

Opposition to Evolution

Early opposition to Darwinism
American Creationism to 1987

Thomas Henry Huxley

- ▶ Acceptance of naturalistic explanation (but no commitment to natural selection); Evolution as **hypothesis** rather than **theory** (Feb 1860)
 - But useful versus the educationally powerful clergy
- ▶ Examine evidence
 - *Man's Place in Nature* (1863)
 - Dinosaurs and birds
- ▶ Evolution a **theory** well supported by **empirical evidence** but still agnostic about selection (1880)

A.R. Wallace on Darwinian Evolution



- ▶ **Natural** Selection
 - "environmentalist" (ARW) versus "competitive" (CD)
 - Denial of ubiquitous power specifically with regard to human mind.
- ▶ **Sexual** selection
 - Denial of efficacy.

Adam Sedgwick



"I cannot conclude without expressing my detestation of the theory, because of its unflinching materialism ... [and] because it utterly repudiates final causes, and thereby indicates a demoralized understanding on the part of its advocates"

Spectator (7 April 1860)

Adam Sedgwick



"I shall always protest against that degrading hypothesis which attributes to man an origin derived from the lower animals"

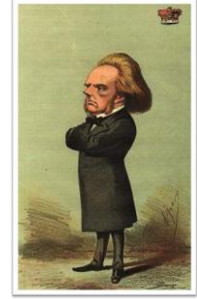
October 1868

George Douglas Campbell

Duke of Argyll

Reign of Law (1867)

- ▶ Both history and physical phenomena were planned and directed by a divine Mind using natural law.
- ▶ Transmutation could occur, natural selection was not the mechanism.
- ▶ Beauty for beauty's sake could not be explained.



Charles Hodge



"What is Darwinism? It is **Atheism**. This does not mean, as before said, that Mr. Darwin himself and all who adopt his views are atheists; but it means that his theory is atheistic, that the **exclusion of design** from nature is ... tantamount to atheism." (1874)

Louis Agassiz



- ▶ Species were fixed, unchanging entities
- ▶ Large numbers of each species were created in their intended habitat
- ▶ The (instantaneous) Ice Age presented a last barrier between the "prophetic" species and modern fauna; there was no genetic connection between fossil and modern species

Essay on Classification



"We recognize intelligence in the construction of a machine because we know that it could not operate in the manner it does were it not the device of an intelligent artisan ... The animal kingdom especially has been constructed upon a plan which presupposes the existence of an intelligent being as its Author"

1859

Essay on Classification

Nature shows "not only thought, it shows also **premeditation, power, wisdom, greatness, prescience, omniscience, providence.** In one word, all these facts in their natural connection proclaim aloud the One God, whom man may know, adore and love; and Natural History must in good time become the analysis of the thoughts of the Creator of the Universe."

Essay (1869)

- ▶ Darwinists put philosophy before facts
 - "Darwinism excludes nearly all the mass of acquired information, for it assimilates and takes exclusively that which could be useful to the Doctrine. It is not the facts that determine for the Darwinists the nature of their generalizations, it is the system that dictates the nature of their reality."
- ▶ Variation has distinct limits
- ▶ Fossil record does not support Darwinian expectations
 - "I would have been a great fellow for evolution if it had not been for the breaks in the paleontological record"

The Last Great Scientific Anti-Evolutionist



Trends in American Life

- ▶ Post-bellum transition from rural agriculture to urban industrial
- ▶ Economic depression of 1870's
- ▶ Influx of non-Anglo immigrants
- ▶ Organization of workers
- ▶ Belief in "golden past," the evils of technology, and a strong anti-intellectualism
- ▶ **Populist** crusade lead by William Jennings Bryan (Democrat known as "The Great Commoner") from the early 1920's

Rise in Fundamentalism

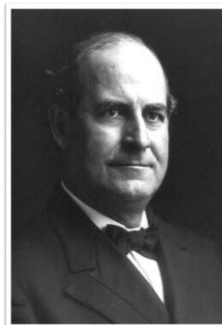
- ▶ "A movement or attitude stressing strict and literal adherence to a set of basic principles" (*Merriam-Webster*)
- ▶ Protestant version developed out of Bible conferences beginning in 1876.
- ▶ Objected to:
 - Attempts to reconcile doctrine with secular knowledge
 - Acceptance of the scientific worldview
- ▶ Publication of *The Fundamentals* from 1909 (12 volumes; ~3 million copies)

The Five Fundamentals

Presbyterian General Assembly (1910)

- Virgin birth and divine nature
- Miracles of Christ
- Crucifixion and death for man's sins
- Resurrection and eventual return
- Bible as directly inspired and inerrant [free from error] word of God.

