NOVEMBER 1 — The Philippines is today the weak link of imperialism in the Far East. Last February, Washington dumped its long-time puppet Ferdinand Marcos when popular hatred for his corrupt and brutal dictatorship threatened to get totally out of hand. Hundreds of thousands swarmed into the streets of Manila under the slogan of “people power,” but the White House was pulling the strings, engineering the rebellion by top military leaders and removing Marcos at the crucial moment. His replacement, the “liberal” Corazon Aquino, is beholden to the United States and the army for putting her in power. All wings of the American ruling class were exultant over this happy outcome. Secretary of State Shultz declared he was “bullish about the Philippines.” Liberal Democrats congratulated Reagan for bringing “democracy” to the former American colony and site of the two largest US military bases in the world outside North America.

However, Aquino’s “February revolution” is now in deep trouble, and Washington is worried. The bourgeois state apparatus has been thrown into disarray by clashes between Aquino supporters and Marcos loyalists as well as squabbling in the cabinet, a den of Byzantine intrigue made up of hardline militarists, conservative businessmen and liberal reformers. At the same time, the end of Marcos’ 20-year reign has aroused expectations in the masses which cannot begin to be satisfied short of socialist revolution. After eight months of “people power,” 40 percent of the working population is still unemployed and three-quarters of all Filipinos go to bed hungry every night. Cory Aquino herself admits: “Many people believed that in the short space of six months, many of our problems would be solved.”

This Unravelling of the Aquino Regime and the crumbling of the Aquino government in the face of the stunning victory of the Vietnamese Revolution has aroused expectations among masses which cannot be fulfilled short of socialist revolution.

Sison Appeals to White Australian Imperialism

Hawke — Enemy of Australian/Filipino Workers

The strategic US bases of Clark Field and Subic Bay in the Philippines could be retained if the US military personnel were replaced by Filipinos and the bases were used for “defuelling purposes like the Vietnamese do for the Soviets” at Cam Ranh Bay. This is the position of Jose Maria Sison, a founding leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), expressed during a seminar at the University of New South Wales on 10 September.

During the discussion period a Spartacist speaker pointed out: “The US bases in the Philippines are central to Reagan’s war drive against Vietnam and the Soviet Union, just like the complementary US bases in Australia. Revolutionaries defend Vietnam and the Soviet Union against imperialism. The Hawke government in Australia is the willing agent of Reagan’s anti-Vietnam war drive as is the Aquino government in your country. The main enemy is not the US but the churches.”

The Spartacist question, “do you defend Vietnam and the Soviet Union?” was contemptuously brushed aside by Sison with the remark that “Vietnam and the Soviet Union can defend themselves”. The Filipino workers and peasants were inspired by the stunning victory of the Vietnamese Revolution. They remember well that Clark and Subic were key staging areas for US and Australian imperialism’s dirty colonial war in Indochina. And still those bases represent a mortal threat to the toiling masses of the entire Asia-Pacific region. Sison’s offer to retain these bases is a gross nationalist betrayal of Vietnam and represents a commitment to the indefinite subordination of the revolutionaries here to fight to smash the Hawke government and throw out the US bases through class struggle.”

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be solved. I guess this has disappointed some of them" (Washington Post, 14 September). To say the least! Mass peasant and worker unrest is mounting while the leftist insurgency is now rooted in 62 of the 73 provinces.

Currently, Manila is nervously watching a power play by Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, a long-time Marcos crony. Enrile has demanded that liberals in the cabinet be fired and cease-fire talks with the Communist-led New People's Army (NPA) be broken off. He has made no secret of his ambitions to be a new Marcos, and his people in the officer corps are full of coup talk. Enrile has threatened to resign and "do a Rambo" if his demands are not met, and recently toured the islands denouncing Aquino as "soft" on the guerrillas. While the American embassy and State Department declare "complete and unequivocal" US support for Aquino, Enrile wouldn't be up to these tricks without backing from some section of the Reagan administration. And while "Chief of Staff" (a, in a show of tough talk to the NPA in order to appeal to military supporters) eyes turn to armed forces chief Fidel Ramos, another former Marcos henchman, to see his way, at the top of Philippine society, the government is unraveling. In the countryside, the state apparatus has been up-ended with Aquino's whole-committee that the "military situation [in the Philippines] is serious and getting worse, with Communists enjoying the initiative and assuming de facto control in areas where government influence has eroded over the years" (Philippine Report, June-July 1986).

The disarray of the state apparatus, along with severe economic distress caused by falling commodity prices on world market and an enormous international debt, have led to an upsurge in labor struggle, both in urban and rural areas. In Metro Manila, there is an explosive strike wave, including transit workers, air traffic controllers, garment workers, hotel workers. And in the outlying provinces, sugar workers unions on Negros are rapidly extending their organization, banana plantation workers walk out on Mindanao, industrial and service workers strike in Cebu City. Most unserving for US imperialism was an eleven-day strike last month at 23,000 workers at the Pentagon's giant Subic Naval Station and Clark Air Force Base, the linchpin of the anti-Soviet war drive in the Pacific. Sensing the weakness of the Aquino regime, the Filipino masses have moved against their oppressors and exploiters.

In short, there now exists in the Philippines a rare moment and exceptionally favorable opportunity to organize for proletarian socialist revolution. The ruling class and its state apparatus are unable to rule as before, while the masses are more than ready willing to live in misery and are fighting as best they can for a better future. But the present pro-revolutionary situation is fragile in the extreme, and will not last for long. Under orders from Washington, the Philippine military will move to restore capitalist order by seeking to crush both the militant workers movement and leftist insurgents. The only question is whether Aquino, like El Salvador's Duarte, will serve as a "democratic" figurehead for the right-wing butchers, or be overridden by that military. The situation cries out for a revolutionary vanguard party, such as the Bolsheviks forged in Russia, to lead the masses out of misery by the peasantry, to fight for its own class rule.

The Fraud of "People Power!"

