

**PROMISING TO BUILD BRIDGES WHERE THERE ARE NO
RIVERS
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Ever notice how recent events in your life often coincide with current hot button issues on the state and national level?

Ours are concerns with the care and nurturing of our four grandchildren aged two to six. Their parents all work because with government taking half of every dollar they earn, they have to. Every year it is becoming harder to support a family with only one wage earner. In the case of two of the children, the mother is the only means of support. Fortunately, we are able to help.

Recently released statistics on the results of state-run day care centers and New York State Office of Children and Family Services push for compliance with family day care regulations further heightens our awareness of the above situation.

In the first instance, studies have shown the products of day care are more apt to develop more aggressive attitudes and become bullies. Seems I heard somewhere bullying played an essential role in the recent rash of school shootings.

On the local level, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services has raised the ire of a great many parents and local care providers. It seems the state reacting true to form has created a problem where none previously existed.

I had hoped to attend the local meeting on April 26 on "The Quality Child Care and Protection Act: How Will It Affect Our Communities," but was unable to. The opinion of many of the parents who did attend is that it will have an adverse effect on our community.

I did get to peruse the "Your Family Day Care Application Package," however, and I congratulate the preparer. Its 75 pages of obfuscation rivals the IRS Code. The same goes for anyone able, willing and desperate enough to complete it and put up with the endless harassment sure to follow. It causes me to wonder if there isn't some ulterior motive behind the whole concept. It surely gives them an even greater opportunity to control a child's thought processes at an earlier age. The truest oxymoron I can think of is the greeting, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you."

The infamous Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev coined a statement that perhaps describes it even better: “Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge when there is no river.”

Certainly what Cal Thomas had to say on the subject is more apropos for Americans: “Our success as a nation and as families depends less on what happens in the White House than on what happens in our own homes.”

The key word here is families. Today, 3.9 million American children live with grandparents, up 75 percent in the last 30 years. There are 60 million children under 14 and 18 million of them live in single parent homes. 97 percent of those live with mothers, grandmothers or other female relatives. 72 percent of all teen murderers grow up in homes with no fathers.

I gleaned the above facts from Bill O’Reilly’s latest book, *The O’Reilly Factor*. It should be read by everyone and is available at the Old Forge Library. You do not have to buy it to read it.

We are fortunate in being able to make our child care needs a family responsibility in which we all share. I have the deepest sympathy for those who are at the tender mercy of the state for theirs.