

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

Volume II, Number 7 (Letter #11) EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

July 1987

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

Supreme Court Bans Creation Science in Public Schools

Secular humanists were jubilant over the U.S. Supreme Court's 7-to-2 decision rejecting a Louisiana law mandating balanced treatment for the theories of evolution and creation in public schools. According to the Court, the intent of the 1981 law "was clearly to advance the religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created human-kind," and therefore the law violates the First Amendment's prohibition on a government establishment of religion. The decision was issued 6/19/87.

In speaking for the majority, Justice William J. Brennan wrote: "The legislative history documents that the act's primary purpose was to change the science curriculum of public schools in order to provide an advantage to a particular religious doctrine that rejects the factual basis of evolution in its entirety. Out of many possible science subjects taught in the public schools, the legislature chose to affect the teaching of the one scientific theory that historically has been opposed by certain religious sects."

The majority also rejected Louisiana's claim that the law was intended to enhance the secular purpose of academic freedom.

"While the court is normally deferential to a state's articulation of a secular purpose," wrote Brennan, "it is required that the statement of such purpose be sincere and not a sham. It is clear from the legislative history that the purpose of the legislative sponsor, Senator Bill Keith, was to narrow the science curriculum."

Scalia and Rehnquist Dissent

Justice Antonin Scalia, joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, dissented, saying that to call the main intent of the law religious is to ignore what the legislators themselves said, thereby accusing them of lying and impugning their motives.

"The Louisiana Legislature," wrote Scalia, "set forth its secular purpose (protecting academic freedom) in the very text of the act. . . . The act defines 'creation science' as 'scientific evidence.' We have no basis on the record to conclude that 'creation science' need be anything other than a collection of scientific data supporting the theory that life abruptly appeared on earth."

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