Last summer the liberal West German Der Spiegel (7 July) published a perceptive article titled, "Philippines: The Revolution That Wasn't." The author, Volker Spiegel correspondent in Indochina both during the US' dirty colonial war and after the victory of the Vietnamese Revolution in 1975."(Pointing to the crowd of hawkers around the Malacañang Palace Selling T-shirts with the slogan "People Power," the article notes that these cost 35 pesos or 25 cents, a full day's wages for the average worker in Manila. So most of the poor are still wearing the shirts handed out by the old regime by the thousands during the last election campaign with the slogan, "Vote smart, Vote Marcos." Clearly, it was not the people who came to power in February."

The social order has remained intact. Those who were on the bottom have not come to the top. The rich are still rich, the poor are still poor.

"It was like switching from Coca Cola to Pepsi Cola," said one disappointed Cory fan.

Corazon Aquino is herself a member of the old landed aristocracy which has dominated Filipino society for centuries, both under Spanish and American colonial rule and following "independence." Cory is a Cujangoan, and the family estate "Luisita" is one of the largest haciendas in the country, with more than 7,000 hectares, 6,100 workers, a golf course and racetrack. During the election campaign, Aquino promised to make Luisita a model of land reform, but later reneged. Meanwhile, the Jacintos get back their old factory, the Lopez family recovered its TV stations, newspaper and banks seized by Marcos. Terran summum up:

"Rather than a revolution, what occurred in Manila last February was a restoration: the reinstatement of the old aristocratic oligarchy of Spanish descent, with which Marcos clashed and which he partially replaced by his own clique of relatives and hangers-on."

One of the popular slogans of leftist demonstrators before the overthrow of Marcos was "Yesterday Nicaragua, tomorrow Philippines." Instead, it's as if Somozas was replaced not by the radical-nationalist Sandinistas but by the Chamarro oligarchy, with the direct backing of the US.

Cory is the widow of Benigno Aquino, a millionaire bourgeois politician assassinated by the Marcos regime in 1983. "Ninoy" spent practically his entire career working for the American Central Intelligence Agency, first helping them crush the Communist-led Hukbalahap rebellion in the late 1940s-early '50s, and later attending the CIA's elite school in Quisotico, Virginia. After Marcos declared martial law in 1972, Washington carefully cultivated Aquino to run the Philippines in case their puppet could no longer keep up the good things under control. When Ninoy was gunned down on the tarmac at Manila airport in 1983, Cory took his place. By November 1986, the National Security Council was calling for Marcos to set the stage for a peaceful and eventual transition to a successor.
Soviet Bureaucracy at Iceland Summit: Limits to Betrayal?

From the moment Ronald Reagan walked out of the non-summit summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, cursing at Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the media has been filled with morning-after speculations about the disarmament mega-deal that almost was. Democratic liberals who believe in the "arms control process" as the road to "peace" were upset that Reagan insisted on testing, and (ultimately deploying) his trillion-dollar "Star Wars" space weapons scheme, instead of using it as a "bargaining chip." Former war secretary James Schlesinger fretted that the "opportunity of a generation" had been missed. The cynics in the Oval Office, meanwhile, claimed to have almost scored a pact with the Russians to cut their strategic nuclear arms by half within five years and eliminate all "offensive" ballistic missiles in ten. Reykjavik awakened widespread hopes, but anyone who thinks peace was almost at hand must believe in the tooth fairy.

Unfortunately, it appears that Gorbachev was one of those expecting to unilaterally find a peace gift under his pillow. In order to achieve a "historic" pact, he was evidently ready to mortgage the proverbial store for a piece of paper signed by the world's leading imperialist. Even the vicious anti-Soviet New York Times (15 October) felt compelled to editorialize that many of the "astonishing agreements" in the proposed deal were made "largely on the basis of Soviet concessions." Among the significant concessions:

- The Soviets would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe if the US did the same, while allowing Washington's British and French allies to keep theirs in place.
- The Soviets would demilitarize their Baltic territories, in return for the US doing the same in Alaska.
- Gorbachev would pressurize Castro to keep a "watchful eye" on Eastern Europe.

The most important concession of all was that the US would accept a "negative" test ban. This would involve deploying the MX missile, part of US first-strike nuclear arsenal.

- The MX would cost cut back, by perhaps several hundred, the number of shorter-range missiles in Europe.

After unilaterally imposing on themselves for the past year a moratorium on nuclear testing in the hopes that the US would do the same, the Soviets capitulated to Reagan's insistence on letting US nuclear tests continue. Instead there would be a vague commitment to phase out the tests "over time."
- Bombers and cruise missiles, where the Americans have the advantage, would not be eliminated under the proposed ten-year deal, while ballistic missiles (the Soviet strong suit) would.
- Sea-launched cruise missiles, which the US constantly flings against the Soviet Union in endless "exercises," are exempted entirely from the deal.

Reagan fumes over failure to disarm Russia at Iceland meeting with Gorbachev.

"the best deal the Russians have offered us since they sold us Alaska." The Reaganites think they can get what they want by slamming the Russians against the wall. And now the US has announced the expulsion of another 55 Soviet diplomats. The Soviets are well aware that the US strategy of nuclear blackmail, a poorly coordinated and weakened retaliatory shield, but ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems 'might perform with some effectiveness against a poorly coordinated and weakened retaliatory strike.'

--- "Reagan's First-Strike War Plans," NY W No, January 1985

In short, the "Star Wars" saga is now part of a US first-strike plan.

The cheapest way for the Russians to counter SDI is by adding to their inventory of long-range ballistic missiles, to ensure that enough of them will survive a US first strike to deliver a devastating retaliatory blow — and thus by their existence act as a deterrent against attack. But the whole thrust of Reagan's push at Reykjavik was to reduce the inventory of Soviet long-range ballistic missiles. If that were done, the Russians at a certain point would no longer have a deterrent force credible to the nuclear nuts in the White House (Reagan no doubt plans to have a reliable successor in place) who would feel they could launch a first strike with impunity. Thus the reduction of the number of Soviet weapons would actually heighten the danger of war.

The world, in short, would become a far more dangerous place if the proposed "disarmament" deal were signed. Indeed, to the extent that there hasn't been a world war since 1945, it is due to the fact that the Soviet Union developed atomic weapons and ballistic missiles, staying the hand of US imperialism in particular. Anti-Soviet radicals like Seymour Hersh admits as much in his book

Continued on page ten

Don't mess with Russia! Soviet military power deters war-crazy US rulers.
continued from page two

Aquino hoping that Cory’s popularity would make the bases more secure. But the US bases have become a lighting rod for popular protest pitting the Philippine masses against the Aquino regime. On July 4, a rally of 5,000 outside the US embassy demanding removal of the bases was dispersed by police.

