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Letters

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AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE EDITOR: If I were a subversive seeking to undermine the United States:

I would encourage America to get involved in various civil wars (like Vietnam, Lebanon, and Nicaragua), knowing that very little good usually results and that a great deal of the national treasures, lives, and prestige are expended.

I would heat up the arms race, knowing that more for defense means less for the civilian side. A lower standard of living and increasing poverty are two probable results.

Then I would propose the cutting of social programs, which would lead to more rage and hopelessness and a desire to seek revenge against the system.

Meanwhile, opposition to gun control is encouraged so that more and more of the angry dispossessed will have the means to kill some leaders and sow fear among the people.

Then I might work toward a cutback in funding for the care and treatment of the mentally ill so as to inspire the presence of many resentful psychotic people who will wreak their own brand of havoc on the society.

I would outlaw abortion so as to guarantee the birth of more deprived and unwanted children who may burden society with their problems. I would simultaneously eliminate sex-education classes so as to make sure that children know little about contraception. Thus

more can become pregnant at an early age.

By conveniently ignoring the good work that many churches do, I would, nevertheless, actively promote a belief in God on the theory that the more time people spend assuming that God will solve our problems, the less time, money, and energy will be spent actually *doing* anything to help one's neighbor, the nation, and the world.

I would also propose that religious values become public policy, knowing that few things divide and weaken a society more than religious conflicts. Therefore I would promote the growth of church-related schools in order to further religious divisiveness, to separate people from each other, and to promote out-groups and in-groups.

I might attempt to stop the teaching of evolution in the hope that that will slow the growth of science and help destroy America's preeminence in biological research.

Schools should be encouraged to become even more demanding and disciplined in the hope that curiosity, creativity, drive, and individual initiative will be even more deeply repressed.

Simultaneously, I would promote aggressive competition to the extent that some fellow Americans might be hurt in the process and would encourage numerous lawsuits no matter how destructive.

Furthermore, I would work for the elimination of all so-called controver-

sial books and ideas in the school system and in libraries, knowing that the strength and uniqueness of a democracy lies in the free availability of ideas, even unpopular ones.

I would publish massive amounts of pornography and saturate the TV with violence with the goal of promoting aggressive behavior and sexual abuse while denying the public scenes that show the beauty of love and closeness and intimacy.

Meanwhile, price supports for tobacco farms should continue so that more Americans can die of lung cancer. Subsequently, I would oppose a National Health Care System so as to ensure that millions of Americans will suffer nonexistent or marginal medical care.

I might so glorify the American system that we would not be tempted to learn from the virtues and mistakes of other societies.

Finally, I would propose such ineffective economic and social policies as to result in a possibly stagnant economy heavily in debt to other nations, the highest crime rate of the Western World, three million homeless, one-quarter of the children living in poverty, and ten million or more unemployed, thus making the wealthiest of all nations appear rather inept in the eyes of the world.

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