

Christian Herald

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THE COMMUNIST WAR AGAINST Human Dignity

By JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

NIKITA Khrushchev told the 22nd Congress of the Soviet Communist Party: "We need a well-considered and orderly system of scientific-atheist education that will embrace all strata and groups of the population and will prevent the dissemination of religious concepts, especially among children and adolescents."

In these words Mr. Khrushchev is highlighting a basic inherent characteristic of Communism—its war against the dignity of man as a child of God. This war has been waged by Communism ever since the days of Karl Marx; it is being waged today; it will continue to be waged as long as Communism remains.

Under Communism man is a mere piece of living matter, devoid of a soul or hope of eternal life. Man is a creature of the State, not a child of the living God. He does not bear the divine image, but the imprint of the ruling Communist clique. He is not, in the words of the psalmist, made a "little lower than the angels," but a creature to be molded, shaped and directed by the Party. His value is his utility to the State; his morality is one of sheer expediency—what is good for the Communist cause is moral; what is harmful is immoral.

Mr. Khrushchev knows—as do all hard-core Communists—that religion must be eradicated and faith in God destroyed if Communism is ever to capture man completely—to lock him into an ideological prison.

That's why the Communists today—in Soviet Russia and elsewhere—are waging a vicious and unrelenting campaign against religion. "Religion is the enemy of Communism," said a Russian newspaper. "We must do our utmost to emphasize (that) the religious survivals in our country play a reactionary, harmful role." Another states: "Our ideology will never compromise with religion."

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Not long ago the Soviet press—with obvious glee—carried a letter reportedly from a Russian schoolteacher who told this story. During a class on biology in which religion was criticized, a girl jumped up and shouted: “I believe in God. No one can prohibit me.”

“When I went home,” the teacher wrote, “I thought about what had taken place. I sought for ways to open the locked heart of the child.”

Through slow persuasion and propaganda, the student’s mind was gradually warped until she openly asserted that she no longer believed in such “tales” as religion. This incident, the teacher added, convinced her “more than ever to fight religion—which poisons the minds and hearts of people—even more energetically.”

HENCE, under Communism, “scientific atheism,” as the Communists describe it, is used to debase the dignity of man. A “new” or “Communist” morality is instilled which is designed to create a “Communist Man”—in all his servility, conformity and unscrupulousness. The Communists seek to transform the nature of man completely—to change him from a creature of the divine to the abject slave of Communism. A “scientific-atheist” education, as Mr. Khrushchev calls it, is not just a negative approach, but a positive weapon of building Communist society.

A primary target, of course, is young people. No wonder Mr. Khrushchev stresses the need of atheistic propaganda among children. Here is a terrifying aspect of Communism—its effort to indoctrinate the rising generation, to mold these minds in the atheistic tenets of Marxism-Leninism, to make them mere soulless cogs of a brutal machine, where man is degraded and debased.

The answer to Communist indoctrination must be a renewed dedication to the principles of our religious faith. Belief in God, the Holy Scriptures, the dignity of man—these are the eternal principles upon which our Nation was founded. Man is God’s highest creation. He is spiritual, a child of God. We believe that he is a living soul, that he has a destiny in life, that he possesses certain inalienable rights.

AAGAINST this faith—the faith of our founding fathers—Communism cannot win. To my mind, try as they might, I do not feel that the Communists can ever crush the inner spark of freedom deep within man. That is our hope.