The economic ties of the Philippines to US imperialism are no less binding than the military ones. American capitalists hold half of all foreign investment and rake off two-thirds of all profits in manufacturing. White collar employment from speak and Congress, half of all the country’s foreign exchange earnings go to pay for US military personnel. City and Tokyo banks just for the interest on the Philippines’ $25 billion foreign debt. Much of this debt was built up to pay for Marcos’ corrupt and brutal regime, yet it is unthinkable that Aquino would repudiate this debt and stop paying the blood money sucked by foreign bankers from the Filipino workers and peasants. To break the chains of imperialism will require a socialist revolution whose influence would quickly spread through the region and hel at the imperialist countries themselves, from second-rate powers like Australia to Japan and the United States.

Philippine Stalinism in Disarray

The present crisis of the Philippine bourgeois order will be resolved by a struggle or counterrevolution there is no middle way. And thus it has led to a crisis of Philippine nationalism, which in its own way is tied to the landlord/capitalist regime. During the last years of Marcos’ rule, a growing popular movement provided an increasing stream of recruits for the New People’s Army, making it the arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines. (CPP). By late 1984, the NPA claimed 20,000 full- and part-time fighters in 45 guerrilla fronts operating in 56 provinces. The purpose of this armed struggle, however, was not to achieve a military victory that would sweep aside landlord/capitalist rule, but as pressure for a popular front with the anti-Marcos bourgeois opposition.

While the NPA insurgency along with farmers and workers strikes in the cities-fatally undermined the Marcos regime, the Aquino opposition was expressly aimed at excluding leftist influence. When, under pressure from Washington, Marcos called a “non-partisan” election for February 7, in order to legitimate his rule, the Communist Party was caught in a dilemma. Damned if it did and damned if it didn’t in terms of bourgeois electoral politics, the CPP leadership narrowly decided to boycott the vote which the party’s legal front, the National Democratic Front (NDF), called a “sham, that is mainly designed to blunt a rapidly developing popular protest movement.” None-

Imperialist darling Cory Aquino with Stalinist nationalists Buscayno (left) and Sison (right).

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On 9 October UNSW Zionists, led by Darren Cohen, held a "Day of Action" against the Soviet. UNSW Zionist fighters sought to target the Soviet-defencist Spartacist League (SL) with illiterate but unsuccesssful provocation.

Twenty raving, right-wing Zionists surrounded our literature table and our three supporters, attempting to use a human wall to seal off the communists. Meanwhile two photograpers, ominously including one from the weekly Australian Jewish Times (AJT), shot the Zionists mouthpiece in Australia, happily snapped away. But we stood our ground; our students were still buying our papers when the Zionists finally left the scene. Sure enough, two weeks later the AJT published a photograph and a lying report of the anti-Soviet, anti-Zionist provocations.

The head of the American Chamber of Commerce vituperated against "people power" run amok.

The principled aspect of the capitalists ire is the leftist labor federation Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), or May 1 Movement, which has mushroomed from 35,000 members in 1980 to over 600,000 today. That makes it three times larger as the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), notorious for its ties to the Marcos dictatorship and sweetheart contracts with employers. The TUCP is also a major recipient of US dollars via the Combined Action Program, a branch of the Free Labor Institute, a known CIA front.

With hundreds of walkouts since February, Manila has become strike city. In the countryside, Filipinos workers are the lowest-paid in the Pacific Rim. Most do not receive their full 22,000 peso pay (less than $3 a day) — 32 pesos for agricultural workers — and real wages have been falling due to the hammer blows of inflation. Aquino's labor minister, Augusto Sanchez, a "human rights" lawyer, has been reluctant to move against strikers, hoping that the strike wave will fizzle out. But businessmen have been LSU's best recruiter and in late August, Enrile ordered the army in as strike breakers. On August 1, strikers at Pepsi Cola's Metro Manila bottling plant fought a pitched battle with company goons. The next day, armed soldiers moved on transit strikers south of the capital. The military has also been used against garment company goons. The next day, armed soldiers moved on transit strikers south of the capital. The military has also been used against garment strikers. The president has called for defending Labor in the Philippines.

Immediately following the resignation of the NPA, the NPA has called for defending Labor in the Philippines.
IN DEFENCE OF SCIENCE

"A tidal wave of enforced intolerance is sweeping America," states the amicus curiae brief filed by the Spartacist League and Partisan Defense Committee in the US Supreme Court August 18 against the teaching of biblical "creationism" in the public schools. The brief was filed on behalf of the League/Partisan Defense Committee.

The act is part of a sinister nationwide campaign by the Moral Majority and fundamentalist far right to pare down public education. Twenty-one state legislatures have considered or are considering similar legislation. Four months after the Louisiana Act was signed into law in July 1982, federal district court judge Adrian Dupaltier struck it down as unconstitutional. Again in January 1985, Dupaltier upheld on appeal the full Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in an 8-to-7 decision. Ominously, the Supreme Court denied a motion to affirm that decision.

At issue, the SL and PDC brief states, "is the preservation of separation of church and state, the gains of the Enlightenment, and the education of future generations." Turning the slogans of "religious freedom" and "academic freedom" into 锋 the battle of the intellectuals are waging war on the gains of the American bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1776 and the defeat of slavery in the Civil War. This First Amendment case has evoked widespread support from major scientific, religious, educational and civil rights groups, including a brief submitted this past week by 72 Nobel laureate scientists and 24 scientific organisations.

The separation of church and state has been a fundamental component of proletarian revolutions from the Paris Commune to the victorious Third International. Marx has as its foundation the gains of the Enlightenment and bourgeois revolutions which freed scientific and social development from the shackles of feudalism, particularly the contributions of Charles Darwin, by which man as part of nature, in social struggle to master nature, became a field of scientific inquiry. Scientific evolution, the Spartacist suit underlined, definitively destroys the myths of racial superiority.

