Evolution Teaching Hit

By ADON TAFT

A massive attack on the teaching of evolution in Dade schools is being mounted by a Miami minister, with the backing of an accomplished scientist.

Petitions were being circulated this week in all 50 churches and at least three ministerial organizations here and in the Miami Beach area, to indicate whether they will join the battle when the first such conflict occurs at the Nov. 7 school board meeting.

Directing the attack is the Rev. David, 181 Commerce St., Miami Beach, radio and television director for South Coast, Inc. He heads the Committee for Constitutional Rights, whose petition declares that teaching of organic evolution is atheistic and should not be permitted unless a Christian and and amendment is "given to teaching in God, in Jesus and his Bible.

The principal objective is to the "Biological Sciences Curriculum Studies - Blue Text" now being used in Dade high schools. The Rev. Mr. David, called it "a direct attack on Christian belief, a violation of our religious's liberty."

In addition, the text makes direct references to many points where it conflicts with religious beliefs, according to the scientist, a man with 25 years experience in research and teaching in biology and related fields, who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being.

For example, the text says at one point that: "This fossil evidence of a whale's life has gradually changed over the millions of years from one form to another. There is no longer any reasonable doubt that evolution of the whale is a fact." The scientist labeled this "absolutely false." He said that while variation does occur within species, no re-

selection.

There are at least a dozen more major statements in the text which the Rev. Mr. David and the biologist, a devout Christian who believes true science supports the biblical account of creation, hold to be scientifically incorrect and at odds with the fundamentals of Jesus - Christian faith.

They object most heartily to the text's statement that: "The first living organism evolved from a complex of organic molecules." This is no more than a guess and not a provable fact, according to the scientist.

"Blue Text."

Noting that the Florida legislature, at the same time it adopted the law requiring Bible reading in the schools in 1925, voted to make it unlawful "to teach the theory of evolution as true" in state schools, the Rev. Mr. David said the teaching in the "Blue Text" is against the Bible account that: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." He also quoted the six days of creation as: 6 and 7.

Darwin's Monkey On Their Backs

By JOAN RUCKS

The Rev. Mr. David is now re-enacting the Scopes monkey trial of 1925 if the Dade County school system doesn't stop teaching evolution in biology classes.

Dade, who is the local head of the Christian International, says he will go to court if appeals to the school board don't result in the withdrawal of the biology course based on Darwin's theory of evolution.

He already has withdrawn his son from the biology class, which he says is the violation of his son's religious convictions.

The biology book in question is the new Biological Sciences Curriculum Studies, which was compiled by leading science teachers throughout the country.

David objects to the book on the grounds it presents the theory of evolution as if it were a fact, without giving equal space to the biblical account of creation of man..

According to David the course is unconstitutional in that it "is a kind of religious instruction, being a body of belief, not fact, and should not be taught in our public schools."

He calls the course "an Ameri-

ican, atheistic, subversive and Communist.

"I was particularly interested in the amount of space devoted to the work of a Russian scientist," David said. He is circumspect as to whether religious leaders here discerning that the course be withdrawn from the public schools.

David appeared briefly before the school board last week, but was asked to return at the Nov. 7 meeting because a hurry agenda did not allow time for adequate discussion of his request.

School board members said they could not comment on David's complaints until they get a full hearing at the board meeting.

If the board fails to act as he asks at its Nov. 7 meeting, David says he will prepare to go further.

"If necessary, we will take legal action," David says. Because it is a prejudiced, biased and one-sided viewpoint."

In 1925 a similar case went before the courts in Dayton, Ohio when William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow clashed in the case of an obscure school teacher, John Thomas Scopes, who had taught evolution.

Scopes was found guilty of violating a Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of anything in contradiction in the Bible.

Scopes was fined $100 and the case was dropped immediately after the 11-day trial. The $100 penalty was not assessed.

Bryan, a firm believer in the literal interpretation of the Bible, assisted the prosecutor but was prevented from delivering the elaborate speech he prepared to present in the Darwinian theory. He died five days after the trial.