William Jennings Bryan (1860 - 1925)



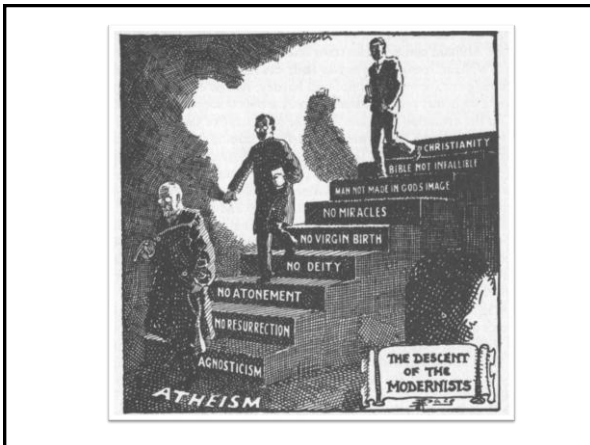
"All the ills from which America suffers can be traced back to the teachings of evolution. It would be better to destroy every book ever written, and save just the first three verses of *Genesis*"

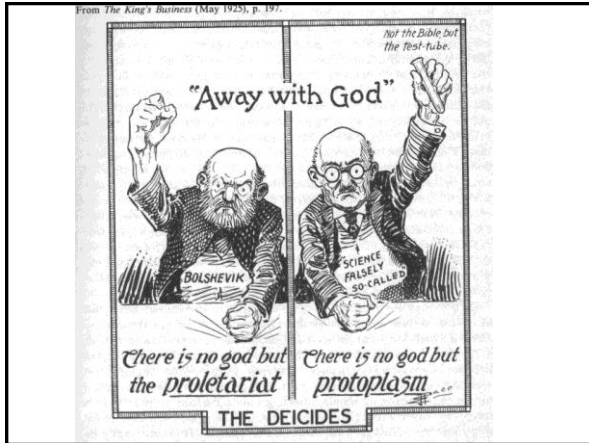


A Georgia legislator would say ...



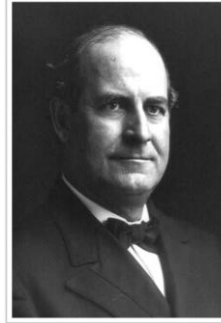
"Read the Bible. It teaches you how to act. Read the hymn book. It contains the finest poetry ever written ... there isn't another book that is necessary for anyone to read, and therefore I am opposed to all libraries"





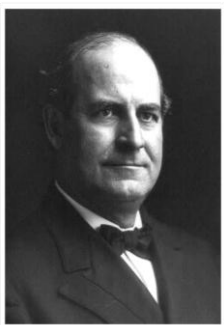
William Jennings Bryan

1924



A "scientific soviet ... [is] attempting to dictate what shall be taught in our schools and, in so doing, to mould the religion of the nation."

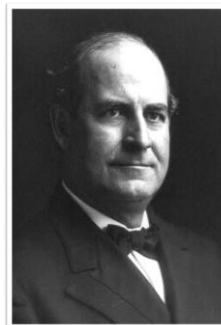
William Jennings Bryan



If "Christians cannot teach the views of the majority in the schools supported by taxation, then a few people cannot teach at public expense their scientific interpretation that attacks every vital principle of Christianity"

(1924)

William Jennings Bryan



"If they believe [in evolution] they go back to scoff at the religion of their parents. And the parents have a right to say that no teacher paid by their money shall rob their children of faith in God and send them back to their homes skeptical, infidels, or agnostics, or atheists." (1925)

Anti-Evolution Legislation

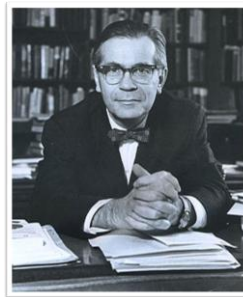
- ▶ Oklahoma (1923)
- ▶ Florida (1923)
- ▶ Tennessee (1925, Butler Act)
- ▶ Mississippi (1926)
- ▶ Arkansas (1928)



Scopes "Monkey" Trial (1925)



Richard Hofstadter



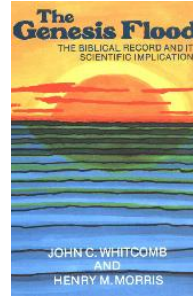
"Today the evolution controversy seems as remote as the Homeric Era"