This case, particularly in its social context, invites comparison to the 1925 "monkey trial" of John Thomas Scopes for teaching evolution in Dayton, Tennessee. Reconstruction has been defeated in the South as the KKK enforced Jim Crow segregation with lynching and cross-burnings, reaching their height the year of the trial when a white-robed rabble of 40,000 poured through the streets of the nation's capital. In the North a dracoonian anti-red and anti-immigrant witchhunt jelled tens of thousands, while Sacco and Vanzetti were sent to the chair.

Today's bible-thumping bigots crusade against "theistic evolution" as a stifling horse for a political and social agenda shared with reactionaries from the war-mongering White House and anti-Bill of Rights Supreme Court to abortion clinic firebombers, the cop mass murderers of the black MOVE commune in Philadelphia and the resurgent Klan and racist murderers across the country.

The decay of capitalist society is dramatically demonstrated when the men who have their fingers on the button of the most advanced nuclear technology and weaponry have minds filled with the worst superstitions, ignorance and bigotry of the Dark Ages. They believe man's history is to be found in the literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis, and mankind's future is spelled out in the Armageddon of "Revelations," as they are preparing to plunge the world into a fiery end in an apocalyptic battle against the "Evil Empire" of "godless" Russia. The only future for humanity in which man may realise his full potential unfettered by dark obscurantism and social oppression must necessarily be a socialist one.

We reprint below in its entirety the Spartacist League/Partisan Defense Committee amicus curiae.

INTEREST OF AMICUS CURiae

The Spartacist League is a Marxist political organization with a history of over twenty years of activity in the United States, including running candidates for public office, holding classes and public forums on Marxist history, international and domestic politics, and publishing a bimonthly newspaper, Workers Vanguard and a theoretical journal, Spartacist.

The Partisan Defense Committee is a class-struggle non-sectarian legal defense organization in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League. It gives aid and support to cases and causes in the interest of the whole of the working people.

Before this Court is a challenge to a fundamental principle of the American republic and one of the most basic gains of the American Revolution of 1776—separation of church and state. The battlefield on which this is being fought is the public schools. The weapon being used is the religious dogma of biblical creation against scientific theorizing about evolution. The potential casualty is not only the separation of church and state, but the education of masses of children in the science and culture of the world.

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Summer 1986/1987

freedom, religious freedom and scientific freedoms were broken or transcended.

During the Age of Enlightenment the basis was laid for the eradication of medieval superstition by scientific knowledge — for defeat over the forces of obscurantism. The current battle poses the defense of the gains of the American Revolution, Civil War — and the Enlightenment.

A tidal wave of enforced intolerance is sweeping America. Government is pandering to the religious fundamentalist movement, politically beholden with its program of action to rejuvenate the "moral Eber" of a demoralized and economically declining nation. Simultaneously, in the current social climate of the United States, the terrorist ultra-right flourishes as seen in the bombing of abortion clinics, Ku Klux Klan mobbings and attacks on blacks and Asians. Thus the attacks on the First Amendment and the growing reactionary terrorist threats are reflections of the tendency towards post-bonapartism, part and parcel of the drive towards war.

War has been declared on "secular humanism." The dictionary defines humanism as "a doctrine, set of attitudes, or way of life centered upon human interests and concerns: as: a) a rejection of supernaturalism, regards man as a natural object, and asserts the essential dignity and worth of man and his capacity to achieve self-realization through the use of reason and scientific method." Webster's Third New International Dictionary, p 1000 (1976). To the fundamentalists and Moral Majority, the attack on humanism is as much a threat to the democratic nature of public education -- largely a form of education, of which the current attack, if successful, will render future generations ignorant and prey to the myths of racial superiority.

To the organizations here filing as amicus curiae, the study of scientific evolution is fundamental to man's quest for a materialist understanding of our world and human society, and the lack of scientific basis for the various religious and other justifications for belief in racial inferiority. The not so hidden agenda of the proponents of teaching creationism in the schools is to enforce the destruction of dangerous dogmas of racial inferiority.

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To the organizations here filing as amicus curiae, the study of scientific evolution is fundamental to man's quest for a materialist understanding of our world and human society, not the least because it provides material evidence that we are all part of the same human race, definitively destroying the myths of racial superiority.

As Marxists, amicus curiae are profoundly committed to education and knowledge. One of the hallmarks of any struggle for social emancipation is the struggle of the oppressed against the internal, mental whip left by the master's fingers: the fight for knowledge and for access to the culture hoarded by the privileged classes.

The country could be made use of for the relatively democratic nature of public education — largely a form of education, of which the current attack, if successful, will render future generations ignorant and prey to the superstitions of our ancestors.

The fundamental principles of the First Amendment — the free speech and press as well as the religious clauses — are intertwined with the progress of mankind. Some thirty years ago, on the occasion of a proposal to appoint a United States ambassador to the Vatican, this point was succinctly made by James P Cannon, veteran American Trotskyist:

"Under the First Amendment, free thinkers and atheists, heathens and public sinners, who are very numerous in this country, have had a chance to breathe and spread enlightenment without fear of the dungeon and the rack. The First Amendment has been a protecting shield for the Children of Liberty and has enabled them to make their great contributions to literature, art and science. A breach in this provision of the Constitution, leading to its eventual repeal, would be an unspeakable calamity aiding and strengthening the forces of reaction and obscurantism here and all over the world."


For the reasons set forth above the Spartacist League and Partisan Defense Committee are compelled to submit this Brief Amicus Curiae.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The State of Louisiana's Balanced-Treatment Act, La. Rev. Stat. Ann sec. 17:286 (West's 1982) mandates the teaching of creationism under the rubric of "creation-science" whenever evolutionary science is taught. The Act declares that its purpose is "academe united against the democratic republic. In short, the period is identified in materialist historical terms as that of the bourgeois democratic revolution.

The Balanced-Treatment Act is part of a campaign of fundamentalist religious right to inject their program on the totality of American society. Having failed at promoting and defending state laws which directed the teaching of creation, the proponents of the Louisiana law attempt to justify the teaching of creationism by a definition of it as "science."

The essential starting point, however, is the fact that creationism is not science, but religion.

The advocates of the "Balanced-Treatment Act" have tried to blur their claim with pseudo-scientific affidavits and assertions of the scientific basis for creationism. But the description of "creation-science" as "scientific" is either an irreducible "complex form" or a "mere hypothesis, conjecture, or guess."

