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SCHLAFLY PS1 FOR 11/28/85#WHO'S CENSORING THE TEXTBOOKS?#A new research study provides a stack of evidence that it isn't the ""religious right'' that is censoring school textbooks at all. It's religion, traditional values, and conservatives that are being censored.#Under a National Institute of Education grant on ""Equity in Values Education,'' Professor Paul C. Vitz has made a major study of how religion and traditional values are currently portrayed in our nation's textbooks. He analyzed a representative sample of social studies and American history textbooks and readers. He uncovered overwhelming evidence that religion and traditional values have been misrepresented or seriously underrepresented in public school textbooks.#In Social Studies textbooks, grades 1-4, no text referred to any present-day American who prayed or participated in worship or religious life. Typically, students are told about Thanksgiving without explaining to Whom the Pilgrims gave thanks, and Pilgrims are defined as ""people who make long trips.''#In American history textbooks, grade 5, there was little coverage of religion in American history except for slight mention of colonial America and the early Southwest Missions. There was no reference to the many important religious events of the last 150 years, such as the tremendous Catholic and Protestant private school systems.#World History or World Culture textbooks, grade 6, showed a serious neglect of ancient Jewish history, the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the first 1000 years of Christianity, the Protestant Reformation, and Christianity in the modern world. There was an occasional strong emphasis on Islam.#In Social Studies textbooks, grades 1-

4, the family was often mentioned or pictured, but the notion that marriage is the foundation of the family was never presented in any books. The words ""marriage,'' ""wedding,'' ""husband,'' ""wife,'' ""homemaker,'' ""housewife,'' did not occur even once, nor did any references to the family suggest that being a mother or homemaker was a worthy, dignified or important role.
Typically, the books define a family as ""a group of people.''#Many of the Social Studies textbooks, grades 1-4, singled out certain people for special emphasis through pictures and special biographical coverage. Of 22 persons identified as ""Famous People'' or ""Someone You Should Know,'' 20 were liberals, one a moderate, one a conservative. Both the latter two were women. Over the last 30+ years, not one conservative man was selected, and not one business entrepreneur. The political party of the people chosen was never mentioned, but in fact 17 of the 20 were Democrats.#American History textbooks, grades 11-12, showed a pronounced liberal bias in the treatment of events since World War II. They failed to tell students that the United States is an intensely religious nation, the most religious in the Western world.#The books reveal their liberal political agenda by their singling out of important individuals. One textbook, for example, selected the following as representative of the last 40 years in America: Perle Mesta, Ralph Bunche, Jackie Robinson, Earl Warren, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, and Ralph Nader.#The research team read a sampling of 670 stories and articles from widely-used Readers, grades 3 and 6. There were a few superficial references to Catholicism and Judaism, but not one reference to any form of Protestantism. MORE

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SCHLAFLY form of Protestantism. The long hand of the censor made sure that the students did not read any stories featuring a business success, an immigrant who made good in America, or a mother as an important person. Patriotism was practically non-existent in these readers.#These early-elementary readers featured many aggressively pro-feminist stories and articles, but almost none on romance or the desire to marry. Some stories portrayed role-reversals (such as the princess who slays the dragon), some were hostile to men and male roles, some featured feminist leaders, others misrepresented history by referring to women judges, merchants and soldiers at times and places where in fact there were none. The readers had many stories about women fliers, but only one very short story on the Wright Brothers and nothing on Charles Lindbergh.#Professor Vitz's research proves that the publishers of public school textbooks have perpetrated massive and invidious censorship: of religion as a factor in American history and contemporary life, of traditional family values, and of practically all important 20th century Americans who are not liberals.#