

LET'S TEACH THE TRUTH ABOUT COMMUNISM IN OUR SCHOOLS!

COMMUNISM, I'm sure, is just as repugnant to most Americans as it is to me. I'm also sure that too many people are against it without really knowing why. Some are opposed to Communism for only vague emotional reasons. Others—sincere, well-meaning Americans who think they have a more rational basis for their opposition—make the mistake of accepting it as simply another political movement or new social order. In so doing, they, too, are misguided as to the true nature of Communism; they are unaware of it as something corrupting and intrinsically evil—the most powerful enemy ever to confound a God-fearing people in the history of mankind.

As proof, I need only point to Communism's avowedly atheistic character and materialistic philosophy as completely unnatural for all who believe in God and the dignity of His masterpiece—namely Man. I could also mention the oft-reiterated determination of its leaders to subvert America and the rest of the free world. Indeed, Premier Khrushchev, on his recent visit to the United States, brazenly boasted that the Communist system would some day submerge ours, that our children's children would live under Communism.

Ignorance of these and other implications of Communism has resulted, I fear, in a certain widespread apathy and indifference toward it, and this distresses me greatly. How can we arouse our people to the evils and dangers of Communism? How can we arm them against the diabolical double talk and half-truths poured out by the propaganda mills of Communism?

I know of no other way than by encouraging a critical and analytical study of Communism among the young people in our schools. We should teach them about Communism in college and high school; and in our teaching we should show Communism for the intrinsic evil that it is, in much the same way that medical students are taught the nature of cancer.

J. EDGAR HOOVER, director of the F.B.I. and a great American whose patriotism is certainly beyond reproach, has said: "Every citizen has a duty to learn more about the (Communist) menace that threatens his future, his home, his children, the peace of the world."

Fortunately, we are living in an era when one can suggest teaching our children about Communism, so they can understand and recognize it for what it is, without oneself being branded a Communist. This has not always been true in recent years, and it is a healthy change in our own political climate.

At present, however, the few courses available on the Soviet Union are confined to schools at the

*A renowned religious leader
urges that our most effective
weapon against the evils
of the Russian system
would be to tell our young
people exactly what it's like*

**His Eminence,
Richard Cardinal Cushing,
Archbishop of Boston**
as told to CARL BAKAL



college level. Although more than 300 public and private secondary schools now offer instruction in the Russian language, only a handful offer separate courses on the country itself. The little that is taught about the Soviet Union and Communism is usually part of other courses—history, geography, civics, and problems of democracy; and I regret to report that a recent study revealed that even some of these courses—for example, World History and Problems of Democracy—are offered to less than 40 percent of our high-school students.

At such schools as Denver's East High School and the University of Wisconsin High School in Madison, both of which offer courses in Russian history which include the study of Communism, experience has demonstrated that we need not fear the consequences of teaching about it. Far from coming to regard it as a good or even acceptable way of life, our children will come to recognize it, early in life, for the vicious thing it is.

HERE ARE some of the truths our courses on Communism would—and should—teach:

That although freedom of religious worship is guaranteed in the Soviet Union, as Premier Khrushchev recently told us, this is but one of the half-truths that don't tell the whole story. True, the Soviet constitution does guarantee freedom of religious worship. But the government, continuing to brand belief in religion as the "opium of the people," has shut many churches and teaches atheism in all its schools. Religious instruction is prohibited to anybody under 18, and no one admittedly religious can hope to hold any important job.

That although all Soviet citizens have the right to work, they don't have the right not to work—that is, to strike.

That although everyone can vote by secret ballot, there is only one candidate for each office—a candidate chosen by the one party allowed to exist.

That although more apartments are being built in the Soviet Union than ever before, just one room is allocated for an entire family, with at least three families sharing a common kitchen and toilet.

While exposing the evils of Communism to our young people, we need also to imbue them with a deeper sense of the responsibilities and privileges of living in a democracy under God, and so give them a sounder knowledge of the basic differences between the Judeo-Christian and the Communist ways of life.

If we can do all this with the same enthusiasm the Communists muster in propagating their philosophy, and apply it to the perpetuation and extension of moral principles and love of God and love of man, we can look forward with confidence to a free world of free men everywhere.

COVER:

Babies, like the one in today's cover photo by Leo Aarons, always stand for the hope of the future, and the importance of developing their capabilities early cannot be overestimated. See "Is Your Child Smart for His Age?" on page 12.

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