

# OPINION

ONE DOLLAR

## BANNING BOOKS IN WEST VIRGINIA

William Hoar reports on  
the great textbook war  
in which the mountaineers  
are beating the pedagogues.  
Also in this issue we feature  
such important matters as:

How We Got  
Nelson Rockefeller

Now They Want  
Kiddie Liberation

New Book Says  
Kissinger A Red

The Truth About  
the Chile Junta

### AMERICAN OPINION

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#### Dear Reader:

If you listen you can hear it: The low, angry whispering, like a moan from a bassoon. The attack on Middle America has cut through the fat to the bone, and a vast giant is stirring, muttering, angry with unnameable frustrations, and looking for leadership.

In Boston there are hundreds in the streets, refusing at last to be pushed and pulled by the dictates of what Kipling called the little tin gods on wheels. Ordered to send their children to school in high-crime areas where taxi drivers refuse to go, where even repairmen travel in pairs, where narcotics are regularly pulled from the streets and raped and women are regularly pulled from the streets and raped and narcotics are available on any corner, the people are resisting. In their indignation they march to meet on historic Bunker Hill, and are driven back by mounted horsemen. Old women are knocked to the streets. Children are clubbed. They picket the "Liberal" *Boston Globe*, and in return pickets are struck down by *Globe* trucks bearing new propaganda for the suburbs. One of their daughters is gang raped by five blacks seeking to follow Eldridge Cleaver in a form of social protest recommended by a book taught in their schools. The outrage is all but ignored, while space is given to radicals calling on the federal government to bring in tanks and bazookas.

The frustration is not isolated. Hundreds of miles away, in West Virginia, other parents are in the streets also, and refusing to send their children to the government schools for Cleaver and Langston Hughes, that damns their flag and mocks their God, and teaches that morality is for fools. Ministers leading peaceful pickets are jailed for months. Thousands of fathers refuse to work, hundreds of mothers have them indoctrinated in drugs and prostitution and Communism. The books will go — a half-million dollars' worth of books will go.

Beginning on the next page, William P. Hoar, looking at the situation in West Virginia as a microcosm of what is happening there and elsewhere in our land, suggests what it all means. He has listened closely to the angry muttering in Middle America. It is not a familiar sound, but it is identifiable. As Susan Huck suggests in her important article on page nine, it is a sound only recently heard also in Chile, when the people realized their leaders were betraying them and began to fight for their right to be free.

Sincerely,

Scott Stanley Jr.

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# PARENTS REVOLT

## When Textbooks Are Propaganda

William P. Hoar, a 1967 graduate of Bowdoin College, is a feature columnist and research specialist for The Review Of The News, where his "The Right Answers" is published regularly. A bachelor with a thirst for adventure, William Hoar's independent travels have taken him across North America and ranged from the Arctic Circle to North Africa and behind the Iron Curtain.



■ WEST VIRGINIA must seem to "Liberal" visitors from New York and Boston to be hopelessly old-fashioned. Most of the people of the Mountain State still don't know that their "Liberal" betters consider it *passé* to have strong religious and patriotic convictions, to prefer the traditional to the *avant-garde* and mediocre, and to believe that in the education of children the rights of the parents must be given precedence over the theories of the pedagogues. What is more, West Virginians still stand up for their "old-fashioned" beliefs.

In September of this year a series of three hundred books was introduced into the school system of a central West Virginia county. Alerted by Conservatives, the parents of Kanawha County quickly decided that there was something drastically wrong. Critics of the books — basic texts and supplementary materials for youngsters from kindergarten through twelfth grade — were concerned about subject matter that contains a liberal sprinkling of obscenities; atrocious lan-

guage passed off as "non-standard" grammar; numerous subversive and Communist authors; inflammatory racial tracts; openly radical polemics; promotion of narcotic drugs; and, even detailed and explicit glamorization of prostitution.

The education bureaucrats of Kanawha County had already paid a half million dollars for those books — a half million dollars from the taxes of hard-working people who could ill afford it. But, as we have suggested, West Virginians are not easily pushed around. They quickly made it clear that the books would be removed or their children would not attend classes. The word was: "When the books go out, the children go in."

Of course the radical educators do not give up easily, and the war over the schoolbooks and the quality of education in West Virginia has become very hot indeed. But, as we go to press the offensive volumes have been removed at least temporarily from the system and a citizens' review committee has been appointed to examine the books and make recommendations to the board of education. Far more important, the parents and taxpayers of West Virginia are now closely scrutinizing their public schools.

And the educators know they are in a battle. This is coal-mining country where few people will cross picket lines, and where demonstrations are never considered to be merely academic. In the textbook struggle, the miners and their wives were among those most opposed to the new texts, and as a result mines in virtually the entire county (of nine hundred square miles) were closed as ten thousand miners stayed away from their

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