

"PARENTS FEAR 'BIG BROTHER' ASPECT OF NEW CONCEPT" BY MONICA LANZA

This article was written for Passaic, New Jersey's The Herald News on March 20, 1974. Excerpts follow from the first of a two-part series:

Questioning the purpose of modern educational goals by parents has brought to light the possibility that a new curriculum ultimately could force all school children to fit a preconceived mold or norm by computerized evaluation. And, students who don't could be branded misfits and sent to a school psychologist for therapy. The threat, they say, is in the form of a bill before the state legislature that would take effect July 1, if passed. This bill would provide for two new Educational Improvement Centers in New Jersey, bringing the total of such centers in the state to four. The centers are currently being used by the federal government to reach the grass-roots level through its Elementary and Secondary Education Act.... Under the stated aim of developing "critical thinking skills" in children, the centers, as agents for the Planning, Programming, Budgeting System (PPBS), have been charged with using behavior modification and sensitivity training to develop those skills....

At the Cedar Knolls center in Morris County, Joseph T. Pascarelli, program developer, recently conducted a workshop which was attended by a number of teachers who reviewed one method of sensitivity training, known as the "Who Shall Survive" game.⁹ Participants in the game are given the sexes, backgrounds and capabilities of 15 people in a bomb shelter that supports only seven people, and are asked to decide which seven are the best equipped to re-populate the earth. The answer that none should be put to death is not accepted. This type of training, according to opponents, changes the values of the students who may have been taught at home that murder is wrong under all circumstances. From the second article in the series, "Teachers Taught to Be 'Agents of Social Change,'" the reader is informed that:

Educational Improvement Centers (EICs) provide training to prepare teachers to become agents for social change....

A publication entitled Education: From the Acquisition of Knowledge to Programmed Conditioned Response states: "Teachers who are seemingly impervious to change will be sought out and trained on an individual basis, and forces which block the adoption of new ideas will be identified and ways to overcome these forces will be explored." Behavior modification was the theme of a learning center at a workshop at the Northwestern New Jersey EIC recently. A teacher rattled off the three domains of behavior modification as propounded by a Benjamin Bloom, who more than a dozen years ago, redefined the purpose of education as "behavior modification."....

The multitude of programs available is mind-boggling. Programs filter down from entities like the Educational Resource Information Center [ERIC] and are presented to local school systems with a flourish. They are praised by gullible administrators and put into action by unwitting teachers....

One of the reasons for their current success is that the language used in the presentation of new programs is almost unintelligible. There are teachers who will admit to not understanding the jargon, but not publicly—and those who do see underlying dangers say nothing for fear of losing their jobs....

The father of the myriad federally financed programs is "Projects to Advance Creativity in Education" (PACE). The PACE programs are described in a 584-page publication entitled Pacesetters in Innovation which lists such "subjects" as psychotherapy, sensitivity training, behavior modification, and humanistic curriculum...

According to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Catalog of Assistance, the PACE program reached seven million children during 1971 and 1972 at a cost of \$250 million. The Office of Education has more than 100 such programs, and HEW funded 70,000 behavioral research programs—some among prison inmates which were soundly criticized and are being withdrawn from the prison system....

Mr. Thomas Hamill of the EIC Northwest, said that funds for "specific kinds of research and development" are channeled to 16 national laboratories attached to colleges and universities, a dozen national

laboratories studying "individually prescribed instruction," and a number of Educational Resource Information Centers, for delivery to the EIC's.

[Ed. Note: Whenever and wherever individualized education is mentioned in professional educational literature, parents should realize that Mastery Learning/OBE/DI is the required instructional method. Homegrown individualized instruction, non-programmed kitchen table type instruction, with a parent instructing his/her child using traditional textbooks and tests, is not the same thing as institutionalized individualized instruction with its programmed, computer-assisted instruction or programmed reading from a script, which often provides immediate reinforcement with tokens, candy—rewards. Also of interest is the fact that prison inmates are protected from subjection to behavior modification techniques and workers in government offices are protected from subjection to training programs which are violations of their religious liberties, but prohibition of the use of behavior modification techniques on normal, American school children is non-existent. (See 1988 Clarence Thomas, chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and present U.S. Supreme Court Justice, ruling concerning employment protection.)]