

## Issue taken with statements on humanism

### EDITOR:

Most of the statements made by Mr. Cartwright, in Profile: Joe Cartwright, Paducah, Sunday, Feb. 27, I heartily agree with. Especially those concerning the overemphasis of sports in our high schools and colleges and the importance of history as it relates to our present time.

However, there are some statements he made with which I feel compelled to take issue; namely, those having to do with humanism.

His statement that humanism is misunderstood is really the understatement of the day. Literally thousands upon thousands who hear about humanism, who read such statements as made by Professor Cartwright about humanism, neither know or understand what the basic tenets of humanism are.

He implies that humanism is not anti-religion by stating that some think that it is.

Whether or not humanism is anti-religion depends upon the religion one has in mind. If one has in mind religious humanism the humanists are certainly not anti-religion. But if one has in mind religion that is based upon the existence of God and the Bible as His inspired and inerrant word, then humanism is definitely anti-religion.

Here are offered a few quotations from the Humanist Manifesto 1 and 2 published by Prometheus Books, 1203 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14215. This manifesto is the humanist's "bible in which is set forth their philosophies, beliefs, purposes, goals and how they intend to accomplish their purposes and goals.

These quotations are offered as proof of the affirmation that humanism is truly anti-religion if

one has Christianity in mind.

Quotes from the Humanist Manifesto 1 and 2 by page and paragraph (my own comments in brackets):

1. We find insufficient evidence to believe in the existence of a super natural. Page 16, paragraph 1. (They do not believe in the existence of God.)

2. Religious humanists regard the universe as self existing and not created. Page 8, paragraph 2.

3. Humanism believes that man is part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process. Page 8, paragraph 3. (By continuous process is meant evolution.)

4. Holding an organic view of life, humanists find the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected. Page 8, paragraph 4. (Asserts that man is only material in nature, having no soul, no inner man.)

5. What more pressing need than to recognize in this critical age of modern science and technology that, if no deity will save us, we must save ourselves. Page 4, paragraph 1.

6. As nontheist, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity.

Page 16, paragraph 1.

7. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence, in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so. Page 16, paragraph 1.

8. Traditional religions are surely not the only obstacles to human progress. Page 16, paragraph 2. (To the humanists, traditional religions include Buddhism, Muhammadanism, Hinduism, etc. and Christianity).

From these excerpts, from their own book, it is obvious that any religion that is not religious humanism, and certainly one based upon the existence of God and belief of the Bible, would not be looked upon with favor by humanists. In fact nothing would please humanism more than to see all religion, other than religious humanism, obliterated from the earth.

RALPH RUDOLPH  
Benton, Ky