



F.A.C.S. REPORT

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GOVERNMENT ASSAULT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY MUST BE HALTED

by Howard Phillips

On November 22, at the Doubletree Hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia, I had the privilege of addressing the annual conference of the Separation of School and State Alliance, in which I argued the proposition that all education is inherently, inescapably religious. Here follow some excerpts from my remarks:

When President Jimmy Carter proposed creation of the Federal Department of Education in the 1970s, much Republican rhetorical bombast ensued. Indeed, **Ronald Reagan made the very existence of the Department of Education an issue in his 1980 presidential campaign. . . .**

However, *during the Reagan years, funding for the Department of Education increased from \$14.6 billion per year in 1980 to an annual \$21.5 billion appropriation at the end of Mr. Reagan's tenure on January 20, 1989. Under George Bush, Federal funding for education increased to \$25.8 billion.*

By 1995, when Republicans gained control of both Houses of Congress in the 1994 mid-term elections, total Federal outlays on education, according to a study prepared by Jim Jacobson and Mike Hammond for The National Center for Home Education, amounted to more than \$70 billion for a single year.

"The U.S. Department of Education's budget accounts for only \$33

billion of the estimated \$70 billion in federal education assistance. The Department administers 244 education programs, while 30 other federal agencies administer 308 more. . . ."

Since then, the Republican Congress has given Bill Clinton even more than he has asked for, appropriating additional billions of dollars for Federal education spending - appropriations which include all the money Mr. Clinton needs: for the very programs which the Republicans decry - including Goals 2000, School-to-Work, and Outcome Based Education.

Now, the latest line of Republican retreat is with respect to Federal education *testing*. Predictably and appropriately, national school testing is opposed by Republicans and conservatives. Predictably and inappropriately, compromise has already been struck on this issue.... "

Victory of Principle Requires That The Principle Not Be Surrendered

Once the principle is conceded, the question is *not whether* defeat will be experienced, but rather *when and to what extent*.

Conservatives, especially the Republican variety of conservatives, tend to assume that, when a skirmish is lost, the supposed principle on which it was being waged need be surrendered forever.

In other words, once the Federal government puts its nose in the tent, it can never be pushed out. The liberals make no such strategic concessions. For them, every step backward is followed by an attempt to take at least two steps forward."

Big Changes, Like Tidal Waves, May Come Suddenly — And Have A Lasting Impact

On the other hand, the Republicans seem never willing to attempt recovery of lost ground, but are instead content to argue about how much of the remaining turf will be shared with the adversaries of those whom they purport to represent.

They constantly argue that they cannot make big changes all at once — but that is precisely what the liberals do."

"Incrementalism" is An Arrow in The Quiver of Our Foes

For the liberals, the statist, the socialist, and the democratic fascist — all of whom favor more government control and less personal liberty — **incrementalism is merely a tactical ploy which they use to achieve their objectives circuitously without having to change either destination or direction.**

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OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE SEIZED

The Republicans foolishly believe that resorting to incrementalism, even when they have the power to achieve a complete turnaround, offers some kind of victory, when really *all that they are doing is temporarily slowing the growth liberal program — without in any way challenging their permanence or legitimacy.*

Once having surrendered the principle, they lack the moral and political confidence to subsequently reassert it.

Overriding GOP Goal is Political Survival, Not Policy Victory

There is no hill they seek to take, because fighting for that hill might place at risk their political lives - which they value far more highly than any political principle.

Ending Federal Subsidies For Education is Constitutionally Obligatory

The fact of the matter is that, **Constitutionally, there is no proper role whatsoever for the Federal government in education**, except with respect to the armed forces of the United States and occupied territories.

Indeed, the First Amendment to the Constitution stipulates that

'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'

Inevitably and inescapably, *every* educational institution is an establishment of religion, however that word 'religion' may be defined.

In the 18th century, the authors of the Constitution understood religion to mean 'the duty which we owe our Creator'. *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (Fifth Edition) characterizes religion as 'one of the systems of faith and worship'. The compact edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* carries this definition: 'devotion to some principle'.

Indeed, the *Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus*, published in 1996, asserts simply that religion is 'a thing that one is devoted to'. It further stipulates that to educate is to 'give intellectual, moral, and social instruction'.

Religion is, in fact, a system of ideas concerning the nature of God and man.

One can argue that, for some, the advocacy of homosexuality has become a system of faith and practice. The same can be said of environmentalism, which, carried to extremes, can take the form of 'earth worship'. Feminism, Nazism, and Communism are all ideologies or systems of faith and belief."

Public Schools Are Becoming Anti-Christian Indoctrination Academies

Professor Robert H. Nelson wrote in the July 7 *Forbes*:

The problem is that many public schools have been teaching religion for years without calling it that. In their recent book, *Facts Not Fear*, Michael Sanera and Jane Shaw studied 100 children's books on the environment being used in schools. What did they discover? That many of the books advocate a kind of salvation through environmental activism.