The creationists are proves through research and experimentation. Since codified by Charles Darwin in The Origin of Species in 1859, the scientific theory of evolution has been more than a fact. That evolution happened is a fact. The exact process by which it happened continues to be one of the most vital, controversial areas of scientific research.

The scientific ferment surrounding evolutionary theory does not mean that scientists are doubtful about the theory of evolution. Quite the contrary: unlike religion, science accepts nothing as dogma. The ability to test the assertions and experimentation is what makes a theory scientific rather than mystical or religious.

The creationists have resorted to every weapon among evolu­tionary scientists to discredit evolutionary theory. They attempt to use the works of Harvard biologist and theologian Stephen J Gould — a vocal activist on behalf of evolution — as "evidence" to support creation. Gould explicitly denounced the creationists' attempt to distort his theory of punctuated equilibria in support for their religion. "Evolution as Fact and Theory," "Hawthorne and Hemingway, from sex education to creationism: The creationists' use of pseudo-scientific jargon means that they deny the descent of man from earlier forms of primate life — since the days of Charles Darwin this has been the central aim of the religious opponents of evolution.

Creationists trade on semantic vagueness and willful ignorance when they argue that scientists refer to evolution as a "theory." The term theory as used by scientists means "a coherent group of historical propositions used as principles of explanation for a class of phenomena." Random House Dictionary of the English Language, p 1471 (1969). Rather than the contrary of the popular use of the term theory, eg "a mere hypothesis, conjecture, or guess." Scientific theories are proved through research and experimentation. Since codified by Charles Darwin in The Origin of Species in 1859, the scientific theory of evolution has been more than a fact. That evolution happened is a fact. The exact process by which it happened continues to be one of the most vital, controversial areas of scientific research.

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In Defence of Science .... Continued from page seven

speculation, followed by longer periods of stable existence. This theory has nothing to do with creationism.

In addition to distorting the work of current evolutionary scientists as support for the "scientific basis" for creationism, the apologists rely in part on "obscure" and "meaningless" sources. Louis Agassiz, Georges Cuvier and Sir Richard Owen. Owen was in fact an evolutionist; Cuvier's "creationism" "dispelled the fable of the creation of the world and human beings as the result of creationism: an age of but a few thousand years for the Earth." See, Gould, "The Stinkstones of Oenigen", Her's Teeth and Horse's Toes, p. 104, Agassiz was widely ridiculed in the scientific community for his opposition to Darwin's theory of evolution; Agassiz was also a notorious racist who subscribed to the theory of polygeny (separate creation of human races). When asked by a member of President Lincoln's Inquiry Commission in 1863 for his considered opinion on the role of blacks in American society, Agassiz replied: "they are incapable of living on a footing of social equality with the whites .... " "Gould, The Misuse of Man (W W Norton & Co, Inc, 1981), p 48.

The Balanced-Treatment Act will inhibit the teaching of evolution, intellectually impoverish future generations of children and rob them of scientific understanding. Whether or not a creator or some other religious or mystical power had anything to do with the development of life on our planet is a matter for the individual as his own private beliefs and not a matter for the public schools.

LEGAL ARGUMENT
THE LOUISIANA "BALANCED-TREATMENT ACT" VIOLATES THE TEACHING OF CREATIONISM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THAT IT IS IN FURTHERANCE OF RELIGION

The First Amendment is the "keystone of our Government ... the freedoms it guarantees provide the best insurance against destruction of all freedom, " Mr Justice Black dissent in Dennis v United States, 341 US 494, 580 (1951).

The First Amendment bestows the right to be free of undue governmental interference with the operation of religious institutions. It and as such constitute a precis or summary of the freedoms it guarantees and as such constitute a precis or summary of the freedoms it guarantees. This theory has nothing to do with creationism.

The legal force and continued applicability of the First Amendment rests with the fact that the Constitution of the United States is in reality three constitutions, each of which states in legal formulations the outcome of vital historic changes in American social history. The First Constitution, that of 1787, justified an American society between national or general power and state or particular power. This was called federalism; and behind the shield of it American slavery existed and developed for several decades until such servitude was destroyed by the Civil War.

Within two years, the First Constitution was subordinated. The Second Constitution was introduced in 1789 through the Bill of Rights consecrated in the first ten amendments of the Constitution. After the defeat of slavery on the battlefields of the Civil War, the Third Constitution was initiated. It is grounded on the Reconstruction Amendments, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution. Thus the Third Constitution codifies the completion of the US bourgeois democratic revolution creating a democratic, national American State, founded on the hegemony of the first ten amendments and of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, appropriately subordinating the so-called federalism of the First Constitution.

The import of this constitutional history is that the Constitution and particularly the Bill of Rights is a living document, indivisible by the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment, subordinating the state government to these federal principles. See Gitlow v New York, 268 US 652, 666 (1925), Cantwell v Connecticut, supra, Everson v Board of Education, 330 US, 54-60 (1947): (1) whether the statute has a secular legislative purpose; (2) whether the principal or primary effect of the statute is to advance or inhibit religion; and (3) whether the statute fosters an excessive entanglement with religion.

With this recognition that creationism is a religious belief and in cognizance of the weighty social history surrounding the battle between science and religion — the Enlightenment and obscurantism — it is indisputable that the Louisiana Act is in furtherance of religion and serves no secular purpose.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons set forth above, the decision of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit should be upheld.

Dated: New York, New York

August 18, 1986

Respectfully submitted,

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The Trotskyists seek instead a socialist revolution centered on the urban working class and based on organs of proletarian power (soviet, workers' committees, workers' militias). In El Salvador we call for military victory to the leftist insurgents of the Comandante Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), to smash the armed fist of the bourgeois state and open the road to proletarian revolution. (However, the popular-front FMLN leaders are instead bent on pursing an illusory "negotiated solution" with Duarte's deceitful "democracy".)

