

# Principled Pluralism

A Model for a Just and Religiously Sensitive Educational  
System and Its Application in Science Education

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# Society, State, & Schools

MCCARTHY • OPPEWAL • PETERSON • SPYKMAN

"... a masterful statement of theological, philosophical, and political argument which can advance the empowerment of all Americans in our pluralistic society."

—RICHARD JOHN NEUHAUS

A Case for Structural and  
Confessional Pluralism

# RECHARGING

# THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

*Principled Pluralism  
for Genuine Civic Community*

JAMES W. SKILLEN

The  
Center  
for Public  
Justice

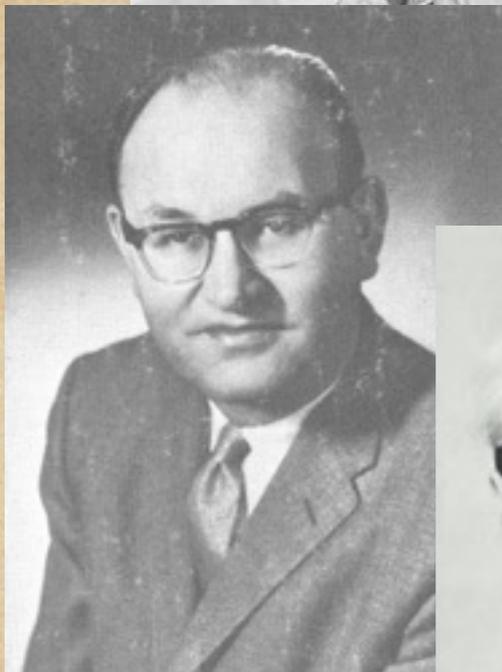
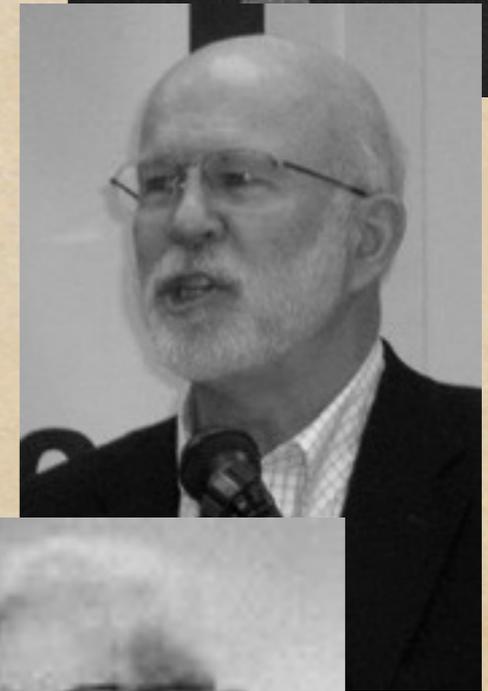
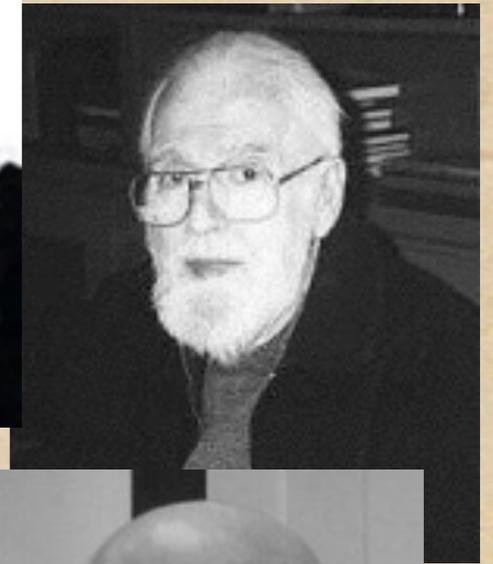
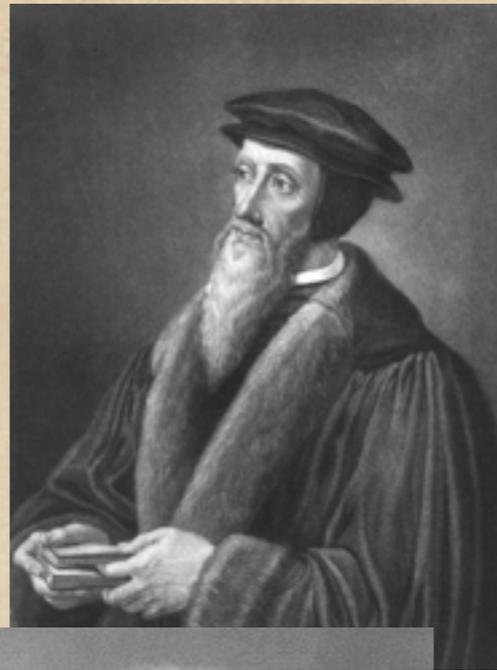
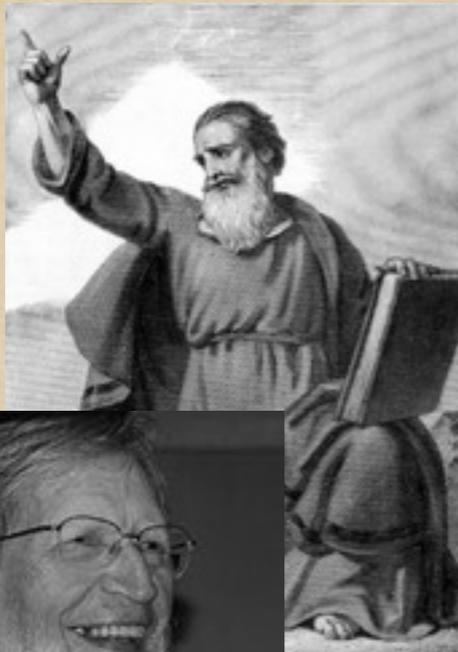
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# Confessional Pluralism

