x PS1 for 1/28/88#THE PLAN TO SOVIETIZE THE AMERICAN FAMILY

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) has introduced a 62-page bill to sovietize the American family by warehousing babies in government-licensed institutions where they would be subjected to secular, unisex child-rearing by government-trained personnel, while their mothers would be trapped fulltime in the paid labor force. That is precisely the Soviet system: babies are placed in government institutions a few months after birth, while mothers work two fulltime jobs, one in the paid labor force and one in the home.

Dodd has no children and therefore knows nothing about baby care. He is using babies as pawns in a political power grab to build a new federal vote-buying bureaucracy under an ""Administrator of Child Care'' in the Department of Health and Human Services. The House companion bill is H.R.3660, introduced by Congressman Dale Kildee (D-MI).

The Dodd Child Care Bill, S.1885, would authorize $2.5 billion just for the first year, plus undisclosed amounts for succeeding years. Seventy-five percent of the funds would go for subsidies to employed parents; the rest would go to establish and police regulations and to provide other funding for child care institutions and personnel.

The Dodd bill would give ""Child Care Certificates'' to favored mothers which can be used like cash to institutionalize their children. To be eligible for these cash certificates, (1) the mother must be employed; she may not be a fulltime homemaker; (2) the child care facility must be government licensed and must comply with all federal, state, and local regulations, including the purging of all taint of religion, and (3) the child care staff must fulfill government training requirements.

The discrimination, the compulsion, and the cost of this system

are awesome. This bill rewards and advantages mothers who move into the paid labor force, and it forces all others, including fulltime homemakers, to subsidize the two-wage-earner lifestyle.

All available research proves (a) that institutions are NOT acceptable substitutes for mother care or family care, and (b) that mothers prefer family care for their children as opposed to institutional care.

The Dodd bill discourages mother care of babies; motherhood is a word that is never mentioned and a role that is not recognized in his vision of child care. The Dodd bill discourages family care because grandmother-care and other in-family child care are likewise not recognized.

The Dodd bill will drive informal neighborhood family-style day care underground because of the cost of compliance with new regulations. The Dodd bill will drive church-based day care out of existence because the Dodd Child Care Certificates can be cashed only at non-religious centers.

The guru of the taxpayer-financed federal baby-sitting movement is Psychology Professor Edward F. Zigler, director of the Yale University Bush Center in Child Development. At its tenth anniversary dinner last September 18, Zigler revealed the real plans and purposes of people such as himself whom he calls ""developmentalists.''

Zigler called for a federal child care program that will cost ""$75 to $100 billion a year.'' He said he wants the new federal child care system to ""become part of the very structure of our society,'' under the principle that ""every child should have equal access to child care and all ethnic and socio-economic groups should be integrated as fully as possible.''

Zigler urged that, ""The child care solution must cover the child from as early in pregnancy as possible through at least the first 12

years of life.'' He wants children to be reared by a ""partnership between parents and the children's caretakers.''

""Partnership'' was the offensive word that helped to defeat the discredited Walter Mondale Child and Family Services Bill of 1975. Parents don't want to be mere ""partners'' in child rearing with the Federal Government.

It's obvious that the Dodd bill at $2.5 billion is only a ""small'' first step toward the goal of those who want to warehouse American children. The bill is an attempt by social welfare professionals to establish a new federal bureaucracy to regulate and control baby-sitting.

Of course, we must have a national child care policy. Our policy should be to encourage mothers to care for their own babies. If any subsidies are given, they should be given to promote mother care, NOT institutional care, for three reasons: it's better for babies, it's fairer to all Americans, and it's far less expensive.