In the Philippines, the NPA's peasant insurgency remains at the level of widespread small-scale guerrilla operations, and the center of social conflict has shifted to the working class, both urban and rural. Were the CPP's hoped-for "national democratic coalition government" to materialize, it would strengthen the bourgeois state, leading in time to savage repression against the workers' movement as well as to Communist cadres. A general truce of cease-fire by the NPA would take the pressure off the army and give Philippine capitalism a breathing space to reconstitute. As long as the present situation of peace-rcor war continues, with the NPA holding down the neocolonial cartels in the countryside and prolonging the state of disarray, it will buy precious time for the proletariat to take advantage of the "democratic" opening, which cannot last long, for organizing to seize state power.

For a Philippines October!

When the US Air Force flew Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos and their numerous retinue to Hawaii, with another cargo jet to haul the crates of bonds, currency and shoes, the rulers in Manila and Washington breathed a collective sigh of relief. But in the aftermath, class polarization in the Philippines has progressively sharpened. Yet, ironically, as the Filipino masses have grown increasingly disillusioned in the hoax of "people power," the bulk of the Philippines left has grown increasingly desperate to hitch their cart to Cory's ox. Thus the struggles of the workers and peasants have not been undercut by a revolutionary program, but rather by their leaders' reformist capitulation to the CIA's latest puppet.

What is dramatically clear is the absence of a Bolshevik-Leninist vanguard fighting to turn the phony "February revolution" into an authentically proletarian revolution.

Upon his release from Marcos' prison, CPP leader Sison declared that "he was prepared to support the 'positive aspects' of the Government of President Corazon C Aquino" (New York Times, 6 March). This is precisely the line taken by Stalin and Kosenso in 1917 toward the "democratic" Provisional Government in Russia following the overthrow of the tsar, which unlike the February coup d'état in Manila was a genuine political revolution. Lenin cabled on March 6 from Switzerland with a counterposed line of revolutionary opposition: "Our tactics: no trust in and no support of the new government; Kerensky is especially suspect; arming of the proletariat is the only guarantee..." Upon arriving in Petrograd, Lenin went on to state in his famous "April Theses":

"...the specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that the country is passing from the first stage of the revolution — which, owing chiefly to the insufficent class-consciousness and organisation of the proletariat, placed power in the hands of the bourgeoisie to its second stage, which must place power in the hands of the proletariat and the poorest sections of the peasantry."

— V I Lenin, "The Tasks of the Proletariat in the Present Revolution"

Where Lenin warned in his March telegram, "no rapprochement with..." today the CPP calls for a "democratic coalition government" with Aquino herself plus assorted "moderates".

(When some months later, the tsarist general Kornilov marched on Petrograd to overthrow the weak Kerensky regime, aiming to crush the soviets and the left, the Bolsheviks took the lead in mobilizing the workers against the rightist threat. This set the stage for the Bolsheviks to take power, ousting Kerensky, within a mere six weeks. Likewise, in the Philippines the working class and its allies must mobilize independently to quash any coup attempt by Enrile and his fellow right-wing militarists whose aim is to unleash a bloodbath of the left, labor and peasant guerillas.)

Lenin's call in the April Theses for constructing "a state of the Paris Commune type," a government of the Soviets of Workers and Soldiers Deputies, was congruent with views earlier advanced by Trotsky, whose theory of permanent revolution envisions a dictatorship of the proletariat, supported by the peasantry, to carry out the democratic tasks of the bourgeois revolution and consequently undertake the socialist tasks of the proletarian revolution. It is striking that those forces internationally who besmirch the tradition of Trotskyism have grievously failed to call for a program of permanent revolution in the Philippines today. Thus Ernest Mastro Reve, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Fourth International issued a declaration on March 2 which nowhere mentions "permanent revolution" — or the need for a Trotskyist party — and only calls on "the democratic and anti-imperialist movement" to "continue to organize and struggle for its aims." Intercontinental Times, 8 April.

The American Socialist Workers Party, in turn, which today denounces Trotskyism as "ultra-left" and cheer-leads for the błędnil of imperialist Sandinista leadership in Nicaragua, calls it a "counter-revolutionary" and "revolution of power" (ibid). And the US Workers League publishes articles by Nick Beams, Australian acolyte of the WLC's dubious David North, which after much verbiage about "Trotskyism" advocates "a critical vote for Aquino" in the February elections (Bulletin, 20 May) This parliamentary cretinist support for the bourgeois, pro-imperialist standard-bearer of CIA "democracy" nothing more than everything Lenin and Trotsky ever fought for. In contrast, we wrote at the time:

"...But for the Filipino people, the replacement of the corrupt, brutal Marcos regime by another team of Aquino and [vice president] Salvador Laurel will mean the substitution of one set of American lackeys for another, and only one word: be-wanted! A 'fight against imperialist domination and for the anti-imperialist war drive which determines the life of the Philippines, described by the London Economist as an 'archipelagic aircraft carrier,' requires class struggle against the new U.S. puppet for workers revolution, led by Trotskyist parties, from the Philippines to the Philippines..."

— WY No 398, 28 February

The Stalinist program of "two-stage" revolution to resuscitate the Menshevik line in tsarist Russia, whose bankruptcy was demonstrated by the Bolshevik October Revolution — the greatest victory for the international proletariat in history. In the immediate aftermath of the January revolution in the Philippine neocolony where Kennedy liberals are cozying up to "peace talks" with the landlord families. But at the same time, uneven and combined development has produced a modern working class alongside the age-old exploitation of the peasantry. The bloody US imperialism, who slaughtered two million in Indochina, will not let their Philippine fortress go lightly. Thus victorious workers revolution in the Philippines would strike a powerful blow against the global anti-Soviet war drive, smash the imperialist encirclement of heroic Vietnam, and spark a revolutionary upsurge throughout the region.

For a workers and peasants government in the Philippines! Forge a Trotskyist political vanguard of a reborn Fourth International! — reprinted from Workers Vanguard, 21 April, 1986

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9
Filipino masses to imperialist domination.

In numerous public meetings, bourgeois and left media interviews and, most importantly, talks with the so-called "Australian bureaucrats"—Bill Hayden's and the Aquino in the Cabinet." subordination of the of 1965, when the left and would repeat the Indonesian disaster in the 9 November has dramatically reinforced its signalled it was unplugging him. to defend the liberation." In fact, Australia by the usual party of Australia Solidarity" waging war on the working class at profits of Australian capitalism could few thousand Filipino immigrants Philippines' struggle for national retention of the was rampant in earlier times' has subsided to a great extent." - Enrile's power base. Their not-so- - Seymour Hersh, The Price of Power (1983) Cuba and Vietnam would never have allowed to consolidate their social revolution and all the US have tried to dismember the Soviet Union and bring back private property (if not the fear); if it weren't for the fact that Russia had the bomb, and SS-18 missiles to deliver it!