Is this religion? Of course it is. Roger Kennedy, until recently the director of the National Park Service, has said, "wilderness is a religious subject" that should be "part of our religious life." John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, believed that in the wilderness people find

Constitutional Convention

The vote came in on the Constitutional Convention. Overwhelmingly, those in favour of a republic have voted for the convention delegates. Whether this represents a true proportion of the population in general or rather reflects the determination of the republicans to get their changes, it ensured that the convention would be dominated by those who favour the changes.

Early in the debate not too many people raised the thorny questions of how to bring in a republic. The monarchy is enshrined in law, especially some state law, and without a major referendum victory in all states, it is hard to see how the changes might be won by the republicans. Will the states oblige and hold state referenda to abolish the monarch in all of the states. And if some states refuse, or the voters refuse to get rid of the monarch, what then? Some of the Convention delegates argued that the Federal government could override state laws and enforce abolition of the monarchy.

Determination, however, is always a key factor. And the republicans are clearly determined to abolish our monarchical system, poor though it may be with its maintenance of Christian principles. They will replace it with a republic that makes no pretense to represent the religion of Christ as the basis of law.

Apathy is the key here, and most people will be apathetic to the change. While they may hold an opinion, at the end of the day most of us are busy putting bread and butter on the table, attending Church activities, running the kids to sports functions, or playing sport ourselves. The great pity is the appalling number of people who do not feel it is their Christian duty to somehow get involved, get their hands dirty, and try to make this world a better place. And by better, we mean making it more Christian. Not just by winning souls, but by ensuring that all areas of life are brought into subjectivity to Christ the King.

* * * * *

Philosophical Humour

Descartes: I am, therefore I think. That's putting Descartes before the horse.

Descartes walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Would you like a beer?"

Descartes says, "I think not." Descartes disappears.

"terrestrial manifestations of God." . . .

The environmental gospel teaches that excessive consumption is bad for the soul, that a new reverence for the earth is required and that the people of the world must repent their wasteful ways. Recycling has become an environmental religious ritual, analogous to keeping kosher kitchens or eating fish on Friday.

Whether values are taught in the name of old or new religions, they are still religious values, not facts

The Christian right and other religious groups complain that under current court rulings, like the recent Ohio one, they are being discriminated against. Indeed they are. Why should separation of church and state apply to historic Jewish and Christian teachings but not to education in newer and more modern gospels? The use of public schools to require that students learn an environmental state religion is as clear an infringement on religious liberty as requiring that they learn Catholic doctrine.

Liberty of Conscience is At Risk

When Jefferson wrote in the Virginia Declaration of Religious Liberty that "To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical", he was asserting the principle of liberty of conscience which is *implicit* in and *fundamental* to the plain text of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

All education is essentially, inescapably, and inevitably religious, in that it must carry with it presuppositions about the nature of God and man.

Those presuppositions, in the early days of the American Republic, were explicitly Christian. Now, they are increasingly humanistic and antinomian.

That is why we must be thankful for the straightforward language of the First Amendment to the Constitution which forbids Congress making any law, *whether to raise revenues or expend them*, in support of a religious establishment, even as it prevents Congress from interfering with the free exercise of religion.

If Doctrine of Incorporation is Valid, State Subsidy of Education is Also Unconstitutional

Personally, I reject the "doctrine of incorporation", which wrongly asserts that the First Amendment applies to state governments, as well as to the Congress.

But, if I were to join those liberals who argue thus, my case would be even stronger, deducing as it would that the Federal Constitution prohibits any expenditure of public funds in support of educational establishments, since they are, in fact, religious establishments — institutions which indoctrinate in the context of their preferred presuppositions.

There is No Neutral Ground

The notion of religious 'neutrality' is a myth. There is no middle ground on the question of Biblical reality. Either God's word is true, or it is not.

All subsequent conclusions must be based on one or the other of these presuppositions: Either man is a created being 'endowed by his Creator with certain inalienable rights' or man is an historical accident - an evolutionary entity who exists by random selection, without moral order, discernible origin, or ultimate purpose.

Toleration of Evil Precedes Advocacy of Evil

When Biblical presuppositions are rejected, the door is opened for, at first, the official 'toleration' of, and very soon thereafter, the advocacy of all that which God condemns — from sexual promiscuity to abortion to homosexuality, and, of course, in all cases, the eventual rejection of all legitimate, ultimate God-ordained authority."

Loyalty to The Sovereign Requires Accountability to His Law

Because law is 'the will of the sovereign', so long as the United States has a political system which recognizes that God's creatures owe a duty of stewardship to their Creator, and that we have a right and duty to hold accountable those to whom we dele-

Descartes described how his father taught him to swim by throwing him into the Seine: "I sink, therefore I swam."

* * * * *

A Microsoft Christmas

by Chet Raymo

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, except
Papa's mouse.

The computer was humming, the
icons were hopping,

As Papa did last-minute Internet
shopping.

