

WASHINGTON REPORT

"OPERATION BRAINWASH"

by Fulton Lewis, Jr.

This is about Operation Brainwash: Sunday School children.

I have been laboring under the illusion that Sunday School is for the religious education and instruction of our youth. It was, when I was a youngster. It was, when my children were growing up.

I have at hand, however, a copy of "Classmate," a weekly publication which claims to be "prepared by the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church, through the Editorial Division" and another, entitled "adult Student" from the same source. Both are current issues.

VITROLICS TWISTED

The former, directed to children, features an article by one D. F. Fleming, which is a twisted and vitriolic attack on the late Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin, accompanied by a newspaper cartoon reprint portraying a dead dragon, labelled "Extreme Reaction."

The World in the cartoon is asking Uncle Sam "could we put it down again, should it rear its ugly head?"

The text says that while Senator McCarthy is dead, his name will live long in American and world history, but only because the cold war has created a national hysteria which "He masterfully exploited."

It says our victory in World War II was possible "only because of the massive, sustained comeback of the Russian armies from Stalingrad." It says, also, that the Russians have continued to occupy the Eastern European countries "to forestall any future invasions from the West."

VIOLENT ENEMIES

Mr. Fleming quotes, authoritatively, from Drew Pearson and Eric Sevareid, probably two most violent enemies McCarthy had in the field of propaganda dissemination, and states categorically "never, at any time, did McCarthy uncover a Communist in the State Department, but this fact was lost in the national hysteria."

The "hysteria" cliché, a standard line of the anti-anti-Communists, is drummed throughout the article.

It quotes the columnist Doris Fleeson as making "the most penetrating comment at the time of McCarthy's death":

"Men and women will be judged for a long time by the courage and character they displayed or failed to display while McCarthyism seemed triumphant."

ARTICLE FOR ADULTS

This, you understand, is in a Sunday School magazine, distributed to children. For those of more adult age, the same author has an article in the other publication, entitled "Why Peacemaking is Imperative." You may be interested in the following:

"Poland has gained a large degree of real independence. Hungary, tragically enough has not. This was due in part to the false hopes, planted in Hungarian teenagers during years of broadcasting by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, particularly the latter."

The fact is that Radio Free Europe is playing the propaganda line that the way to freedom is to adopt Tito-Communism. Of Red China, he says:

"It will pay us well to speak to the Chinese before they decide not to recognize us --even making friends with the Soviet and Chinese peoples is not enough. We are obliged to go on to organize a functioning world community with them."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

What this has to do with Sunday School, I fail to understand, but I have made some inquiries about the author.

The magazines describe him as a "leading political scientist" who "analyzes recent trends in foreign relations and comes up with an answer: Wage peace before it is too late."

The fact is, he is a research professor of political science at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., who has been a liberal there for some 20 years. He fancies himself a great intellect, and his biography in Who's Who is replete with listings of the High Schools of which he was principal, before he latched onto Vanderbilt.