Road to Peace: World Revolution

The dangerous cramping of the Kremlin's bureaucracy in the face of growing belligerence has only encouraged Reaganesque reactionaries to push harder. Yet Moscow underestimated his power to the oppressed Asian and Pacific working masses in their struggle for liberation. Underhake, Australian capitalism has dramatically reinforced its re- spective role as a super-ego or even enemy and jackey. Hawke/Hayden supported and in every way until the US so-called "a workers' state" it was undermining Hawke. Hayden has repeatedly floated the offer to send Australian troops to defend the US in a bases in the 9 November National Times on Sunday Hayden advocated increased Australian military aid to the brutal and corrupt army of Enrile and Ramos and his "strong support" for the regime of the Philippines. The Hawke regime, waging war on the working class at home, is a mortal enemy of the oppressed Asian and Pacific working masses in their struggle for liberation. Jose Maria Sison was brought to Australia by the usual "Third World Solidarity" crowd, whose main organ- ized cooperation is the International Communist Party of Australia (CPI) and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). Like CPI, the SWP fully supported the CIA-sanctioned February "peoples power" conspiracy coup in the Philippines. "Aguino moves left" (Direct Action, 2 April) and sympathetic reports on the "progressive potential of the "reform" group in the Philippines' office corps (Direct Action, 9 April) --- Enrile's power base. "Their not-so-

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working class against the capitalist class, for the establishment of a workers government under the leadership of a revolutionary party. The Soviet bomb has bought precious time for the working class, but time is running out. Had Soviet trade unions demonstratively extended the hand of solidarity to the IIA longhoremment during their recent strike against the bosses' takeovers, for instance, that would have been worth more than a thousand treaties.

Just before getting on the plane to Reykjavik, Reagan took heart in the comments of what he called the "great American" Robert E Lee, who "knew the extremes of hope and despair." Lee hoped to save the dying institution of chattel slavery, but his Confederate army was smashed in the Civil War. Reagan knows that capitalists wage slavery, but the working class must finish the Civil War with proletarian revolution under the program of Lenin and Trotsky. That is the aim of the Spartacist League.

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Free Bill Hurrey...

Continued from page twelve

school principal, in league with the cops, is using the school to question, to testify. One youth admitted to being a cop informer and "gay-basher," another was charged with theft because Hurrey would not let him drive his sports car. Even the trial judge, Mille意见建议 to the jury to regard the youths' evidence as suspect. Miller went on to make clear that it was homosexuality on trial, citing the Bible: "... in the Book sodomity is described as an abominable offence. It is still an abominable offence." (Outrage August 1986).

Under the hypocritical guise of "protecting the children" and "defending the family" Sturgess has heavily victimised Hurrey and Moore and destroyed their families in the process. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald (15 November 1986) by Greg Roberts, carrying Sturgess's trumped-up allegations against Hurrey and Moore, quoted Hurrey's parents: "What we are hearing in Bill was made a sacrificial lamb, and it should be remembered that none of these alleged victims could have been called defenseless children." Moore's wife was equally bitter: "The prosecution, the police, the papers had two years of criticising him ... it's on children who will suffer because they've lost a father and I've lost a husband."

Hurrey and Moore should be freed immediately, and paid massive compensation for the damage done to their lives. Now, rotting in jail they can only expect more terror at the hands of the screws and brutalised elements among their jailmates to\r\n\r\nviolents of anti-gay frame-up.

Bill Hurrey (left), David Moore (right):

guise of an orchestrated hysteria about "crime" and AIDS, in exactly the same fashion as the Queensland government. The NSW Anti-Discrimin­\r\n\nization of gay bashing has reached epidemic proportions.

In "civilised" Victoria, the Cain Labor government launched a vicious witchhunt in 1983 against the tiny Prophoide Support Group (PSG). Alone on the left the Spartacist League defended the PSG. Marxists oppose state intervention into the private lives of citizens. The guiding principle for sexual relations between people (including youth) should be freedom of consent. The entire fake left supported the Cain anti-gay witchhunt, feeling that people's "hypocritical" "child abuse" hysteria. In fact, when school teacher Alison Thorne was sacked for speaking out against the witchhunt, the Reaytists-without-Healy of the Social Labour League continued their smear campaign in her union, the Technical Teachers Union of Victoria, to keep her sacked! Education Minister Cachtle is still refusing to restate Thorne. The reformist Socialist Workers Party joins in the hysteria over the PSG raving about "child rapists" and supporting the reactionary age-of­\r\n\nment pledged to socialist policies. The Social Labour League calls upon the "left" pro-capitalist union/ALP bureaucrats to "organise full support" for the nurses, "sack the ALP right-wing scabbing on the nurses' strike."

The ruling Hawke Labor government, and the ruling class it serves, is trying to regiment the population as part of its war on the unions at home and preparations for war on the workers states of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The defeat of the Queensland power workers was a turning point, precursor to Hawke's smashing of the BLF and the New Right offensive against the unions. Hagel workers were shatf on the backs of Hawke and the treacherous ACTU tops who turned the lights back on for the RAN in February 1985. But the power was there to have made the Petersen government, Sturgess Report and all head dead. Everything that is ugly about this brutal, ignorant, anti-gay, racist, and sex-bigotry society, with its culture of white pigs, is getting uglier. For their drive to war against the land of the Great October Revolution the class needs to shun up the fundamental economic unit of capitalism, and its chief ideological transmission belt, the nuclear family. It is the nuclear family which is the expressed political form of women's oppression under capitalism. The road to the liberation of women, gays, blacks, all the oppressed, is the road of socialists revolution. It is necessary to build an international revolutionary movement to take the struggle as "the tribunal of the people," leading the proletariat and behind it all the oppressed in the struggle of the workers government and a decent life for all. It is to this task that the Spartacist League is dedicated.