1961

Sputnik (1957)



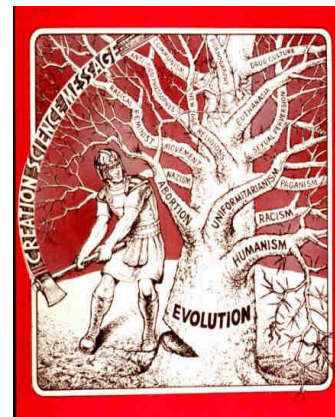
The Genesis Flood (1961)



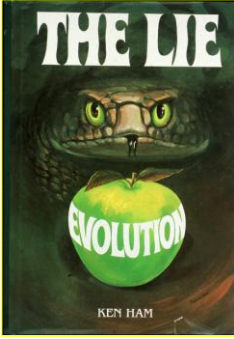
- ▶ Henry Morris (Hydraulic engineer)
- ▶ John Whitcomb (Theologian)
- ▶ Resurrected George McCready Price's "flood geology"

Henry Morris

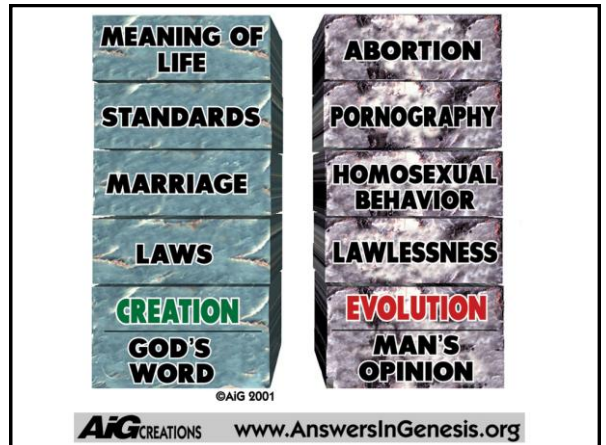
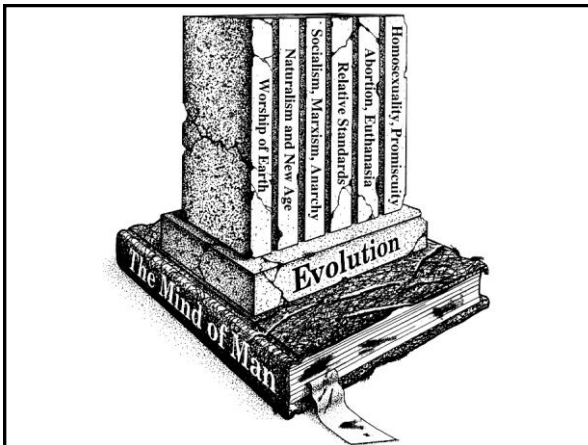
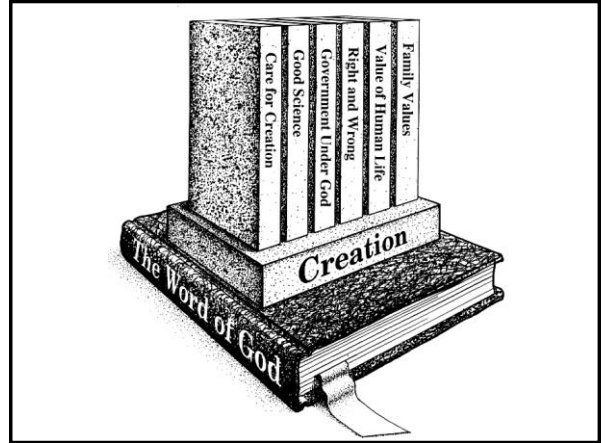
"Evolution is at the foundation of Communism, fascism, Freudianism, social Darwinism, behaviorism, Kinseyism, materialism, atheism, and in the religious world, modernism and neo-orthodoxy. Jesus said, 'A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit.' In view of the bitter fruit yielded by the evolutionary system over the past hundred years, a closer look at the nature of the tree itself is well warranted today."

