

On daycarism in Sweden

Speech by Jan-Ola Gustafsson at the HLI Congress in N.O. April 1989

Presentation

Dear Friends

Before I start talking about daycarism in Sweden, I'd like to give a short presentation of myself. I am a Swedish citizen, aged 47, married and the father of two daughters, who are now 20 and 17 years. My wife is a trained professional day-care nurse and worked in that profession before we had our children.

When we were expecting our first child my wife declared that she did not want to hand over our baby to a day-care institution. Please note that she, at that time, worked at such an institution. When I asked why, she told me that from her own experience no foreign person is able to give a child the kind of love and attention that is a product of a loving relationship between a parent and a child.

Some evenings she even came home from her job, crying for their small clients who were delivered and picked up like living parcels by their parents.

I promised her to do my best in order to get the necessary income for us so that she could take care of our expected child. Our oldest daughter was born in 1969 and everything started quite good. But in 1971 the Swedish parliament passed a law that made it practically impossible for an average Swedish family to get along with one salary. This tax reform was one of the milestones along the road of destruction of the traditional family in our country.

Our second daughter was born in 1972 and ever since we have struggled to survive as a family against an evil taxation system that is discriminating thousands and thousands of parents in my country just because they want to bring up their own children in their own homes. We managed to get through and a couple of years ago my wife returned to work outside the home. She returned to her old profession, trying to give some love to those children that in some sociologic literature are described as "objects".

On daycarism in Sweden

Except from the Eastern block, Sweden is the country that has the longest tradition as to what concerns governmental day-care of small children. Before I start talking about today's situation, I'll give you a summary of the background history. This is important because a great number of countries around the world are just about to copy a day-care system that now, after 25 years of experience in Sweden has turned out to become one of the century's greatest social and economic failure.

The concept of day-care for children, regardless of their parents' need or interest for it was created by Alva Myrdal during the 30-ies. These ideas were outlined in a number of books that she wrote together with her husband Gunnar Myrdal (both of them were

later Nobel prize winners, but for other reasons). Like so many other persons in their generation they often talked about "creating a new generation, people who will better fit into a new world order". In the early thirties they "converted" to become members of the ruling party in Sweden and shortly afterwards they got the mission to work out the blueprints for "the modern family and tomorrow's society".

The second world war made a temporary stop for the building of the "welfare state" in Sweden and the Myrdals spent most of that time in the USA. After the war, the time had come for the great experiment. Sweden had not taken part in the war. The industry was going at full speed, and Sweden could sell everything that could be produced. An expanding industry needed more workers and an intensive recruiting started among the women who already during the war had been forced to work outside their homes while most men were in the forces.

The income taxation was gradually transformed, slowly and step by step, thus making the most common situation by then - the one-salary family - unable to exist. At the same time a several year long propaganda started in press and other media, telling everyone that working for a salary was the most estimated and honourable way of living. You can imagine what effect this massive propaganda had upon all kinds of women who, throughout history up till then, had heard of traditional childcare and work at home as the cornerstone for both the present and the coming generations, as well as an investment in harmony and continuity. Countless women of all ages lost, step by step, their pride and self-confidence and were captured by the system.

Now, the ruling party in Sweden goes along with its special policy program for the future of the society. The book I am holding in my hand is called "The future of the family. A socialist policy for the family. This book is listing children under the headline "Obstacles for the modern woman's emancipation". In another chapter it claims that the emotional, intellectual and material development of the children should be a responsibility for the State. Young people in Sweden today find it quite normal to accept the above guidelines and to act according to the intentions that are created by massive propaganda and through the tax system. It is sad to watch by one's own eyes that educated and clever young parents, who have outstanding abilities in many areas, at the same time have a total lack of confidence and trust in their ability just as parents.

You may ask yourself: How can this happen in a so called free country? The creators of the system have performed a clever combination of the "lash and carrot principle" and most people's thinking is concentrated upon money and a competition with others in buying things that they call "living standard". Sweden is in many other respects an experimental field for international banking and so called mega-systems for population registration and control. The country is rather vast, but has a population of only 8 million, not enough to fill New York City. The educational level is more even than in most other countries, and through a 500-year old tradition, the normal Swede is programmed to accept rules and orders from the government without questioning too much. I have often noticed that foreign people, who visit Sweden or immigrate to Sweden, very quickly and clearly can see chains of events that the average Swede cannot do, because he doesn't trust his own opinion or his own conclusions.