Nurses

Continued from page twelve

court. When the Victorian THC tried to take over the negotiations, 1500 nurses rallied outside Trades Hall, November 7, chanting "No interference from Trades Hall Council." The industrial courts are no neutral "arbitration" forum, but the employers' tools for chaining the unions to the capitalist state. And the THC/ACTU mediators are old hands at selling out strikes.

A central obstacle to winning this struggle is the whole history of the hospital unions. While the HEF's scabbing on the nurses' strike was a crime, the RANF has never supported a strike of the HEF, representing workers even lower down in the hospital system. It was only earlier this year that HEF members fought a bitter strike against Cain's government which it continued to work. The RANF's Irene Bolger and HEF's Les Butler — both members of the ALP "Socialist Left" — embody the scab-ridden muck-up unionism of all wings of the trade union bureaucracy, and their fundamental unity with Hawke and Cain in the ALP. And the RANF leadership exhibits the racist protectionism of the Laborites when it opposes the entry of Filipino and English nurses into Australia. Full onrash rights for foreign-born workers and their families! For a sliding scale of wages and hours to fight unemployment and wage-cutting! For industrial unionism against "political" unionism! The reformist left's "support" for the strike consists in tailing the class-collaborationist Laborites. The Social­\r\n\nQueensland Labor government is targeting gays as part of a general assault on civil liberties. Unions in the large Queensland sugar industry have reported a program of revolutionary inter­\r\n\norder fromy to pay: Spartacist, Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10016

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Let's Win This One! 

Australasian

SPARTACIST

For Mass Pickets! Shut Down the Hospitals!
Nurses Take On Labor
Union Busters

Now into its fourth week, the strike by 24,000 members of the Royal Australian Nurses Federation (RANF) has spread to all major Victorian public hospitals and some private hospitals, and threatens to explode nationally as nurses in South Australia and NSW are also engaged in industrial disputes. Called over wage levels, ie wage cutting and downgrading of job classifications, this strike not only poses defence of the rights of the overworked and underpaid nurses and other hospital workers. It threatens the Labor governments' union-busting, wage-cutting, conditions-gouging Accord with the labour bureaucracy, designed to regiment the workers movement of this country for Reagan's drive towards war against the Soviet Union and its allies like heroic Vietnam. Yet Hospital Employees Federation (HEF) nurses aids, cleaners and orderlies and other hospital staff continue to work. The HEF and other hospital workers must be called out and the hospitals, public and private, shut down tight through militant mass picket lines. A few scabs hobbled around on crutches will quickly spread the word that scabbing is dangerous to your health. Victory to the nurses strike!

From SEQEB to Peko-WallSEND to the Builders' Labourers Federation (BLF), the bosses have been waging a one-sided class war on the working class. The BLF was a watershed as the entire trade union bureaucracy either passively watched or actively colluded with the Labor governments' blacklisting of an entire union. Militant workers around the country now see the broadly-supported nurses strike as a chance to turn the situation around. A few contingents of wharfies, transport workers, BLF militants to beef up the picket lines would make the point to Cain that hospital workers do not stand alone. At the Royal Women's Hospital picket line one sign read: "No vote to Labor." This points to the necessity of building a political alternative to the ALP, a revolutionary workers party through splitting the ALP's base from the pro-capitalist tops — based on an all-sided program of hard class struggle. Predictably the capitalist press, Premier Cain and his "Health!" Minister White ooze hypocritical concern about patients and emergency cases. But it is the ruling class and their Labor lackeys who are driving hospital conditions into the ground with years of criminal neglect and funding cutbacks. Meanwhile Hawke parades around the country his F-16s and guided-missile destroyers — part of a billion-dollar anti-Soviet war build-up. To underline the connection Hawke has offered Cain the use of military hospitals and personnel to smash the strike. The anti-Soviet war drive means union-busting and austerity at home. For free, quality health care for all Smash the anti-Soviet war drive!

The very names of the hospitals — Queen Victoria, Prince Henry, Royal Womens — emphasize the Victorian-era paternal administration of the hospital system which makes nurses virtual state-controlled domestics, carrying out "women's work." Many nurses can recall when they could be dismissed if they married. The gutter press has been quick to push sexist innuendo — probably emanating straight from Cain's chambers — about RANF leader Irene Bolger's private life. Strikers have raised the lack of adequate child-care facilities for this predominantly female workforce. Free, 24-hour child-care should be available in all industries in order to help breakdown the enforced segregation and exclusion of women. Nurses' conservative "professional" illusions have long held them in chains and continue to pose a weakness to the strike. But as one nurse picket told us: "I've not done this before, but I'm learning fast!"

RANF members have shown considerable resolve in pursuing their strike. They flouted a State Industrial Commission order to return to work, branding the Commission a "kangaroo court".

Free Bill Hurrey, David Moore!
Smash Petersen, Sturgess
Anti-Gay Witchhunt!

Bill Hurrey, Brisbane's most popular disc jockey, was arrested in November 1986 on 26 charges relating to homosexuality. This July he was sentenced to five years jail with hard labour, convicted after a 28-day trial on 17 charges consisting of conspiracy, sodomy and "indecently dealing with boys". This November, ex-cop and father of five, David Moore followed Hurrey into Boggo Road jail for six years for seven "sex offences" against youths. Hurrey and Moore are victims of Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions Des Sturgess' sinister, bible-thumping witchhunt against gays.

Hurrey and Moore have been framed up. Hurrey is widely known in Brisbane and is openly homosexual. His radio show continually topped the ratings. This cultured man, who has one of the largest jazz record collections in the country, and who is a personal friend of black American singer Stevie Wonder, has been given the Oscar Wilde treatment. Moore, too was widely known from his children's television appearances when he was a cop, warning against child molestation. Now he has become a victim of the reactionary campaign he publicly represented. Hurrey and Moore are being pilloried by Sturgess and the Queensland government precisely because they are so prominent. The government intends to convey to the whole population that thou shalt have "adult" heterosexual sex in the missionary position ... or else.

Hurrey's barrister said of the 11 youths who testified against Hurrey: "a greater bunch of thieves, liars, pimps and shakedown merchants you could not hope to find outside a maximum security prison" (Australian 7 July 1986). Sturgess personally visited the parents of one witness to ensure the youth testified. A Catholic boys' school...