300,000 silent pulpits

Donald E. Wildmon
Executive Director

Today, 4000 innocent precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out. Their arms and legs were torn from their bodies, their skulls crushed. One and one half million times each year our "civilized" society will take an innocent life.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Six hundred thousand children, between the ages of 3 and 18, are involved in child pornography. Twenty thousand of them will disappear each year, never to be seen again.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

The networks make a mockery of Christians, the Christian faith and Christian values with nearly every show they air. Greed, materialism, violence, sexual immorality are standard fare. Program after program, movie after movie contains anti-Christian episodes and plots. News articles condescendingly refer to the "fundamental, right wing Christians". Those who speak out for the sacredness of life are branded as extremists.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Teenage suicide is the highest it has ever been. The number of teenage alcoholics and drug addicts is the highest ever. Christian morality cannot be taught in schools but atheistic immorality can. Divorce is taking approximately one of every two marriages. The number of children living in broken homes is fast becoming a majority.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Rape has increased 700 percent in the last fifty years, and that takes into consideration the population growth. The FBI says one in four 12-year-old girls will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. Pornography has become an eight billion dollar business, with some of the largest companies in America involved—CBS, RCA, Coca Cola, 7-Eleven, Time, Inc.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Rock music fills the airways, and our children's minds with music which legitimizes rape, murder, forced sex, sado-masochism, adultery, satanic worship, etc.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

A majority of states now have lotteries. We have eliminated that crime by making it legal and putting it under the control of the state.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

What important matters are being dealt with in our churches?

The church bulletin says there will be a meeting to plan the church-wide supper. We are raising money to put a new floor cover in the kitchen. (The old one doesn't match the new stove and refrigerator.) The sermon subject last Sunday was "How To Have A Positive Attitude." We are organizing a softball team.

At a meeting of church officials a program was announced to recruit new members. We need the new program because we are losing membership. The new program was worked out by some of the very top professionals, people who have had success in gaining new members for the Lions Club, the Civitan Club and other organizations. We really need professionals to do the job.

Sometimes blasphemy comes unnoticed.

Don

ACTION BOX

Things to do this month. Check off as completed.

( ) Write K mart, Ramada. Pages 1,5.
( ) Ask one store in your area to stop selling pornography.
( ) Get your church to join the All-Membership subscription plan. Nearly 4000 other churches already have.
( ) Send one Christian friend a gift subscription to the NFD Journal. Only $15 per year.
( ) Pray for the work of NFD.

CORRECTIONS

U. S. Pen--The October *NFD Journal* incorrectly reported that U. S. Pen Company is owned by the porn-distributing Cadence Industries. The information was outdated.

Jockey, International--In the same issue, Jockey should not have been included in the list of porn advertisers. Jockey reports that they have not advertised in *Playboy* in more than three years.

The editor regrets confusion caused by the errors.

Minister, your help needed

The NFD is often asked to help ministers in their counseling with the victims of pornography.

This area is so new that we know of no books of printed help. Therefore, we are asking those ministers who have had experience in counseling the victims to share with our other readers whatever help and advice they have.

If you have had experience in this area, please write out that experience and send it to the NFD.

Position open at NFD

The NFD has a position open for an associate director. The job description includes skills in writing, speaking, and administration. We prefer an individual with an advanced theological degree, but will consider applicants with only a bachelor's degree. Some traveling will be necessary after a training period.

If interested, send resume with salary requirements to Position, NFD, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS. No phone calls please.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

ABC, the network which bombards America's homes with anti-Christian programs nightly, also owns Word Publishing Company which publishes Christian books, music and films.

We want your opinion. Should Christians continue to do business with Word Publishers? Give us your opinion. Tear out the coupon below and return to us, or make a copy and return that copy. We will give you the results in the next issue of the *NFD Journal*.

In addition, we will publish what we consider to be the best replies pro and con on the subject. Please keep your response to not more than 150 words.

RESPONSE FORM

Should Christians do business with Word Publishing Company?

( ) Yes ( ) No

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Return to: Your Opinion Counts, NFD, Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803.

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The National Federation for Decency is a Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in the American society with primary emphasis on television and other media.

When foundations fall: Putting a STOP to pornography

by Paul A. Tanner

Dr. Tanner is the executive secretary of the Executive Council of the Church of God (Anderson, IN). The Church of God is a Wesleyan doctrine body of believers with a worldwide witness and mission. This article originally appeared in Vital Christianity, *official publication of the church.*

Was it a cry of desperation or a song of rejoicing, in the providence and justice of God, that caused the psalmist to ask, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Ps. 11:3).

The psalmist was concerned about ancient Israel. I am concerned about modern America. We're not heeding the lessons of history. No civilization has ever deteriorated morally as rapidly as we have in a single generation.

