

Minneapolis free lance reporter: Report on the evolution-creation conflict between the Lemmon Public School and Lloyd Dale. This report was prepared by this reporter after he read the story about the conflict in the Minneapolis Star Tribune and prior to making any contact with Lloyd Dale.

(transcribed from audio tape as read by the reporter)

Lloyd Dale, South Dakota Outstanding Biology Teacher award winner (1969) was condemned as incompetent by the Lemmon Board of Education. Dale, holding a Master Degree in Biology education, and having taught Biology (in Lemmon) for 17 years was declared to be an inadequate teacher by two board members, two students, the Superintendent, and the Principal.

Daisy Harris, who has been employed by the (Mpls. Star) Tribune for three months, interviewed 12 people while in Lemmon - of whom all agreed with Dale's firing except one, the President of the Lemmon Ministerial Association, James Shannon.

Shannon a Doctoral candidate at Berkeley Theological Seminary, University of California, defended Dale at least four times at board meetings. Most board meetings (pertaining to Lloyd Dale) were closed though.

The Ministerial Association, representing 7 churches, had formally endorsed equal time for scientific creationism (scientific evidence supporting a creation concept) in the Lemmon schools.

The President of the school board, Jim Lyons said they had previously allocated two weeks to creation (instruction). The Tribune reported that only one week was designated to teach creationism. Furthermore, according to Daisy Harris, Shannon's comments had been deleted from her story by her superior, the assignment editor or the Tribune.

Shannon, a Presbyterian minister, also disclosed that the Board attorney was opposed to firing Dale as recently as the Spring of 1980.

The attorney, Superintendent, and Principal all belong to the American Lutheran church - Whose position on origins is Theistic, meaning Evolution but God playing a role in the evolutionary process.

The Tribune reported that four students complained to the Principal about creation being taught and then eleven (students) transferred to the Principal's (new) Biology class. However, half of those who complained to the Principal, after attending his class, returned to Dale's class. One of those (students) testified for Dale in Court. The Tribune

neglected to mention this nor did it mention that the majority of the students in and out of Dale's class supported him (Dale). The daughter of the partner of the Board's attorney testified in court for Dale. According to one source, her father offered legal service to Dale then withdrew it (the offer) when he realized that his partner was retained by the Board.

Four students testified for Dale in court. Of the two testifying against him, one was the son of last years (1979) Board President, one of the two board members who testified in court against Dale.

According to Father Morvay of St. Mary's Catholic Church, he has never received a complaint about Dale teaching scientific creation while it has been taught along side Evolution for the last six years. Father Morvay is just one among the five Lemmon Ministerial members who supported Dale. St. Mary's is the largest church in the Lemmon.

The school's principal has a major in Physical Education and a minor in Biology. According to several professional sources Dale and the Principal, an evolutionist, had several polarized discussions on Origins since the new Principal had arrived four years ago (1977). He neither teaches scientific creation no is he familiar with it.

The 30 year old president of the Lemmon Ministerial Association feels that the over all cultural level of Lemmon is ten years behind times.

The legal council for the South Dakota Education Association disclosed that the Circuit Court Judge for Lemmon, Judge Leslie Hersrud withdrew from hearing the case because he felt Dale was such a great guy, and that the judge was overwhelmed with Dale's success providing for foster children from the court system. The substance of this disclosure was confirmed by judge Hersrud.

The Tribune's most flagrant violation of journalistic ethics was when it falsified the time Dale spent teaching evolution and creation. The Board in court charged Dale of using 30% of his time while his SDEA attorney demonstrated (in court) that it was significantly less (than 30%).

The Board's Modern Biology text is 30% evolution with no mention of scientific creation (nor of the scientific evidence that negates Evolutionism). Dale (attempted) to offset this (textbook bias) by giving (the scientific evidence that supports the) creation (model). The Tribune insidiously published this to mean that 60% of Dales' classroom time was spent on the issue.

According to Doreen Edwards, (a student) who testified against Dale, the Tribune misquoted her three times. School authorities directed Daisy Harris to Edwards, whom the article said was the spokeswoman for Dale's adversaries. Edwards denied that she

was the spokeswoman. Also, the Tribune neither quoted a student who testified on Dale's behalf, nor cited none of the 50 or so who remained in his class.

Edwards enrolled in Lemmon in her sophomore year (1979-80). She had never studied Biology previously. She was quoted as having done so and she never said that she knew what to expect from a basic Biology course. She transferred to the new (Biology) class (created by the Principal when the complaint was brought against Dale) before genetics and cell structure were discussed (in Dale's classes). Although Doreen Edwards and her parents have no church affiliation, she has no convictions one way or another on origins.