

would not be able to strike the uninvolved Santa Fe Railway.

Under the Railway Labor Act, however, unions continue to extort favorable wage and work rules by threatening nationwide strikes. But the railroads no longer can afford to give in to the unions, because they face increasing competition from the trucking industry.

Unlike the pre-deregulatory 1970s, railroads and trucking lines compete head to head for freight business. Rail carriers cannot operate as they used to, when they routinely accepted higher labor costs because they could pass them off to customers in higher prices.

If America's railroad industry is to be viable, it must have the flexibility to control labor and other costs. Lawmakers can give railroads that flexibility by applying the same labor laws to rail carriers that apply to other industries.



Kids engaged in the political fray

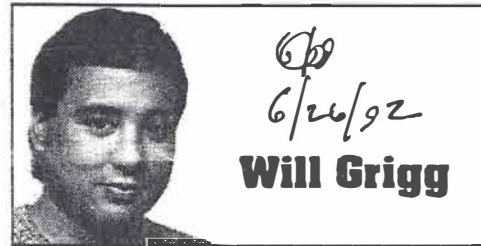
During the recent "Earth Summit," Senator Al Gore spoke to assembled legislators from many countries. The speech was sprinkled with applause lines, only one of which fell flat: Gore was greeted with frigid silence when he described communism as a threat to freedom.

Shortly after Gore's address, Fidel Castro left his island gulag — soon to be the site of a caribbean chernobyl — to receive the adoration of the Rio congregation. For a "dead" ideology, communism retains formidable influence.

The color scheme of the environmentalist movement is identical to that of Christmas — equal parts red and green. The dominant assumptions at Rio were adapted from the strand of Marxism called "dependency theory," which holds that the wealth of developed nations is obtained through the exploitation of the Third World. But environmentalism is not the only movement in which Marxism remains influential.

Point 10 of the program of the Communist Manifesto dealt with free "social education" for all children. Communists insisted that all relationships and institutions are political, and it was their ambition to "emancipate" children through politicized public education and the abolition of the family as a distinct social entity.

Marx and Engels ridiculed the "Bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed correlation of parent and child." To their critics they exclaimed, "Do you charge us with wanting to stop the exploitation of children by



At Home and Abroad

their parents? To this crime we plead guilty."

Cognate sentiments have been expressed by Hillary Clinton, America's Evita Peron wanna-be. Ms. Clinton has had an impressive career as a lawyer and "children's rights" activist. In the March 5 issue of the New York Review of Books, Gary Willis dissects Clinton's writings on child rights: he notes, "Clinton returns to a classical concept of all social activity as political" — and thus within the gambit of state authority. He explains further: *Audit!*

"In the past, the child's rights were asserted vicariously through the parent. Ms. Clinton sees those rights as, at times, to be asserted against the parent. This has always been recognized in abuse cases. But she would extend it much farther."

Clinton maintains that children should be regarded as legally and politically competent — and that they are therefore a political class with interests distinct from their parents. This concept is

kindred to both the Manifesto and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also undergirds a Florida lawsuit.

On June 18, a Florida judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by an 11-year-old boy who desires a divorce from his biological parents. The lawsuit remains active, and may yet be heard by a different judge. This preserves the hopes of the "National Child's Rights Alliance," which seeks to establish a child's "right" to sue his parents.

Activists in public schools are also laboring to instill "class consciousness" in school children. A recent publication entitled "The Kids' Guide to Social Action" is designed to help "empower" students — that is, to indoctrinate and mobilize them — on behalf of selected political causes. Kids are taught "power skills" such as picketing, media manipulation, and solicitation of funds from tax-exempt foundations. They are also urged to "assert their rights."

"This is the age of The Kid. The world needs to see your work and hear your voice. And you need to start asserting and enjoying your rights ... Kids are probably the most unrepresented group in the world. Now, some adults might disagree and say your parents represent you. But there was a time when women heard that their husbands represented them. What's the difference?"

In short, Children of the world, unite! There remain many crimson strands woven into the net of social activism.

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UEA? Because Mike plans to maintain the current power structure. Because Mike talks about change, but when it comes down to specifics, there's just not much there.

Why does Mike have the support of many current legislators? Because Mike has shown a pattern of "good politics" and working within the current power structure of Utah politics. He would be easier for legislators to deal with than someone who was advocating true change.

If you like the way things are in Utah, specifically in Utah's education, then you should vote for Mike Leavitt. If you want real change, you'll need to look elsewhere.

Bruce Armstrong
London

Not a weather vane

Editor:

For years the citizens of Salt Lake County have been listening to largely unchallenged assertions from the Utah Transit Authority that our community must have a Light-Rail

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