The writer to the Hebrews spoke of Jesus, "whose voice shook the earth . . . that those things which cannot be shaken may remain . . . Wherefore we receive a kingdom which cannot be moved" (Heb. 12:26-28).

What about the nation that forgets God? What happens to the nation that rejects his gracious omnipotent hand, and that blasphemes his excellent word?

The entertainment media of this country and much of the secular media are shaking the very foundation of Western civilization, which is built upon the Christian view of humanity. If secular humanism gains control in our nation, the generation now being born will live in the most hedonistic, secular, materialistic society the world has ever known. Human life will become incredibly cheap.

Denmark is a good illustration of the consequences of turning to secular humanism to solve social problems. Denmark legalized pornography in 1967. In 1970 they made sex education compulsory. They promptly removed all "age of consent laws" with reference to sexual relations. Abortion on demand was legalized in 1973. Sexual practices formally listed as crimes were removed from the statute books. These included such acts as homosexuality, statutory rape, sodomy, and indecent exposure. Contraceptives became free to anyone of any age.

> ***We're not heeding the lessons of history. No civilization has ever deteriorated morally as rapidly as we have in a single generation.***

People who don't know, or those who do know but want to confuse, point to Denmark and say, "Look how sex crimes have decreased." Well, of course. If sodomy, child seduction, rape, and other sexual molestations are no longer criminal offenses, their sex crime rate may go down to zero. Where there is no law there are no criminal offenses.

What are the real facts? Here they are. Assault rape in Denmark has increased 300%. With widespread sex education, one would think venereal disease would disappear. For ages twenty and over it has increased 200%. For ages sixteen through twenty it is up 250%. For ages fifteen and under they record an alarming 400% increase. Abortions are up 500%. The divorce rate has doubled in the last six years and illegitimate pregnancies are up 50%.

You say, "Has anything decreased at all?" Yes, a lower birth rate is resulting in a decreasing population. Second, the age of first intercourse has substantially decreased—not a record of which to be very proud.

A study conducted between 1964 and 1974 reveals that countries where regulations on pornography have relaxed show dramatic increase in rape (Australia 160%, United States 139%, New Zealand 107%, England 94%).

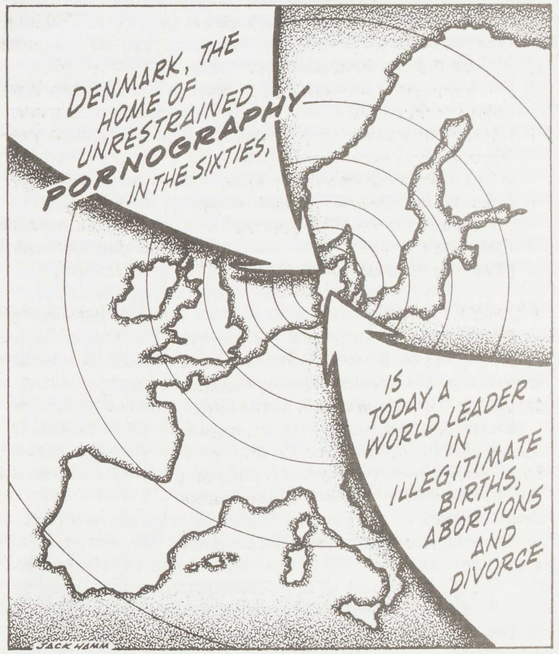
Countries showing continued restraint on pornography showed less increase in rape (Singapore 69%, South Africa 28%).

But Japan, which does not permit pornography at all, even though they make no claim of being a Christian nation, shows a 49% decrease in rape. Our freedom is leading us to licentiousness, which in the end is self-destruction.

Sam Janus wrote the provocative book *The Death of Innocence*. He is a social scientist, not a religious pulpiteer. Janus blames social revolutions that have taken place in our generation. These upheavals, he claims, have resulted in a "new morality," which is having a devastating effect on children.

First among them is a sexual revolution that has affected all of society, but that has dramatically affected American women. The emphasis moved from procreation to a high expectation of sexual fulfillment. A new ethic of sex and morality emerged.

...pornography hits Denmark



Next came the contraceptive revolution. Backing up the psychological change of the sexual revolution was the medical means to destroy unwanted pregnancy. Promiscuity grew by leaps and bounds.

Among other revolutions is the "gay" liberation revolution. This is perhaps one of the most vocal self-interest groups in America.

The casualties are all about us. The morality of the street becomes the dominant code. The foundations have crumbled.

This sociological account fits perfectly into the philosophy espoused by Robertson and Slosser in their book *The Secret*