

Editorial

Your children are being abused

These days a lot is written and talked about on the subject of sexual abuse, but in point of fact, both children and adults are being subjected to something just as insidious: spiritual molestation. There is a move afoot, under the guise of educational reform, which is attempting to use U.S. schools to tear children away from their families.

This is particularly insidious today, when economic and social conditions (not least the high rate of divorce) are already putting extreme stress upon the American family. According to some estimates, as many as 50% of American children are raised by only one parent for a significant portion of their lives, and over half of the mothers of pre-school children work at full-time jobs.

Associated to these "objective" conditions is a spiritual malaise which undermines the stability of the family as the basic unit of society, and child-bearing and child-raising as a fundamental task for the family. Of course, not all married couples become parents, that is not the issue; the point is that the role of the family in the creation of the next generation is its ennobling feature. All families have the privilege, in one way or another, of participating in this glorious task, as they are part of the fabric of the whole society.

What is going on in our schools today is little short of rape of the family, as guidance personnel and even teachers arrogate to themselves the privilege of questioning the moral responsibility of parents for their children. Thus children who come from homes in which discipline is imposed are challenged by school personnel for being "authoritarian." Even worse, in some instances, children are put into group or individual "therapy" sessions, without the knowledge of their parents. In those sessions, they are encouraged to reject the authority of their parents.

Children are subjected to "sex education" classes which offend moral values of most families. Before puberty even, they are given access to contraceptives, and are questioned about whether and to what extent they may be "sexually active." In this way, not only is

the value of chastity directly challenged in the school, but even that of love. Sexual intimacy is reduced to the same level as a physical sport, while homosexuality is being taught as an "alternative lifestyle."

Coupled with this is the deliberate destruction of a coherent curriculum, beginning at the kindergarten to first-grade level. Here what is occurring is the substitution of endless group discussion of one's "attitudes," in place of the traditional insistence that every child has a right and responsibility to assimilate the cultural treasures of our civilization, beginning with fundamental skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, but quickly passing on to such enduring documents as the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Bible, Shakespeare's plays and poetry, and so on.

At the time of the American Revolution, children raised in the 13 colonies were the best educated in the world; today, American young people are sinking to the lower half of any academic ranking. Subjects such as history, science, mathematics, and languages are no longer being competently taught, and children are being encouraged to reject the philosophical, artistic, and scientific heritage of western civilization.

This attack is perhaps most advanced in the United States, but similar degeneration is occurring everywhere. It is the logical outcome of the spread of the counterculture in the 1960s, and of the growing hegemony of New Age philosophies. Allowed to continue, such a trend line will not only bring with it the destruction of the family and the degradation of culture, but an end to our civilization itself.

Similar tactics of using the schoolroom as the place to brainwash children have been used in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and Communist China. The schools cannot be allowed to turn children into the pawns of a tyrannical state. Everyone guilty of this abuse must be called to account and immediately removed from any position from which they can continue this vicious abuse.