The stockings were hung by the mo-
dem with care

In hope that St. Nicholas would bring
new software.

The children were nestled all snug in
their beds,

While visions of computer games
danced in their heads.

PageMaker for Billy, and Quicken for
Dan,

And Carmen Sandiego for Pamela
Ann.

The letters to Santa had been sent
out by Mom,

To:
santaclaus@toyshop.northpole.com -

Which has now been re-routed to
Washington State

Because Santa's workshop has been
bought by Bill Gates.

All the elves and reindeer have had to
skedaddle

To flashy new quarters in suburban
Seattle.

After centuries of a life that was sim-
ple and spare,

St. Nicholas is suddenly a new billion-
aire,

With a shiny red Porsche in the place
of his sleigh,

And a house on Lake Washington
that's just down the way

From where Bill has his mansion.
The old fellow preens

In black Gucci boots and red Calvin
Klein jeans.

The elves have stock options and
desks with a view,

Where they write computer code for
Johnny and Sue.

No more dolls or toy soldiers or little
toy drums (ahem - pardon me)

gate political authority (so that we may conscientiously exercise our stewardship), then concepts of national independence are viable and understandable.

But, *when the chain of accountability of civil government to the citizen is broken and Constitutional limitations, such as those proscribing Congressional action with respect to any establishment of religion are ignored, then the Biblical Common Law system which defines our liberties, is easily rejected in favor of the globalist nostrums of 'world citizenship' which are now increasingly part of government-funded educational curricula.*

Issue is Not Whether Education Shall Be Religious But Whether Obeisance Must Be Paid to The "Politically Correct" Faith

The real issue is not whether education shall be religious, but rather or *which* religious premises our system of education shall be based.

Because I favor civil liberty and have wanted my own children to be educated in the context of a Christian world view, *I must reject any law which propagates faiths alien to my own and which obliges me, through compulsory taxation, to subsidize the propagation of those other hostile faiths, oven as such law places bounds on the advocacy and exposition of that which I and my family believe.*

Kids 'R Not Property of the U.S. Government

After all, children are not the property of the state, and God assigns parents primary and ultimate responsibility for the nurture and admonition of their progeny.

Assault of the Anti-Christian Judiciary Must Be Resisted

If anyone needs evidence that questions of religion are inescapably intertwined with issues of education, he need look no further than the current controversies *in the State of Ala-*

bama, where a megalomaniacal Federal Judge, Ira Dement, ignores both the First Amendment and the Tenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, as he seeks to impose his own will, to deny the teachers, administrators, parents, and students of the State of Alabama their Constitutional right to the free exercise of their religious faith.

The possibility that Judge Dement may succeed simply underscores the necessity of not obliging any citizen to subsidize with his taxes official hostility to what such citizens understand to be true education and true religion.

Parental Control of Education Can Be Restored Whenever We Insist That Our Congressman Oppose All Educational Subsidies

But, despite the failure of Republicans at the White House and on Capitol Hill to make good their promises, there is hope, for the Constitution makes clear that no funds may be disbursed from the Federal treasury, except by a Presidentially signed Congressional appropriation, or an overridden Presidential veto of such an appropriation.

No President can veto a zero. So whenever Congress has the discernment and the courage to end the Federal role in education, it can do so by appropriating zero funds for such purposes.

Failing that, we must await the election of a President morally and openly committed to veto any and all appropriation measures which reach his desk *including even a single cent for the unconstitutional provision of Federal tax dollars to establishments of religion - at any and all levels, whether such appropriations include funding for the Elementary And Secondary Education Act or subsidies, direct and indirect, to colleges and universities, which have all too often become institutions of anti-Christian indoctrination.*

By saying 'yes' to liberty of conscience, we must say 'no' to Federally subsidized and regulated establishments of religion.

No more dolls or tin soldiers or little toy drums

Will be under the tree, only compact disk ROMS

With the Microsoft label. So spin up your drive,

From now on Christmas runs only on Win95.

More rapid than eagles the competitors came,

And Bill whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.

"Now, ADOBE! now, CLARIS! now, INTUIT! too,

Now, APPLE! and NETSCAPE! you are all of you through,

It is Microsoft's SANTA that the kids can't resist,

It's the ultimate software with a traditional twist -

Recommended by no less than the jolly old elf,

And on the package, a picture of Santa himself.

Get 'em young, keep 'em long, is Microsoft's scheme,

And a merger with Santa is a marketer's dream.

To the top of the NASDAQ! to the top of the Dow!

Now dash away! dash away! dash away - wow!"

And Mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap,

Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

The whir and the hum of our satellite platter,

As it turned toward that new Christmas star in the sky,

The SANTALITE owned by the Microsoft guy.

As I sprang from my bed and was turning around,

My computer turned on with a Jingle-Bells sound.

And there on the screen was a smiling Bill Gates

Next to jolly old Santa, two arm-in-arm mates.

And I heard them exclaim in voices so bright,

Have a MICROSOFT CHRISTMAS, and TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.