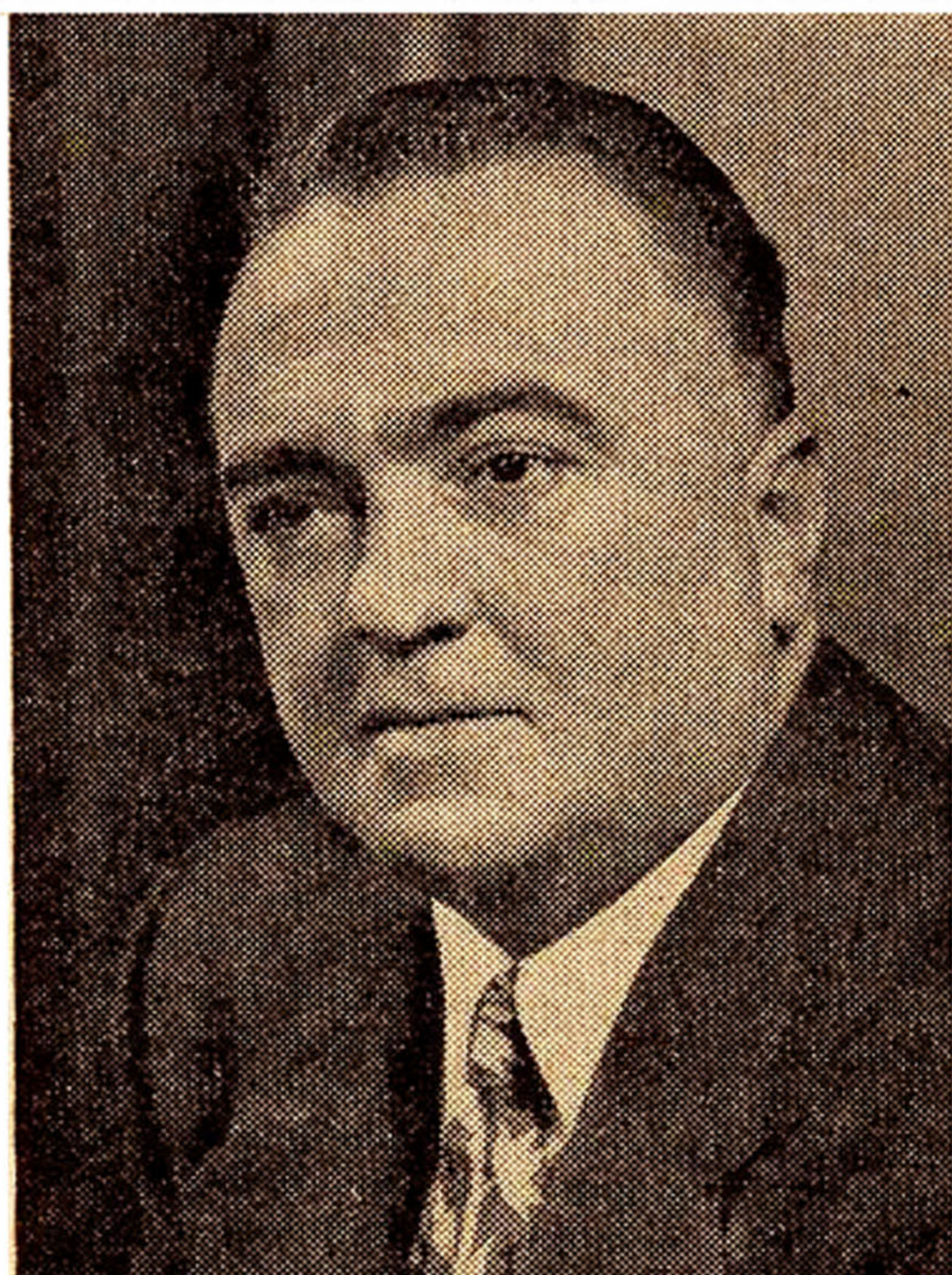
As Americans, as men and women who believe in God and the dignity of

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man, we must strive valiantly to protect our spiritual and democratic heritage.

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IF I COULD PREACH A SERMON



FBI chief **J. Edgar Hoover**, writing our lay sermon this month, is a native of Washington, D. C., and earned his LL.B. and LL.M. from George Washington U. In 1917, after practicing law briefly, he entered Government service as special assistant to Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, aiding in the so-called Palmer Raids against suspected radicals. In 1921 he became assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, and was made director three years later. He is a bachelor and a life-long Presbyterian. His books include the best-seller *Masters of Deceit*; his latest is *A Study of Communism* (both Holt, Rinehart & Winston).