on the basis that it is good for the people."

The author does not claim that a majority of Americans were Christians but he insists that Christian principles were the guiding lights to those who drafted our founding documents and provided leadership in early America.

The rights guaranteed to American citizens were seen as an endowment from the Creator and the purpose of the state was to protect those God-given rights. Whitehead makes a strong case that unbelievers are gaining control and endangering those rights.