

This reminds me of Senator Symms' one-liner in which he summed up his pro-civil defense position. It was the most effective summary of the situation that I have heard - but, unfortunately, not suitable for publication.

FACT FREE EDUCATION

Before our debate with the PSR propagandist in Salem, Oregon, there was a presentation by the person in charge of the new "Nuclear Age Curriculum" for Oregon. These curricula are being introduced all over the United States. They are a joint project of the National Education Association (the nationwide teacher's union) and the "Educators for Social Responsibility" - another guise for whoever is running the "Physicians for Social Responsibility."

Each state is encouraged to think that they started it all. This lady apparently believed this as she said that Oregon was pioneering this sort of education.

The curriculum consists of "values clarification" exercises, appeasement propaganda, pro-Soviet exercises, anti-American history, and no technical information whatever about nuclear weapons, civil defense, or even general nuclear technology.

The only mention of civil defense in the Oregon curriculum is an exercise in which the students are encouraged to debate the question of whether or not civil defense poses a threat to world peace.

The remarkable thing about this is that an entire curriculum could be designed that teaches conclusions that are completely at variance with the facts. The way in which this was done was revealed by this bureaucrat's presentation.

She stated that the "committee" had found it very difficult to discover facts about nuclear technology. (We supplied them with plenty, but then maybe they don't read. Next time we should try the Soviet filmstrips for 5th graders.)

In any case, she proudly told us that the "committee" did not need facts, because they preferred for the kids to discover the facts for themselves. Therefore, they had intentionally kept facts out of the curriculum. They are, she said, encouraging the kids to think about social issues and then go find the facts for themselves.

In disgust, I mentioned to a colleague that they had managed to include an article on "nuclear winter" by Carl Sagan. The colleague reminded me that Sagan's article is completely in keeping with their philosophy. It is "fact free", too, if facts are defined as truths. There is no truth in the Sagan nuclear winter myth.

Some other included facts are the recipe for Russian tea cookies and a sanitized curriculum for Soviet schools which leaves out their military and civil defense classes. Then there is the major implication of fact which underlies virtually the entire curriculum: "The only answer to the nuclear age is values clarification and surrender. Defense or survival is impossible. After all, if it were possible, surely the curriculum would at least mention it."