

creationism and evolutionary theory and who accepts or rejects one or the other for any reason;

—Avoids any mention of religious belief or religion, except in the context of assuring the right of students to hold differing values and beliefs;

—Defines "creation science" in strictly secular terms;

—Acknowledges scientific principles as the basis for any theory about the origins of humanity.

The ACLU argues that proof of unconstitutional intent to favor a religious view can be found in the lack of any formal factfinding by the legislature. Plaintiffs also argue that the law is tainted because it is modeled after a draft prepared by fundamentalists. Plaintiffs also argue that "balanced treatment" precludes criticism of creationism.

Trial has been set for October 26. It is likely that the state will stress the secular purpose recited in the law, and will argue that it is inappropriate for the courts to inquire into legislators' underlying motives. The state will probably also argue that the source of lobbying pressure on legislators is irrelevant, as it was when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Hyde Amendment (restricting the use of federal funds for abortion). Finally, the state will probably respond that balanced treatment requires just that and does not preclude criticism of creationism. Supreme Court doctrine requires courts to interpret statutes in a way that enhances their constitutionality. The case is *McLean v. Arkansas*, and is filed in federal court, eastern district of Arkansas.

■ THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Mosaic Ten Commandments continue to be displayed at least in theory, in some of the nation's public schools. In a five to four decision, the U.S. Supreme Court last year voided Kentucky's law requiring posting of the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms.

The majority on the Court observed there was no educational purpose in posting the material and concluded that the purpose behind the posting was to help establish religion, a violation of the first amendment. In March of this year, New Mexico decided that such a posting could be educational and passed its His-

torical Codes Act. The act permits local districts to post the Ten Commandments, the Code of Hammurabi, excerpts from the Bhagavad-Gita, and other "ethnocultural or religious" teachings. No one has yet challenged the new law.

Education for Pluralism

CARL GRANT AND
MAX ROSENBERG

■ MEDICAL SCIENCE AND MINORITIES

In the United States minorities are woefully underrepresented in the medical science fields. What can be done about it?

To help this situation a federal project was developed that encouraged minority students—Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Oriental—to consider careers in the biomedical sciences.

During the summer of 1980 some 200 high school students—outstanding academically and with special interest in science—were assigned to work in a number of medical research laboratories. Without this unusual opportunity it is unlikely that any of these young people would have considered employing their talents in a career in basic research.

Source: Jemsen, Cheryl. "Going to the Source." *American Education* (March 1981).

■ HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

Some highlights worth recalling from *The American High School: A Statistical Overview*:

—In 1920 only 6 percent of non-whites aged 25 to 29 had completed four years of high school. By 1978 the number climbed to 79 percent;

—In 1977 some 62 percent of the Hispanic males and 55 percent of the Hispanic females completed four years of high school;

—Between 1970 and 1977 Blacks scored the most dramatic improvement in their dropout rate. It fell from 30 percent to 20 percent.

This report, published in April 1980 by the National Center for

Education Statistics, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Bob L. Taylor and Robert C. McKean are both Professor of Education; University of Colorado, Boulder.

William J. Stewart is Associate Professor of Education, The University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa; and Conrad F. Toepfer, Jr., is Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum Development and Instructional Media, SUNY at Buffalo, Amherst, New York.

Patricia Marie Lines is Director, Law & Education Center, Education Commission of the States, Denver, Colorado.

Carl Grant is Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Max Rosenberg is former Editor, Detroit Public Schools Newsletter, Detroit, Michigan.

Note to Readers: The authors of these columns welcome feedback and contributions. Address items to Editor, *Educational Leadership*, 225 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Index to Advertisers

Center for Faculty Evaluation and Development	100
College Board	95
Excel, Inc.	100
Holt, Rinehart and Winston	132, 133
International Graduate School	113
McGraw-Hill Book Company	107
Scott, Foresman and Company	Cover 4

Copyright © 1981 by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. All rights reserved.