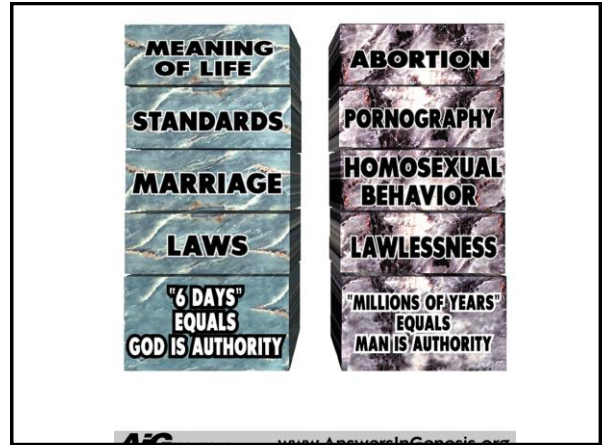
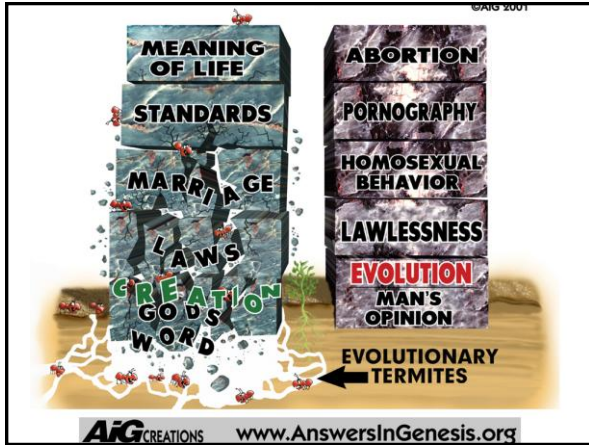


Evolution as a plot by ...



- ▶ "Secular Humanists"
- ▶ Socialists
- ▶ Freemasons
- ▶ United Nations
- ▶ League of Nations
- ▶ ACLU
- ▶ Satan





Creation Research Society (1963)

- The Bible is the written Word of God, and because it is inspired throughout, all its assertions are **historically** and **scientifically** true in the original autographs. To the student of nature, this means that the account of origins in *Genesis* is a **factual presentation** of simple historical truths.
- All basic types of living things, including man, were made by **direct creative acts** of God during **the Creation Week** described in *Genesis*. Whatever biological changes have occurred since Creation Week have been accomplished only as changes within the **original created kinds**.
- The Great Flood described in *Genesis*, commonly referred to as the **Noachian Flood**, was an historic event worldwide in its extent and effect.

Institute for Creation Research

Established in 1970 as part of Christian Heritage College (San Diego)

Graduate school formed in 1981



Answers in Genesis



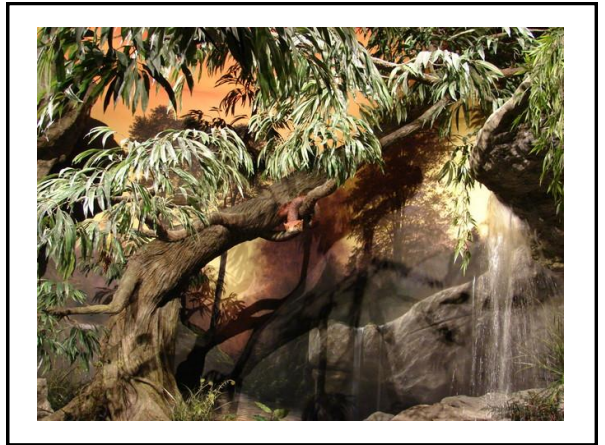
- ▶ Formed in 1980 in Australia
- ▶ Lead by Ken Ham
- ▶ Opened the Creation Museum (Kentucky, 2007)

Jason Lisle



"God didn't make monsters. The first *T. rex* would have eaten plants. **Dinosaurs, along with all animals originally, were vegetarians.** People say 'Wait a minute - but *T. rex* has those incredibly sharp teeth.' And indeed, *T. rex* has perfectly six-inch serrated fangs - perfectly designed for ripping and tearing into watermelons and cantaloupes and cabbages and all kind of fruit."







ACCORDING TO HUMAN REASON...

EVERYONE DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES

Once people abandon the authority of God's Word, there is no sure foundation for morality and justice in the world. Human reason can be used to justify evil of every sort.

RACISM

GENOCIDE

Rather than embracing our neighbors, we exterminate them.

Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1859, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory.

Without any absolute authority for right and wrong, humans in every generation have devised a multitude of excuses to justify abuse. Modern humans are no different. They have abused science to justify all sorts of evils. According to evolution, humans are nothing special.

RECENT EXCUSES TO REJECT GOD'S WORD... EVOLUTION OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS

before 1859, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory.