About one year ago, the Swedish parliament passed a bill that will guarantee every child of 1,5 year of age a place in public day-care. According to the above mentioned policy program this "legal right for the child" will be granted the half-year old children in the next decade. But isn't it good for people to get a chance to good quality day-care? Yes, for those who for any reason neither can, nor want to take care of their children during the first important years, there must be alternatives. But the Swedish system is a totalitarian one. There is only one alternative that is forced upon everyone by using the tax system. Enormous amounts of money go to the day-care system and nothing goes to those who want to take care of their own children. They even have to carry a greater tax burden than those who adapt themselves to the system.

The American congress has recently discussed a bill, S 1885, the so called ABC-bill - Act for Better Child Care. This is almost an exact copy of the Swedish system that is planned to be forced upon a much larger society. The USA, with its already great budget deficit, will, by this bill, speed up its way downhill. Why not listen to a prominent Swedish professor of economics, Bo Södersten. Last year he caused great headlines in the press when he resigned as a member of the Parliament (for the ruling party) in protest against the perverted economical thinking behind the Swedish day-care system.

The general social situation in Sweden today is in turmoil. Violence at schools results in parents and teachers threatened and knocked down. The subway in Stockholm (which is only one tenth of the one in New York) is constantly vandalized by youngsters who paint the wagons with spray-can paint and rip the seats with knives. Every year the repair and cleaning costs reach the equivalent of 5 million dollars. What will the future be in a country where old people do not dare to go out in the streets even during daytime?

Another example from the Swedish experimental field is the recently passed bill that granted farm animals a "bill of rights". Most of you have probably heard of the famous Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, whose books have been translated into dozens of languages. Upon her initiative, a campaign for "more human conditions" for farm animals (hens, pigs and cows) has resulted in a law that will end the farming for many thousands of Swedish farmers, who simply cannot afford to rebuild their stables and buildings where they keep their animals so that the buildings will meet the new regulations.

In October 1988 even the New York Times wrote about this. What makes a nation grant its animals better and more rights than its human children? Should not other countries thoroughly examine a country and a so-called democracy that denies its parents and children to live together during the first important years and at the same time is granting pigs and hens legal right to enough space and proper treatment?

What will happen in the future? What happens for example when children, who were regarded as "obstacles" from their parents point of view, later on grow up and take over the management of the nation? Will they look upon their aging parental generation as obstacles for the modern active generation that never came into contact with love and feelings?

We can already observe a tendency towards increased egoism and selfishness and at the same time a decreasing interest in love, helpfulness and ability to share other people's burdens.

When you later return to your old country and start taking part in the public debate about the future of the family, please ask yourself: Who will benefit from a system that already has turned out to be a social and economic disaster after 25 years of practice in Sweden? I have lived in this system during many years. I and my family have suffered economically, and of course sometimes mentally, from the campaign carried out by the State against those who consider it a basic human right and duty to take care of one's own children. I have studied the system from all possible aspects and can see no winner but this:

A modern secular State, which gradually transforms its citizens into acceptance of a totalitarian system. Without pride and self-confidence, depending on social welfare grants, this new type of citizen does not dare, nor know how to get the situation to change. If nothing is done in the countries where this process is about to begin, please prepare to say good-bye to democracy, liberty and a prospering future for free individuals, who are living according to God's commandments and His intentions for Man.

Aren't there enough problems to solve in the world today? Why start creating both emotional and economical problems in such a giant scale as it would be for example to introduce a federal day-care monopoly in the USA according to the outlines mentioned in the ABC bill. Who will benefit from weakening the nations instead of giving them more strength?

A nation's best asset is a sound and happy people coming from strong and good families. Every society or nation will stand or fall with its family situation. The family reflects the situation of the country. Destroy and weaken the family, and you will soon find yourself in a destroyed nation. Please help stopping the destructive process while it is still possible.

God bless you.