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To the Editor
Education Week
Suite 250, 4301 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
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As a member of the educational establishment, Norm Fruchter in his Commentary of May 31, 1995, blindly refuses to acknowledge that public education--that is, government owned and operated education--is a social experiment that has failed, and that no matter what he and his colleagues attempt to do to transform it is not going to work. Just as communism could not be transformed by Gorbachev to make it work, neither can our socialist education system be effectively transformed. The reason is very simple: the original proponents of government education were driven by the messianic certainty that a secular education could produce moral perfection. Just as communism failed to produce the new Soviet man, so has secular government education failed to produce that model of moral perfection. What we have instead is a moral nightmare.

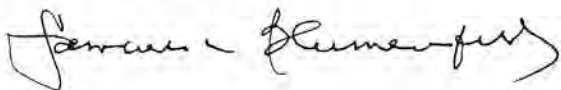
Secular government education must be abandoned because education is morally a function of religion and therefore must be private. Even our secular public schools are governed by a religion called humanism. One merely has to read the two Humanist Manifestos to recognize the philosophical basis of the current public school curriculum. In other words, our government education system represents an establishment of religion and is therefore in violation of the Constitution.

Secular government education must also be abandoned because of the enormous and irreparable harm it is doing to millions of American children. The fact that in some elementary classrooms half the students are on Ritalin is proof enough that the system is morally, spiritually and academically bankrupt.

Indeed, what is basically wrong with the system is its compulsory nature. Compulsory school attendance is a form of involuntary servitude, which is completely incompatible with the principles of a free society. We hear much about children's rights. But what about the child's right not to be forced into a public institution to be "educated"?

Mr. Fruchter sees the present debate as one between public control and market forces. But it is much more than that. It is between humanism and Biblical religion, between government control and educational freedom. The growing, vibrant homeschool movement and the increasing frustration of such educators at Mr. Fruchter are clear indicators of which way the irresistible winds of change are blowing.

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Public Will, Market Forces, And 'Socialist Education'

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Just as Communism could not be transformed by Mikhail Gorbachev to make it work, neither can our socialist education system be effectively transformed. The reason is very simple: The original proponents of government education were driven by the messianic certainty that a secular education could produce moral perfection. Just as Communism failed to produce the new Soviet man, so has secular government education failed to produce that model of moral perfection. What we have instead is a moral nightmare.

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