—Stephen Jay Gould, a leading evolutionist, explaining how people in the nineteenth century abused science to support their own prejudices (Geography and Mythology, 1977).

RECENT EXCUSES TO REJECT GOD'S WORD... EVOLUTION OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS

ABORTION

NO CHOICE FOR THEM

Without any absolute authority for right and wrong, humans in every generation have devised a multitude of excuses to justify abuse. Modern humans are no different. They have abused science to justify all sorts of evils. According to evolution, humans are nothing special.

- We have no Creator and are not accountable to anyone.
- Homoids evolved into many branches over millions of years.
- Death is a natural step in the cycle of life.
- We're just animals, and the fittest survive.

GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE IT, THAT SETTLES IT!

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Tenets of Scientific Creationism

1. The physical universe of space, time, matter, and energy has not always existed, but was **supernaturally** created by a transcendent personal Creator who alone has existed from eternity.
2. The phenomenon of biological life did not develop by natural processes from inanimate systems but was specially and **supernaturally** created by the Creator.

ICR Impact #85, 1980

3

Each of the major **kinds** of plants and animals was created functionally complete from the beginning and did not evolve from some other kind of organism. Changes in basic **kinds** since their first creation are limited to "horizontal" changes (variation) within the kinds, or "downward" changes (e.g., harmful mutations, extinctions).

4

The first human beings did not evolve from an animal ancestry, but were **specially created in fully human form** from the start. Furthermore, the "spiritual" nature of man (self-image, moral consciousness, abstract reasoning, language, will, religious nature, etc.) is itself a **supernaturally** created entity distinct from **mere biological life**.

5

The record of earth history, as preserved in the earth's crust, especially in the rocks and fossil deposits, is primarily a record of **catastrophic** intensities of natural processes, operating largely within uniform natural laws, rather than one of gradualism and relatively uniform process rates. There are many scientific evidences for **a relatively recent creation** of the earth and the universe, in addition to strong scientific evidence that most of the earth's fossils were formed in an even more **recent global hydraulic cataclysm**.

6

Processes today operate primarily within fixed natural laws and relatively uniform process rates but, since these were themselves originally created and are **daily maintained by their Creator**, there is always the possibility of **miraculous intervention in these laws or processes by their Creator**. Evidences for such intervention should be scrutinized critically, however, because there must be clear and adequate reason for any such action on the part of the Creator.

7

The universe and life have somehow been **impaired** since the completion of creation, so that imperfections in structure, disease, aging, extinctions, and other such phenomena are the result of "negative" changes in properties and processes occurring in an originally-perfect created order

8

Since the universe and its primary components were created perfect for their purposes in the beginning by a competent and volitional Creator, and since the Creator does remain active in this now-decaying creation, there do exist ultimate purposes and meanings in the universe. **Teleological considerations**, therefore, are appropriate in scientific studies whenever they are consistent with the actual data of observation, and it is reasonable to assume that the creation presently awaits the consummation of the Creator's purpose.

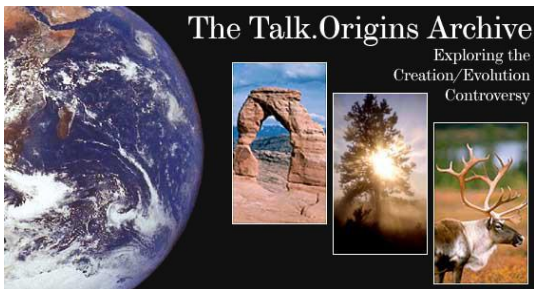
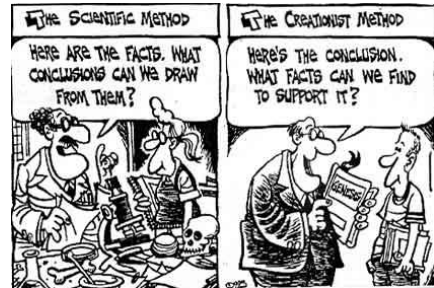
9

Although people are finite and scientific data concerning origins are always circumstantial and incomplete, the human mind (if open to the possibility of creation) is able to explore the manifestations of that Creator rationally and scientifically, and to reach an intelligent decision regarding one's place in the Creator's plan.

