

Meaning of family depends on philosophy

PERHAPS THIS is a more scholarly audience than I realized. Perhaps, too, it is strongly conservative. I am led to such speculation by the frequency of comments that I still am receiving concerning two late-summer columns in which the central figure was Russell Kirk, noted political theorist, lecturer and essayist.

No less a figure than the president of the United States has credited Dr. Kirk with helping stir "the conservative revival in our nation" and if indeed he did help orchestrate such a revival it began in 1953 with publication of his book, "The Conservative Mind," which soon will be in its seventh printing.

Who was responsible I know not, but undoubtedly it was because of the Kirk columns that I received a few days ago from Rockford, Ill., an envelope crammed with material on the Rockford Institute, founded 10 years ago "to rebuild an American ethical consensus rooted in the fundamental ideas and traditions of Western civilization."

A promotional folder quotes Ronald Reagan as saying, "Over the years, the Rockford Institute has produced a truly remarkable array of magazines, books and monographs on topics of vital importance to rebuilding the cultural foundations for a free society."

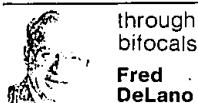
IT WASN'T necessary to read many of the enclosures to see that Institute personnel are not wild-eyed liberals, or to sense that Kirk, William Buckley Jr., Clare Boothe Luce, Richard John Neuhaus and similar think-alikes are among RI peis.

It is not my intent to quarrel here with their political and social philosophies, for even though I might disagree I concur with Voltaire's famous statement, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

One headline in the Institute's "Main Street Memorandum" that caught the eye read, "Family Responsibility Should be Encouraged."

Beautiful. I agree. It's something I know Dr. Kirk also advocates. On the surface it's like saying put your shoulder to the wheel and support fresh air, motherhood and the American Red Cross and apple pie.

But under the byline of Dr. Allan C.



through
bifocals
**Fred
DeLano**

Carlson, Institute president, the article opened. "The creation of socially funded old-age pensions during the Great Depression crisis set loose unanticipated economic incentives."

"These are away at existing bonds between the generations of a family. Within each family, children were slowly transformed from a blessing, a source of future security, to an increasingly unnecessary and often unwell-

comed burden.

"The Social Security system also gave strong impetus to the concept of mandatory retirement, which displaced most other ways of dealing with questions of age and work."

AND SO it went, actually thought-provoking reading, as is this excerpt from a separate Carlson article:

"The left is not sitting by idly. Over the last 15 years, socialist and feminist writers have been doing their homework and have developed a comprehensive policy agenda."

"Declaring the traditional family dead, they can now call for new 'supports' for the working family," including child allowances as part of the Social Security system; maternal and child

health care as the first stage of a national health insurance scheme; the provision of state-funded day care as a right; "parents insurance," and other "family services."

"Properly cast, 'family' might just turn out to be liberalism's long awaited 'new idea.'"

Now consider these quotations from Kirk articles:

"The family is held together by the strongest of human bonds — by love, and the demands of self-preservation."

"The real need for the family is not for ingenious new creature-comforts and diversions, but for employing its time and its money for the long-run advantage of all the family's members — their spiritual and intellectual advantage, their unity in love and purpose, as

well as their material prosperity."

Half a century and more after FDR gave the nation his own life-saving "new deal," these people are still preaching Hooverism. A real threat of armed revolution was on America's doorstep in Flint and Detroit in the '30s and it took the foresight of federal assistance to the working class to avert it.

Call it welfare. If you choose, be it Social Security, Medicare, ADC or the Dole.

But not too long ago I heard a tourism leader of our state declare that the way to chase the rascals out of Washington would be to take the right to vote away from every person receiving welfare payments. That would really bring revolution.

Thank God my vote will cancel his.

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

United Nations merits support

To the editor:

The United States realizes a return of almost \$4 for every \$1 we invest in the United Nations.

Purchases in this country by UN agencies provide thousands of jobs. The UN coordinates aid to people suffering from natural and man-made disasters, helps safeguard the environment, protects the health of children, and has made smallpox virtually extinct.

There are stories unlimited of the ways the world is, a better place for each of us because the United Nations exists.

The Pentagon spends in three months more than all the countries of the world have spent on the United Nations in the past 40 years.

Yet this is the organization the United States is forcing to the brink of bankruptcy. The Congress has put through a

series of drastic and unprecedented cuts in our assessment to the UN and its agencies, where 80 percent of the work is done, that will not only cause a fiscal crisis, but will critically curtail effective aid to the world's people.

This could not have happened had the American people been aware of the hundreds of ways the UN "helps protect people of all lands from poverty, persecution and war." (From the UN Charter.)

The League of Women Voters, for 66 years supporters of human rights and international cooperation, urges every American to become an active UN booster. . . . get to know what it stands for, what it has accomplished in just 40 years.

Yes, and learn of its imperfections. Already strides have been made to streamline its operation, make it more accountable. But let us strengthen it with our support, rather than expressing our disillusion by imposing crippling penalties.

Nancy White, president
Michigan League of Women Voters

Provide earlier voter materials

To the editor:

The lack of information before an election regarding the candidates and issues, until maybe the last minute if at all, is of no help to those who, by necessity, must vote absentee.

As in this current election, there is no information on those seeking election for educational boards or regents.

And the requirement of those who vote absentee having to request a ballot each time before an election is encouraging a decided lessening of the vote.

For many of those interested in the welfare of the country and its government, but perhaps do not remember ahead to request it and have been regular voters but have handicaps as do I (being very arthritic and having a heart problem), the automatic receipt of an application for a ballot is of great assistance.

Otherwise, the city discourages the participation in the one civic privilege left to many: to vote.

Mrs. Edgar Shonyo
Farmington Hills

Public interest is appreciated

To the editor:

Thank you very much for your interest in Botsford General Hospital's Halloween party.

We and the hospital were very pleased about your participation. Media support of this kind of event helps insure the party's continuance.

Again, thank you for your participation.

Nichole Ovies
Sarah Wolk Associates

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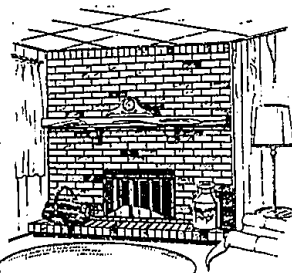
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