- ◆ There exists in a society various worldviews, religions, life philosophies, or confessions.
- ◆ Not everyone shares this confession.
- ◆ Includes traditional religious groupings, but also secularism and the other “-isms” of our day.
- ◆ The recognition that there are those who follow Christ and that there are those who follow other lords.

# Worldview – Confession – Religion – Philosophy

- ◆ What is really real? What is the prime reality
- ◆ What is the nature of external reality, the world around us?
- ◆ What or who is a human being?
- ◆ Is there life after death? What happens to a person after death?
- ◆ How do we know? Why is it possible to know at all?
- ◆ What is the basis for morality? How do we know what is right or wrong?
- ◆ What is the meaning of human history?



# Structural Pluralism

- ◆ There are a variety of God-created societal structures.
- ◆ Marriage and family – the state – school and academy – business and labor – journalism and media – recreation and the arts – charitable groups
- ◆ Sphere sovereignty – each societal structure is responsible for its own particular tasks and is accountable to God in its own unique way.

# Pillarisation (Verzuiling)

	Protestant	Catholic	Social-democratic	Liberal
<b>Political Party before 1945</b>	ARP (gereformeerd); CHU (hervormd)	RKSP	SDAP	VDB (left-liberal); LSP (right-liberal)
<b>Political Parties after 1945</b>	ARP and CHU	KVP	PvdA	VVD (conservative liberal); D66 (social liberal)
<b>broadcasting organisation</b>	NCRV (Dutch Christian Radio Association); VPRO (Liberal Protestant Radio Broadcasting Organisation)	KRO (Catholic Radio Broadcasting Organisation)	VARA (Association of Workers' Radio Amateurs)	AVRO (General United Radio Broadcasting Organisation)
<b>Unions</b>	CNV (Christian National Union)	NKV (Dutch Catholic Union)	NVV (Dutch Alliance of Unions)	ANWV (General Dutch Workers' Unions)
<b>Employers</b>	PCW	NKW	none	VNO
<b>Newspapers</b>	Trouw	Volkskrant	Het Vrije Volk	NRC Handelsblad
<b>Schools</b>	"School met den bijbel" (Protestant oriented school)	Roman Catholic School	Free Schools, Public Schools	Public Schools
<b>Universities</b>	Vrije Universiteit	Catholic University	State-sponsored universities	State-sponsored universities
<b>Hospitals</b>	Green/Orange Cross	White/Yellow Cross	Green Cross	Green Cross
<b>Recreation (examples)</b>	Saturday football	Sunday football	Folk dancing; Sunday football	Dancing Schools

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillarisation> – accessed July 28, 2010

# Constitutional Amendment

## MINIMUM AMENDMENT:

Nothing in this Constitution or in any state constitution shall prohibit federal or state expenditures for education of all children in accredited schools regardless of the religious or ideological orientation of those schools.

## MAXIMUM AMENDMENT:

Section 1. All persons have a right to a free education at the elementary and secondary levels of schooling.

Section 2. Parents have the prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Section 3. Nothing in this or any state constitution to the contrary notwithstanding shall prohibit that all accredited schools be free to achieve their unique educational objectives and be assured such funding as is equitable with that given for other schools.