BIO 344 / HPS 311



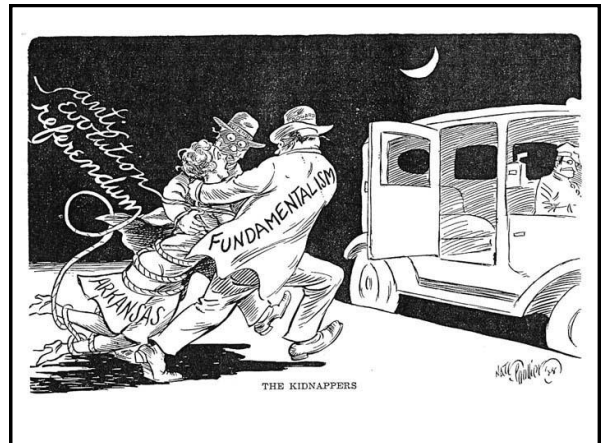
Origins, Evolution & Creation



The Talk.Origins Archive

Exploring the
Creation/Evolution
Controversy

<http://www.talkorigins.org>
<http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/index.html>



Epperson v. Arkansas (1968)

Constitution does not permit a state to require that teaching and learning must be tailored to the principles or prohibitions of any particular religious sect or doctrine.



The 1967-68 Supreme Court that decided *Epperson v. Arkansas* is shown. Seated from left to right: John M. Harlan, Hugo L. Black, Earl Warren, William O. Douglas, and William J. Brennan, Jr. Standing from left to right: Abe Fortas, Peter Stewart, Byron R. White, and Thurgood Marshall.



Susan Epperson holds the textbook that violated the anti-evolution law.

Anti-Evolution Legislation

- ▶ Tennessee (1973)
 - Evolution is "a theory" and equal time should be given to other theories.
- ▶ Arkansas (1981)
 - Equal time must be given to other theories
 - McLean v. Arkansas (1982)
- ▶ Louisiana (1981)
 - Equal time must be given to other theories
 - Edwards v. Aguilard (1987)

McLean v Arkansas "Balanced Treatment" Act (1982)



Francisco Ayala

Stephen Jay Gould

Chandra Wickramasinghe

Norman Geisler



Harold Morowitz

G. Brent Dalrymple

There are **two** models

- (1) a supernatural, intelligent creator designed and created the world, or
- (2) the world is not the result of intelligent intervention, but came about through random, mechanistic processes.

WITNESSES FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE

NOTICE: This opinion is subject to formal revision before publication in the preliminary print of the United States Reports. After its appearance in preliminary print, it may be revised and corrected for certain formal errors, but no substantive changes may be made before the preliminary print goes to press.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 85-1513

EDWIN W. EDWARDS, ET AL., APPELLANTS v. DON AGUILARD ET AL.

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

(June 19, 1987)

JUSTICE BRENNAN delivered the opinion of the Court.

The question for decision is whether Louisiana's "Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science in Public School Instruction" Act (Creationism Act), La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:286.1-17:286.7 (West 1982), is facially invalid as violative of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

I

The Creationism Act forbids the teaching of the theory of evolution in public schools unless accompanied by instruction in "creation science." § 17:286.4.A. No school is required to teach evolution or creation science. If either is taught, however, the other must also be taught. *Id.* The theories of evolution and creation science are statutorily defined as "the scientific evidences for (creation or evolution) and inferences from those scientific evidences." §§ 17:286.3(2) and (3).

Appellants, who include parents of children attending Louisiana public schools, Louisiana teachers, and religious leaders, challenged the constitutionality of the Act in District Court, seeking an injunction and declaratory relief.¹ Appellants, the Louisiana Governor, the Attorney General, the State Superintendent, the State Department of Education and the St. Tammany Parish School Board, agreed not to implement the Creationism Act pending the final outcome of this litigation. The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Orleans Parish School Board were



Teachers are free to teach "any and all scientific theories".

William Brennan, 1987

Dissenting opinion



“The people of Louisiana, including those who are Christian fundamentalists, are quite entitled, as a secular matter, to have whatever **scientific evidence there may be against evolution** presented in their schools”

Antonin Scalia, 1987

The ICR Response

“The majority opinion leaves open at least two alternatives to indoctrination in evolution and censorship of scientific alternatives:

the right of teachers to teach ‘a variety of scientific theories’ and to bring Scopes-type lawsuits if punished or prohibited, and

the right of schools, school districts, and perhaps legislatures to encourage or require teaching of ‘all scientific theories . . . about origins’”

“In the meantime, school boards and teachers should be strongly encouraged at least to stress the **scientific evidences and arguments against evolution** in their classes (not just arguments against some proposed evolutionary mechanism [Darwinism], but against evolution *per se*), even if they don't wish to recognize these as evidences and arguments for creation”